



**Trinity Messenger**  
March 2026 Issue 1

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*The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.*  
John 3:14-15

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**Stewardship Special Giving for March: Konde Diocese - Our Partner in Ministry**

You may or may not know that each of the sixty-five synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has been linked with a Lutheran companion synod or church body outside the United States with which to partner in ministry and provide each other support through prayer and opportunities to engage with each other. We in the Lower Susquehanna Synod have been blessed with the companionship of the Konde Diocese, part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT). The Konde Diocese at present boasts a membership of over 125,000 members in seven church districts. Within these seven districts, more than 100 congregations are served by 160 pastors and 200 evangelists serving God's people and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ, which they have been faithfully doing since 1977.

The operative word in beginning to understand the nature of this ministry partnership and its benefits is "companion." Each of our synods/dioceses and the congregations that make up these bodies are called to serve our neighbor and share the life-giving gospel of Jesus Christ. Doing so, whether one is part of a congregation in Ephrata, Pennsylvania, or a congregation in a village in the Konde Diocese, we can offer encouragement for each other's challenges and celebrate the joys. Through this relationship, the work we have been called to do becomes easier and more meaningful because we know there are siblings in Christ offering mutual support. Such a relationship also provides the opportunity to learn from each other through correspondence and sharing ideas. This is especially relevant as we in this nation struggle with shrinking congregations and a waning interest in organized religion. Christian churches in Africa and other less developed parts of the world are experiencing a boom in persons embracing the Gospel and its grace-filled message.

During March, the Konde Diocese will be our stewardship focus. Pastor Cliff Eshbach will be with us once again to update us on projects and activities within the diocese and how we can partner with them. I encourage us to prayerfully consider how we can actively engage in our relationship with the diocese and its individual congregations—supporting their ministries and projects as they support ours.

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**Wednesday Evening Prayer during Lent 7:30PM**

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**Happy Birthday**

To the members of Holy Trinity who are 70 years and older and celebrating a birthday this month.

**March Birthdays**

- 3 Lyn Weiss
- 5 Donald Nissley
- 10 Winnie Gerlach
- 12 Gary Nace
- 23 Kitty Dickersheid
- 24 Barry Kreider

*SEND THEM A BIRTHDAY CARD OR CALL THEM WITH YOUR GREETING. WE PRAY GOD GRANTS THEM MANY MORE YEARS IN THEIR PILGRIMAGE.*

**EASTER FLOWERS 2026**

It is time once again to think about Easter flowers as we prepare to celebrate the Lord’s resurrection, April 5, 2026. Flowers may be presented to the glory of God and “In memory of...”, or “In honor of...”.

Orders may be brought into or mailed to the church office. All mail orders must be received no later than Monday, March 16, and must be accompanied by payment. Make Checks payable to Holy Trinity.

**The cost of each plant is as follows:**

- Tulip - \$6.50 -6.5”pot Daffodils - \$11.00- 8” pot**
- Lilies - \$9.00 - 5-6 blooms Mums - \$7.25 - 6" pot**
- Hyacinths – \$6.50 -3 bulbs 6.5” pot**
- (Sorry, no color choice)**

**Persons ordering flowers are responsible for picking them up following the Easter Day Liturgy.**



**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

- How many** \_\_\_\_\_ **Lily \$9.00**
- How many** \_\_\_\_\_ **Daffodils \$11.00**
- How many** \_\_\_\_\_ **Tulips \$6.50**
- How many** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mums \$7.25**
- How many** \_\_\_\_\_ **Hyacinths \$6.50**

**To the glory of God and:  
IN MEMORY OF or IN HONOR OF**

\_\_\_\_\_

**AMOUNT PAID \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Think Lutheran Camping!**

It is that time of year to start thinking about summer plans. If you were in church on Sunday and attended Zach’s program during Sunday School, you probably have a good idea that Camps Kirchenwald and



Nawakwa can be part of your summer plans. The theme for camp this year is Wear Love, based on Colossians 3:12-14. As campers reflect on love as the all-purpose garment of faith, they will explore how God's love – woven into our lives through kindness, humility, patience, steadfastness, and forgiveness – shapes who we are and how we live.

There are different levels of camping for kids in grades K-2 (day camp and half-week camp) and grades 3-11 (overnight camp). There is family camp for God's children of all ages and there is elder camp for those 55 and up.

More information can be found in the camp brochures in the narthex of the church on the display table. Camp makes a great gift for children and grandchildren. Full payment discount camp registration must be received at camp by **April 4, 2026**. Info at: <https://www.lutherancamping.org/> **Holy Trinity is committed to finding funds for EVERY child who wants to attend church camp. Lack of funds should NOT be the reason for a child not attending camp.** Resources are available so please talk to Pastor Mark or call the church office. Contact Lisa Garrett if you have any questions: [lrgacd@yahoo.com](mailto:lrgacd@yahoo.com) or 717-490-1927.

Watch this fun video! <https://www.lutherancamping.org/summer-camp/summer-camp-quick-video/>

### Think Elder Camp July 5-10!

It is that time of year to start thinking about summer plans. Camp Kirchenwald can be part of your summer plans! The theme for camp this year is Wear Love, based on Colossians 3:12-14. As campers reflect on love as the all-purpose garment of faith, they will explore how God's love – woven into our lives through kindness, humility, patience, steadfastness, and forgiveness – shapes who we are and how we live.

Elder Camp is specially designed for adults 55 and older. It runs alongside, and sometimes runs circles around, our youth camp, from Sunday-Friday. Elder Campers live in single or double occupancy rooms in comfortable Zinn-Tozer Lodge. Top bunks are optional! You will have your very own counselors and chaplain who base daily Bible study and worship on the summer camp curriculum used by the rest of the camp.

With opportunities to participate in crafts, Skit Night, and meals in the dining hall, the Elders have plenty of opportunities just like the other kids... of course, the other kids don't have access to the lodge's kitchen and coffeemakers, spontaneous field trips, and the freedom to set their own time for Lights Out. Whether you're looking for a week of relaxation and reflection, fun with other feisty seniors, or the chance to spend a week at summer camp with (or without) your grandchildren, Elder Camp is a great opportunity for anyone who loved camp or missed out on camp as a kid.

More information can be found in the camp brochures in the narthex of the church on the display table. Full payment discount camp registration must be received at camp by **April 4, 2026**. Info at: <https://www.lutherancamping.org/> Contact your camp person, Lisa Garrett, if you have any questions: [lrgacd@yahoo.com](mailto:lrgacd@yahoo.com) or 717-490-1927.

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### ELEVATOR RESTORATION PROJECT UPDATE

In keeping with the promise made previously, as chairman of the Stewardship Committee, I am pleased to inform you as to the contributions received to date.

In October 2025, the donations totaled \$11,063.94. The Treasurer's Report for November 2025 indicated a total of \$6,717.00. Therefore, the total to date amounts to \$17,735.94

We have started with a very positive indication of what can be done to meet the challenge. Let us continue on



the same path for the future. Thank you for your support.

I will provide another report in the March 2026 (due to snow storm) Trinity Messenger.

Norman A. Wangman



### Welcome to Holy Trinity Sunday School on the Move!

Please join us for Sunday School the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month, the next one being March 1. Children will proceed downstairs after the Children's Sermon. For those not attending church, please meet us at 9:20 in the Cafe area. All are welcome for our Journey with Jesus!! ❤️.

Love and Peace,  
Holy Trinity Christian Ed

**NOTICE: Holy Trinity's website is sometimes up, sometimes not. A new website is being pursued and will be up and running as soon as possible. If you are looking for the livestream connection it is here:** Holy Trinity's services are now online at Sermons.net. Just copy and paste the link below into your browser. <https://holytrinitylutheranchurchephratapa.sermon.net/main>



### Celebration Choir Schedule

Wednesday, March 4 – 6:45 PM – Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 11 – 6:45 PM – Rehearsal

Sunday, March 15 – sing "Be Thou My Vision" arr. Alice Parker

Wednesday, March 25 – 6:45 PM – Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 1 – 6:45 PM – Rehearsal

Thursday, April 2 (Maundy Thursday) – sing "A New Commandment"

Sunday, April 5 (Easter) – sing "Christ Is Alive" arr. Hal H. Hopson

Wednesday, May 13 – 7:15 PM – Rehearsal

Sunday, May 17 – sing "God We Gather as Your People" by David Lohman

### Handbell Choir

#### Handbell Choir Schedule:

**\*\*Handbell rehearsals will be held at 6 PM on Wednesdays during Lent.\*\***

#### Upcoming Performances:

Sunday, March 8: *Balm in Gilead*

Easter Sunday, April 5: *Thine is the Glory*

Sunday, May 24: *Holy Is the Lord*

For Questions contact Debbie: 717-681-5985 [Elegantkeys88@gmail.com](mailto:Elegantkeys88@gmail.com)



**CELEBRATE RECOVERY**

The local branch of the Christ-centered support group, *Celebrate Recovery*, has begun meeting in the church social hall on Monday evenings from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM. The group was meeting at City Gate but outgrew their space and reach out to Holy Trinity to see about finding room in our facility. *Celebrate Recovery* is a world-wide ministry that offers support to persons seeking “freedom from their hurts, hang-ups, and habits” and is not limited to those recovering from addiction. It seeks to serve as well those persons struggling with various types of dependency and the pain and trauma associated with these. If you are interested in finding out more about this group and/or how it might be helpful to you, please check out their website at [celebraterecovery.com](http://celebraterecovery.com). All are welcome!

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### **Concordia College Choir Concert in Harrisburg.**

The world-renowned Concordia Choir of Moorhead, Minnesota, under the direction of Dr. Michael Culloton, will perform at Saint Patrick Cathedral, 212 State St. in Harrisburg on March 10 at 7:00 PM. The 68-voice Concordia Choir continues to affirm its reputation as one of America’s finest a cappella choirs. 2026’s tour is Michael Culloton’s first tour through the Northeast United States as conductor of The Concordia Choir, who took over the position following René Clausen’s retirement in May 2020. From the music of J. S. Bach to familiar hymn arrangements, The Concordia Choir will amaze you with their technical mastery and incredible sound. To purchase tickets, visit [ConcordiaTickets.com](http://ConcordiaTickets.com).

Deb Olson is a graduate of Concordia College and she sang with this choir from 1979-1983.

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### **Weekly Bible Study: Tuesdays at 11AM**

#### **NEW BIBLE STUDY**

A New Bible study focusing on the Acts of the Apostles will begin on Tuesday, January 6. The class will meet in the church conference room at 11:00 AM. There is a participant’s book for the class that can be ordered through Amazon. The book is entitled *Acts: Catching Up With The Spirit*, authored by Matthew L. Skinner. If you have any questions please direct them to Pastor Mark. We look forward to having you as part of the study and learning more about the early activities of the Jesus’ followers.

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Salem Lutheran Church, Ephrata, is planning a bus trip for May 12, 2026. “Chesapeake City Dine Around,” includes soup and salad at Shaefer’s Canal House, main course at the Chesapeake Inn. Then enjoy a narrated historical cruise along the C&D Canal, and a short stroll away to the Canal Creamery for a treat of homemade ice cream. Finally, a 45-minute driving tour highlighting several points of interest and beautiful scenery of the Chesapeake Bay area. Cost is \$161.00 per person, registration and payment by April 14, however we have been filling the bus for these trips in 2-3 weeks. For more info, call or text Laurel Kluck, 717-701-0266

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### **HOLY TRINITY HAS A NEW FACEBOOK PAGE!!**

**Please follow this link to the new page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61563831542098&mibextid=LQQJ4d>

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**March 1-7 Calendar**

1 MAR, SUN

● **Lent 2**

- 9am Worship
- 10am Coffee Hour After Worship
- 10:15am Adult Forum

2 MAR, MON

- 10am Women's prayer group
- 6pm Celebrate recov.

3 MAR, TUE

- 11am Bible Study
- 3:30pm Trini Mini
- 6pm Pickleball
- 7pm Ephrata Auxillary
- 7pm Fellowship Committee Meeting

4 MAR, WED

- 6pm Handbell Choir
- 7:15pm Celebration Choir
- 7:30pm Evening Prayer

5 MAR, THU

- 3:30pm Trini Mini
- 7pm Property Committee
- 7pm Thursday Worship

6 Mar, Fri  
6:30 Friday Night Dinner

[View This Month's Interactive Calendar Here](#)

**March 1st Servers:**

**Council Team:** John Fuehrer, Barry Kreider

**Assisting Minister:** Ed Quirke

**Lector:** John Fuehrer

**Acolytes:** Dylan Lynn

**Ushers:** Allen Nace, John Weiss, Adam Doughty

**Altar Guild:** Denise Shirker

**Linens:** Patrice Mull

**Flowers:** Winnie Gerlach

**AV:**



**Office Hours March 2-6, 2025**

We recommend you call the office prior to stopping in to ensure hours have not changed.

**Office Phone: 717-733-4134 Pastor's Cell: 315-317-8517**

Office email: [officeholytrinity@ephratalutheran.org](mailto:officeholytrinity@ephratalutheran.org)

Day	Sue	Pastor
Monday	8:00 AM - 2:00 PM	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Tuesday	9AM - 12 NOON	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Wednesday	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Thursday	OFF	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Friday	9AM - 12 NOON	OFF

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**PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A NEW QR CODE...DO NOT TRY TO USE THE OLD ONE.**

**Make Your Regular Offering Electronically**

On the Holy Trinity website ([www.holytrinityephrata.org](http://www.holytrinityephrata.org)), a tab on the menu bar called "Online Giving" will take you to a secure web site for you to give. You can also give your Regular Offering, your Special Appeal donation, your building fund, or your Elevator Improvement fund donation by using your Smart Phone and following the QR code.



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***Thanks for reading! Have a great week ahead!***