

JAN 2024

Sunday, January 7, Communion

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5
Second Reading: Acts 19:1-7
Gospel: Mark 1:4-11
Preaching Pastor Hanus

Sunday, January 14

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-20
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Gospel: John 1:43-51
Preaching Pastor Hanus

Sunday, January 21

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Gospel: Mark 1:14-20
Preaching Pastor Hanus

Sunday, January 28

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Gospel: Mark 1:21-28
Preaching Pastor Hanus



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, Happy 2024!

I pray that this Christmas season is filling your heart with much love and joy, and your new calendar year is starting on a note of hope for what is to come. There is much for which we can be grateful.

The next festival on our church calendar is the Epiphany of our Lord, which is celebrated each year on January 6th. Epiphany is the day that we celebrate the long-awaited arrival of the magi. These visitors from afar are seen as the first representatives of the wider world (Gentiles) to recognize the appearance of God in the birth of Jesus. Of the four Gospels, only Matthew tells their story. Their visit underscores that Jesus came for all people. People from other parts of the world, not just from Israel, were anticipating the arrival of the Messiah.

It's curious that we have come to believe that there were three magi, when Scripture doesn't support this detail. It's also curious that these worshippers are always placed in our nativity scenes in the company of the shepherds, when they were not there. It would be a few years before they would find Jesus, who was no longer a baby in a manger, but a toddler, living with his mother Mary in a home in Bethlehem. There is no mention of poor Joseph.

(cont.)

Mission Statement

Under constraint of the Gospel, guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit, the mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity is to bear witness to the crucified and risen Christ as his disciples.

**Holy Trinity Lutheran
Church**

31 South Duke Street
Lancaster, PA 17602
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Throughout my years in parish ministry, I have invited folks to keep the magi out of the nativity scene, and to instead place them in a place where they can be moved and can travel, one day at a time, during the twelve days of Christmas, until they finally arrive to offer their gifts to the Christ Child. (Even if he's no longer at the nativity scene.) This is an easier story to tell and reenact. Imagine if we had to add another layer to the story, placing a dwelling next to the stable with Jesus at the door welcoming the magi in a toddler's way and greeting them with "Salaam," which is Arabic for "peace". This would complicate the tradition that has been passed down in our pageants, nativity scenes, greeting cards, etc.

So, how is Epiphany relevant for us today? Epiphany means revelation, manifestation, to make known. It is during the season of Epiphany that the true identity of Jesus is revealed. (This occurs at his baptism, when a voice from heaven proclaims, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17)

Epiphany is:

- the saving work of God for all people.
- God's shining forth among all nations.
- a season for affirming what God has done and is doing among us.
- a season for breaking down walls of separation and for building up discipleship.
- a season to celebrate the light of Christ, the One sent to bring the way of God to the world, streaming in a darkened world to illuminate in a new way.

Today, the church is the pathway. You and I are called and sent out to convey the Epiphany light of Christ to all people of all nations. We are commissioned to be the stewards of that light, remembering the words spoken to us at our baptism: "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Amen."

May our lives- our thoughts, words and actions reflect the light of Christ with boldness, hope and joy in this new year and always!

Serving and shining with you,

Pastor Linda



SENIOR COMMUNITY WORSHIP

Communion at Willow Valley - Wednesday, January 17 at 3 p.m.,
Manor North Auditorium

Communion at Woodcrest - Thursday, January 18 at 1 p.m.,
Eagle Commons Chapel

FROM THE VESTRY PRESIDENT

THE END OF A YEAR OF CHANGE

Can you believe it? Another year gone. Zap!! If I can speak for the vestry, I would say it has been a year of profound loss and a year of learning how to adjust quickly while remaining on our feet. In short, it has been a year of progress, growth, and learning. You may or not be aware of some of the work vestry has accomplished:

- 1). Updated by-laws to the changing needs of the congregation by incorporating some committees and establishing others.
- 2). Reintroduced the black attendance book to determine the weekly attendance for the Call Committee and to contact and identify the needs of members who may not be able to attend worship and commune in person.
- 3). Formed a Membership Committee. Active membership numbers have not been reviewed for at least a decade or longer. This was not an easy task. Letters were sent and telephone calls made to congregants. The committee sent out 55 letters and made many phone calls. About one third of the letters were returned providing the committee with valuable information. It was determined that there were more homebound congregants than we realized. Because of the increase in homebound congregants more homebound visitors were trained to provide for this outreach program.
- 4). Started up the Personnel Committee. Job descriptions were rewritten. The committee is meeting regularly, addressing staffing needs and concerns in our changing congregation. The committee is led by Nancy Herzog.
- 5). Restored the Finance Committee. Barry Huber heads this committee, focusing on changes in the budget and addressing prospective pastors' salaries. We love a balanced budget. The Call Committee also needs a current budget to place in the Profile.
- 6). The Sexton job description is still being determined. There has been a slight increase in cleaning service hours. Disciples from the congregation have voluntarily taken on responsibilities, but largely, it is Dave Wanner who has taken on a large part of caring for Holy Trinity.
- 7). Renovated and sold one of our Vine Street properties. Judy Kitsock did much of the work with this.
- 8). Established a Call Committee. The vestry reviewed candidates and announced these disciples at the beginning of October. Susan Garofola took the reins on laying the committee's foundation. The Call Committee plans to have all information ready for the Office of the Bishop by the end of the year or very beginning of 2024.
- 9). Re-established a Stewardship Committee. Once again, mailings were sent to each family asking what time, talents, and gifts you were willing to share to serve the Lord at Holy Trinity. Susan Garofola and Judy Kitsock made this happen. Tithing went well. Thank you.
- 10). Modified the Mission statement. More on that at another time. (*cont.*)

There is more I could tell you, but my article is getting long. There is always next year.

I want to personally thank all the disciples of Holy Trinity for what you have volunteered to do, and did, if you were on a committee or not. There is MORE to achieve next year, and we need every one of you.

On the behalf of the vestry, we send peace, love, and prayers to your family this Christmas.

Carol Pennington, *Vestry President*

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Enjoy singing? Volunteer to sing in Trinity's Choir! The choir rehearses in the chapel on Sunday mornings following worship at 10:45 a.m. The choir sings during worship every other Sunday.



BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

Breaking Barriers. Building Community.

Each week, Holy Trinity Church serves a hot breakfast at 7:45 a.m. to as many as 125 guests who are in need or unsheltered. Breakfast Fellowship meets in Fondersmith Auditorium and also includes a weekly worship service at 8:15 a.m. led by Doug Frazer and Tim Wentworth with piano by Linda Flick. Holy Communion is celebrated on the third Sunday of the month by Pastors Hanus.

Our leaders are to be commended for their hard work and generosity in doing as Jesus asked, "Feed my sheep." Especially, we thank Cathy Dobish, Doug Frazer, and Tim Wentworth and their core group of volunteers.



EDUCATION

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP 10:30-10:45 a.m. in the Fondersmith Auditorium, prior to Forum.

SUNDAY FORUM

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

Adult Forum Schedule:

Jan. 7th- "What is up with Epiphany?" Pastor Linda and Cliff will help us understand this very important date in the life of the Christian Church.

Jan. 14th- TBA

Jan. 21st - Mike Youse, Executive Director of Lutheran Church Camps "What the Church Camps Can Offer to Us All."

Jan. 28th - "So You Retired, Now What?" Input from Trinity Disciples on how they stay active, contribute to their communities, and enjoy life.



FAITH TALK: Conversation in the Gospel of John.

Faith Talk meets after the church service, or about 10:30 a.m. each Sunday, in the Library in the Parish House. We also operate a Zoom link if you would like to attend remotely. The Zoom link is available by contacting the church office, or by contacting Doug Frazer. Each class session is independent, so we encourage you to attend when you can.

We resume a study of The Gospel of John – "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:31).

TWIST (Trinity Women in Study Together)
meets Wednesdays at 9:45 a.m. in the Café from September
through May.

All women are invited.

ONLINE GIVING

Online giving is an option for those who want to contribute to support the mission and ministry of Holy Trinity Church. To make an online gift, open the Camera App on your phone and scan the QR code on this page. You will be directed to a secure webpage to make a contribution. Thank you for your generosity!



ONLINE/DIRECT DEPOSIT GIVERS

A laminated blue card is available in the pew racks and can be placed in the offering plate as an act of worship, symbolizing the gift you have given using online, direct deposit, or other means. Thank you for your generosity!

CHILDREN, FAMILY AND YOUTH MINISTRY

THE SUPER BOWL BRUSH OF 2024

Happy New Year Holy Trinity Families! Starting Sunday, **January 14th** Holy Trinity will once again prepare for the Super Bowl Brush! Our friends at Bethany Christian Services are always in need of toilet paper, paper towels, and toilet bowl scrub brushes. To show Bethany and their clients God's love and to have some fun while doing it, Trinity will use popular football teams to score the most paper products and scrub brushes!

We will start off with the Super Bowl Brush playoffs: four popular football teams will try to secure a coveted spot in the Super Bowl Brush. You can help your favorite team win by purchasing toilet paper, paper towels, and scrub brushes and depositing these items into the

donation box

with your favorite team's logo on it.



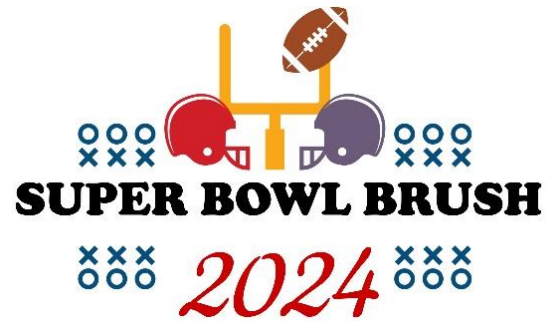
On Sunday, January 28th, the two teams who scored the most paper products and toilet bowl brushes during the playoffs will be announced, and these teams will go on to the Super Bowl Brush. Keep on donating to help your team win the Super Bowl Brush!

On Sunday, **February 11th** (which is Super Bowl Sunday), the winner of Holy Trinity's Super Bowl Brush of 2024 will be announced, and thanks to your generosity, the real winner will be Bethany Christian Services!

If you would like to vote on a football team to be in Trinity's Super Bowl Brush of 2024, please email your suggestion to Rachel at rachel@trinitylanaster.org by **Wednesday, January 10th**!

Photo Directory

There will be yet another "new last page" available soon. Please see or email Loren Good (loren@trinitylanaster.org) to make sure that your directory is up to date.



A SPECIAL SUNDAY FORUM ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 21ST

Join us on Sunday, January 21st following worship for a special Forum in Fondersmith Auditorium at 10:45 am. We will be joined by Michael Youse, the Executive Director of the Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central PA. He will tell us all about camp for our kids and grandkids, camp for families, camp for ages 55+, the Wittel Farm project, financial assistance to attend camp and more!



The mission of the Lutheran Camping Corporation is to have the Church, in a place and time apart, where God's presence is experienced, faith is renewed, Christ's love is felt, and the Church is strengthened for the service and proclamation of the Gospel!



The Lutheran Camping Corporation has two different locations: Camp Kirchenwald in Lebanon and Camp Nawakwa in Biglerville. Please try to attend this Forum; it might help you plan a summer camping vacation in God's Beautiful Creation!

SAVE THE DATE FOR TRINITY'S MARDI GRAS BRUNCH

Be sure to mark your calendars for Sunday, February 11th, 2024. It will be Trinity's 2nd Annual Mardi Gras Brunch following worship! Join us at 10:45 a.m. in Fondersmith Auditorium to indulge in some rich foods before our Lenten disciplines start! We will also hear some New Orleans style jazz music; we will be making Mardi Gras Masks and posing with our creations in the photo booth! There will be something for all ages! As the Creole say down in New Orleans - "Laissez les bons temps rouler!" or "Let the good times roll!"



*Rachel Kramer,
Director of Children's and Family Ministry*

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY

2024 VALENTINE APPEAL

Holy Trinity's International Ministries Committee has selected the scholarship fund for the MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School (MGLSS) for our 2024 Valentine Appeal. MGLSS is a residential girls boarding school located near Monduli, Tanzania, educating girls from impoverished backgrounds, both from the Maasai ethnic group and other semi-nomadic people. The name **MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School** comes partially from an acronym: Maa is the language of the Maasai tribe; S is for Speakers; A for Advanced; and E for Education.

Our goal is to raise \$5,000 that will be donated to the MGLSS scholarship fund for students not financially covered by dedicated sponsors. A gift of \$5,000 will pay for four years of secondary school education at the school, which is equivalent to completing grade 10 in the United States. Operation Bootstrap Africa coordinates donations made to the MGLSS scholarship fund.

Education makes a tremendous influence in a Tanzanian girl's life – increasing a woman's income which is further invested in her family. Many MGLSS graduates attend University, eventually graduating as nurses, doctors, engineers, and other professionals. MGLSS offers girls a chance to make a brighter future for themselves, their families, and their communities.



Members of Holy Trinity had the opportunity to visit the MGLSS campus in 2006 with our late senior pastor, the Rev. David Johnson. They toured the chapel, classrooms, chemistry lab, computer lab, and school library, interacted with students, met with teachers and the headmistress, and observed the strong educational leadership offered to the residential girls. The Committee sponsored a student, Nashiva Megiroo for six years of secondary school and through her university education until she graduated as an architect.

Donations to the Valentine Appeal will be accepted during the offering on **Feb. 11**. The Valentine Appeal helps raise awareness that Holy Trinity is a member of Christ's global church and helps us share the message of love and grace with our international brothers and sisters in Christ. We ask that you prayerfully consider a donation to the MGLSS scholarship fund on **Feb. 11th** and help to empower a student to become a leader in her community through education.

MLK SERVICE

Holy Trinity will host the 44th Annual Celebration in honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on **Sunday, January 14**. The service is sponsored by the NAACP Lancaster branch.



IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Lancaster Walking Tour

Beginning in early April, The Historical Lancaster Walking Tour will include a visit inside Holy Trinity's historic sanctuary. This will be a beta test, starting with Tuesday tours only. A Trinity disciple will be there in person for the tours. Depending on how things go, and the interest, we will consider adding a Friday, and/or a Saturday as well.



A faithful and talented Trinity disciple will, on occasion, knit and drape scarves on Trinity's fencing along Duke Street. Passersby are welcome to take them as a gift. Another of the great things our disciples do for others.

Jan 3 James 4:1-10
Jan 4 James 4:11-17
Jan 5 Psalm 110
Jan 6 Matthew 2:1-12
Jan 7 Mark 1:4-11
Jan 8 Hebrews 11:27-28
Jan 9 John 8:39-59
Jan 10 Acts 9:10-19a
Jan 11 Psalm 29
Jan 12 Luke 5:1-11
Jan 13 Mark 1:4-11
Jan 14 John 1 43-51
Jan 15 Romans 4:1-12
Jan 16 Acts 22:2-16
Jan 17 John 1:29-34
Jan 18 2 Corinthians 10:1-11
Jan 19 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Jan 20 Matthew 25:1-13
Jan 21 Mark 1:14-20
Jan 22 2 Corinthians 6:14—7:1
Jan 23 Acts 5:1-11
Jan 24 Luke 18:15-17
Jan 25 Revelation 18:11-20
Jan 26 Jeremiah 20:7-13
Jan 27 Luke 10:13-16
Jan 28 Mark 1:21-28
Jan 29 1 Corinthians 7:17-24
Jan 30 Acts 5:33-42
Jan 31 Mark 3:13-19a

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

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Deaths

Betsy Schott on December 2, 2023

Mary Lou Wain on December 2, 2023

Rev. Cliff Hanus and Rev. Linda Hanus, Interim Pastors; Dr. Robert Horton, Organist and Choirmaster; Rachel Kramer, Director of Children's and Family Ministry; Loren Good, Director of Marketing

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.