

MAR 2026

Sunday, March 1

Communion

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
Gospel: John 3:1-17
Pastor Joel Petruschke preaching

Sunday, March 8

Communion

First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Second Reading: Romans 5:1-11
Gospel: John 4:5-42
Pastor Joel Petruschke preaching

Sunday, March 15

Communion

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14
Gospel: John 9:1-41
Pastor Joel Petruschke preaching

Sunday, March 22

Communion

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11
Gospel: John 11:1-45
Pastor Joel Petruschke preaching

Palm Sunday, March 29

Communion

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11
Gospel: Matthew 26:14—27:66
Pastor Joel Petruschke preaching

Report from Senior Pastor Petruschke



Dear Siblings in Christ,

Holy Week begins at the end of this month on Palm Sunday, March 29th. And not to get too far ahead, but Easter then concludes Holy Week on April 5th. Holy Week then is fast approaching. And as I am thinking about this upcoming Holy Week, I have been thinking about "remembering." I am thinking about how we began this journey to Holy Week with the words from Ash Wednesday, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Yes, I have been thinking a lot about "remembering".

Remembering is something that is part and parcel of life. We remember appointments. We remember commitments. We remember promises. And we fulfill those appointments, commitments, and promises...we sustain relationships...by remembering and showing up. This is how the world functions. I also think about when we as people struggle to remember, particularly I am thinking about individuals who live with dementia. It is a most challenging disease, not only for the individuals living with dementia, but also for those who love and care for them. To be sure, life takes a drastic turn when remembering is not so simple.
cont.

Mission Statement

We are by God's Grace a Community Connecting with Christ's Love for the World.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

31 South Duke Street

Lancaster, PA 17602

717-397-2734

church@trinitylancaster.org

M-THUR 8:00 - 4:30

FRI 8:00-3:00

I recently finished a book entitled *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* by V E. Schwab. It is a Faustian tale about a woman who sells her soul, but the consequence is that no one remembers her as she lives out her days in this life. As soon as someone with whom she is interacting turns away from her, that person immediately forgets who she is. It is almost the opposite of dementia, where the individual with dementia forgets. In this case, it is everyone around Addie LaRue who forgets. It is a moving story on many levels.

But here is the good news. The Bible is all about a God who remembers, always remembers, always remembers us, and remembers us for our benefit. It is interesting that the various authors of the Bible see God as a God who remembers.

In the story of Noah and the Ark, God remembers Noah and his family (Genesis 8:1), and suddenly the events of the Flood Story change. A wind blows over the earth and the waters subside, and subsequently Noah and his family step out of the ark. In effect, it is a vision of new creation that happens because God remembers.



Similarly, in the story of the Exodus, the Jewish people are enslaved in Egypt. And they cry out to God in their suffering, and God hears them, and God responds by remembering the covenant God had made with God's people (Exodus 2:23-25). And God sends a deliverer in the person of Moses, who leads God's people out of slavery and into the Promised Land. God remembers and when God remembers things change for the better.

In our Sacrament of Holy Communion, Jesus tells us to "Do this (eat his body and drink his blood) in *remembrance* of him." But it is really God who has remembered God's people. God sent to us a Savior, who dies on the cross and who is raised to new life. This is God's grace to all people—that God remembers us. And the Sacrament of Holy Communion is the sign then of God remembering us. And this is what we observe at the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, and all of Holy Week—God remembers.

Ultimately, remembering is about identity, isn't it? That is what we are talking about here. But is it true that who we are is who we think we are? Or, is it true that who we are is who people remember us to be? No, more importantly, who we are is who God says we are. It is like that poem by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "Who am I?" The poem ends with "Who am I? They mock me, these lonely questions of mine. Who ever I am, thou knowest, O God, I am thine." God knows us! This is who we are!

We just want to be known, we want to be remembered. And by baptism into Christ's death and resurrection we are claimed and our God knows us. Holy Week is about remembering that God remembers us. And in our baptism, what God does in Holy Week—dying and rising for us—is made personal for each of us. You and I are claimed by and remembered by God in Christ, and so God indeed knows us forever.

In Christ,
Pastor Joel Petruschke

Sunday Worship

Sunday morning worship begins at 9:30 a.m. and is held in the sanctuary.

Just for Kids

Every Sunday there are children's activity bags in the narthex. Please feel free to ask an usher where to find them.

Worship during Lent and Holy Week

Communion each Sunday in Lent

Mid-week Lenten meal 6 p.m. & service 7 p.m. **Mar. 5 - 26**

Palm Sunday worship with communion **Mar. 29 at 9:30 a.m.**



Maundy Thursday worship with communion **Apr. 2 at 7 p.m.**

Good Friday, **Apr. 3 at noon**

Tenebrae, **Apr. 3 at 7 p.m.**

Easter Sunday worship with communion **Apr. 5 at 9:30 a.m.**



EASTER FLOWERS

To place Easter flowers in honor or memory of loved ones, email es@trinitylancaster.org or call 717-397-2734 with your dedication by **March 23**. The cost is \$20 per plant.

FROM THE WORSHIP AND MUSIC SMALL GROUP

An ongoing series on why we do what we do in worship, by Loren Good.

Our Baptism, Now and Always

Infant Baptism is the tradition in many mainline denominations. Lutheran, Catholic, Episcopal, Eastern Orthodox, Presbyterian, Methodist, and Reformed churches. The Anabaptists: Mennonite, Amish, and Brethren along with Assemblies of God and others do not adhere to this tradition.

So, which is right by God? As with many things in religion, or life in general, there's often not ONE right answer. Think about it, Jesus was a grown man when he was baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. So why do we as Lutherans not follow that practice? For our purposes today, I'll not spend time on the importance of context as it pertains the Jesus's baptism. Rather, let's take a look at what Martin Luther had to say on the subject.

Martin Luther will always be linked to the doctrine of justification by grace through faith, *sola gratia*. Infants receive faith through the Holy Spirit during baptism which regenerates the child with "life giving water". How amazing is this grace through faith? Consider Luke's Gospel, chapter 1 beginning with the 39th verse. Mary, pregnant with the Christ child, visits her cousin, Elizabeth, who is pregnant with John. Elizabeth proclaims that upon hearing Mary's voice, her child (John) leapt for joy. In utero, John recognized Jesus, and had faith in Jesus. In that moment, John was filled with the Holy Spirit as he now sees the fulfillment of prophecy that a Savior will be born. This is pretty good justification then for infant baptism.

Whether you were baptized as an infant, or as a youth, or as an adult we are called to continually renew our baptism. Not by being physically "Baptized Again," rather by living out that faith given to us. Martin Luther taught that we are to wear our baptism as a "daily garment," living it each day of our lives, to remember it each time we wash our face. It's not just a one-time event whereby we baptize the infant, throw a party for friends and family and call it a day. We often recite these actual words similarly as follows via the Affirmation of Baptism (ELW, page 236):

We are to: **"... live among God's faithful people; hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper; proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; serve all people following the example of Jesus; and strive for justice and peace in all the earth."**

That my friends, is **Baptism, Now and Always**. When you enter the Nave, look to the Baptismal Font, remember your baptism, pray that you can live it every day.



MIDWEEK LENTEN SERIES



Through **Thursday, March 26**, Holy Trinity is hosting a meal followed by a Lenten service. The meal (main dish will be provided, please feel free to contribute a side dish or dessert) begins at 6:00 p.m. in Fondersmith Auditorium with worship in the Auditorium starting at 7:00 p.m. We will study five specific Psalms during this meditative worship series.

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Holy Trinity's Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings in the Choir Room from
7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

During the Lenten series, choir rehearses after the service.

BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

Breaking Barriers. Building Community.

Our Breakfast Fellowship continues to be a marvelous Holy Trinity Ministry. Food acquisition, preparation, and serving is led by Cathy Dobish. Informal worship is led by Doug Frazer, Tim Wentworth, and Loren Good. Pastor Joel Petruschke presides at Holy Communion once a month and Trinity's choir sings once a month. Linda Flick shares her talent on the piano each Sunday. Thank you to all who serve.



SENIOR COMMUNITY WORSHIP

Communion at Willow Valley – Wednesday, March 18
at 3 p.m., *Manor North Auditorium*
Communion at Woodcrest – Every other month at 1 p.m.
Next month's service is on Apr. 16
Eagle Commons Chapel

PRAYER VIGILS

Prayers for healing in our nation, organized by the Lancaster Friends Meeting.

- **Sunday, March 1** at St. John's Episcopal Church from 4-5 p.m. 321 West Chestnut St., Lancaster.
- **Sunday, March 15** Holy Trinity hosts the vigil at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary.
- **Sunday, March 29** Unitarian Universalist Church, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. 538 West Chestnut St., Lancaster.
- **Sunday, April 12** Grandview Church, 4 - 5 p.m., 888 Pleasure Rd., Lancaster.

RESPONSE TO YOUR QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

We realize that many of our Trinity disciples (worshippers) have many questions and concerns given the incidents that transpired in Minneapolis and in other communities around our country as it pertains to ICE and the Department of Homeland Security. As Christians, we do not advocate for violence, while at the same time we respect the need for law and order. In the weeks ahead, Holy Trinity, through the work of a Peace and Justice committee, will gather information that will be valuable should any of these federal agencies to come to Lancaster. (*cont.*)

What we can share is this: If federal authorities enter any of our properties we will not intervene as they, by law, usurp other authorities. We at Holy Trinity will advocate for justice and assist as we can to bring about fairness in legal affairs.

Lastly, through our near 300-year history at Holy Trinity, we can recognize and appreciate that many faces of conflict have troubled worshipers. To name a few, the American Revolution, the Civil War, two World Wars, Vietnam, the Civil Rights movement, and September 11, 2001. Now is a time for diligent prayer, discernment and education to find ways our hands and voices can help God's work.

FROM THE VESTRY PRESIDENT

Dear Siblings in Christ,
What should a traditional church look like in 2026?

I cut an article out of the Wall Street Journal. It is political but I am not using it that way as I have another twist to it. The article was written by Joshua Chaffin and Katherine Sayre.

It starts by saying in February 1968 President Johnson lost the support of Walter Cronkite when Cronkite told the American people he could no longer accept the President's assurances about the war in Vietnam. The article goes on to talk about how President Trump lost Joe Rogan as a supporter in January 2026 due to Trump's stand on immigration. Of course I know who Cronkite was and always respected him. I never heard of Rogan but I learned he is a podcaster. The authors say you can't really compare Cronkite to Rogan as one was never seen without a coat and tie while the other wears muscle shirts and hoodies. Yet in 2026 they both, as communicators, seem to have or had the same influence on politics.

The article goes on to be very political - good read if you can find it - but my article is turning towards the church. We keep doing the same thing each week that we were doing when Cronkite was alive and working while many people in our community have shifted to the style of Rogan. Do we wonder why the younger generation has pulled away from church?

Believe me, I like the Cronkite look better than Rogan's but I know my children and grandchildren don't. I don't own a pair of blue jeans while their closets are full of them with that one nice suit just in case. Oh, if I could only throw out a solution - but I can't. However, maybe somewhere between Cronkite and Rogan we can find an answer. This isn't a reflection on our clothes but on our lifestyles and expectations. What should a traditional church look like in 2026?

I am asking you, the congregation, please share your thoughts with me as the vestry struggles with this question and we look to the future with joy!

Susan Garofola, Vestry President
sjgarofola@comcast.net

EDUCATION

SUNDAY FORUM

The Sunday Forum begins at 11:00 a.m. in the Fondersmith Auditorium.

March 1 – Pastor Joel – a continuation in a series - Let's Listen, Let's Talk.

March 8 – Rev. Penrose Hoover - Divided at the Heart: Spiritual and Cultural Dimensions of the Russia/Ukraine Conflict, *Part I*.

March 15 – Rev. Penrose Hoover - Divided at the Heart: Spiritual and Cultural Dimensions of the Russia/Ukraine Conflict, *Part II*.



March 22 – Greg Carey – Part I on the Book of Galatians.

March 29 – Greg Carey – Part II on the Book of Galatians.

FAITH TALK: Rooted in the Gospel of Romans

At the beginning of the new year, Faith Talk turned to Paul's Epistle to the Romans — Scripture's clearest and most sustained teaching on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Romans is not merely a theological textbook; it is Paul's pastoral answer to the deepest question of the human heart: How can a sinner stand before a holy God?

During February, we worked carefully through Romans chapters 3–6, focusing on Justification by Grace Through Faith. In these chapters, Paul shows that righteousness before God is not earned by works of the Law but given freely for Christ's sake. We explored how Christ's obedience and death are credited to sinners, how faith receives this gift, and how grace does not excuse sin but frees us from its dominion. These chapters form the very heart of Reformation teaching and remain central to Christian assurance.

In March, we will continue our study with Romans chapters 7–10, turning to Life Under the Law and Life in Christ. Paul speaks honestly about the ongoing struggle with sin, the purpose of the Law, the work of the Holy Spirit, and the certainty of God's saving promises. These chapters help believers understand both their daily conflict and their unshakable hope — not in themselves, but in God's faithfulness to His Word.

As always, Faith Talk moves slowly, verse by verse, leaving room for questions and discussion. Our goal is not simply to cover material, but to let the Gospel of Christ speak clearly — exposing our need, strengthening faith, and giving confidence in God's saving work.

Faith Talk is not a lecture, and it is not a class for experts. You do not need to know Scripture well, understand theology, or have any prior preparation. We read the text together, ask honest questions, and take time to listen.

Questions are not interruptions; they are the point. Whether you are confident in your faith, uncertain, returning after time away, or simply curious, you are welcome to come as you are and participate at whatever level you're comfortable with.

If you'd like to get a sense of how the conversation works, recordings of our recent Romans discussions are available on YouTube here:

<https://youtu.be/plkUsltGToM?si=sblxtgBko-qrAB7T>

Faith Talk meets after Fellowship, about 11:00 a.m. each Sunday, normally in the Library in the Parish House. We also operate a Zoom link if you would like to attend remotely.

You can attend with this Zoom

Link: <https://millersville.zoom.us/j/3024219881>

Meeting ID: 302 421 9881

By Phone 646-558-8656 meeting: 3024219881#

Each class session is independent, so we encourage you to attend when you can.

You can also find Faith Talk discussions on all of our previous series

at <https://www.youtube.com/@FaithTalk-HolyTrinity>

FELLOWSHIP & EVENTS

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP 10:30-11:00 a.m. in the Fondersmith Auditorium, prior to Forum.

Coffee Fellowship

The Coffee Fellowship is looking for volunteers to provide and serve a Sunday treat or set up and serve coffee during the Forum hour. A signup list is located in Fondersmith during the Coffee hour. Thank you for your help.

First Friday Speaker Series

We had a successful First Friday Speaker Series start Friday, February 6 with Tanya Kevorkian's talk on Henry Muhlenberg. Everyone is welcome to come to our second event on **March 6, 2026**. The speaker will be Sylvia Cavanaugh presenting Black Women's History. Sylvia is the Tour Coordinator of the African American Historical Society of South Central Pennsylvania. The evening will begin with the playing of our church bells at 5 p.m. followed by a short organ demonstration. The speaker's presentation will start around

5:30 p.m. followed by sanctuary tour and refreshments. The talk will be in the sanctuary, refreshments will be served in the Café. We will continue the series focusing on our church history, local history, social topics, and content from our partners.

MAR. SCRIPTURES

Mar 1 John 3:1-17

Mar 2 Hebrews 3:1-6

Mar 3 Romans 4:6-13

Mar 4 John 7:53—8:11

Mar 5 Colossians 1:15-23

Mar 6 Psalm 95

Mar 7 John 4:1-6

Mar 8 John 4:5-42

Mar 9 2 John 1-13

Mar 10 1 Corinthians 10:1-4

Mar 11 John 7:14-31, 37-39

Mar 12 Ephesians 4:25-32

Mar 13 Psalm 23

Mar 14 John 1:1-9

Mar 15 John 9:1-41

Mar 16 Acts 9:1-20

Mar 17 Colossians 1:9-14

Mar 19 Revelation 10:1-11

Mar 20 Psalm 130

Mar 21 Luke 24:44-53

Mar 22 John 11:1-45

Mar 23 Acts 20:7-12

Mar 24 Ephesians 2:1-10

Mar 25 Matthew 22:23-33

Mar 26 Philippians 1:1-11

Mar 27 Psalm 31:9-16

Mar 28 Mark 10:32-34

Mar 29 Matthew 26:14—27:66

Mar 30 John 12:1-11

Mar 31 John 12:20-36

CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Every three years, thousands of high schoolers and their adult leaders from Lutheran churches across the United States come together for the ELCA Youth Gathering. The activities at the Gathering include motivating speakers, “hands on” learning, and making connections. Participants experience church in a totally different way with high-energy worship and powerful storytelling. The Gathering is an opportunity for young disciples to ask big questions and grow in their faith. The next ELCA Youth Gathering is happening in the summer of 2027 in Minneapolis, MN with the theme of Imagine More.

On **Sunday, March 8, 2026**, Holy Trinity's confirmation class will discuss the possibility of attending the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering. Any Trinity alums who attended an ELCA Youth Gathering are invited to attend the meeting on March 8, 2026 around 11 a.m. either in-person or via Zoom. Contact Rachel for the Zoom details at rachel@trinitylancaster.org. We want to hear about your experiences traveling to and from The Gathering, about the fundraising, and other stories! Even if you cannot attend the March 8 meeting, any time a Trinity alum will be available to chat with the confirmands about the ELCA Youth Gathering, we would like to hear your stories. Contact Rachel if you are interested!

Now that we are in the season of Lent, Trinity's Children's Ministry is collecting small individually wrapped pieces of candy for our annual community Easter Egg Hunt. Candy donations can be dropped off at the church office weekdays during office hours or in the Narthex on Sunday mornings before or after worship. Keep a look out for the large white Easter Basket to put your donations in! **We are collecting candy now through Sunday, March 29, 2026.**



On **Sunday, March 29**, (Palm Sunday), Trinity will hold our annual Easter Egg Stuffing Party following the Christian Education Hour. We will have a pizza lunch around noon in Fondersmith Auditorium and then begin stuffing eggs! A sign-up sheet is out in the sanctuary narthex if you wish to attend. We need a head count for the pizza. Thanks!

Holy Trinity's Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt will be held on

Saturday, April 4, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. We are looking for volunteers to fix refreshments, hide eggs, guard our eggs from the squirrels, and help with cleaning up. A sign up sheet will be out in the Narthex if you are interested or simply email Rachel at rachel@trinitylancaster.org. All volunteers are asked to gather at the Parish House at 9:00 a.m. for the Easter Egg Hunt. As part of our Egg Hunt our 2026 VBS Theme and dates will be announced for the first time! So be sure to tell your friends and neighbors about this special event!

Be sure to save the date of **Sunday, April 12, 2026** - this will be our springtime Youth Sunday! Join us for a special worship service when Trinity's Youth take over! Keep a look out in your bulletins, Facebook, and Trinity's website for more details and updates!



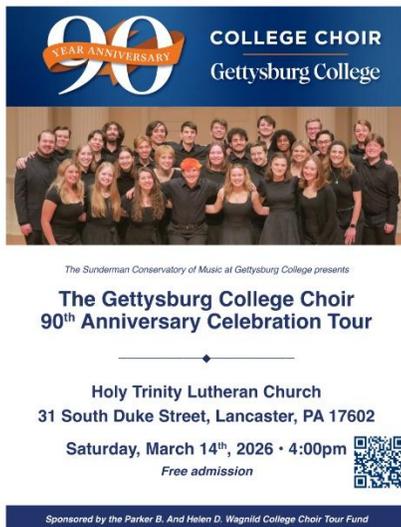
INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY

VALENTINE APPEAL

A sincere thank you to the congregation for your generous support of International Ministries' 2026 Valentine Appeal. To date, we have received \$4,700 for the Advanced Medical Training of West Bank Doctors program of the Nazareth Hospital in Israel. Contributions were accepted through the end of February, so this total could change.

This program provides specialized training across multiple medical disciplines, including surgery, radiology, internal medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, orthopedics and emergency medicine. Doctors completing their training commit to return to the West Bank to directly benefit underserved Palestinian communities. Thank you for supporting a much-needed program to benefit our brothers and sisters in Christ in a suffering world.

CONCERTS



The Sunderman Conservatory of Music at Gettysburg College presents

The Gettysburg College Choir
90th Anniversary Celebration Tour

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
31 South Duke Street, Lancaster, PA 17602

Saturday, March 14th, 2026 • 4:00pm
Free admission

Sponsored by the Parker B. And Helen D. Wagnild College Choir Tour Fund

The Gettysburg College Choir Performs **Saturday, March 14 at 4:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary. The Choir is celebrating their 90th anniversary with a concert tour including performances from Boston to Washington D.C. and they'll close that tour at Holy Trinity. Please plan to attend, bring some friends. Directed by Robert Natter, The Gettysburg College Choir is acclaimed for superlative performances of choral literature from the Renaissance era to modern and diverse music. Singers are selected through a competitive audition process, and the ensemble is committed to the highest levels of musicianship and professionalism.

- Musical Art Society's Annual Keyboard Festival - "Keys to the Kingdom" at Ascension Lutheran Church, 600 E. Penn Grant Rd. Willow Street on **March 22, 3 p.m.** featuring Chris Prestia and other musicians. A free will offering benefits their scholarship fund.
- Music for Everyone's Festival of Voices concert - **Sunday, April 26** at 3:00 p.m. in Holy Trinity's sanctuary.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Lent <i>Communion</i> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education	2 9 am VTTA	3 9 am VTTA 9:45 TWIST	4 2 pm Visitation Team meeting	5 6 pm Lenten meal/7 pm service/ Choir rehearsal	6 5 p.m. First Friday	7
8 Lent <i>Communion</i> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education	9 9 am VTTA 6:30 pm Vestry meeting	10 9 am VTTA 9:45 TWIST	11	12 6 pm Lenten meal/7 pm service/ Choir rehearsal	13	14 4 pm Gettysburg College Choir Concert
15 Lent <i>Communion</i> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education 4 pm Prayer Vigil	16 9 am VTTA	17 9 am VTTA 9:45 TWIST 2 pm Discipleship 3:30 Fellowship	18 3 pm Willow Valley Worship	19 4:30 MLK Scholarship Board 6 pm Lenten meal/7 pm service/ Choir rehearsal	20	21
22 Lent <i>Communion</i> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education	23 9 am VTTA	24 9 am VTTA 9:45 TWIST	25	26 6 pm Lenten meal/7 pm service/ Choir rehearsal	27	28
29 Palm Sunday <i>Communion</i> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education 12:00 Easter Eggs Stuffing	30 9 am VTTA	31 9 am VTTA 9:45 TWIST				

Mar 2026



Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity
31 South Duke Street
Lancaster, PA 17602

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*We welcome Linda Carty who was received
as a new member/disciple on Feb. 8, 2026*

Rev. Dr. Joel Petruschke, Senior Pastor; Christopher Prestia, Organist and Choirmaster;
Rachel Kramer, Director of Children's and Family Ministry; Loren Good, Lay Associate Minister;
Tanya Kevorkian, Archivist

For centuries, this has been a place of inspiration and courage. We are devoted to breaking barriers between people through social outreach and by providing a nurturing environment that embraces all viewpoints in hearty discussions about faith. We are passionate and unwavering in our pursuit to build a thriving community.

We are Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

Holy Trinity Church is affiliated with

