HOLY TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

NOV 2026

Sunday, November 1 All Saints Communion
First Reading: Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm 34:1-10, 22
Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-3
Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12
Preaching Pastor Joel Petruschke

November 8, Youth Sunday
First Reading: Joel 2:28-29
Psalm 103:2–5
Second Reading 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16
Preaching Trinity Youth

Sunday, November 15
First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm 90:1-12
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30
Preaching Pastor Joel Petruschke

Sunday, November 22, Christ the King Communion
First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 95:1-7a
Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23
Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46
Preaching Loren Good

November 29 First Sunday of Advent Communion
First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Gospel: Mark 13:24-37
Preaching Loren Good

Letter from Senior Pastor Petruschke



Dear Siblings in Christ,

The month of November is known by most in our country as the month in which we celebrate the holiday Thanksgiving. This year, Thanksgiving falls on November 26. The month of November is also known by Christians as the month in which we celebrate All Saints' Day (November 1) and Christ the King Sunday (November 22). And often the First Sunday of Advent falls in November, sometimes in December. This year the First Sunday of Advent is November 29. And given all these special days in November, it is easy to forget that Martin Luther was also born in November, on the 10th to be exact, in the year 1483. And Luther was baptized the following day on November 11, which happens to be the Festival Day of St. Martin of Tours. Martin Luther was named after this patron saint of soldiers, veterans, and the poor.

November is my favorite month of the year for all the above reasons. This year I am going to miss the latter part of November, as my family and I are travelling. And I can't help but say I am a little bummed. I will miss the opportunity to worship with Holy Trinity on Christ the King and the First Sunday in Advent. All the more, my family and I will be out of the country on Thanksgiving. It will be weird to be in Ireland over the Thanksgiving holiday. Will I even be able to find a turkey dinner while we travel in Ireland?
(cont.)

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
31 South Duke Street
Lancaster, PA 17602
717-397-2734
church@trinitylancaster.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.

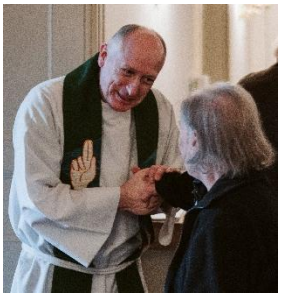
One of the reasons I have always liked the month of November is because of the vision of the end time. At this time of year, because we are at the end of the church year, we see the hope of God's coming Kingdom. All Saints' Day has us think of the communion of saints in heaven and earth. Christ the King has us think of the vision when Christ will come again as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. This is powerful stuff, hope-filled stuff. To catch glimpses of the final reality of God's Kingdom changes how we live today, or at least it should. To catch glimpses of God's future impacts the present.

And so, I wonder if travelling during this significant time of the church year will in some way enhance the meaning of November for me, namely the vision of God's future Kingdom. Will the paradox of being away while also longing for the community at Holy Trinity, give me a greater sense of what it is to straddle this world and the world to come?

As we probably know, one of the joys of travel, especially travel to a different country, is to see a different reality, to experience a different culture. Sometimes travelers though can experience culture shock, or reverse culture shock when those same travelers return to their country of origin. Reverse culture shock is the feeling of no longer fitting in with one's original culture. Does Christianity create a sort of reverse culture shock after we experience the vision of God's future Kingdom in November? Do these festivals with their vision of God's future Kingdom create a feeling of having one foot in our present life and having one foot in the life to come? Sometimes it can feel that way. Certainly, the apostle Paul felt that. He writes, "Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:6-8).

Maybe I am thinking too much about this. Suffice it to say, I will be thinking of my beloved community at Holy Trinity while I am away. I will be praying for the power of the festivals in November (All Saints', Christ the King, the beginning of Advent, and Thanksgiving) to be a blessing in your lives. And I look forward to when I can rejoin you, my siblings in Christ, so as to share with you my travel experience. Christ connects us even while we are away from one another, for we are all in Christ. 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.

CHOIR REHEARSAL

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

FROM THE WORSHIP AND MUSIC SMALL GROUP - What We Do in Worship and Why!

When you think about it…it's never too soon to wait. More specifically, never too early to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ Child. (More on that in a moment.)



In the northern hemisphere…the days have been rapidly growing shorter. In fact, by the time you read this it will soon be dark by five o'clock in the afternoon. It's easy for us to long for the light of the world this time of year. In the weeks ahead, the trees will shed their leaves and the flowers will, for the most part, have lost their bloom. We'll light candles, adorn inside and out with lights to brighten the darkness. Many of us look forward to that "hunkering in" way of life in the winter months ahead. Now, just for a moment, think about those living south of the equator. For them, it's the opposite as they are head towards the start of summer…their daylight is at its zenith. The landscape is teeming with life. Their days will soon be the longest of the year. My point is that it doesn't matter where you physically reside, there is still plenty to wait for.

Advent, adventus in Latin, is defined as "coming" or "arrival." That's why it's the season of waiting, preparation and anticipation as we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Advent is an invitation to slow it down a bit in a sometimes chaotic world that moves too quickly. That slowdown can happen whether you're heading into winter, or the lazy, hazy days of summer.

Often, we focus on hope, peace, joy and love during the Sundays of Advent. Martin Luther (no surprise here) takes a bolder approach claiming it's a season of grace, humility, and the arrival of Christ in meekness and mercy. Here's another "think about it moment." Compare Christ's arrival to that of God's coming to the Israelites at Mt. Sinai with fire, smoke, thunder in a mysterious cloud. Notice the difference?

The prophet Isaiah proclaims the promise of a coming Savior, offering light to people who walked in darkness. We hold onto that promise, trusting that God's light shines even in difficult times, the darkness.

Now for the "more on that in a moment" where this article began. On **Sunday, November 15**, Penrose Hoover will lead a conversation on Advent. The title: "Getting Ready to Get Ready: A Prelude to Advent - Matthew, Chapter One" which begins with the genealogy of Jesus.

As disciples of Holy Trinity, we remember Christ's coming into the world. We recognize Christ's presence among us today, and we are faithful for Christ's promised return. And, dare I say, we can be reminded of our baptism as both lead to the manifestation of Christ.

I ask that you plan now to make the most of "the wait" this Advent season. Holy Trinity is offering not one, but two Advent series opportunities: **Tuesdays December 1, 8, 15** at 10:00 a.m. in the chapel; and, **Thursdays December 3, 10, 17** with a potluck meal (*please bring a side dish or dessert*) at 6:00 p.m. followed by a service at 7:00 p.m. Pick what works best for you.

This Advent, let's commit to preparing not only our homes for Christmas, but, more importantly, preparing our hearts for Christ. Thanks be to God.

by Loren Good

"SANDWICHES AND SINGING" CHRISTMAS CAROLING EVENT

Please plan to join us after Adult Forum (noon-ish) on **December 6** for a light lunch of sandwiches followed by Christmas Caroling in the community. You need only bring yourself, the lunch is provided as well as song sheets. Look for a sign-up sheet to come.

LESSONS AND CAROLS WORSHIP

Please add this to your calendar. **Sunday, December 27** we will celebrate our traditional service of Lessons and Carols. We will again follow the service with a catered brunch. What is new and exciting for this year is that disciples from Christ and Emmanuel Lutheran churches plan to participate in the service, sharing the reading of the nine lessons and adding the gift of their voices in song. In early December, we'll post a sign-up so we are sure to have plenty of food and drink for brunch.



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 Holy 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.

SOCKS, HATS, GLOVES AND SCARVES for Breakfast Fellowship



Breakfast Fellowship will be collecting socks, hats, gloves, and scarves to be handed out **December 20** at Breakfast Fellowship. Please drop off items at the office.

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,

Last month I asked for "What are you reading" and a few people responded. Many of you commented in church that you would send in a list so please do; we have many months ahead and maybe a few of the books would make good Christmas gifts. For this newsletter it looks like "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi is a winner as everyone has mentioned it.

Carol Reichler is reading "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr and has read "The Calamity Club" by Kathryn Stockett, "Daughters of the Son and Moon" by Lisa See, "Whistler: A Novel" by Ann Patchett and "The Correspondent" by Virginia Evans.

Sally Desch is reading "The Gales of November: The Untold Story of the Edmund Fitzgerald" by Jason Bacon.

At the present time I am reading "West With Giraffes" by Lynda Rutledge.

Please send what you are reading now or your favorite books to sjgarofola@comcast.net

On another note, I must thank Emy Belser for taking on the task of organizing the Stewardship campaign for 2026. Emy, along with help from Andrea and Anna Marie, was able to successfully complete our Stewardship efforts. We also must thank Susan McCullough, Dan Sigman, and Rick Zook for sharing their stewardship journeys with us.

The other person we all add a debt of gratitude to is Nancy Herzog who had chaired the personnel committee for the past 18 years and has led the committee through the process of hiring a new sexton. When this process is complete she will be stepping down from this position but will continue to serve the church in other ways.

As a people of God we all need to assume responsibility in our congregation with whatever talents we have.

Thanksgiving Blessings to all,

Susan Garofola, Vestry President

STEWARDSHIP

Holy Trinity members have again responded to our Stewardship call. A special thank you to Pastor Joel, always here when needed, and to Andrea and Anna Marie, our efficient office staff, ably keeping us in line.

This year Susan McCollough, Dan Sigman, and Rick Zook accepted the invitation to present Temple Talk - my thanks to them for their though-provoking presentations. *(cont.)*

Working with them was a pleasure and gave me a chance to better get to know them, also making me realize how many terrific Trinity members I have met while volunteering in the life of Trinity church. Holy Trinity is blessed to have capable, talented members sharing their time and gifts. Please get involved - work and plan with our members! You - and Trinity - will be enriched!

My thanks to all,

Emy Belser



TRINITY 300, A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

November 1 will launch *Trinity 300*, a Capital Campaign designed to raise $500,000 to support much-needed maintenance to the Fisher Parish House. Members will receive a letter during the first week of November which will include a pledge card to facilitate commitments to the Campaign.

It has been nearly 300 years since early Lutherans in Lancaster County founded the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity. We have been responsible stewards of this location since then.

Now it is time to do some much-needed maintenance to the Fisher Parish House, including replacing the original slate roof from its 1954 construction. While infrastructure repairs are not exciting, they are necessary…as necessary as the firm foundation upon which the roof rests.

The Parish House serves not only as the heart of our congregation, but as a welcoming space for the larger Lancaster community.

A successful Capital Campaign now will secure our future by paying for the new roof; funding repairs to the cupola, a part of the city-scape; paying for new flooring; and showing our concern for the environment by installing solar panels.

You will see the roof replacement over the next few weeks; you have seen and enjoyed the flooring in Fondersmith Auditorium and throughout the first floor; and in the spring you will see the solar panels installed on the roof. And when they are functioning the church will reap the benefit of more cost-efficient energy.

Please note than any pledge from $1,000 to $15,000 will be matched, doubling your impact.

We encourage you to prayerfully discern your commitment and give as generously as you are able to ensure that the blessings of this beautiful, well-used space continue for generations to come.

A sincere thank you for your support of *Trinity 300*.

EDUCATION

SUNDAY FORUM

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

Nov. 1- "All Saints Day – Its History and Significance" - Loren Good

Nov. 8 – Pastor Joel – "Thanksgiving in the Bible"

Nov. 15 – Penrose Hoover - "Getting Ready to Get Ready: A Prelude to Advent - Matthew, Chapter One"

Nov. 22 – "A Little More on Christ The King Sunday" - Loren Good

Nov. 29 – Advent Fair

C. S. LEWIS SERIES

Beginning **Sunday, October 11** and continuing through **December 13**, Mary and Tony Applegate 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: Completing Luke and Preparing for Advent

November marks an important milestone for Faith Talk as we complete our recorded study of the Gospel of Luke. What began more than six years ago, when COVID moved our classes online, will now be a complete journey through Luke's Gospel, joining our recordings of Matthew, Mark, John, Romans, Galatians, and several other biblical and theological studies.

During October, we continued to witness Jesus revealing His authority and mercy. We heard the Parable of the Sower, watched Jesus calm a storm with His Word, and saw Him restore a man possessed by demons, heal a woman who had suffered for twelve years, and raise Jairus' daughter from the dead. We also accompanied the Twelve as Jesus sent them to proclaim the Kingdom, witnessed the feeding of the five thousand, heard Peter confess Jesus as the Christ, and stood with the disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration. Through it all, Luke directs our attention to who Jesus is and what He has come to accomplish for us.

In November, we will complete our study of Luke's opening ten chapters. Jesus sends out seventy-two disciples to announce the Kingdom of God, teaches us about loving our neighbor through the Parable of the Good Samaritan, and reminds Martha, and all of us, that the one thing necessary is to hear His Word. We will then spend two Sundays reviewing Luke's Gospel, tracing the story from the birth of our Savior through His early ministry, His proclamation of the Kingdom, and His preparation for the journey to Jerusalem and the cross.

On **November 29**, the first Sunday of Advent, we will begin a new four-week series, **Advent: From Darkness to Light**, based on Doug's book of the same name. We will begin by considering why we need a Messiah, then explore the wonder of the Incarnation, the life we have in Christ, and the promise of His return. Advent is more than preparation for Christmas. It is a season of promise and hope, as we celebrate the Savior who has come for us and look forward to His coming again.

Faith Talk is much more than a collection of recordings. Each Sunday morning we gather around God's Word, ask questions, learn from one another, and hear again the wonderful promise of forgiveness and new life 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 the collection at:
www.spiritusetlogos.com

Nov 1 Matthew 23:1-12
Nov 2 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20
Nov 3 Acts 13:1-12
Nov 4 Matthew 15:1-9
Nov 5 Revelation 8:6—9:12
Nov 6 Psalm 78:1-7
Nov 7 Matthew 24:1-14
Nov 8 Matthew 25:1-13
Nov 9 1 Corinthians 14:20-25
Nov 10 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Nov 11 Matthew 24:29-35
Nov 12 Revelation 16:1-7
Nov 13 Psalm 123
Nov 14 Matthew 12:43-45
Nov 15 Matthew 25:14-30
Nov 16 Romans 2:1-11
Nov 17 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18
Nov 18 Matthew 24:45-51
Nov 19 Revelation 14:1-11
Nov 20 Psalm 100
Nov 21 Matthew 12:46-50
Nov 22 Matthew 25:31-46
Nov 23 2 Timothy 2:8-13
Nov 24 Revelation 19:1-9
Nov 25 John 5:19-40
Nov 26 Revelation 14:6-13
Nov 27 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Nov 28 Matthew 24:15-31
Nov 29 Mark 13:24-37
Nov 30 Revelation 15:1-8

TWIST (Trinity Women in Study Together) meets **Tuesdays at 9:45 a.m.** in the Library. 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!

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!

HOLY TRINITY ADVENT SERIES

Study series Tuesdays December 1, 8 & 15 at 10:00 a.m. in the chapel.

Join us **Thursdays December 3, 10 & 17** for a potluck meal at 6:00 p.m. (please bring a side dish or dessert) followed by a service at 7:00 p.m.

CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every matter under heaven."
- Ecclesiastes 3:1 NRSV

The weather outside is cooling down as the glittery holiday hype is heating up. On **Sunday, November 8**, I hope you will join us for a Youth Sunday Worship Service. Youth Sunday is a dedicated church service where Trinity's children and teens take the lead in running the worship experience. The theme of our Youth Sunday worship will be Spiritual Gifts, a prudent subject as we get closer to Thanksgiving.

Then on Sunday, **November 29** following worship, all are invited to join us in Fondersmith Auditorium at 11:00 a.m. for an Advent Fair; an intergenerational event held at the start of the Advent season to help us prepare for Christmas through fellowship and hands-on activities, such as, crafts and stories. We will have Advent Devotionals and Advent Calendars available for your family to take home. Look for updates on this event in your bulletins, Trinity Facebook Page and Trinity's website!



Be sure to save the date for Holy Trinity's Annual Christmas Program and Cookie Buffet! It will take place on **Sunday, December 13** in Fondersmith Auditorium following worship. If you are interested in baking or buying Christmas cookies, please email Deb Huber, dhuber1709@gmail.com.

Also, if you wish to play a song in this year's Christmas Program, whether your plan is to accompany a "sing-a-long" song or you would like to play a purely instrumental Christmas song, please, reach out to Rachel Kramer, rachel@trinitylancaster.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Kramer
Director of Children's and Families Ministries

FELLOWSHIP & EVENTS



First Friday

We will continue our First Friday Speaker Series on **November 6**. Everyone is welcome to attend. The speaker will be Tom Ryan, LancasterHistory.org, presenting "Jacob Eichholtz at 250." The evening begins with the playing of our church bells at 5 p.m. followed by a short organ demonstration. The speaker's presentation starts at 5:30 p.m. followed by sanctuary tours and refreshments. Refreshments will be served outside, near the Memorial Garden. We will continue the series focusing on our Church history, local history, local topics, social topics, and content from our partners.

Phillips Museum Tour



Museum staff will provide a private tour of their collection of Jacob Eichholtz paintings at the Phillips Museum, located on the F&M campus at **628 College Avenue**, on **Wednesday, November 11 from 10-12 a.m.** Please meet at the museum. There is no charge for the tour. November marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Eichholtz, a lifelong Trinity member.



Crispaz Peace Award to Dan Long

The Rev. Dan Long, a former Associate Pastor at Holy Trinity, is being recognized for his decades-long mission work in Central America. Pastor Long will receive the 2026 Crispaz Peace Award on **Thursday, November 12** in Boston, MA. If you are interested in attending, please contact the church office at 717-397-2734.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **All Saints** *Communion* Temple Ave. Jazz 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education	**2**	**3** 9:45 a.m. TWIST	**4**	**5** 7 p.m. Choir rehearsal	**6** 5 p.m. First Friday	**7** 11 a.m. Service for Peg Wentworth
8 9:30 Worship Youth Sunday Challenge Grant recipient announced 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education	**9** 6:30 p.m. Vestry meeting	**10** 9:45 a.m. TWIST 2 p.m. Worship & Music meeting	**11** 10 a.m. Tour at Phillips Museum	**12** 7 p.m. Choir rehearsal	**13**	**14**
15 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education	**16**	**17** 9:45 a.m. TWIST 2 p.m. Discipleship meeting	**18** 10 a.m. Book Club 3 p.m. Willow Valley Service	**19** 7 p.m. Choir rehearsal	**20** *Pr. Joel out of the office*	**21** *Pr. Joel out of the office* 2 p.m. Service for Robert Nickey
22 Christ the King *Communion* 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education *Pr. Joel out of the office*	**23** *Pr. Joel out of the office*	**24** *Pr. Joel out of the office* 9:45 a.m. TWIST	**25** *Pr. Joel out of the office*	**26** *Pr. Joel out of the office* **Thanksgiving**	**27** *Pr. Joel out of the office* **Office Closed**	**28** *Pr. Joel out of the office*
29 **Advent 1** *Communion* 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education *Pr. Joel out of the office*	**30** *Pr. Joel out of the office*					



NOV 2026

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LUTHERAN CHURCH

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31 South Duke Street
Lancaster, PA 17602

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Deaths

Peg Wentworth on September 24, 2026

Carole Flosser on October 17, 2026

Barbara Schoelkopf on October 21, 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

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America