

APR 2026

**Maundy Thursday, April 2
Communion**

Epistle: Exodus 12:1-14
Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Psalm 22
Pastor Joel Petruschke preaching

Good Friday, April 3

Noon Service
Tenebrae 7 p.m.

**April 5, Easter Sunday
Communion**

First Reading: Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4
Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10
Pastor Joel Petruschke preaching

Sunday, April 12, Youth Sunday

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9
Gospel: John 20:19-31
Trinity Youth preaching

Sunday, April 19

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-23
Gospel: Luke 24:13-35
Pastor Joel Petruschke preaching

Sunday, April 26

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25
Gospel: John 10:1-10
Pastor Joel Petruschke preaching

Mission Statement

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

Report from Senior Pastor Petruschke



Dear Siblings in Christ,

The symphony is called *Negro Folk Symphony*. My wife and I heard it for the first time at a recent concert by the Lancaster Symphony Orchestra (LSO). The concert featured three pieces: 1) *A Lincoln Portrait* by Aaron Copland, 2) *Second Founding* by D. Michael Wege, and 3) *Negro Folk Symphony* by William L. Dawson. The concert was a collaboration between the LSO and LancasterHistory, and served to celebrate the upcoming opening of the Stevens and Smith Museum. In fact, Wege's *Second Founding* was commissioned specifically in recognition of the museum.

All the music was powerful that evening. But it was the second movement of the *Negro Folk Symphony* that deeply spoke to me, as it did to many of us in that auditorium. I encourage you to google the piece and listen to it.

As the conductor explained before the performance, Dawson composes this powerfully, hauntingly moving piece of music capturing the daily, laborious plight of enslaved persons. The music speaks to the never-ending drudgery of Africans in the fields. You feel it viscerally in your guts, as you listen.
(cont.)

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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M-THUR 8:00 - 4:30
FRI 8:00-3:00

Yet the conductor said, "But then in the midst of the movement, you hear this light, playful moment." And he told us, that the first time he listened to the piece, he wondered, "What is going on here? That doesn't belong there." Then he explained that the composer inserted this lighter interlude to represent the children of the Africans playing while the drudgery of their parents goes on. It is such that the children, being children, have no comprehension of the greater reality happening around them. They are just children, and what do children do, but play.

And I think to myself, "Wouldn't it be great to be a child again? Wouldn't it be great to have no worries about the cares of the world? Wouldn't it be great to live a carefree life again like when we were kids, oblivious to war, oblivious to politics, oblivious to the ways people treat each other?" But then the music of the symphony goes on. The drudgery goes on.

I don't know exactly what to do with Dawson's sentiment, because we do grow up, and because we grow up, we then come to worry about all sorts of things. So then, I think about what Jesus taught us, saying, "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will have worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today" (Matthew 6:34, NRSV). And then, I wonder, how did the early Christians do it? How did they keep a light heart, recognizing all the trials they faced? How did Paul do it, Paul who suffered all sorts of trials (II Corinthians 11:23-27)? How did Paul keep a light heart? How did he keep a positive attitude, a hopeful attitude?

And I have concluded that the answer lies in the resurrection. There is a joy, there is carefree-ness, that comes with knowing that sin and death are conquered. And come what may, the fact is that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. And we can either fully embrace the resurrection and live life in that hope and share that hope with others OR we can live in the drudgery of life.

Life seems particularly scary right now, with all that is going on. But life can be scary at any time. But to embrace the resurrection, so as to say to ourselves, "Regardless of what is going on, Jesus is still victorious," does give us hope. The resurrection does lighten our heart.

Every once in a while, Easter falls on April 1 and to me that is so fitting. It is as if God says to the Devil, "April Fools, Satan. You thought you had won. But sorry, Jesus is risen." Easter falling on April 1 is God's way of playfully upending the Devil's scheme. But, Easter doesn't have to fall on April 1 for us to have the same reaction. The Devil thought he had won. Sin, Death, and the trials of the world thought they got the best of us. And then God raises his Son. And it is like, almost like, we can be kids again playing in the world while the drudgery goes on. But, it is not exactly like that, because the resurrection calls us not to carefree play, but calls us to faithful, loving service for those who are still overwhelmed by the drudgery.

So, please do listen to the second movement of Dawson's *Negro Folk Symphony* and as you do so, remember the resurrection of Christ who frees us to have light hearts once more.

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 Holy Week



Maundy Thursday worship with communion on **April 2 at 7 p.m.**
in Fondersmith Auditorium

Good Friday worship on **April 3 at noon in the Chapel**

Tenebrae on **April 3 at 7 p.m.**

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

FROM THE WORSHIP AND MUSIC SMALL GROUP

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

So We've Celebrated Easter, Now What?



It "began" with imposition of ashes February 18, Lent. We gathered Sundays during Lent and included the Decalogue, singing of the Psalms, communed each week. We gathered for midweek Lenten meals and a worship service, studying the Psalms. We had a "triumphal entry" Palm Sunday followed by Holy Week observations and worship services. We concluded with the celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Sunday. For some, Easter Monday will be celebrated as well. In France, it's still a national holiday. (Lund de Paques). But, after Easter Sunday, check church attendances around Lancaster County, the state of PA, across the entire country,

likely the world. There's a reason why the following Sunday, the second Sunday of Easter, is labeled Low Sunday.

(cont.)

Partly because many church attendants are known as Chreasters: They worship Christmas and Easter only. Yet after we celebrate the Resurrection of our Saviour, it's in many ways yet another beginning. I talked about this during our Lenten service on March 19. In the Old and New Testaments there are many new beginnings. And, with the second Sunday of Easter and for the weeks to come until Christ the King Sunday in November, we can be part of these new beginnings.

A few examples on what's new: Jesus appears to the disciples, he has a remarkable walk along the road to Emmaus, there are another 40 days whereby the disciples have Jesus with them, there is the Ascension, the revealing of the Holy Spirit to the disciples and countless more new beginnings to come.

This is the key to what needs to happen after the resurrection. We need to follow Jesus. We need to drink in the spirit of Christ continually.

This is true today just as it was almost 2,000 years ago.

Easter is **NOT** a one-time event – it's just The Beginning.

CHOIR REHEARSAL

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

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, Apr. 15
at 3 p.m., *Manor North Auditorium*

Communion at Woodcrest – Every other month at 1 p.m.

This month's service is on Apr. 16

Eagle Commons Chapel

FROM THE VESTRY PRESIDENT

Dear Siblings in Christ,

As winter comes to an end and Easter is just a few days away I want to thank all of the members of the congregation for your loyalty by attending church or worshipping on line throughout this crazy winter. There is much to celebrate this spring: the resurrection of our Lord, forums and programs, classes, committee work and church friendships.

The Vestry continues to assess the needs of the congregation and make decisions that benefit all of us. The one way we can share with you what is happening now as well as looking at the future is through our Annual Meeting. This will take place Sunday April 26th, 2026 following the 9:30 service. Lunch/Brunch will be served prior to the meeting so please plan on attending.

Some of the items on the agenda that day will be: update on the organ, financial stability, committees looking at the future of our buildings and ministry, vestry elections, initiatives of Pastor Joel, looking at the 300th anniversary of the church and more. We are a church that is vital and on the move. Thanks be to God.

Susan Garofola, Vestry President

Invictus Security

You likely have noticed that each Sunday you observe a security professional on our property. Their purpose is to monitor activity beginning at 7 a.m. through 11 a.m. The first part of the day is to monitor activity at our breakfast fellowship ministry, primarily inside or immediately outside the Parish House. Starting at about 9:00 a.m. they alternate between keeping eyes on our parking areas, Mifflin Street, the Sanctuary as well as the Parish House. Just their presence provides what their name implies, security. Many of the security personnel who staff Holy Trinity on a Sunday morning also work the downtown shelters, so they are familiar with many who attend Breakfast Fellowship. Please feel free to acknowledge their presence and be thankful for the services they provide.

Peace and Justice Small Group Committee:

This group is now meeting again after a long hiatus. While still in our genesis of recreating our purpose, we had Matt Johnson as a guest at our March meeting. Matt, among other things, works for Church World Service. He made a presentation to the group on immigration 2025 to the present. Matt has agreed to return to Trinity during an Adult Forum hour later in the year.

A Mutual Ministry Small Group Committee: What is it?

Its purpose is to nurture ministries of the Church, the Congregation, Ministers and Church leadership via mutual concern. That's a fancy way of saying a Mutual Ministry Group "checks in" with ministers with things they see, hear, feel within the congregation. It's not criticism, rather a means to critique the work and actions of our ministers.

When meeting, no formal minutes are taken. The conversations of the group with their respective minister is confidential. It's a 20,000 foot view of the health of the congregation intended to address any concerns before they may become a problem.

At Holy Trinity, a Mutual Ministry Small Group is required per our by-laws. Many of you may not be aware that we have such a ministry. When I had my initial meeting with the group that will meet with me, they had numerous questions, all good ones. We don't know what we don't know. I am grateful that Barb Breneman, Emy Belser, Kevin Lutz and Doug Frazer said "yes" when I asked if they would work with me. I too need guidance and I am faithful that each of these disciples will be a tremendous resource as they guide and support my ministry.

Pastor Joel too has a mutual ministry group. Currently it is Kathy Antol, Alan Bair, Alan Sutter and Deb Huber.

As with Pastor Joel, these committee positions rotate in and out over a course of time. Some will exit, some will enter, always retaining two "tenured" disciples at a time.

Please, get in dialogue with any of the aforementioned devoted Trinity worshippers. They may even approach you from time to time. Think about it, our physical health gets a regular "check in" with our physicians. This is one way for Trinity to get a regular spiritual check in.

Loren Good

Lay Associate Minister

SUNDAY FORUM

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

April 5 – Easter Sunday, NO Forum

April 12 – Loren Good – “So we celebrated Easter, now what?”

April 19 – Breakfast Fellowship Update

April 26 – Annual Report to the Congregation from the Vestry

FAITH TALK: FAITH TALK: Living Under the Law, Living in the Spirit

As we continue our careful journey through Paul’s Epistle to the Romans, March brought us into two deeply personal and searching chapters — Romans 6 and 7.

In these chapters, Paul moves from the great declaration of justification into the daily life of the Christian. If grace is free, does that mean sin no longer matters? Paul answers firmly: By no means. In Romans 6, we considered what it means to be baptized into Christ’s death and resurrection. We explored Paul’s striking language of slavery, that every person serves a master, and the freedom that comes not from autonomy, but from belonging to Christ. Sin promises freedom but pays wages; God gives a gift.

In Romans 7, Paul speaks candidly about the ongoing struggle with sin. The Law is holy and good, yet it exposes sin and reveals how deeply sin has taken hold. We wrestled with Paul’s cry, “What I want to do I do not do,” and recognized our own experience in his words. The Law shows sin to be “utterly sinful,” stripping away self-confidence and driving us outside ourselves for rescue. These chapters help us understand both the seriousness of sin and the honesty of the Christian life.

In April, we will move into Romans 8 and 9, chapters that lift our eyes from struggle to promise.

Romans 8 is one of the most hope-filled chapters in all of Scripture. Here Paul proclaims that there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. He teaches about life in the Spirit, adoption as children of the Father, suffering in a groaning creation, and the unbreakable love of God. If Romans 7 reveals the conflict, Romans 8 announces the certainty of God’s saving work.

Romans 9 then turns to God’s faithfulness to His promises. Paul addresses difficult and searching questions about election, mercy, and God’s sovereign purpose. These chapters press us to trust not in human effort or decision, but in God who shows mercy. Far from weakening assurance, they deepen it, placing salvation securely in God’s hands.

As always, Faith Talk moves slowly, verse by verse, leaving room for questions and discussion. Our aim is not merely to move through chapters, but to let the Word of God do its work, exposing sin through the Law, and strengthening faith through the Gospel.

Faith Talk is not a lecture, and it is not a class for experts. You do not need prior preparation or theological background. 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, wrestling with doubts, 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 would like to see how the conversation unfolds, recent Romans discussions are available on our Faith Talk YouTube

channel: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVXIJxd9cP79BU6BW4UmO2wq6p6s-GQqs&si=rsBu2c2PZRomyYjE>

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>

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>

APR. SCRIPTURES

Apr 1 John 13:21-32
Apr 2 John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Apr 3 John 18:1—19:42
Apr 4 John 20:1-18
Apr 5 Matthew 28:1-10
Apr 6 Colossians 3:5-11
Apr 7 Colossians 3:12-17
Apr 8 Matthew 28:1-10
Apr 9 Colossians 4:2-5
Apr 10 Psalm 16
Apr 11 John 20:11-20
Apr 12 John 20:19-31
Apr 13 1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Apr 14 1 Corinthians 15:19-28
Apr 15 Matthew 12:38-42
Apr 16 1 Peter 1:8b-12
Apr 17 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
Apr 18 Luke 14:12-14
Apr 19 Luke 24:13-35
Apr 20 1 Peter 1:23-25
Apr 21 1 Peter 2:1-3
Apr 22 John 21:1-14
Apr 23 1 Peter 2:9-12
Apr 24 Psalm 23
Apr 25 Luke 15:1-7
Apr 26 John 10:1-10
Apr 27 1 Peter 5:1-5
Apr 28 Hebrews 13:20-21
Apr 29 Matthew 20:17-28
Apr 30 Acts 6:8-15

FELLOWSHIP & EVENTS

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

TRINITY MEMBER EVENTS

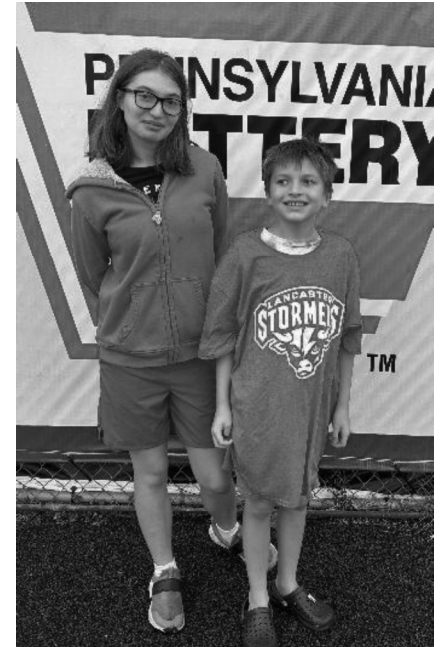
Please let us know where you are performing, competing, participating in events outside of Holy Trinity. It just may be that fellow Trinity disciples would like to see you "in action." We will then, in various ways, "promote" your participation and you'll see brothers and sisters from church there to support you. Send information to loren@trinitylancaster.org or hand Loren a flyer when you see him. We're counting on you to keep us in the know.

CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Thursday, April 2 happens to be Maundy Thursday. This is the day when our Lenten observance comes to an end and we begin to celebrate the three days of Jesus' death and resurrection; the last meal where Jesus washed his disciples' feet, his arrest, death on the cross; and finally, the triumphant resurrection!

As you prepare yourself and your family for Holy Week, please join Trinity's Children's and Family Ministry at these special events:

- **On Friday April 3**, Families are invited to hear the reading of the passion during the Good Friday noontime service in Trinity's Parish House Chapel.
- **On Saturday, April 4, at 10:00 a.m.** join us for Trinity's Annual Easter Egg Hunt. We will have refreshments, crafts, hear the story of Jesus' resurrection, and go on an egg hunt!
- **On Sunday, April 12, (the 2nd Sunday of Easter)** is the spring Youth Sunday. Trinity's Sunday School Children and Confirmation age youth will lead worship.



Save the date! On Wednesday, June 10, Holy Trinity will be the Lancaster Stormers' Non-profit of the Night! Our choir will sing the National Anthem, the church will have a marketing table in the stadium concourse, and one of our members will throw out the first pitch. Kids will be out of school and this will be a great opportunity for families to bond and have fellowship with each other! Tickets are \$10/per person. We will have a special table set up to sell Barnstormer Tickets following worship on **Sunday, April 19, and Sunday, May 10**. The ticket table will be set up outside Fondersmith Auditorium. The gates will open at 5:45 p.m. and the 1st pitch is at 6:45 p.m.

There are a lot of fun and educational Children's activities in the works for the month of May including a special Mother's Day Anthem (**Sunday, May 10**) written by our own Joyce Gundrum; an educational Forum on **Sunday, May 17** on the topic of Affirmation of Baptism featuring presentations by confirmands Natalie Dommel and Penelope Kramer; and, on Pentecost Sunday (**May 24**) Natalie Dommel and Penelope Kramer will be confirmed! Keep a look out in your bulletins, Facebook, and Trinity's website for more details and updates!

Vacation Bible School Registration information is coming soon!

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Kramer



COMMUNITY

Prayer Vigils

- **Sunday, April 12** from 4:00- 5:00 p.m. at Grandview Church, 888 Pleasure Road, Lancaster.
- **Sunday, April 26**, from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. at Church of the Apostles, United Church of Christ, 1850 Marietta Ave, Lancaster.
- **Sunday, May 10** from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 3131 Columbia Ave, Lancaster.
- **Sunday, May 24** from 4:00-5:00 p.m. at Wrightsville Presbyterian Church, 205 N. 2nd St, Wrightsville.

CONCERTS



- Music for Everyone's Festival of Voices concert – **Sunday, April 26** at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Free.

- Lancaster British Brass Band – **Saturday, May 30** at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. Free.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 Easter Sunday <i>Communion</i> 9:30 Worship No Forum or Sunday School	6 Office Closed 9 am VTTA	7 9 am VTTA 9:45 TWIST 3:30 Worship & Music meeting	8	9 9 am Quest 1 pm Lanc. Pastors' meeting 7 pm Choir rehearsal	10	11 9 am Music Educators meeting
12 Youth Sunday 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education 2 pm Pre-assembly meeting 4 pm Prayer vigil, Grandview	13 9 am VTTA 6:30 pm Vestry meeting	14 9 am VTTA 9:45 TWIST	15 3 pm Willow Valley Worship	16 9 am Quest 1 pm Woodcrest Worship 7 pm Choir rehearsal 7:30 LCHS/ Jemannis concert	17	18 1 pm African American Historical Society Tea
19 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education	20	21 9:45 TWIST	22	23 9 am Quest 7 pm Choir rehearsal	24 Clyde Brown funeral 10 am Visitation 11 am service	25 10 am James Buchanan wreath laying at Woodward Hill
26 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Report to the Congregation 3 pm MFE Concert 5 pm Prayer vigil Church/Apostles	27	28 9:45 TWIST 4:30 MLK Board Meeting	29	30 9 am Quest 7 pm Choir rehearsal		



April 2026

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

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DEATHS

Reginald Pattey on February 27, 2026

Nancy Keays March 2026

Walter Buchert, Jr. on March 9, 2026

Paul Weaver on March 12, 2026

Rev. Donald Green on March 19, 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



**LOWER
SUSQUEHANNA
SYNOD**
WHERE THE HUNGRY ARE FED
AS WE HAVE BEEN FED BY CHRIST.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America