



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

SEPT 2026

Sunday, September 6

Communion

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalm 119:33-40

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

Pastor Joel Petruschke preaching

Sunday, September 13

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

Psalm 103:1-13

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Pastor Joel Petruschke preaching

Sunday, September 20

Worship in the Park

Sunday, September 27

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalm 25:1-9

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

Pastor Joel Petruschke preaching

Letter from Senior Pastor Petruschke



Dear Siblings in Christ,

On September 14 on the Christian Calendar of festivals and saints, the Church celebrates the Festival of the Holy Cross. This is one of those festival days that goes unnoticed, unless September 14 would happen to fall on a Sunday. This year it doesn't.

Nonetheless, I wanted to share some information about this little-known festival. From Philip Pfatteicher's book *Festivals and Commemorations: Handbook to the Calendar in the Lutheran Book of Worship*, he writes the following:

"In the year 335, the emperor Constantine built two basilicas in Jerusalem. One of the churches was on the supposed site of the Holy Sepulchre, and in the course of excavating for this church, the story is, the cross on which Christ was crucified was discovered. Cyril of Jerusalem—who seems to be reliable—writing in the year 350, says that the cross of Christ was found at Jerusalem during the time of Constantine. According to a less reliable tradition, St. Helena, Constantine's mother, was the one who discovered the true cross.

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

Not one but three crosses were found, it is said, and Helena was able to decide which one belonged to Christ by applying the three to a dead man. One brought the dead man to life, and this was declared obviously to be the cross of Christ.

The relic of the true cross was preserved in a silver receptacle in the basilica of the Holy Sepulchre after pieces were taken away by pilgrims and distributed throughout the world. A Spanish pilgrim lady, Egeria, who made a journey to Jerusalem ca. 385-388 and who describes the ceremonies of the church there, tells of the practice of the veneration of the cross on Good Friday and of how the deacons guarded it so that the pilgrims who kissed it would not bite out pieces to carry away." (p. 353)

September 14 came to be the day on which the Festival of the Holy Cross is celebrated because it is the day on which the Church of the Holy Sepulchre was dedicated.

As we know the sign of the cross is used in worship to accompany the words, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." We make the sign of the cross to remember our baptism. Martin Luther said that baptism is the most significant event in our Christian lives, for Christ's death on the cross and Christ's resurrection is made specific for us in baptism. At the time of Christ's death on the cross 2000 years ago, we remember that Christ died for all people. But, in our baptism, we remember that Christ also died specifically for us. Baptism is our assurance that Christ loves us, forgives us, and is always with us and that we are always with Him, because in truth we are literally baptized into Christ's body. We are quite truly IN CHRIST. And nothing then can separate us from Christ not even death itself (Romans 8:37-39).

Now, recently, I learned of another meaning of the sign of the cross, that I wanted to share. This also comes from Philip Pfatteicher's book. In his book, he speaks of a poem by George Herbert entitled "The Crosse." Herbert notes that the sign of the cross is meant to convey to us the words, "Thy (God's) will be done." In other words, as one would make the sign of the cross, they should hear those words as they correspond to the four points of the sign of cross: head, breast, left shoulder, right shoulder. Thy...will...be...done.

And so, in this way, the meaning of the Festival of the Holy Cross might impact us every time we observe the sign of the cross. It is the remembrance of our humility before God, to seek to do His will in all things, to do all things so as to embody Christ's love. (I Corinthians 13:1-3).

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

"Sharing of The Peace"

You likely recall that there was a time during Worship, particularly on Communion Sundays, when we would share the peace with one another. Don't know about you, but it always seemed to me that it was an interruption of our Liturgy. We'd get out of our pews, or at least turn around, shake hands and "share the peace" with one another. The pastor may have made the rounds up and down the aisles as well. All with good intentions, but it often led to extended conversation and while not necessarily bad, was it necessary? Or, even meaningful at that point in the service?

In many congregations this "sharing" is a simple, everyday greeting. People turn to one another and share a handshake, nod or hug while offering a few words about peace.

Please know, I am not for a moment suggesting that this practice is without merit. For the earliest Christians, sharing the peace was one of the most profound, may I say, even radical, worship practices. Why is that?

John Chrysostom wrote that sharing the peace is the church's "fuel of love" and happens "so that we may love each other as siblings love siblings, as children love parents, as parents love children." It is in many ways a means of extending our families.

Early Christians must have felt the same way when they looked around in worship and saw members of their diverse assemblies sharing peace with one another.

Peace can feel fragile and vulnerable to violence. Yet, both Luke and John tell us that the most emphatic greeting of peace is offered by the risen Christ *after* the powers of violence and death have tried to claim Him. That peace Jesus shares is the peace of The Resurrection. A declaration that peace has the last word over violence.

Other Abrahamic religions do something very similar. Jewish people exchange sabbath greetings, including *shabbat shalom* ("peaceful sabbath"). A ritual exchange of peace is a common everyday greeting between Muslims. In Arabic, *As-salamu alaikum* ("Peace be with you") is answered with *Wa alaikum assalaam* ("And peace be upon you too").

Well, what does that mean to us, the faithful disciples of Holy Trinity Lutheran? It is the suggestion, better yet, recommendation, that we get back in the habit of sharing the peace. And, what better time to do it than after the sending as we leave worship to enjoy coffee fellowship, or take part in the education hour. In the sending, we hear the final words spoken in the Liturgy. Go in Peace...and we respond...Thanks be to God, We will.

You may have noticed, immediately after those words in our bulletin is an invitation To Share that Peace with your fellow worshipers.

When we say "Peace be with you," we are announcing God's grace and embody the promise that Christ's peace is with us always, even amid fear and conflict.

Let's get in the habit. As the decades old advertising slogan proclaimed..."try it, you'll like it."

WHAT DOES AN ACOLYTE DO AND WOULD YOU CONSIDER IT?

From Loren Good

At this year's Vestry Report to the Congregation, a questionnaire was distributed and you were asked for input and ideas. Many of you took the time and offered suggestions. These have not been put into the "circular file" where they are buried and ignored. Among the many valuable ones: provide more opportunity for lay participation. You currently serve in many capacities as lay participants and leaders. Including, but not limited to: greeters, ushers, communion assistants, lectors, choir, altar guild, breakfast fellowship and yes, acolyte. Some time ago I wrote about the purpose, the role of an acolyte: in short, an acolyte assists in worship by lighting candles before service and extinguishing them near the end of the service. An acolyte assists the presiding and, or preaching minister. Acolytes may also distribute and collect the offering plates. Holy Trinity is asking you to consider serving as such. Young, or not so young, another opportunity to serve. Please contact Loren Good with your interest.



SENIOR COMMUNITY WORSHIP

Communion at Willow Valley – Wednesday, September 16
at 3 p.m., *Manor North Auditorium*
Communion at Woodcrest – Every other month at 1 p.m.
Next month's service is on October 15
Eagle Commons Chapel

BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

Breaking Barriers. Building Community.



Breakfast Fellowship and Worship

Cathy Dobish and volunteers serve breakfast to a large crowd of hungry friends at 7:45 a.m., followed at 8:15 by Trinity's first worship service of the day. Loren Good and Doug Frazer are liturgists, Linda Flick plays piano each week, and Pastor Joel presides at communion once a month.

Join us for breakfast, prayer, and discussion. We gather around God's Word in an informal setting and conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer together. All are invited to worship and to volunteer.

Breakfast Fellowship wish list:

Sugar, cooking spray, Ziploc sandwich bags, large brown paper lunch bags, fruit cups, any fruit including applesauce, napkins, individually wrapped snack cakes, cupcakes, or cookies, cereal such as Frosted Mini-Wheats, Raisin Bran, Fruit Loops, Frosted Flakes (store brands are fine), and individual tissue packs.

FROM THE VESTRY PRESIDENT

Dear Siblings in Christ,

As I write this at the end of August, I wonder where summer went and why I didn't achieve all of my summer goals. Then I looked back at the summer and realized that all of the "God moments" I experienced were more important than my goals. My list of goals will just get longer—oh well! I'm sure you can all relate.

I challenge you to start a list of "God moments" in your own life. A few of mine are: a book that touched my soul; a hug from our great-grandson accompanied by an "I just love you so much"; a song that brought back a wonderful memory and made me smile; my roses springing to life; fresh strawberries; the smiles and waves from my neighbors; and the care and concern of my church family when our great-granddaughter had surgery.

You see, "God moments" don't need to be dramatic. They can be simply the little things in life that remind us of God's blessings and love.

Thank you for being part of the life of this congregation and for adding to all of the "God moments" that make Trinity such a wonderful place to worship.

Susan Garofola, Vestry President

EDUCATION

SUNDAY FORUM

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

Sept. 6 – Lemonade on the Lawn

Sept. 13 – Lisette Rivera, Site Coordinator for Families In Transition, School District of Lancaster

Sept. 20 - Loren Good – "Challenging Scriptures in The Bible."

Sept. 27- Pastor Joel – "Let's Talk, Let's Listen - Why Are There So Many Denominations?"

FAITH TALK: Always in God's Word, Celebrating Six Years of Recordings

Six years ago, as COVID forced Faith Talk to move online, we began recording our sessions midway through the Gospel of Luke. Since then, our studies have produced an archive of nearly 300 videos covering all four Gospels, Romans, Galatians, and several other biblical and theological series. By returning now to the opening chapters of Luke, we are completing the portion that was never recorded. When we finish, the archive will include our journey through the whole of each Gospel and through two of Luther's favorite Pauline letters.

During August, Luke introduced us to the birth and childhood of Jesus, John the Baptist's call to repentance, Jesus' Baptism and temptation, His rejection at Nazareth, and the beginning of His Galilean ministry. We watched as Jesus proclaimed good news, healed the sick, forgave sins, and called ordinary people to follow Him.

In September, we will continue through Luke 6–8. Along the way, we will consider Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Plain; His encounters with a Roman centurion, a grieving widow, and a woman known as a sinner; the Parable of the Sower; the calming of the storm; and His power over demons, disease, and even death. Again and again, Luke shows us who Jesus is and what His coming means for us.

The recordings preserve a wonderful record of our studies, but Faith Talk is more than an archive. It is a living conversation around God's Word, enriched by the questions and insights of everyone gathered. Whether you have attended for years or would be joining us for the first time, you are always welcome. No preparation or prior Bible knowledge is necessary. Bring your Bible if you wish—and always bring your questions.

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

The work of Faith Talk has also helped produce many of Doug's books, now available for free through major online book retailers. Whether you are looking for devotional reading, theological reflections, a review of Lutheran basics, or Christian fiction, you will find a wide selection at www.spiritusetlogos.com.

Sept 1 Revelation 3:7-13
Sept 2 Matthew 12:22-32
Sept 3 2 Corinthians 12:11-21
Sept 4 Psalm 149
Sept 5 Matthew 23:29-36
Sept 6 Matthew 18:15-20
Sept 7 1 Peter 2:11-17
Sept 8 Romans 13:1-7
Sept 9 Matthew 21:18-22
Sept 10 1 John 3:11-16
Sept 11 Psalm 114
Sept 12 Matthew 6:7-15
Sept 13 Matthew 18:21-35
Sept 14 Hebrews 11:23-29
Sept 15 Romans 14:13–15:2
Sept 16 Mark 11:20-25
Sept 17 2 Corinthians 13:1-4
Sept 18 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Sept 19 Matthew 19:23-30
Sept 20 Matthew 20:1-16
Sept 21 Romans 16:1-16
Sept 22 Romans 16:17-20
Sept 23 Matthew 18:1-5
Sept 24 James 4:11-16
Sept 25 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Sept 26 Mark 11:27-33
Sept 27 Matthew 21:23-32
Sept 28 Philippians 1:3-14
Sept 29 Philippians 1:15-21
Sept 30 Matthew 9:2-8

FELLOWSHIP & EVENTS

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



SEPTEMBER FIRST FRIDAY

We continue our First Friday Speaker Series on **September 4**. Everyone is welcome to attend. The speaker will be Jean Weglarz, Woodward Hill Cemetery Board, presenting "Woodward Hill and Zion Cemeteries". The evening will begin with the playing of our church bells at 5 p.m. followed by a short organ demonstration. The main speaker presentation starts at 5:30 p.m. followed by sanctuary tours and refreshments. Refreshments will be served outdoors, on the church grounds.

WORSHIP IN THE PARK

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. Please sign up in the narthex or Fondersmith Auditorium (during Fellowship).

SAVE THE DATE - Saturday, October 17 An Oktoberfest beer tasting in Fondersmith at 3:30 p.m. Local craft brews will be offered along with themed food samplings. Look for reservation forms in early September.



CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Many people associate September with the fall as children are back in school, but in Pennsylvania it often doesn't get cold until around Halloween at the end of October. Most children go back to school in shorts and sandals. While the hybrid month of September is an unpredictable month, we can lean on our God who, "...controls the times and the seasons; he makes and unmakes kings; it is he who gives wisdom and understanding." - Daniel 2:21 (Good News)

This month, we are finishing our monetary collection for the school district of Lancaster's Families in Transitions Program or "FIT." You can donate to FIT until **September 6**. Please place checks in the offering plate or mail them to the church office 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."

The FIT program helps remove barriers for students who are experiencing homelessness. And FIT helps keep these children and youth in school by supplying them with school supplies, transportation, personal care items, and some clothing. Your monetary donations will help children and youth experiencing homelessness attend school in the School District of Lancaster! Thank you for your generosity.

Also, be sure to join us on **Sunday, September 13** for the Forum when Ms. Lisette Rivera, the Coordinator for the Families in Transition Program, will make a special presentation about the FIT program. She will speak to us about how the Families in Transition Program keeps children and youth struggling with homelessness stay in school and what we can do to help. We will also present her with the check of monetary donations that we've collected for the "FIT" program.



Sunday, September 13, is also our kickoff of Children's Sunday School for pre-school age children to 5th grade and the start of our Confirmation program for youth in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. The children and youth will take part in presenting Ms. Rivera the check for FIT, then all young disciples will head to the 2nd floor of the Parish House for Bible Stories and activities.

This Fall a new faith formation class is starting at Holy Trinity. It is for all confirmed disciples who don't feel ready to attend the Forum or Faith Talk Sunday School classes regularly. This part Bible study/part discussion class will allow you to investigate faith issues relevant to where your life is right now. This small group will meet for the first time on **Sunday, September 27** in room 200 located on the 2nd floor of the parish house at 11:00 am. This class will be led by Ben Seldomridge and Chelsea Stoner. It will not meet every Sunday, but will meet as Ben's and Chelsea's schedules allow. All are welcome to try this class.

**CROP
HUNGER WALK**
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

Holy Trinity's Children's and Family Ministry will participate in Lancaster's annual CROP Hunger Walk, to be held on **Sunday, October 18**. You are invited to join by walking or donating. It begins with a 1 p.m. registration at the Lancaster Food Hub, 812 North Queen Street, Lancaster, a short presentation at 1:30 p.m., with the walk beginning at 2 p.m. The CROP Hunger Walk route starts at the Greek Church, 64 Hershey Avenue, continues up West End Ave. to Buchanan Park, to College Avenue to Pearl Street and back to the Greek Church on Hershey Avenue.

There is a CROP Walk "rally" on **Saturday, September 26 from 10-11:30 a.m.** at the Food Hub, 812 North Queen Street, Lancaster. More information will be given out about the CROP Hunger Walk. You will learn more about Church World Service and the Lancaster Food Hub. T-shirts for the walk will be handed out at the rally as well.

CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events held all over the United States, and they are sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations or groups to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world. This walk-a-thon fundraiser will benefit our local Lancaster Food Hub. For more information or to sign up to walk on Holy Trinity's team or donate to the Lancaster Crop Walk visit:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/holy-trinity-lutheran-church-4>.

Keep reading your bulletins, checking Holy Trinity's Facebook Page, and checking Holy Trinity's website for updates.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Kramer

Director of Children's and Families Ministries

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2026 LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (LWR) IN-GATHERING

Individuals capable of repeatedly lifting 50 lb. boxes are needed to help load a tractor trailer with donated LWR quilts and kits at Bergstrasse Lutheran Church, 9 Hahnstown Rd., Ephrata, PA. The LWR In-gathering event is **Saturday, October 10**, 8:30–11 a.m. Volunteers will unload boxes of donated items dropped off by local congregations, then load the boxes onto a trailer for shipment to Minneapolis, MN. If you are interested, contact Bruce Stauffer (guynior@comcast.net, (717-847-1020) by **Friday, October 2**, and mention if you are interested in carpooling.

COMMUNITY

QUEST FOR LEARNING

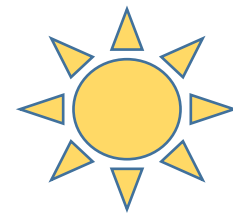
The Quest for Learning program meets in Holy Trinity's Sanctuary and Parish House on Thursdays from **September 24 - October 29**. We congratulate them on their 50th year of providing education and community! Register at <https://www.questlanaster.org/>



The Quest for Learning Board with Pastor Joel.



The Ladies' Tea on July 25, 2026.



July/August



"Fun"Raiser shoppers.



Thank you to everyone who volunteered and donated items for the "Fun"Raiser on August 15.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 2 p.m. Vestry Exec. Committee meeting	3	4 5 p.m. First Friday	5
6 <i>Communion</i> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Lemonade on the Lawn	7 Office Closed	8	9 2 p.m. Visitation team meeting	10 7 p.m. Choir rehearsal	11	12 11 a.m. Robert Good funeral
13 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education/Sunday School Kickoff	14 6:30 p.m. Vestry meeting	15	16 9:30 a.m. Woodward Hill Cleanup 3 p.m. Willow Valley Service	17 4:30 MLK Board meeting 7 p.m. Choir rehearsal	18	19
20 10 a.m. Worship & Picnic in the Park	21 9:30 Breakfast Fellowship meeting 2 p.m. Christian Ed. meeting	22 2 p.m. Worship and Music meeting	23 10 a.m. Book Discussion	24 9 a.m. Quest for Learning 7 p.m. Choir rehearsal	25	26
27 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education	28	29 2 p.m. Discipleship meeting	30 9:30 a.m. Woodward Hill Cleanup			

SEPT 2026

HOLY
TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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Deaths

Thomas Woodland on August 3, 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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