



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

AUG 2026

**August 2
Communion**

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5
Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21
Guest preacher Pastor Newell Embley

August 9

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9-18
Psalm 85:8-13
Second Reading: Romans 10:5-15
Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33
Pastor Joel Petruschke preaching

August 16

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Psalm 67
Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Gospel: Matthew 15:10 -28
Preaching Pastor Joel Petruschke

August 23

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalm 138
Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8
Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20
Guest preacher Pastor Cliff Eshbach

August 30

First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalm 26:1-8
Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21
Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28
Preaching Pastor Joel Petruschke

Letter from Senior Pastor Petruschke



Dear Siblings in Christ,

I just finished a book entitled *The Oregon Trail* by Rinker Buck. Maybe you have read it. If not, it is about the author's journey retracing the path settlers traversed in the latter half of the nineteenth century from the jumping off point in Missouri to the final destination in the state of Oregon. In order to retrace the path of these settlers, Rinker Buck hitched a mule team to a covered wagon and made this trip with his brother Nick. And interspersed within the telling of his journey are a number of interesting details about the Oregon Trail, and mules, and wagons, and so on. It is actually quite an interesting and entertaining read, likened to Bill Bryon's book *A Walk in the Woods*.

Now, I was very fascinated by Buck's description of the settlers' regular habit of dumping on the side of the trail items that the settlers found to be unnecessary or no longer useful. Particularly at places like the fording of rivers, to make the passage easier, the settlers just unburdened themselves of many things in their wagons. But even at other places, indeed all along the trail, piles of abandoned items were strewn about.

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

You see, at the jumping off point, at the start of their journey, there were many merchants selling all sorts of stuff to these settlers, often taking advantage of the naivete of the settlers. These merchants encumbered the settlers with all sorts of wares, most of which the settlers found they really didn't need. And so, the settlers unencumbered themselves of such wares as they ambled along the trail. A day or so along the trail, sure enough the settlers would discard what they quickly realized they didn't need with them on the trail. And the merchants would follow the settlers out on the trail and when the settlers were out of sight, they would collect what was left behind, take it back to the jumping off point, and resell it to the next wave of settlers who were preparing to depart.

Further along the trail, the jettisoned items of the settlers would be claimed not by the merchants but by the subsequent waves of settlers. They would pick through "jetsam" acquiring whatever they might see as useful. Books, for instance, were exchanged in this way. When an individual finished whatever they were reading, they would toss it on the side of the trail, where the next settler who came along would pick it up.

Now, as I was reading this description of the trail by Buck, I couldn't help but think of what a wonderful analogy this is for the journey of life. We acquire all these things and then as we go through life, especially toward the latter part of life, we begin to downsize and jettison much of the items we have collected. And, if possible, we leave behind things for the next generation in our family coming after us. For instance, my parents have spoken with my brothers and me about items in their house we might want. To which, I expressed to my brothers and my parents, that one collection of items we specifically need to continue to keep in our family are the "hand irons." These are irons that were used in my great grandparents' laundry business in Berlin, Wisconsin. You see, my ancestors owned and operated the second oldest laundry business in Wisconsin, and these hand irons are part of that history. The building where their business was housed is now home to the Berlin Area Historical Society. And it actually might make better sense to simply gift these hand irons to the historical society.

What am I getting at? I think what I am trying to say is that life is eventually a process of learning to let go. It is a stewardship thing. It is easier to travel when we are not so encumbered by unnecessary stuff. Getting rid of stuff makes the load we carry lighter on the land, and makes the load lighter which we carry on our spirits.

So, I recommend to you *The Oregon Trail* by Rinker Buck as an interesting and entertaining book for you to read. And I recommend the settlers' practice of letting go so as to travel light.

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 - What We Do in Worship and Why!

by Loren Good

To Kneel or Not to Kneel

If you are a long-time worshiper at Holy Trinity you are likely to recall kneeling during the confession in the liturgy and during special prayers throughout the church year. We certainly are in habit of kneeling at the chancel rail when taking Communion.

When you sit in the pew, you can readily see kneeling benches at your feet. We've not been in the habit of kneeling although you will see some worshipers doing so on occasion.

So, are we missing something by not doing so? And, what is the purpose of kneeling anyway?

In the Lutheran tradition, kneeling began with Martin Luther himself, who found kneeling to be an expression of humility, reverence and trust before God, especially in prayer, confession and at Holy Communion. In fact, Luther's morning and evening blessings invite kneeling as he prayed the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. It is a reminder that our posture can help focus our hearts on God's grace and protection. Certainly, whether you kneel, stand, or sit, God knows what's in your heart, and Christ lovingly receives every prayer offered in faith.

In the weeks ahead, you'll likely hear from the liturgical leader an invitation to kneel or stand as you are able. That's not a new thing at Trinity. If you're up to it, consider using the kneeling bench. You may find it to be helpful and realize the humility, reverence and trust before God that Luther referenced. Again, as you are able.



SENIOR COMMUNITY WORSHIP

Communion at Willow Valley – Wednesday, August 19
at 3 p.m., Manor North Auditorium

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,

What does the President of Vestry do? Typically, he/she serves as the presiding officer and is responsible for keeping the parish's lay governance running smoothly.

Common responsibilities include: Presides over Vestry meetings, sets the agenda, discusses issues of the church with other leaders, oversees the by-laws and constitution and the list goes on. However, there is one area that may surprise you! PARKING did you say?

We are very fortunate to have a wonderful parking lot for our membership on Sundays. Please make note of the Sundays part. While there are a few spaces reserved during the week for staff and visitors, most of our parking is rented out to Barley Snyder Law Firm. This is a significant boost to our yearly budget and it has been for many years. Signs are posted that they have the right to tow your car should you be in one of the rented spaces Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A few more spaces in the lower lot closest to Vine St. are rented as well. Therefore, if coming to a weekday funeral, Quest or other large events at the church, parking can be tight and we really wouldn't want you to be towed. So, if you are in town and not on church business or at a church meeting, please refrain from parking in the lot. I recently spent an hour in our parking lot during a 100 degree weekday funeral explaining to people why they can't park there. Not my job as Vestry President but none the less a service to our membership so you don't go to leave and your car is missing.

In closing, please enjoy our lot after 5 p.m., on Saturday and Sunday and, if going to the church during the week, read the signs carefully (the whole center section is rented too) to identify what spaces are available for our members.

Blessings and safe parking,

Susan Garofola, Vestry President

EDUCATION

SUNDAY FORUM

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

Aug. 2 – Panel conversation – “Why Do You Come to Church?”

Aug. 9 – Loren Good – “Let's Take a Dive into What We Call The Old Testament!”

Aug. 16 – Pastor Joel – a Continuing Series - “Let's Listen, Let's Talk.”

Aug. 23 – Pastor Cliff Eshbach – An Update on the Current Mission Trip to Tanzania.

Aug. 30 – Worship and Music Small Group – “The Second Part - Music”

FAITH TALK: From Romans to Luke

In July, we completed our study of Paul's Letter to the Romans. As we concluded the final chapters, we saw Paul's personal greetings to fellow believers, his encouragement to welcome one another as Christ has welcomed us, and his confidence that the Gospel he proclaimed is "the power of God for salvation." Paul's letter ends with praise to the God who establishes His people through Jesus Christ.

Now we have begun a new journey through the Gospel of Luke. During our first weeks, we will consider Luke's purpose in writing "an orderly account," the remarkable announcements surrounding the births of John the Baptist and Jesus, Mary's joyful song of praise, the birth of our Savior in Bethlehem, the shepherds' visit, and the presentation of the infant Jesus in the Temple. Luke writes so that we may know the **certainty** of the good news we have received.

Whether you have attended Faith Talk for years or are considering joining us for the first time, you are always welcome. No preparation or prior Bible knowledge is needed. Simply bring your Bible, your questions, and a willingness to explore God's Word together as we discover the riches of the Gospel according to Luke.

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 **August 7**. Everyone is welcome to attend. The speaker will be Randy Harris, LancasterHistory.org, presenting "Uncovering & Preserving Our Underground Railroad Heritage: Stories of People and Places Across the Commonwealth." The evening begins with the playing of our church bells at 5 p.m. followed by a short organ demonstration. The main speaker presentation will start at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary followed by tours and refreshments. We will continue the series focusing on our church history, local history, social topics, and content from our partners.

Aug 1 Matthew 7:7-11
Aug 2 Matthew 14:13-21
Aug 3 Romans 1:8-15
Aug 4 Acts 2:37-47
Aug 5 Matthew 15:32-39
Aug 6 Acts 17:10-15
Aug 7 Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Aug 8 Matthew 16:1-4
Aug 9 Matthew 14:22-33
Aug 10 2 Peter 2:4-10
Aug 11 Romans 9:14-29
Aug 12 Matthew 8:23-27
Aug 13 Revelation 15:1-4
Aug 14 Psalm 133
Aug 15 Matthew 14:34-36
Aug 16 Matthew 15:10-28
Aug 17 Acts 15:1-21
Aug 18 Romans 11:13-29
Aug 19 Matthew 8:1-13
Aug 20 1 Corinthians 6:1-11
Aug 21 2 Corinthians 10:12-18
Aug 22 Matthew 16:5-12
Aug 23 Matthew 16:13-20
Aug 24 Romans 2:1-11
Aug 25 Romans 11:33-36
Aug 26 Matthew 26:6-13
Aug 27 Ephesians 5:1-6
Aug 28 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12
Aug 29 Matthew 8:14-17
Aug 30 Matthew 16:21-28
Aug 31 Revelation 3:1-6

UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

Save the date

Join us for Worship in the Park with a picnic to follow on **Sunday, September 20** at 10 a.m. at the Manheim Township Park in Neffsville. Watch for details in the weeks to come.

PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO:

You may play in a band, be on a bocce team, or collect stamps or coins as a hobby. You may love fly fishing, or golf, or meeting with friends to review a book or your favorite movie. Please share your interests so we can support one another and, if appropriate, cheer you on and encourage you in your endeavors. Send a note to loren@trinitylancaster.org or let him know when you see him. What YOU do is important to all at Holy Trinity.

CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

It is back to school time, and Holy Trinity's Children's and Family Ministry is doing several service projects to get ready for the school year! We are hosting another Yard Sale "FUN"-raiser or community giveaway so all our neighbors can be ready for fall, beginning at 8:00 a.m. on **Saturday, August 15**, ending at 11:00 a.m.

First, Holy Trinity will start accepting donations on **Sunday, August 9 through Wednesday, August 12**. Please start cleaning out your closets, garages, and spare bedrooms. We will accept:

- New & Gently Used Men's, Women's, and Children's Clothing.
- Shoes, Purses/Wallets, Backpacks, Hats, Belts, Scarves, Ties, Jewelry
- Plastic Toys, Board Games, Dolls, Puzzles, Toy Cars
- Pots/Pans, Dishes/Stoneware, Glassware
- Pet Items
- Suitcases



All donations should be placed directly on the stage in Fondersmith Auditorium.

Next, volunteers will be needed on **Thursday, August 13** to meet in Fondersmith Auditorium at 11:00 a.m. to sort the donations and set up for the community giveaway.

Volunteers will also be needed for **Saturday, August 15**, the day of the giveaway, to arrive at Fondersmith Auditorium at 7:30 a.m. Volunteers will act as "Personal Shoppers" to guide community members to help them find what they need. We will also need help to clean up any leftover donations.

There is a signup sheet for volunteers in the church narthex, or you can email Rachel at rachel@trinitylancaster.org, or call the church to express your interest in volunteering for our community Yard Sale "FUN"-raiser giveaway.

Later in the month, on **Sunday, August 23**, Holy Trinity will have our Back-to-School Blessing for Teachers, students, and administrators. All are welcome to come forward during worship to receive a special blessing and small gift to get everyone ready for a new school year.

Also, during worship on **August 23**, we will be taking a special offering for the School District of Lancaster's Families in Transition program or "FIT." The FIT program helps remove barriers that keep students who are experiencing homeless from education. FIT supplies them with school supplies, transportation, personal care items, and some clothing.

We will be collecting monetary donations for FIT on **Sunday, August 23 and 30, and Sunday, September 6**. Please place checks in the offering plate and write "FIT" in the memo section of your checks. If you wish to give cash, please place the cash in an envelope marked "FIT" and place it in the offering plate. Your generous monetary donations will help children and youth experiencing homelessness attend school in the School District of Lancaster! Thank you for your generosity.

Keep reading your bulletins, checking Holy Trinity's Facebook page, and website for more updates from the Children's and Family Ministry! Children's Sunday School starts up on **Sunday, September 13**! Mark your calendars now!

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Kramer

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY



MAASAI GIRLS LUTHERAN SECONDARY SCHOOL UPDATE

In a recent communication with Briana Pokorny of Operation Bootstrap Africa, we received a photo of Nashiva Megiroo which had been used in a promotion piece.

Some of you will recall that we supported Nashiva through her undergraduate schooling at MGLSS and then through her higher education where she studied architecture. The late Janet Friend was a faithful pen pal exchanging occasional letters with Nashiva during our sponsorship, with Sally Desch continuing to send letters.

In her email, Briana said, "Your previous student, Nashiva Megiroo, is a superstar! She is a very successful architect in Tanzania who works with non-profits and other organizations to improve the lives of those in need. Her designs have been used in MANY OBA projects, and we are so grateful for your support of her."

We appreciate so much knowing that she has been successful in her career, and that our support enabled her to succeed.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <i>Communion</i> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education <i>Pastor Joel out</i>	3 <i>Pastor Joel out</i>	4 <i>Pastor Joel out</i>	5 <i>Pastor Joel out</i> 9:30 a.m. Woodward Hill Cleanup	6 <i>Pastor Joel out</i>	7 <i>Pastor Joel out</i> 5 p.m. First Friday	8
9 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education/ New member class 1 p.m. Weaver memorial service Prayer Vigil 6-7 p.m. Longs Park	10 No Vestry meeting	11 2 p.m. Worship & Music meeting	12	13 11 a.m. Volunteer setup/ "Fun" Raiser	14	15 8 a.m. "Fun" Raiser
16 9:30 Worship New member reception 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education	17	18	19 9:30 a.m. Woodward Hill Cleanup 10 a.m. Book Club 3 p.m. Willow Valley Service	20	21 <i>Pastor Joel out</i>	22 <i>Pastor Joel out</i>
23 <i>Pastor Joel out</i> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education	24 <i>Pastor Joel out</i> 1 p.m. Picnic planning meeting	25 <i>Pastor Joel out</i>	26 <i>Pastor Joel out</i>	27 <i>Pastor Joel out</i>	28 7 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal	29 5 p.m. Hoover/Freile Wedding
30 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education	31					

*Pastor Joel is out of the office through **Aug. 8** for continuing education. Pastor Steve Verkouw will be on-call pastor for hospital visits. Please call the church office at 717-397-2734 if you need to contact him.*

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

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Deaths

Hal Shartle on June 28, 2026

Robert Good on July 14, 2026

Robert Nickey, Jr. on July 16, 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

Rev. Dr. Joel Petruschke, Senior Pastor; Christopher Prestia, Organist and Choirmaster;
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