

JAN 2025

Sunday, January 5

Communion

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm 147:12-20

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

Gospel: John 1:1-18

Pastor Petruschke preaching

January 12

Baptism of Our Lord

First Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Second Reading: Acts 8:14-17

Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Pastor Petruschke preaching

January 19

First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 36:5-10

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Gospel: John 2:1-11

Pastor Petruschke preaching

January 26

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

Pastor Petruschke preaching

Report from Senior Pastor Petruschke



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I want to begin my article this month by expressing my gratitude to all of you for the cards, gifts, and blessings you shared with my family and me over the holidays. We are touched by your kindness and generosity. Our family deeply appreciates the warmth and love we experience from you, our extended church family. So, again, thank you very much.

Now then, as we enter into this New Year, I would have us think about light. It is something, I dare say, we take for granted. We walk into a room, we hit a light switch, and voila...we have light. We don't have to go around like our ancestors so as to light candles to brighten a room. We don't have to rub sticks together like our ancestors did a long, long time ago to create fire to illumine the night. No, we have it pretty easy when it comes to making light. Thank you, Mr. Edison.

Each year, at the beginning of the New Year, we celebrate the festival of the Baptism of our Lord. This festival is always the first Sunday after the Epiphany of our Lord, which is on January 6th. Now the theme of the Epiphany season is light.
(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

717-397-2734

church@trinitylanaster.org

Indeed, to have an epiphany is to have a lightbulb go on above our heads. We can think of those cartoons when someone has an “eureka moment,” where that someone has an epiphany, where a lightbulb shines above that someone’s head. The Epiphany season is meant to be an “eureka moment,” where we come to understand who this Jesus is that has been born to us at Christmas. So, we will hear a lot of texts in Epiphany that shine a light on who Jesus is, as Son of God, as miracle worker, as healer, as teacher. That is what this season is about.

But I want us to think about light in another way, especially with respect to baptism. As I said, we begin the New Year always with the Baptism of our Lord. And the baptism of Christ is meant to have us think about our own baptism. And, if we didn’t know, baptism was also called “illumination” in the early church. Illumination being a bit fancy word for light.

Justin Martyr (c. AD 100-c. AD 165) was a Christian apologist and philosopher who said the following:

Since at our birth we were born without our own knowledge or choice, by our parents coming together, and were brought up in bad habits and wicked training; in order that we may not remain the children of necessity and of ignorance, but may become the children of choice and knowledge, and may obtain in the water the remission of sins formerly committed, there is pronounced over him who chooses to be born again, and has repented of his sins, the name of God the Father and Lord of the universe; he who leads to the laver the person that is to be washed calling him by this name alone. For no one can utter the name of the ineffable God; and if any one dare to say that there is a name, he raves with a hopeless madness. And this washing is called **illumination**, because they who learn these things are **illuminated** in their understandings. And in the name of Jesus Christ, who was crucified under Pontius Pilate, and in the name of the Holy Ghost, who through the prophets foretold all things about Jesus, he who is **illuminated** is washed (*First Apology* 61).

In short, to be baptized is to be illuminated. To be baptized is to see with the eyes of faith. To be baptized is to look at the world with a clear perspective. To be baptized is to be en-light-ened.



What does that mean? It means to see the ways of God truly at work in the world. And that may be the single most important thing for sustaining our faith in God. So, for instance, we see the ways of God play out in the world when people act sinfully and those same people hide or lie to cover up their wrongs. And we can think of Genesis 3:8, when Adam and Eve hid from God because they had sinned. Sin wants to hide. And we see then that play out, that is, sin wanting to hide.

Or, we can think about images on television of a person using a push broom to clear rubble from a war-torn area. How can they possibly make a difference amidst so much destruction? Why even bother trying to clear the mess? But then we think of how people are created in God’s image (Genesis 1:27), and what is one of the prime attributes of God, but to create order from chaos as we see in Genesis 1. And so, humans, in God’s image, will press on to create order around themselves the best they can.

And there is additionally example after example of the ways of God playing out in the world in which we live.

And Christians, by their illumination in baptism, are blessed to see these things. And the purpose again of this new vision is to strengthen our faith in God because the ways of God are indeed written into the fabric of life.

And so, there is a reason why each New Year begins with remembering baptism in the Epiphany season, because we are remembering that the Light of Christ has dawned upon us, and thus, we, as Christians, see the world differently because of it. 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 bulletins and activity bags in the narthex. Please feel free to ask an usher where to find them. Children's sermons are always offered during worship on the second Sunday of the month.



SENIOR COMMUNITY WORSHIP

Communion at Willow Valley - Wednesday, Jan. 15 at 3 p.m.,
Manor North Auditorium

Communion at Woodcrest - Thursday, Jan. 16 at 1 p.m.,
Eagle Commons Chapel

BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

Breaking Barriers. Building Community.

Our Breakfast Fellowship continues to be a marvelous Holy Trinity Ministry. On average, a warm breakfast is served to more than 100 needy people. Some Sundays we've served up to 170. In addition, up to 80 or so bagged lunches are provided. Food acquisition, preparation, and serving is led by Cathy Dobish. Informal worship is led by Doug Frazer and Tim Wentworth. Pastor Joel Petruschke will preside at Holy Communion once a month. Linda Flick shares her talent on the piano each Sunday. Many volunteers are involved. Thank you to those who serve!



FROM THE WORSHIP AND MUSIC SMALL GROUP COMMITTEE

Let's Take a Look at Epiphany

While the hustle and bustle of Christmas ends for many people on or about December 26, for Christians Christmas will continue. The feast marking the end of Christmas is called "Epiphany."

What is Epiphany? Epiphany is a church festival celebrated every January 6 (this year it falls on a Monday) that commemorates the coming of the Magi as the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles or, in the Eastern Church, the commemoration of the baptism of Christ.

The definition of the word Epiphany - An epiphany is a sudden realization, an understanding of something significant. A real breakthrough. You might say that the discovery that our world is round was an epiphany. Or, an epiphany can also be a sudden revelation.

Consider the epiphany Peter was given when he confessed Jesus as the Messiah and the Holy Son of God (Matthew 16:16). The word epiphany comes from the Greek word epiphaneia, which means "manifestation" or "striking appearance."

It is the time of year when Christians commemorate the Three Wise Men's revelation that Jesus was the Messiah. It is celebrated on January 6 and is also known as Three Kings Day. (which of course begs the question.....then why are they depicted in the manger the night of Jesus' birth? More on that another time)



In the early Church, Christians, particularly those in the East, celebrated the advent of Christ on Jan. 6 by commemorating Nativity, Visitation of the Magi, Baptism of Christ, and the Wedding of Cana all in one feast of the Epiphany.

Over time, the Western Church separated the remaining feasts into their own celebrations, leaving the celebration of the Epiphany to commemorate primarily the visitation of the Magi to see the newborn Christ on January 6.

Maybe the biggest takeaway is this "it's only just begun"...

Order of our Worship Service

You may have noticed a subtle change in the order of activity Sunday in worship. Pastor Joel makes brief announcements shortly after 9:25 a.m. Following the announcements, the Prelude begins and we have formally begun worship. The Worship and Music Small Group made this recommendation in November. What this allows for is a complete and clean beginning and close of the liturgy. No breaking up of the service.

New Hearing Aid System in the Sanctuary

Our system is now up and running. Please see an usher prior to worship to assist you.

Usher Training/Refresher

Sunday, January 5th after worship, for ushers, new or experienced, who would like a refresher. Please gather in the narthex near the usher closet.

New Member/Disciples

Interested in becoming a new member/disciple? Please contact Pastor Joel after worship or the church office at 717-397-2734. We have upcoming new disciple sessions scheduled starting **January 19, 2025**. This is a great opportunity to learn more about Trinity and becoming a Trinity disciple (member).

Topics include introductions and greetings with the new members and Vestry/Discipleship Ministry team, learning about key ministries and programs at Trinity, and a tour of the sanctuary, Parish House, and vault/archives. We hope to hear from you!

INSTALLATION SERVICE

On Sunday, January 5 at 3 p.m. Pastor Joel Petruschke will be installed as Holy Trinity's Senior Pastor. Following Pastor Joel's installation service at 3 p.m. volunteers will welcome all to extend the celebration by attending a reception in Fondersmith Auditorium.

Synod Disaster Response Team Meeting

On **Sunday, January 19, 2025**, a planning meeting for the 25th trip of the Lower Susquehanna Synod Disaster Response team will be held at 2:00 p.m. in the Community Room at Luther Acres, 250 St. Luke Drive, Lititz. This is also the deadline to sign up for the trip. Registration for the trip is only \$150/person. The trip will be taking place, April 6-12, 2025, and will be to western North Carolina. More details will be shared at the meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but hope to make the trip, please contact Pastor Glenn Beard at gbeard@luthercare.org.



EDUCATION

FAITH TALK: The Gospel of Matthew

Faith Talk will continue in the Gospel of Matthew as our main study for 2025. In each class we read the scripture verse-by-verse and address questions and theological concepts that arise from the text, with a little bit of Lutheranism thrown in whenever possible. We are also beginning a Year-Long series on the Small Catechism on the First Sunday of Each Month. While each class is part of a series, each session is independent, so come when you can. You and your questions are always welcome.

January 5 - The Small Catechism - an Introduction which will include Luther's Preface. Why he wrote it and what it contains.

January 12 - Finishing up the Advent series (we missed one Sunday) The Suffering Servant presented in the Old Testament

January 19 - Gospel of Matthew - finishing up chapter 12 and starting chapter 13 - Trees and Fruit, Sign of Jonah, and other interesting things

January 26 - Gospel of Matthew - chapter 13 - Parables, lots of parables

Faith Talk meets after Fellowship, or about 11:00 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.

You can also find Faith Talk discussions on all of our previous series at <https://www.youtube.com/@FaithTalk-HolyTrinity>

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:

January 5 – Pastor Pen Hoover on the topic of Just and Unjust Wars

January 12 – Pastor Joel – The Sacrament of Holy Communion.

January 19 – Ashley Bievenour from Milagro House

January 26 – Erin Snell – an update on what they are doing at the Boys and Girls Club of Lancaster.



TWIST (Trinity Women in Study Together) meets on **Tuesdays** in the Trinity Café from 9:45-11:15 a.m. All are welcome to join us whenever you can. Our study begins with a video viewing followed by a lively discussion...no previous reading or studying is required.

CHILDREN, FAMILY AND YOUTH MINISTRY

The “Souper” Bowl Canned Food Collection of 2025

Give what you can.

Happy New Year Holy Trinity Families! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas holiday season. But now I'd like to know, are you ready for some football? Starting **Sunday, January 12th**, Holy Trinity is holding a canned food collection to benefit the Lancaster Food Hub! At this time of year, the shelves at the Food Hub have been depleted from holiday demands. To show our neighbors at the Food Hub God's love, and to have some fun while doing it, Trinity will use popular football teams to score the most food!



We will start off with the “Souper” Bowl playoffs, 4 popular football teams will try to secure a coveted spot in the “Souper” Bowl. You can help your favorite team win by purchasing any food item on the list below and depositing these items into the donation bin with your favorite team’s logo on it.

On **Sunday, January 26th**, the two teams who scored the most food donations during the playoffs will be announced, and these teams will go on to the “Souper” Bowl. Keep on donating to help your team win Trinity’s “Souper” Bowl!

On **Sunday, February 9th** (which is Super Bowl Sunday), the winner of Holy Trinity’s “Souper” Bowl will be announced, and thanks to your generosity the real winner will be the Lancaster Food Hub!

If you would like to vote on a football team to be in Trinity’s “Souper” Bowl, please email your suggestion to Rachel at rachel@trinitylanaster.org or write your vote down and slip it into the voting ballot boxes in the narthex and outside the church office door by Wednesday, January 8th!

Items the Food Hub needs most:

- Peanut Butter
- Mac and Cheese
- Cereal (low sugar)
- Rice (white or brown)
- Pasta
- Soup
- Canned fruit
- Canned tuna/chicken
- Canned meals with “pull-tab” lids (i.e. ravioli, beef stew, etc.)

If anyone would be interested in helping to drop off the donated food at the Lancaster Food Hub during the week of February 9th, 2025, please contact Rachel at rachel@trinitylanaster.org.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rachel Kramer,
Director of Children’s and Family Ministry

ONLINE/DIRECT DEPOSIT GIVERS

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!



Holy

Dec 1 Luke 21:25-36
Dec 2 2 Peter 3:1-18
Dec 3 Revelation 22:12-16
Dec 4 Luke 11:29-32
Dec 5 Philippians 1:12-18a
Dec 6 Luke 11:68-79
Dec 7 Luke 9:1-6
Dec 8 Luke 3:1-6
Dec 9 Romans 8:22-25
Dec 10 2 Peter 1:2-15
Dec 11 Luke 7:18-30
Dec 12 2 Corinthians 8:1-15
Dec 13 2 Corinthians 9:1-15
Dec 14 Luke 1:57-66
Dec 15 Luke 3:7-18
Dec 16 Hebrews 13:7-17
Dec 17 Acts 28:23-31
Dec 18 Luke 7:31-35
Dec 19 Hebrews 10:10-18
Dec 20 Hebrews 10:32-39
Dec 21 Luke 13:31-35
Dec 22 Luke 1:46b-55
Dec 23 Micah 4:6-8
Dec 24 Luke 2:1-20
Dec 25 Isaiah 62:6-12
Dec 26 Acts 6:1-7; 7:51-60
Dec 27 John 21:19b-24
Dec 28 Revelation 21:1-7
Dec 29 1 Corinthians 3:10-17
Dec 30 Mark 13:32-37
Dec 31 John 8:12-19



Holy Trinity's
300th Anniversary

DID YOU KNOW?

In five short years, we will celebrate the 300th Anniversary of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY

2025 Valentine Appeal

For the 2025 Valentine Appeal the International Ministries Committee is offering the opportunity for the congregation to support a hospital in the Konde Diocese of Tanzania being supported by the Lower Susquehanna Synod's Generosity Appeal. The new hospital is being constructed in Mbeya, a regional capital, in the northern area of the Diocese. The need for medical facilities is great, and this hospital will meet a need in that part of Tanzania.

The appeal will take place on **February 16**, and more detailed information will be in the February newsletter and a bulletin insert. Thank you for considering this gift of love to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Office closed	2 Office closed	3	4
5 Communion 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education 3:00 pm Pastor Joel's Installation	6	7 9:45 TWIST	8	9 2 p.m. John Wedding - Chapel	10	11
12 9:30 Worship Children's sermon 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education	13 7 pm Vestry meeting	14 9:45 TWIST	15 3 pm Willow Valley Worship	16 1 pm Woodcrest worship 4:30 MLK Scholarship Board	17	18
19 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education 10:45 History Committee meeting New Member classes 4:30 NAACP MLK Service	20 MLK holiday Office closed	21 9:45 TWIST	22	23	24	25
26 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Education	27	28 9:45 TWIST	29	30	31	

Jan 2025



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31 South Duke Street
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Clyde Brown Jr. (Tim) on November 30, 2024

Leah Garhovd (Petka) on December 1, 2024

Kenneth Ehrhart in December 7, 2024

Kenneth Lutz on December 8, 2024

Rev. Dr. Joel Petruschke, Senior Pastor; Christopher Prestia, 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.

Holy Trinity Church is affiliated with

