



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

OCT 2026

Sunday, October 4, Communion

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm 80:7-15

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

Pastor Joel Petruschke preaching

Sunday, October 11

First Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9

Psalm 23

Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Pastor Joel Petruschke preaching

Sunday, October 18

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

Pastor Joel Petruschke preaching

**Sunday, October 25, Communion
Reformation Sunday**

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 46

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

Gospel: John 8:31-36

Pastor Joel Petruschke preaching

Letter from Senior Pastor Petruschke



As part of the America 250th Celebration at Chautauqua this summer, I learned an interesting fact. At the time when George Washington was serving as the head of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, he was the wealthiest man in the colonies. Think about that for a moment. And then, ask yourselves if any of the billionaires here in the U.S. would likely serve their country on the battlefield as the leader of the military, putting their lives at risk for the American cause like Washington had.

Now don't get me wrong, George Washington was not a perfect human being. He had his shortcomings. But I do think it is most remarkable that he willingly served in his position the way he did. Now, the common soldier in the Revolutionary War risked no less in his service. But even so, Washington's service to what would become the United States is all the more impressive with this fact (him being the wealthiest man in the colonies).

It makes me think of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Not that Washington is ultimately comparable to Jesus. But our Lord we are told in Philippians 2:6-7 "though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness." Jesus had much to risk when he became human and died on the cross. Washington had much to risk when he became the leader of the Continental Army.

(cont.)

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

Mission Statement

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

What is my point? Well, in this Stewardship Season, we are reminded of the “spirit of generosity.” Both Washington and Jesus we could say were extremely generous with their lives. Stewardship is about generosity, and even abundant generosity. In a recent sermon on the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18:23-35), I mentioned the generosity of God that is captured in two petitions of the Lord’s Prayer: 1) Give us this day our daily bread and 2) Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. God gives us everything we need for the daily living of our lives, AND God forgives us our sins. How generous is our God! Most specifically, God’s generosity is evident in God giving us His Son Jesus Christ.

That spirit of generosity should then overflow from our lives. I have been reading Wallace Fisher’s book entitled *All the Good Gifts—On Doing Biblical Stewardship* and in that book, Fisher writes, “The essence of Christian stewardship, then, is to do God’s will with Christ as guide and support. This stewardship is every Christian’s true vocation.” “Doing God’s will” is to some extent different for every person. How we embody God’s will is unique for you and me. But the “will of God” is consistent in that it is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the love of God for all people. For Washington, we might say, “God’s will” was for him to lead the Continental Army to free the inhabitants of the colonies from tyranny. For Jesus, “God’s will” was to die on the cross to free all people from sin and death. Both persons we could say embodied God’s love for God’s people, each in their own way.

In this Stewardship season then, we think about how we generously give of ourselves to fulfill “God’s will.” And yes, that does include how we faithfully steward the financial gifts (through our faithful pledging) that have been entrusted to us. But stewardship is something deeper than that. It is a matter of doing the Gospel, of showing God’s love. In short, what might it look like for us to “risk” ourselves to do “God’s will?” It might not mean risking life and limb, but it might mean risking to be generous in new ways with our time, with our talents, and with our resources. It might mean risking to show God’s love and to sacrifice in new ways for our neighbors. And thus, part (and no small part, at that) of this Stewardship Season and really our entire lives, is devoted to prayer and to discernment about how each of us personally might fulfill “God’s will.”

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

As those of you who were there to enjoy it know, our Worship and Picnic in the Park was switched to Worship and Picnic in the Auditorium due to inclement weather. I'm confident that most, if not all, agree that it was a fine worship and social experience. We tell jokes about Lutherans - set in our ways, resistant to change ...how many Lutherans does it take to... but wow, three Lutheran congregations working together pulled it off with aplomb. A few observations: all three took turns leading the Liturgy, we heard two marvelous homilies, the auditorium was filled with inspiring song....in hymns and WOW, what an anthem. I had the pleasure of helping participate and also had a seat upfront facing the crowd. And, I witnessed something worth sharing. It was palpable how attentive worshipers were throughout. It was palpable, the smiles on faces. The joy and love for God and God's people was in plain sight as we celebrated God's Creation and The Crucified and Risen Christ.

For me, watching Pastors Tanner and Joel with Tom Lyman assisting, serving "The Meal" was awesome. Communing with our brothers and sisters in Christ was moving.

And then the picnic. WOW, the food was beyond marvelous. Worshipers from each congregation provided trimmings, marvelous desserts, snacks and drink to go along with the pulled pork and picnic style hot dogs. We played a get-to-know-one-another game and witnessed how meaningful "home church" is and also how appreciative folks were to gather as one together.

So, you may be wondering why I provided a worship and picnic review? Here's what my biggest takeaway was from the day: As Christians, followers of Christ, we have much more in common than not. As Christians we know that Jesus told us that when "two or more are gathered in my name"... that is church. We learned and witnessed church as a verb, not just a noun. We worshipped in a rather humble space and felt the Holy Spirit at work. Yes, all three congregations enjoy beautiful Sanctuary worship spaces. And that is a true gift. Yet, we know that while these spaces are beautiful and uplifting; we as Christians, followers of Christ, can worship the Triune God wherever we are gathered. Pastor Tanner shared with the group his first thoughts at the conclusion of the service. I think he nailed it. He turned to Pastor Joel and I saying "This just felt right." He nailed it! Thanks be to God that we can witness, praise, worship, sing, pray together - in a Sanctuary, in an auditorium, we coulda' done it in a park, we could do it in a grotto or stable. We gather and then we are called to go. That's what is expected of us.

Looking ahead:

Just a few notes on what's on the worship calendar in the months ahead.

October – Reformation Sunday, 10/25- Please, **WEAR RED.**

November – All Saints Sunday, 11/1. Temple Jazz Band will be featured.

Christ the King Sunday on 11/22 marks the end of the liturgical year.

First Sunday of Advent 11/29 – We begin the formal wait for the Christ child.



December - The Second, Third, and Fourth Sundays in Advent
Christmas Eve Service on December 24 at 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Day Service at 9:30 a.m. in the chapel
Service of Lessons and Carols followed by Brunch on December 27
A lot to look forward to. A lot to be thankful for.

CHOIR REHEARSAL

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



SENIOR COMMUNITY WORSHIP

Communion at Willow Valley – Wednesday, October 21
at 3 p.m., *Manor North Auditorium*

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

Volunteer Opportunity

We are looking for volunteers who can arrive at 6 a.m. one Sunday a month to assemble lunches for our Breakfast Fellowship guests. Please contact Cathy Dobish at jdobish@verizon.net if you are able to help.

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,

Often Pastor Joel shares what he is reading with the vestry and it is always interesting as it is a peek into his interests and personality. It also piques my interest and pushes me to read one of his favorites. I thought it may be interesting for the congregation to share with each other what your favorite books are or what you are reading right now. We will place an article in the newsletter titled, "What I am reading." We would need the name of the book, the author and your name, of course.

So I will start, my favorite book for this year is *Theo of Golden*, by Allen Levi. I could not put it down. Please send the title of your favorite book or what you are reading now to sjgarofola@comcast.net so I can submit them for the newsletter each month. I am looking forward to getting to know you better through your books.

I also hope you have noticed the new floors in the Fondersmith and the hallway. This is just the first of projects to come, but certainly the most visible. It is wonderful to have a fresh new look.

Trinity is a wonderful and exciting place to be, with a congregation of caring people who serve our Lord well.

Susan Garofola, Vestry President

EDUCATION

SUNDAY FORUM

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

Oct. 4 The Challenging Scriptures in The Bible with Loren Good

Oct. 11 Maria Schaszberger – Water Street Rescue Mission

Oct. 18 Ryan Lightner – Executive Director of A Week Away

Learn more about this organization at www.aweekaway.org

Oct. 25 Pastor Joel – The Reformation

C. S. LEWIS SERIES

Beginning **Sunday, October 11** and continuing through **December 13**, Mary and Tony Applegate will once again lead a C.S. Lewis class with discussions of one of the Chronicles of Narnia, *The Magician's Nephew*. The focus of discussion will be connections between the story and Lewis's theological books: *Mere Christianity*, *Letters to Malcolm*, *The Problem of Pain*, *A Grief Observed*, and *Surprised by Joy*. We will meet in the café beginning at 11:00 a.m., during the Education Hour.

FAITH TALK: Always in God's Word, Completing the Gospel of Luke

This October we are approaching an important milestone for Faith Talk. Six years ago, when COVID moved our class online, we began recording our weekly studies midway through the Gospel of Luke. During the past year we returned to Luke's opening chapters, filling in the portion that had never been recorded. By the end of November, that project will be complete. While our study of Scripture will certainly continue, we will now have a recorded journey through the entire Gospel of Luke, joining the complete recordings of Matthew, Mark, John, Romans, Galatians, and several other biblical and theological series.

During September, our attention centered on Luke 6 and 7. We listened as Jesus challenged us in the Sermon on the Plain, calling His disciples to love even their enemies, to put away judgment of others, and to build their lives upon the solid rock of His Word. We also witnessed His compassion for a Roman centurion, a grieving widow, John the Baptist in his time of doubt, and a woman whose many sins were forgiven. Again and again, Luke reminds us that Jesus comes not for the righteous, but for sinners who trust in Him.

October will continue that theme of Jesus revealing His authority and mercy. We will explore the Parable of the Sower, the calming of the storm, the healing of the Gerasene demoniac, the raising of Jairus' daughter, and the healing of the woman who reached out in faith to touch His garment. We will also accompany the Twelve as Jesus sends them to proclaim the Kingdom, witness the feeding of the five thousand, hear Peter's confession that Jesus is the Christ, and stand with the disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration. As Luke's first half draws to a close, Jesus increasingly turns His face toward Jerusalem and the cross, where His mission of salvation will be accomplished for us.

Oct. 1 Colossians 2:16-23
Oct. 2 Psalm 19
Oct. 3 John 7:40-52
Oct. 4 Matthew 21:33-46
Oct. 5 1 Peter 2:4-10
Oct. 6 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
Oct. 7 John 11:45-57
Oct. 8 1 Peter 5:1-5, 12-14
Oct. 9 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Oct. 10 Mark 2:18-22
Oct. 11 Matthew 22:1-14
Oct. 12 Jude 17-25
Oct. 13 Philippians 3:13—4:1
Oct. 14 John 6:25-35
Oct. 15 3 John 9-12
Oct. 16 Psalm 99
Oct. 17 Matthew 14:1-12
Oct. 18 Matthew 22:15-22
Oct. 19 Revelation 18:1-10, 19-20
Oct. 20 Revelation 18:21-24
Oct. 21 Matthew 17:22-27
Oct. 22 Titus 1:5-16
Oct. 23 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
Oct. 24 John 5:39-47
Oct. 25 Matthew 22:34-46
Oct. 26 James 2:8-13
Oct. 27 James 2:14-26
Oct. 28 Matthew 19:16-22
Oct. 29 Romans 2:17-29
Oct. 30 Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
Oct. 31 Matthew 23:13-28

The recordings preserve a wonderful record of our studies, but Faith Talk is much more than an archive. Each Sunday morning we gather to hear God's Word, ask questions, learn from one another, and discover anew the grace of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

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:

www.spiritusetlogos.com/faith-talk

The work of Faith Talk has also helped produce many of Doug's books, available 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 growing collection at:

www.spiritusetlogos.com

TWIST (Trinity Women in Study Together) meets **Tuesdays at 9:45 a.m.** in the Parish House Café. Our current series is "Prophets and Kings" by Ray Vander Laan. He leads us on a tour throughout Israel, via video, with Bible references, and imagery of the locations and kingdoms of these prophets and kings. We are certain that lively discussion will follow each video! Topics include: *Who is God?, The Wages of Sin, the Lord is my Shepherd, and God is with Us.*

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join this group whenever they can. The class is informal and no previous reading homework is required. Please join us for a great mid-week opportunity for Bible Study!

FELLOWSHIP & EVENTS

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

OCTOBER FIRST FRIDAY



Join us on **Friday, October 2** for a Trinity First Friday Speaker Series event. The speaker is Stephanie Celiberti, Manager of James Buchanan's Wheatland, presenting "President Buchanan as a Gentleman Farmer." The evening begins at 5 p.m. with the playing of the church bells and a short organ demonstration. The speaker's presentation starts at 5:30 p.m. followed by sanctuary tours and refreshments. All activities will be held in the church sanctuary at the corner of Duke and Mifflin Streets.

OKTOBERFEST BEER TASTING on **Saturday, October 17** in Fondersmith Auditorium at 3:30 p.m. Local craft brews will be offered along with themed food samplings. *(Please note – the reservation deadline is **September 25**. Call the office at 717-397-2734 to reserve your spot)*



CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

October is a very special month for our church. Can you guess why?

If you guessed October is special because of Reformation Sunday on October 25 and Reformation Day/Halloween on October 31, I would say good guess; this is how the Lutheran Church was formed, but it's not what I was thinking of.

If you guess that October is special because October is Pastor Appreciation Month, with **Sunday, October 11** being the official Pastor Appreciation Sunday, I would say again, great guess and please send Pastor Joel a card of thanks; he works very hard, but again it's not what I was thinking of.

Maybe by now you're running out of guesses. Could October be a special month because of all the fellowship activities happening this month? There are a lot of special happenings this month starting with Trinity's First Friday Speaker Series on **October 2** at 5 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Or one of my personal favorites - Trinity's Fall Fellowship Potluck Bonfire hosted by Chuck and Beth Petka on **Sunday, October 11**. The evening starts at 5 p.m. with dinner. The church will supply hot dogs and the fixings for s'mores. Please bring a side dish to share. We'll have corn hole boards set up and Fall crafts to make. If you are able, please bring an extra lawn chair with you.



Or the Oktoberfest beer tasting on **Saturday, October 17** at 3:30 p.m. in Fondersmith Auditorium.

Yes, October is special for all these reasons. However, the answer to my question: *why is October a special month for our church?* Because for the first time, Holy Trinity is participating in the Lancaster Crop Hunger Walk.



No one in this world should be hungry. That's why the CROP Hunger Walk is more than just a gathering of people in a place. The walk is part of a movement, taking literal steps toward raising funds to provide meals for those in our own community who need them and supporting programs that create greater food security in communities all around the world. Please join us on Sunday, October 18 at 2:00 p.m. The walk starts at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 64 Hershey Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603.

If you're not interested or able to walk, please consider making a donation to sponsor Team Trinity. To sign up to be a walk, sponsor, or both please, visit this link:

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

You can also reach out to me, Trinity's Crop Walk Team Captain, for more information: rachel@trinitylanaster.org. Together, we are a faith community showing Christ's love to the world!

Keep reading your bulletins, checking Trinity's Facebook page, and website to get all the updates happening at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church!

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Kramer

Director of Children's and Families Ministries

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY

A Volunteer Opportunity

On **October 29**, International Committee members will visit the Mennonite Central Committee Material Resources Center located at [517 W Trout Run Rd, Ephrata, PA 17522](#) to volunteer with preparing donations of humanitarian aid for distribution throughout the world. We plan to be there from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Those interested in car-pooling can meet at Holy Trinity's parking lot at 8 a.m. Contact Sally Bair at sbair14@yahoo.com or Bruce Stauffer at guynoir@comcast.net if you are interested.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 <i>Communion</i> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education	5	6 9:45 a.m. TWIST	7	1 9 a.m. Quest for Learning 7 p.m. Choir rehearsal	2 Wedding rehearsal 5 p.m. First Friday	3 3:30 p.m. Wedding
11 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education 5 p.m. Bonfire at the Petkas	12 6:30 p.m. Vestry meeting	13 9:45 a.m. TWIST	14	15 9 a.m. Quest for Learning 7 p.m. Choir rehearsal	16	17 3:30 p.m. Oktoberfest
18 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education 1:00 p.m. Crop Walk	19	20 9:45 a.m. TWIST 11 a.m. Fellowship meeting	21 3 p.m. Willow Valley Service	22 9 a.m. Quest for Learning 4:30 MLK Board meeting 7 p.m. Choir rehearsal	23	24
25 Reformation <i>Communion</i> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education	26	27 9:45 a.m. TWIST	28	29 9 a.m. Quest for Learning 7 p.m. Choir rehearsal	30	31 

OCT 2026

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

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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

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