



31 South Duke Street | Lancaster, PA | 17602
TRINITYLANCASTER.ORG

JUNE 2026

Sunday, June 7

Communion

Installation of Vestry

First Reading: Hosea 5:15—6:6

Psalm 50:7-15

Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25

Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Pastor Joel Petruschke preaching

Sunday, June 14

First Reading: Exodus 19:2-8a

Psalm 100

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-8

Gospel: Matthew 9:35—10:8-23

Pastor Joel Petruschke preaching

Sunday, June 21

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13

Psalm 69:7-18

Second Reading: Romans 6:1b-11

Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39

Pastor Joel Petruschke preaching

Sunday, June 28

Fanelli Baptism

First Reading: Jeremiah 28:5-9

Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Second Reading: Romans 6:12-23

Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42

Pastor Joel Petruschke preaching

Report from Senior Pastor Petruschke



Dear Siblings in Christ,

SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL would make for a great word for the Scripps National Spelling Bee. (At the time of the writing of this article the Bee has yet to take place. So, depending on when you are reading this, the Bee may have concluded.) PRONOUNCER: Your word is SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL. CONTESTANT: Can you use the word in a sentence? PRONOUNCER: This year the United States is celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the *Declaration of Independence*, also known as the semiquincentennial anniversary.

In light of this exciting and momentous occasion, I want to share with you some of the events Holy Trinity is planning. In fact, we are planning a number of events in collaboration with other congregations in Lancaster. First and foremost, you may have observed already that we have decked out Holy Trinity in colorful red, white, and blue bunting. The hope is that these decorations will make our church stand out to all passersby. All the more, the building arrayed in all its patriotic colors makes for a great photo op. So be sure to take a picture sometime during the summer season, as we will keep the bunting up until autumn.
(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

Second, Holy Trinity will be part of two Congregational Open Houses, where folks are invited to make the rounds to various participating congregations in Lancaster city. Dates are June 7th and July 12th, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The congregations will open their doors to visitors who are invited to see the interiors of the churches and learn more about the congregation.

We have produced a booklet about the congregations participating in the Open Houses. This booklet has been sent to the email inbox of our congregation's members, and there are some hardcopies available in the church office and in the Narthex. (A special "thank you" to Andrea for all her work on preparing the booklet.)

Section 1 contains information about each congregation – history, ongoing ministries, unique facts. And the booklet notes if a congregation has an exception to the scheduled Open House dates, hosting their Open House on another day.

It should be noted that several congregations in Lancaster, including Holy Trinity, will be ringing their steeple bells on July 5th and July 12th at the noon hour to acknowledge the 250th. The *Declaration of Independence* was first read publicly in Lancaster on July 8, 1776. So, ringing the bells on the 5th and 12th bookends the week of that historic, local reading. Tentatively, we are planning a reading of the *Declaration* at Penn Square on July 8th. Again, congregations would ring their bells on July 8 at noon, followed by the reading. Details are still being worked out.

Section 2 of the booklet contains information about what each congregation is doing individually, in addition to those collaborative events. I already mentioned one way in which Holy Trinity is contributing to the festivities, namely the church decorations. In addition, we are planning a few other events for the weekend of July 4th.

During our First Friday event on July 3rd, Tim Slaugh will give a special presentation on "Holy Trinity and the Revolutionary War." This First Friday event will begin with the ringing of our church bells at 5:00 p.m., followed by a short organ demonstration by Chris Prestia, and concluding with Tim's presentation. Don't miss it.

On Sunday, July 5th, worship will begin with a fife and drum procession, following by the reading of the *Declaration of Independence*. The sermon for that day is entitled, "What would God say about the *Declaration of Independence*?" Please be sure to invite your friends to worship as we gather to observe this wonderful milestone in our country's history.

PRONOUNCER: Your word is PATRIOTISM. CONTESTANT: Can you use it in a sentence?
PRONOUNCER: The congregation of Holy Trinity is expressing its patriotism with many exciting events.

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

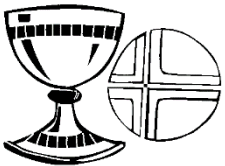
Every Sunday there are children's activity bags in the narthex. Please feel free to ask an usher where to find them.

FROM THE WORSHIP AND MUSIC SMALL GROUP

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

While each month we include something on this in our newsletter, Pastor Joel and Loren Good will supplement these articles during the Forum June 14th. You will see in your bulletin the opportunity to submit questions you wish to have answered. You may wonder how we choose hymns, the readings for the day, when we commune, when we intone (chant), and colors of the paraments. Maybe you want to know how the date for Easter is chosen each year or why we cross ourselves. If you want to know, please ask Pastor Joel or Loren who will do their best to deliver an answer. In the meantime, this may be something with which you are not familiar...the what and the why.

Christians examine the biblical roots of worship in two ways: the pattern or shape of worship and the words of worship. Biblical Pattern Christians gather on the Lord's Day to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. When not celebrating communion, we have one liturgy as follows. The Liturgy of the Word is from the Jewish synagogue service and is made up of scripture readings, psalms, and prayers. (In Luke 4:14-21 we have an account of Jesus in the synagogue, reading from the prophet Isaiah.) And, while in certain seasons of the year the Liturgy components change, there is order and purpose. Immediately after the announcements the liturgy begins with the prelude followed by the Confession, or Thanksgiving of our Baptism. Then the gathering hymn, the Greeting, Prayer of the day. Now we're onto the first lesson, responsive reading of the Psalm, second lesson, Gospel acclamation, reading of the Gospel, sermon, hymn of the day. We then will recite a creed, collect offering, intercessory prayer, benediction, sending hymn and finally the sending/dismissal. Then, on Communion Sundays, the order is a bit different as we have a second liturgy, that of the meal when we share bread and wine in remembrance of Jesus's death and resurrection which is foundational to Lutheran worship.



Conclusion – God created an order of things with His Creation. No matter the season, our worship service honors God with an order as well.

CHOIR REHEARSALS RESUME SEPT. 10



SENIOR COMMUNITY WORSHIP

Communion at Willow Valley – Wednesday, June 17
at 3 p.m., *Manor North Auditorium*
Communion at Woodcrest – Every other month at 1 p.m.
This 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,

In May I promised an update on our plans for the organ which I presented at the annual vestry report to the congregation in April.

I had the opportunity to speak to Brunner & Associates, a full service pipe organ building, rebuilding, and service company which is located in Lancaster County, and who know our organ well. They provide our yearly maintenance and tuning and have been instrumental in our discussions as to what is best for our organ, congregation and financial picture.

My question "Will the organ die?" was quickly answered by them: "The beauty of a pipe organ is it doesn't just die." Parts are available to fix or replace or be built to keep the organ going for the next 30 years plus. With direction from Chris and research by many members of the congregation, that is exactly what we have decided to do. Our organist, Chris Prestia, is a blessing to us not only providing his musical talents and personality but his interest in keeping the organ alive and well.

The organ does have cotton covered wire that, for safety reason, should be replaced. We have asked Brunner for a proposal to do the work and get that on their schedule probably for 2027. It will be roughly \$60,000. We do have an endowment fund for the organ and thus the funds are available for this work. However, this is an opportunity to build the fund with monetary gifts now or in your estate if the organ is one of your priorities. If giving to the organ fund or indicating in your estate please make sure contributions are labeled *Endowment Organ Fund*.

Please feel free to contact me or others members of the vestry concerning this matter.

Susan Garofola, Vestry President

From Pastor Joel's Vestry Report to the Congregation



My report to the congregation began with having us remember the image of "mutualism" that exists in nature between the sea anemone and the hermit crab. In a relationship of mutualism, both creatures benefit, improving their survival and ability to thrive. In nature, sea anemones will ride on the backs of hermit crabs, and those sea anemones benefit by being moved around to different feeding opportunities, as well as access to the food scraps

from the crab's meals. Hermit crabs benefit by having the protection of the sea anemones, because the stinging tentacles of the anemones ward off predators. Interestingly enough, hermit crabs will peel off their sea anemones when they change shells and will reattach them to their new shell. Their friends come along with them.

What is my point? Simply this, God seems to love partnerships. It is true in nature. And it is true in our lives as humans. So, during my presentation I reminded folks of the many partnerships in which we at Holy Trinity are already involved. We have partnerships with the NAACP, with the African American Historical Society of South-Central PA, and with the MLK Scholarship Board. We have partnerships with Quest, with VITA, and with Music For Everyone. And the list goes on.

And, I mentioned that we are working on nurturing those partnerships, as well as building new partnerships. With Quest, we are looking to begin a Book Club whereby we would develop relationships between members of Quest and members of Holy Trinity. With the African American Historical Society, we are looking to better tell the story of Holy Trinity as part of the Historical Society's Underground Railroad Tour. We are working on a Digital Map to be included on our website that would network the various African American Heritage/Civil Rights sites in the greater Lancaster area. We are exploring efforts to support the unhoused in Lancaster by bringing together the resources of congregations in Lancaster. We are discerning ways to partner with downtown Lutheran congregations, not least of which is to engage in social activities with one another. In short, we are working on ways to carry our friends along with us.

Finally, I direct us to 2 Corinthians 8:10-14, to see how mutualism played out in the early Church. Here, Paul is calling out the Gentile Christians to whom he is writing, so that they would share generously their financial resources with the poor Jewish Christians in Jerusalem.

(cont.)

Those Gentile Christians are to respond financially towards their siblings, those poor Jewish Christians, because the Gentile Christians have received richly from the Jewish Christians. Indeed, it was from the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem that the Gentile Christians had first received the Gospel. And so, Paul says, it is a fair balance. To be sure, it is mutualism at its best. It is partnership, like sea anemones and hermit crabs.

Summary of Property Committee Report to the Congregation.

A new task force has been formed to evaluate all of our current interior and exterior space. The effort will be comprehensive but will focus on the Parish House interior space with the following questions in mind: 1) How do WE use the space now and how could WE use it more effectively? 2) How can the COMMUNITY use our space more effectively? 3) What changes would be appropriate to make better use of our space or attract tenants? 4) Timing and expense of recommended changes?

Major property expenses to date in 2026 include repairs to the HVAC units for the second floor of the Parish House, extensive prep and paint work on the first floor and stairwells of the Parish House and major plumbing repairs to the second-floor men's restroom.



Major projects planned for 2026 include repairs (deteriorating cast iron pipe) to the plumbing under the first and second floor women's restroom and first floor men's room in the Parish House. Renovation of the Parish House cupola (dry rotted wood) is planned as well as restoration work of the statues on the church tower.

Also under serious consideration is painting of the church steeple. It was last done thirteen years ago.

Responsible stewardship over many decades has kept our buildings in good shape. I'm confident that generous financial support from our parishioners will continue to sustain Trinity's buildings as a valuable part of this community.

Dave Wanner, Property Committee Chair

Peace and Justice Small Group Report to the Congregation

After many years of hiatus, the Peace and Justice Small Group convened in February of 2026. The challenge for us as a small group is to narrow our purpose and define where we can make a difference. At the Annual Report to the Congregation, Loren Good shared the slide (pg. 7) as a suggestion that we consider in guidance as we move forward. At some point, we may ask you, disciples of Holy Trinity, how you define Peace and Justice and where you would like to see us place our efforts. Presently, the work of so many volunteers is offering these services already...be it our feeding, international, breakfast fellowship, refugee settlement, to name a few. And, we offer our spaces to AA, VITA, MLK Lancaster Chapter along with other organizations. Via newsletter articles, adult forums, and other communications we will keep you posted.

Loren Good

PEACE AND JUSTICE SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

SIX PILLARS OF BIBLICAL JUSTICE:

REST
CONNECTION
ECONOMIC RESETS
JUST SYSTEMS
WELL BEING
SAFETY NETS



EDUCATION

SUNDAY FORUM

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

June 7 – Matt Johnson from Church World Services

June 14 – Pastor Joel and Loren Good – Liturgy – “What We Do, and Why We Do It.”

June 21 – Tanya Kevorkia and Tim Slaugh – “The Worlds of Jacob Eichholtz.”

June 28 – Peace and Justice Ministry update

FAITH TALK: Continuing Through Romans

During the month of May, Faith Talk continued our journey through Paul’s Epistle to the Romans, working through chapters 8, 9, and 10. These chapters brought us into some of the deepest and most comforting teaching in all of Scripture. Together we reflected on Paul’s proclamation that there is “now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,” the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer, and the assurance that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ.

We also spent time wrestling with Paul’s difficult but important discussion of God’s promises, election, and the place of Israel within salvation history. Along the way we considered how salvation rests not upon human effort or worthiness, but upon the mercy and faithfulness of God. Romans 10 then turned our attention back to the simple but profound proclamation of the Gospel itself: “Faith comes from hearing,” as Christ is proclaimed through His Word.

(cont.)

As we move into June, Faith Talk will continue into Romans chapters 11 and 12. In chapter 11, Paul continues reflecting on Israel, God's mercy, and the mystery of salvation history, while warning Gentile believers against pride and spiritual arrogance. Then, in chapter 12, Romans begins to turn toward the practical shape of the Christian life; describing what it means to live as those transformed by the mercies of God. These chapters move from deep theological reflection into daily Christian living, vocation, humility, love, and service toward others.

Faith Talk remains 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 always 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.

First Friday

We will continue our First Friday Speaker Series on **June 5**. Everyone is welcome to attend. The speaker is Jim Gerhart, Local History Researcher, presenting "New Insights into the Development of Lancaster in the 18th Century". 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 at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary followed by sanctuary tours and refreshments. We will continue the series focusing on our Church history, local history, social topics, and content from our partners.

UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

We have some exciting upcoming events that we believe you will enjoy. Please "save the date" on your calendars.

- A Ladies Tea on **Saturday, July 25th** – details to come.

JUNE SCRIPTURES

June 1 Romans 2:1-11
June 2 Romans 3:9-22a
June 3 Matthew 7:13-20
June 4 2 Peter 2:17-22
June 5 Psalm 33:1-12
June 6 Matthew 9:27-34
June 7 Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
June 8 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:2
June 9 Hebrews 13:1-16
June 10 Matthew 12:1-8
June 11 Hebrews 3:1-6
June 12 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
June 13 Mark 7:1-13
June 14 Matthew 9:35-10:8
June 15 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5
June 16 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5
June 17 Luke 6:12-19
June 18 Hebrews 2:5-9
June 19 Psalm 86:1-10
June 20 Luke 11:53-12:3
June 21 Matthew 10:24-39
June 22 Revelation 2:1-7
June 23 Revelation 2:8-11
June 24 Matthew 10:5-23
June 25 Galatians 5:2-6
June 26 Psalm 13
June 27 Luke 17:1-4
June 28 Matthew 10:40-42
June 29 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12
June 30 1 John 4:1-6

- Fun-raiser – **August 15th**. After a one-year hiatus, we figure that you may have filled your basement/garage with some things you would just as soon see gone. Beginning **Sunday, August 9th**, please donate unwanted items including clothing, children’s clothing, toys, household items. Please, NO media, books, or bedding of any sort. Donations will be accepted through **Wednesday, August 12th**. If interested in volunteering to get ready for the “sale,” please contact Rachel Kramer at rachel@trinitylanaster.org.
- Picnic and Worship **September 20th** in the Park. We’re bringing this back after nearly a decade hiatus. Details to be determined, but we will worship at the Manheim Township Community Park followed by a picnic. We are looking to make this a joint effort with some other downtown Lutheran congregations.



Beer Tasting Event **October 17th**. We will joined by a Cicerone (someone who evaluates and recommends beers for the occasion). We’ll feature locally brewed beer samples accompanied by German Fest foods.

WHAT DO YOU DO?

Maybe you compete in the Senior Olympics, a local golf, bocce, tennis, or bowling league or tournaments. Maybe you’re part of a book, gardening, arts, chess, or canasta club. Maybe you’re an entertainer, standup comedian, or a stamp/coin collector. Please let us know. We worship together; we may serve on committees with one another, but may not know others interests. Someone may wish to witness you engaged in a hobby or even join you. Share with Loren Good in person, or via email at loren@trinitylanaster.org

CHILDREN’S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

The Children’s Sunday School and Confirmation program is on a summer break. It will start up again on **Sunday, September 13th**, which is also God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday.

Coming up over the summer, our children’s ministry will offer several fun programs for children and families. On **Thursday, June 4th** 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 children and grandchildren to join us 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! 20% of all proceeds from our “Spirit Night” will go toward the ELCA Youth Gathering Trip in 2027. For more information visit the QR code.





Holy Trinity is once again partnering with Grace Lutheran Church for VBS! Invite your children and grandchildren to attend God's Wonder Lab, Science Mondays Vacation Bible School. We'll hear awesome stories, make cool crafts, play games, and conduct science experiments! The dates of our Science Mondays are: **June 8th, June 15th, June 22nd, June 29th, and July 6th 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>

The Children's and Family Ministry is also partnering with the Discipleship Committee for Holy Trinity's Nonprofit of the Night at the Lancaster Stormers on **Wednesday, June 10th**! 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.; and we will have a marketing table on the stadium concourse.



Be sure to join us for worship on **Sunday, June 21st, Father's Day, for Bow Tie Sunday!** Bow Tie Sunday stems from the early 4th century when a monk named Jerome had a vision of Jesus leading him through a rocky place with a rope tied around his midriff. This vision has been commemorated annually by having parishioners wear ribbons tied about the waist. Over time this was adapted to tying beautiful bows around the necks of the faithful. In 2026, we will commemorate this saint's vision at Trinity by wearing bows to church on our clothes, in our hair, or around our neck as an elegant bow tie.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Kramer

COMMUNITY



Vocal Camp runs **June 29 - July 1** in the Parish House

Instrumental Camp One runs **July 6 -10** in the Parish House

Instrumental Camp Two runs **July 13 -17** in the Parish House

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 5 pm Peace & Justice meeting	3	4 4 pm Urban Air Event	5 Synod Assembly 5 p.m. First Friday	6 Synod Assembly
7 <i>Communion</i> 9:30 Worship Vestry Installation 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education 1-4 Holy Trinity Open House	8 6 pm VBS at Grace 6:30 pm Vestry meeting	9	10 9:30 a.m. Woodward Hill Cleanup 2 pm Visitation Team 5:45 Lancaster Stormers Game	11	12 9:30 am Music Instructors meeting	13
14 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education	15 6 pm VBS at Grace	16	17 3 pm Willow Valley Service 5 pm Endowment	18 1 pm Woodcrest Service	19	20
21 9:30 Worship Fathers' Day/Bowties 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education	22 6 pm VBS at Grace	23 3:30 Worship & Music	24 9:30 a.m. Woodward Hill Cleanup	25	26	27
28 9:30 Worship Panelli Baptism 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education	29 9 am MFE Vocal Camp 6 pm VBS at Grace	30 9 am MFE Vocal Camp				

June 2026
HOLY TRINITY
 LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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DEATHS

Elizabeth Ehrgood on April 27, 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