

MAY 2026

Sunday, May 3

Communion

First Reading: Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10
Gospel: John 14:1-14
Pastor Joel Petruschke preaching

Sunday, May 10

First Reading: Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22
Gospel: John 14:15-21
Pastor Kurt Strause preaching

Sunday, May 17

First Reading: Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
Gospel: John 17:1-11
Pastor Joel Petruschke preaching

Sunday, May 24

Pentecost/Confirmation

Communion

First Reading: Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
Gospel: John 20:19-23
Pastor Joel Petruschke preaching

Sunday, May 31

The Holy Trinity

Communion

First Reading: Genesis 1:1—2:4a
Psalm 8
Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20
Pastor Joel Petruschke preaching

Report from Senior Pastor Petruschke



Dear Siblings in Christ,

This month on May 24th we celebrate one of the three major festivals of the Church Year, namely Pentecost. Christmas and Easter are the other two major festivals. Christmas, of course, celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. Easter celebrates the resurrection of our Lord. And Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit to be upon God's people, so that the Church is born.

Now, I always find it interesting that Christmas and Pentecost are really quite similar. Both festivals celebrate the coming of a "person" of the Trinity. At the time of Christ, the second person of the Trinity comes to be among us, Jesus Christ. At the time of Pentecost, the third person of the Trinity comes to be among us, the Holy Spirit.

But, in our society, Pentecost doesn't get nearly the same pomp and circumstance as does Christmas. Nobody buys and wraps presents in red (the color of Pentecost) wrapping paper to exchange with friends and family. Nobody puts up plastic lawn ornaments in the shape of doves. Nobody puts a pine tree in their home and hangs tongues of fire on it.
(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@trinitylanaster.org
M-THUR 8:00 - 4:30
FRI 8:00-3:00



But, the power of Pentecost, and the work of the Holy Spirit, is visible all around us all the time. Martin Luther said that the fourfold work of the Spirit is such that the Spirit 1) calls, 2) gathers, 3) enlightens, and 4) sanctifies. This is what the Spirit does with respect to the church. Think of Sunday morning. Something (that something being the Spirit) calls us such that we get up on Sunday, and we get showered and dressed. And then we gather such that we come to church. And the Spirit then enlightens us such that we are inspired (a word that shares the same root with "spirit") by the music, and the reading of Scripture, and the sermon. And then we are sent forth from worship, hopefully changed, such that we are sanctified (set apart) to be God's people who serve in the world. That is how Luther understood the work of the Spirit.

But this fourfold work of the Spirit happens in other places, too: for example at school, where children are called, gathered, enlightened by teachers, and set apart to be informed young people who are able to serve in the world eventually as responsible citizens and persons who contribute to society. The fourfold work of the Spirit happens at work, where workers are called, gathered, enlightened by supervisors and bosses, and set apart to serve as employees and representatives of that place of employment. Additionally, the Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, and sets apart when we gather for entertainment like concerts, or movies, etc., such that we are changed by the experience. The Spirit is at work all around us all the time through this fourfold action.

Only when there is no productive end result from being called and gathered might we say that the Spirit wasn't at work, or not "fully" at work. For instance, we might say that the peace talks in Pakistan are not fully spirit infused, since there has not been a positive end result. There is no peace yet. In other words, there has been no change from these talks.

I also want to highlight how the work of the Spirit has been specifically at work in the life of two young persons in our congregation. Natalie Dommel and Penelope Kramer will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday. And we offer our congratulations to them and their families, and we praise and give thanks for the power of the Spirit that has been at work in their lives. For three years, they have been called and gathered for Confirmation Class, they have been enlightened by Rachel Kramer and others, so that they have delved deeply into the Old and New Testaments and the Small Catechism, and the Spirit has been at work to change them, to set them apart, to sanctify Natalie and Penelope, so that they have "come of age" as members of the church. They are now blessed with certain new responsibilities in the life of the Church, such that they are able to serve on committees and vestry and have a greater share in the participation of the congregation, its life and ministry. Yes, the Spirit calls all of us to communion together to be about the work of the Gospel. And we rejoice specifically on this Pentecost for Natalie's and Penelope's part in that great commission from Jesus Christ.

So, this month we do very much celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon all of God's people. We celebrate with Natalie and Penelope and their families. We celebrate the Church formed and guided by the Spirit. We celebrate the power of the Spirit working throughout the world. And if you decide to put out a plastic dove lawn ornament, or put up a pine tree in your home and hang some tongues of fire on it, or buy and wrap Pentecost gifts in red wrapping paper, I will understand your motivation to do so. Thanks be to God.

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.

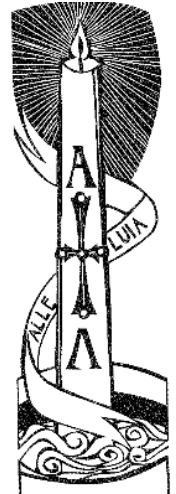
FROM THE WORSHIP AND MUSIC SMALL GROUP

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

Ascending Has to Happen Before Descending

In April we recognized Christ's agonizing death and celebrated His ultimate Resurrection. Yet, His journey was not yet done. For a period of 40 days Jesus continued to appear and work with His disciples. And, while we don't know of any miracles performed during these 40 days, for sure there was a purpose.

1. **He proved He was truly alive**: In a world of skeptics, Jesus made it unmistakably clear: He had really risen. Not a vision, a ghost, or a legend. He stood and spoke with them, showed them His scars, and even ate with them (Luke 24:39-43).
2. **He affirmed the Truth of God's Word**: The risen Christ didn't just show up. He taught. He interpreted Scripture. He connected the dots from Genesis to Malachi, showing that the cross and resurrection weren't a divine detour—they were the destination.
3. **He strengthened the Faith of His Followers**: What did Jesus do? He came back. He showed Thomas His hands and His side. And Thomas responded with worship: "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). Notice that Jesus didn't crush doubt with guilt. He confronted it with grace.
4. **He mobilized His disciples for Mission**: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you..." (Matthew 28:19-20).
5. **He prepared us for His Return**: The forty days between resurrection and ascension remind us that Jesus isn't finished. The story isn't over. The mission is still active. And the King who rose will one day return.



(cont.)

So, with the Ascension of Christ, is the story over? It is not. Just 10 days later, the 50th day of Easter, we celebrate Pentecost. This is the culmination of the Easter season. On this day, as we read in the second chapter of the book of Acts, the Holy Spirit DESCENDS on the disciples as a wind and tongues of fire, enabling the apostles to speak in different languages; marking the transition of Christ's physical presence to the Holy Spirit's presence. On this day we wear red, representing the color of the fire. Vestments will be red as well.

Conclusion. We know that we cannot have a Resurrection without a death on the cross. We now know that we can't have the descent of the Holy Spirit until we have Christ's Ascension into Heaven.

And that's a good thing.

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Holy Trinity's Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings in the Choir Room from 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. through May 21.



SENIOR COMMUNITY WORSHIP

Communion at Willow Valley – Wednesday, May 13
at 3 p.m., *Manor North Auditorium*
Communion at Woodcrest – Every other month at 1 p.m.
Next month's service is on June 18
Eagle Commons Chapel

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.

FROM THE VESTRY PRESIDENT

Dear Siblings in Christ,

For those of you who could attend the Annual Vestry Report Celebration on April 26th, I say thank you. The theme this year reflects the renewed energy and commitment to the church we are all feeling. For those who couldn't be with us, I wanted to share a few highlights from the day.

We started the program by sharing a quote from Margaret Fisher: "The mission of the church is not behind us but in front of us." One of our core values is "We honor Trinity's history while growing into the future."

We are blessed to work with Pastor Joel, Loren Good, Rachael Kramer, Chris Prestia, Andrea Collins, Anna Marie Snyder, and Rick Jones. All go above and beyond their written responsibilities. We asked everyone who serves on any committee, participates in any activity, or attends church to stand, so obviously everyone in the room was on their feet. The dedication of everyone in the church who participate in 21 plus committees or serve in other ways shows that our mission is in front of us.

Through all of the work of these people this church is on the move. Pastor Joel brought with him a new way of leadership with his personality and his interest in inclusion of all opinions and ideas. His spiritual leadership has given us the tools we need to serve our God, community and each other.

With everything we have to celebrate we have more reasons to invite people to church or a social event, and when with friends to talk about Trinity all of the time.

Our organ is in good working order and will be that way for years to come. A full article on this will be in the June newsletter.

Other presenters spoke about our financial picture, new community partnerships, new committees and ways we can include you in the future. At the end of the program a brief survey was handed out seeking your opinions on various thoughts about the church. The survey is also on the next page of this newsletter so please return it by **May 15**. This will be just one tool we will use this year to continue this celebration!

Look for more articles next month from other presenters.

Susan Garofola, Vestry President

YOUR HOLY TRINITY ASSESSMENT – PLEASE RETURN BY MAY 15.

Please take the time to carefully and sincerely respond to the following questions, circling the response that most aligns with your thinking.

1.) Are you excited about being a member/worshipper at Holy Trinity?

- A.) Very excited
- B.) Excited
- C.) Somewhat excited
- D.) Somewhat disappointed

Additional Comments:

2.) What do we need to do to ensure Holy Trinity's ministry into perpetuity/the future.

- A.) More emphasis on stewardship and endowment contributions.
- B.) Change our style of worship.
- C.) Offer more worship opportunities.
- D.) Merge with other churches.

Additional Comments:

3.)_How can we better inspire others?

- A.) More small groups – Bible Studies, Electives on Theology
- B.) Encourage current worshippers to be more disciplined in their understanding of the Bible.
- C.) Do a better job via any means to better communicate the impact of our ministries.

Additional Comments:

Are you more excited about the future or the past? Y or N

Are we making disciples of those that worship here? Y or N



Skip the wait - receive your newsletter by email! contact Andrea at es@trinitylanaster.org.

EDUCATION

SUNDAY FORUM

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

May 3 – Dawn Hippensteel – Clinical Nurse Gerontology UPMC on Dementia.

May 10 – “I’ll take Leviticus for \$200 Alex...Let’s Play Jeopardy - Bible Version.”

May 17 – Confirmands’ Presentation.

May 24 – Lemonade on the Lawn.

May 31 – Pastor Joel “Death and the Life After.”

FAITH TALK: Rooted in the Gospel of Romans

During the month of April, Faith Talk paused briefly in our verse-by-verse study of Romans to spend time reflecting on one of Paul’s most important themes: **the Resurrection of Jesus Christ as a central part of the Gospel itself**. Too often Christians think of the resurrection simply as the happy ending to the Passion story, but Paul teaches that it is far more than that. Christ’s resurrection is not an afterthought to the Gospel; it is essential to the Gospel message. We considered how Paul repeatedly connects Christ’s resurrection to our justification, our hope, our future resurrection, and our assurance that death itself has been defeated.

As we move into May, Faith Talk will return to our steady walk through **Romans**, likely covering chapters 9 and 10. In these chapters Paul begins addressing some of the deeper and often challenging questions surrounding God’s promises, election, Israel, and the righteousness that comes by faith. These chapters contain some of Paul’s most profound teaching and will give us much to discuss as we continue our journey through this foundational epistle.

Faith Talk is designed to be a **discussion-based class**, where questions and conversation are encouraged. No preparation is necessary, and each week’s lesson is structured so that **every class stands on its own**. Whether you attend every week or only occasionally, you are welcome to join us whenever you are able.

If you have never attended before, consider this your invitation. Come and explore Romans with us; and bring not only your questions about Romans, but also **your questions about the Christian faith in general**.

Previous sessions of Faith Talk may also be viewed anytime on YouTube at: <https://www.spiritusetlogos.com/faith-talk>

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, or 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.



Holy Trinity member Jennifer Jester at the Brass Faculty recital at Millersville University on March 29.

MAY SCRIPTURES

May 1 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
May 2 John 8:48-59
May 3 John 14:1-14
May 4 Acts 7:17-40
May 5 Acts 7:44-56
May 6 John 8:31-38
May 7 Acts 27:1-12
May 8 Psalm 66:8-20
May 9 John 14:27-29
May 10 John 14:15-21
May 11 Acts 27:39-44
May 12 1 Peter 3:8-12
May 13 John 16:16-24
May 14 Luke 24:44-53
May 15 Psalm 93
May 16 John 8:21-30
May 17 John 17:1-11
May 18 1 Peter 4:1-6
May 19 1 Peter 4:7-11
May 20 John 3:31-36
May 21 Acts 2:1-11
May 22 Psalm 33:12-22
May 23 Matthew 5:1-12
May 24 John 20:19-23
May 25 Romans 8:18-24
May 26 Romans 8:26-27
May 27 John 7:37-39
May 28 2 Timothy 1:8-12a
May 29 Psalm 8
May 30 John 14:15-17
May 31 Matthew 28:16-20

CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Jesus is risen, and signs of new life surrounds us; from the buds of leaves and flowers on trees to baby bunnies and birds. Holy Trinity's Children and Family Ministry is also starting new spring and summer events and programs. All are welcome to participate in our ministry.

This upcoming Mother's Day, **May 10**, be sure to join us for worship as our Sunday School and Confirmation Youth will sing a special anthem for us. In addition, May 10 will also be a "Ladies Hat Sunday." This cherished tradition is where women wear decorative "crowns" to church to represent faith, elegance, and community.

All ladies, mothers or not, are invited to wear a hat to worship that day. If any gents would like to wear a decorative "crown" to worship on May 10, they are also invited to wear a special hat to church that Sunday.





Sunday, May 10 is also the last Sunday to purchase a ticket for the Stormers Baseball Game on Wednesday, **June 10**. Trinity is the Nonprofit of the Night at the Lancaster Stormers on Wednesday, June 10. The gates open at 5:45 p.m. Our choir will kick things off with the singing of the National Anthem at the Baseball game! The first pitch, which will be thrown by our confirmation student, Hudson, at 6:45 p.m. Come visit our marketing table at any time on the stadium concourse. On Sunday, May 10, there will be a table set up outside Fondersmith Auditorium for you to purchase tickets. All tickets are \$10/person. **Please write Stormers in the memo section of your checks!**

Following worship on **Sunday, May 17**, Natalie Dommel and Penelope Kramer will give special presentations during the Forum on a topic they have learned during their years in confirmation class. Be sure to attend this special Forum to support Trinity's Youth.

On **Sunday, May 24**, we will celebrate the festival of Pentecost and the Rite of Confirmation for Natalie Dommel and Penelope Kramer! Following worship, there will be a special cake for them during our Lemonade on the Lawn fellowship time.

On **Thursday, June 4**, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Trinity's Youth Ministry is hosting an Urban Air "Spirit Night!" Anyone is allowed to attend so please invite your friends and neighbors to join you at Urban Air Adventure Park, 2040 Bennet Ave, Lancaster, PA 17601. Be sure to mention Holy Trinity Lutheran Church when you purchase your tickets to get a discount on Platinum Passes! For more information visit the QR code below or see Rachel.



Also, register now for God's Wonder Lab, Science Mondays Vacation Bible School. This is a collaborative ministry between Grace Lutheran Church and Holy Trinity. The dates of our Science Mondays are: **June 8, June 15, June 22, June 29, and July 6** from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church, 517 N Queen St, Lancaster, PA 17603 will host our VBS. Registration forms can be found in the church Narthex or on Trinity's website at: <https://trinitylanaster.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/2026-VBS-Registration-Form.pdf>

Hope to see you at one or more of our spring/early summer events!

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Kramer

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY

2026 Valentine Appeal

The International Ministries Committee extends its sincere appreciation to the members of our congregation who generously donated \$11,915 to the Nazareth Hospital's Advanced Medical Training for West Bank Doctor's program. Holy Trinity's response to the Valentine Appeal nearly doubled the stated goal of raising \$6,000 for the program. Howard Good, Executive Director of the Nazareth Project, expressed his sincere appreciation to our congregation for the generous donation and plans to acknowledge the gift in a future Nazareth Project newsletter. Thanks be to God for guiding our collective response to this impactful training program.

The training program, launched in 2023, provides specialized residency training for West Bank doctors in surgery, internal medicine, emergency medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, orthopedics, cardiology, and radiology. Since the program began, five doctors have completed their training and are serving critical healthcare needs in West Bank communities, two others will return to the West Bank shortly upon completion of temporary assignments at Nazareth Hospital, and four doctors will complete their advanced training in 2027.

COMMUNITY

Prayer Vigils

- **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



- **Thursday, May 7** Lancaster Catholic High School /Michael Jamanis Concert in the chapel at 7:30 p.m.
- Lancaster British Brass Band – **Saturday, May 30** at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. Free.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 5 pm First Friday	2
3 <i>Communion</i> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education 1 pm International Min. Meeting	4	5 9:45 TWIST 1 pm Pr. Joel Mutual Ministry	6 3 pm Exec. Committee	7 9 am Quest 7 pm Choir rehearsal 7:30 Jamanis Concert	8	9
10 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education 5 pm Prayer Vigil Holy Spirit Lutheran	11 11 am Hunger planters 3:30 pm Fellowship meeting 6:30 pm Vestry meeting	12 9:45 TWIST	13 3 pm Willow Valley Worship	14 9 am Quest 7 pm Choir rehearsal	15 5 pm MLK Scholarship Awards	16
17 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education	18 9:30 am Breakfast Fellowship meeting 2 pm Christian Ed. Meeting	19 2 pm Discipleship meeting 3:30 p.m. Worship & Music meeting	20	21 7 pm Choir rehearsal	22	23
24 Pentecost/ Confirmation <i>Communion</i> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Lemonade on the Lawn 4 pm Prayer Vigil Wrightsville Pres.	25 Office Closed	26	27	28	29	30 4 pm British Brass Band
31 Trinity Sunday <i>Communion</i> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education						

May 2026



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

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DEATHS

Deborah Arends on April 4, 2026

Marilyn Herr on April 22, 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