

HOLY TRINITY

Evangelical Lutheran Church

ECHOES NEWSLETTER

Parkview & Lycoming Avenue | Abington, Pennsylvania 19001 | Tel: 215.659.2642



From the Pastor

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Inspired by my Cardigan & Collar co-host, Professor David Luy of the North American Lutheran Seminary, I've been dipping into the work of the theologian Edmund Schlink (1903–1984), who taught for many years at the University of Heidelberg in Germany.

But I only very recently discovered that, in addition to enormous and enormously significant volumes of deeply researched scholarship — among which are *Ecumenical Dogmatics* (1179 pages), *The Doctrine of Baptism* (285 pages), and *Theology of the Lutheran Confessions* (317 pages), that last of which has accompanied generations of Lutheran seminarians in their explorations of the “constitutional documents” of our tradition — Schlink also wrote a novella!

It's called *The Vision of the Pope* (translated by Eugene M. Skibbe; Kirk House, 2001). The English translation describes it as “a parable about Christian identity in an ecumenical age.” In the words of one academic biographer of Schlink — and remember, Schlink was a Lutheran — “the story is about a pope who receives three visions of Christ that set him on a new ecumenical initiative: the unification of the Christian Church. For that to work, each church, including the Roman Church, must repent. Each must see itself as subordinate to Christ and the apostolic witness.”

From that summary, one might immediately categorize it as a fantasy, a tall tale with no basis in reality and no interest in making a connection with the facts. For each church, including the Roman Church, to *repent*? For “unity among Christians” (as Schlink wrote in the last chapter) to “permeate perceiving, thinking, and interacting”? For “the many small flames of the separated churches” to come together “in one high, blazing flame,” from which would go out “radiant light and beneficent warmth”? What was Schlink smoking?

Continued on pg. 2

December, 2025

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Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Maurice Y. Lee
Pastor

Staff

Mr. Thomas Hobson Williams,
M. Mus., Director of Music
Mrs. Deborah Mumford,
Office Administrator

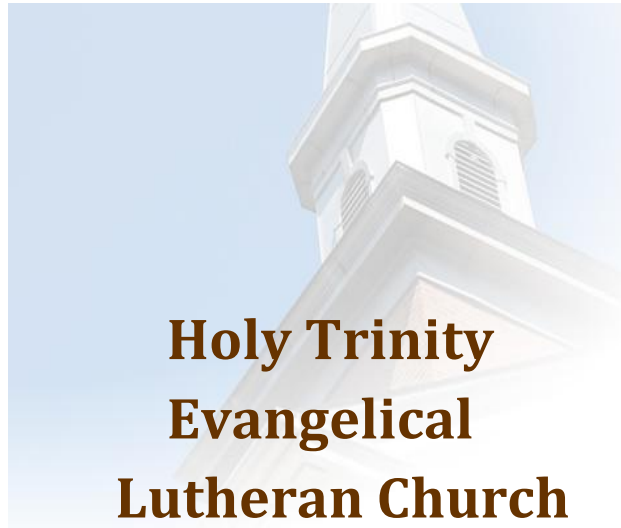
Worship Services

Saturday at 5 p.m.
Sunday at 9 a.m. (also live-streamed)
Sunday Church School at 10:30 a.m.

Holy Communion

Saturday evening, Sunday morning
& Festival Days

***Deadline for submission of
material for the Echoes Newsletter
is 9 a.m. the 15th of each month.***



Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

We proclaim the
Gospel of Jesus Christ,
worshiping,
making disciples
and serving in his name.



Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers have been presented to the Glory of God by the people of Holy Trinity. Altar Flowers must be ordered no later than the Tuesday afternoon preceding the Sunday they are presented. They may be ordered through the Church Office (215-659-2642). You may pay by placing \$20.00 in a small white pew envelope checked, "Altar Flowers." If you know it, indicate your envelope number.

From the Pastor

Continued from page 1

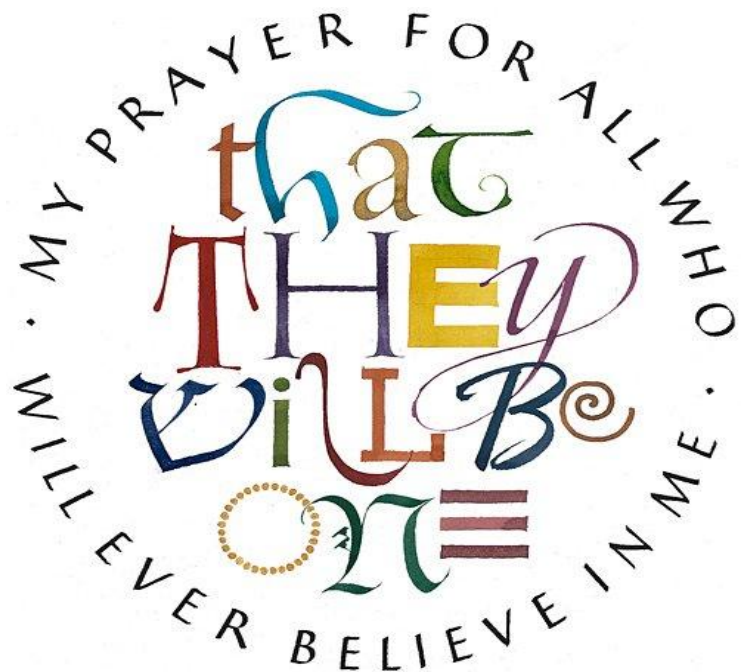


Well, it might indeed be a fantasy. But if so, then it's a fantasy emerging not from one random theologian's fevered dreams but from the desires of the Lord of the universe himself: "I ask that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (John 17:21).

It's easy to avoid thinking about Christian unity in an age of political polarization, doctrinal deadlocks, and moral madness. How can we be one, in the sense that Jesus meant, with those in other churches who have made the gospel into a pale reflection of their own self-obsessions and who have transcribed the godless delusions of the secular culture into the new ten commandments?

I don't have an answer. I can't stipulate what the churches are to do. I'm not a bishop, a president, or a prime minister. But I'll tell you this: If we — and by "we" I mean not only the leaders of the churches, but all believers — walk away in disgust from the task of seeking visible Christian oneness, then we'll be directly defying God's requirement that we "maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" while "speaking the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:3, 15). That task starts with ourselves, of course. But it's only the start.

Praying for all God's people,
Pastor Maurice





Healing Prayer Ministry

Trained members of our Healing Prayer Ministry are available for private one-on-one prayer in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd directly after worship on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings. We look forward to praying with you.



Women's Prayer Group

Holy Trinity's
Women's Prayer Group
meets once a month
at Rosemary Hinkle's
room over her garage.

All women are invited to join us
Contact Rosemary at
rosemaryhinkle@comcast.net

Remaining 2025 Schedule December 1

"All these with one accord were
devoting themselves to prayer,
together with the women and Mary the
mother of Jesus, and his brothers."
Acts 1:14

Prayer List

One of the beautiful aspects of Christian Fellowship is that we can share one another's concerns through prayer. Please pray for the following:

Please pray for the following individuals & their families: *(we cannot add last names or initials)* The families of the members Holy Trinity together with those they love, including: Adriene, Aimeé, Alan, Alex, Allan, Allyson, Amanda, Angie, Anita, Ann, Anna, Anne, Antonette, Art, Audrey, Baby Wilkinson, Barb, Barbara, Ben, Benjamin, Beth, Bill, Blake, Bob, Brian, Brett, Caden, Candy, Carly, Carol, Caroline, Cassidy, Charles, Charlie, Charlotte, Cheryl, Chris, Christine, Christopher, Cindy, Claire, Clare, Dallas, Dana, Danielle, Darren, Daryl, Dave, David, Deb, Demvysere, Derek, Diane, Donna, Ed, Elly, Emersyn, Emily, Eric, Erica, Erika, Erin, Ernie, Frank, Gavin, Gene, Gerry, Gloria, Grace, Grant, Hannah, Harrison, Helen, Jamie, Jen, Jennifer, Jenny, Jeremy, Jill, Jim, Joe, John, Julia, Julie, Kathleen, Kathy, Kayla, Kellie, Ken, Kevan, Kevin, Kile, Kim, Laney, Larry, Laura, Levi, Linda, Lisa, Logan, Loreto, Lori, Mandy, Marcia, Maria, Marissa, Mark, Martha, Marty, Mary, Mary Ellen, Mary Kate, Matthew, Maureen, Melania, Melissa, Michal, Michael, Mike, Monica, Nancy, Nick, Nikki, Pastor Jeff, Pat, Patti, Paul, Peter, Phil, Rachel, Rich, Rick, Roger, Rose, Rosemary, Ross, Ryan, Sadie, Sandy, Sam, Scarlett, Selah, Sharon, Shary, Shelli, Shelly, Sherri, Sierra, Skylar, Solomon, Sophia C., Sophie, Spencer, Steve, Stover, Susan, Teri, Thea, Theodore, Tiffany, Todd, Tom, Tracy, Troy, Trudy, Valentina, Valentine, Vera, Vicki, Will, William, Willow, Zach, Zack.

Please pray for the following families: Beck, Berkovitz, Boehm, Cannan, Custer, Delucia, Diener, Dikhov, Eisenmann, Erb, Favorin, Frame, Frey, Gregg, Hendrickson, Henson, Johnson, Kirk, Lacy, Lowry, Maieron, Martin, McGeary, Meyers, Nickens, Novak, Riehm, Ripley, Robinson, Rothermel, Schenck, Schmidt, Smith, Staedtler, Steinhof, Tavella, Wanger, Wilkinson, Williams.

Please pray for the following petitions:

That God would bless and protect all members of Holy Trinity, together with those they love and pray for.
That God would guide each of us to grow in grace & that He would please send workers into the Harvest.
For all who are chronically ill and/or shut-in.
For all who struggle with addiction to drugs and alcohol.
For the sick and the grieving.
For all congregations of the NALC.
For all travelers and for the dying.
For the military and their families.
The unemployed, the underemployed & the uninsured, especially those in our own families.
All Caregivers, rescue workers, doctors, nurses, firefighters, EMTs,
For the members of the Mekane Yesus Lutheran Church in Ethiopia, and for the Nifas Silk Congregation.
For our sister congregations: Nifas Silk in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and First Lutheran in Kirkland Illinois.
For all Christians who are being persecuted for the faith throughout the world.
For the victims of rains, wildfires, earthquakes and hurricanes and for favorable weather and an abundance of crops.
For all in financial difficulty that they may be totally restored.
For those suffering from racial injustice, bigotry, and oppression in our nation and in the world.
For the people of Ukraine.
For peace in the world and shootings to stop in our cities.
For a peaceful political atmosphere.



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP IS NOW AVAILABLE LIVE
ON YOUTUBE (THEHTLConline)
OR [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/
@HOLYTRINITYABINGTON/STREAMS](https://www.youtube.com/@HOLYTRINITYABINGTON/STREAMS)



JOIN US AT 9 AM
THE 7:30 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
WILL BE LIVE-STREAMED.

Support Us

Please consider a gift of appreciated securities to Holy Trinity as you do your tax planning for this year. You may direct questions about how to do this to Alan Hinkle @ alanhinkle@comcast.net

Treasurer's Report

October 31, 2025 (For the Year 2025)

Current Fund Deficit ~ (\$48,397.49)

Full Treasurer's Report
available on request.

LUTHER QUOTES:

"The Advent season is a season of waiting, but our whole life is an Advent season, that is, a season of waiting for the last Advent, for the time when there will be a new heaven and a new earth."

"This is what is meant by 'Thy king cometh.' You do not seek him, but he seeks you. You do not find him, he finds you."

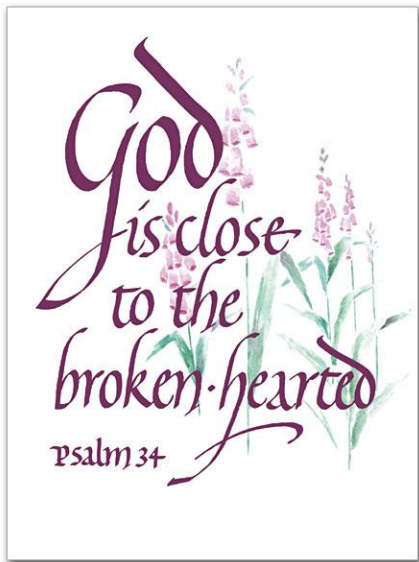
"Through the Gospel this light is brought to us, not from a distance, nor do we need to go far to obtain it; it is very near us and shines in our hearts."

"The Bible is the cradle wherein Christ is laid."

Keep in your prayers the following individuals serving in the armed forces:

Christopher Biehl
Michael Boerner
Connor Gowton
Eric Henderson
Nathan Quinlan
Vikas Shah
Jonathan Skilton, MD
Jeremy Zar

Please remember your
Church in your will.



Our Christian Sympathy to

To Nancy, Phillip, Alayna, Carlie, Gia
and their families on the death of

Kevan M. Berkovitz,

October 30, 2025

Beloved husband, father & grandfather.

"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
and saves the crushed in spirit."

Psalm 34:18

Memorials received



Ann Frey





NOTES OF THANKS

Thank you to all who brought their arts and crafts and baked goods to the Craft Fair on Saturday, November 22. And thank you to everyone who came out and supported the Parish Relief Fund with donations!

If you missed the opportunity to bring your art or to shop, please prepare to come next year on the Saturday before Thanksgiving!

See you then!



The results are in and we are so grateful for the outpouring of support! Not only were we able to secure our anonymous donor's generous gift to purchase **152 turkey breasts and 5 whole turkeys** for the **165 guests** we served in the last three weeks.

The Craft Fair/Bake Sale was a big hit with a total of **\$1, 976 raised!** Endless thanks to our crafters and bakers for their time, talents and energy! And to all those who came out to buy the marvelous crafts and tasty baked goods!

We are humbled and thankful for your continuing support and prayers.

~ Your Bread of Heaven Committee

493 Holy Trinity Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes And Countless Thank You's for Help and Contributions



Almost 500 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes packed with school supplies, hygiene items, and toys from Holy Trinity are now at the Baltimore processing center, being inspected, sealed, and placed in cartons. They will soon be loaded onto Samaritan's Purse cargo planes to make their way to countries in Africa, Asia, and South America, as well as island nations where children who have never received so much as a birthday gift will be wowed with a box full of presents. And those presents will be tied to Jesus as they are told about His forever love for them. They will also be invited to participate in the "Greatest Journey," a 12-week Bible course to

learn Bible stories and the teachings of Jesus. Shoeboxes are given out by ministry partners, so children and their families who are not church members will be invited to come and see.

This undertaking at Holy Trinity would not be possible without MANY willing and loving hands.

THANK YOU to

All who shopped and packed boxes at home.

Those who came the week of November 9 to assemble boxes and unpackage, sort, and count items:

Katie Beyer, Bruce & Maureen Freer, Helen Haun, Gloria, Nancy, & Rob Ischinger, Beth Lee, Larry & Nancy Matteo, John Minges, Nancy Necker.

Those who moved boxes and set up tables: **Alan Hinkle, The Ischinger Family, Deb Mumford, Jim Necker, Charlie & Rich Tolton**

To **Deb Mumford** who provides so much office support for this project.

To **Dot McGowan** who made beautiful knit hats for some very lucky children.

To all who contributed items during our summer collection.

A special shout out to the person who contributed a tub of beanie babies. What a gift! You helped us provide a stuffed animal to every child for whom we packed a box.



To those who have made monetary contributions both for shoebox items and to help defray the requested \$10/box shipping cost of boxes packed at our church packing party.





NOTES OF THANKS continued...



Dear Pastor Maurice and our Church family,

We wanted to take a moment and express our sincere gratitude for all the support and kindness you have shared with us. Our Holy Trinity community has been a source of strength and inspiration and we truly appreciate everything you do.

Thank you for being such a welcoming and uplifting presence in our lives.

Fondly,
Nancy & Larry Matteo

Dear Congregation of Holy Trinity,
Thank you so very much for all of the support you continue to offer. We are so grateful for all that you do!

SisKelly

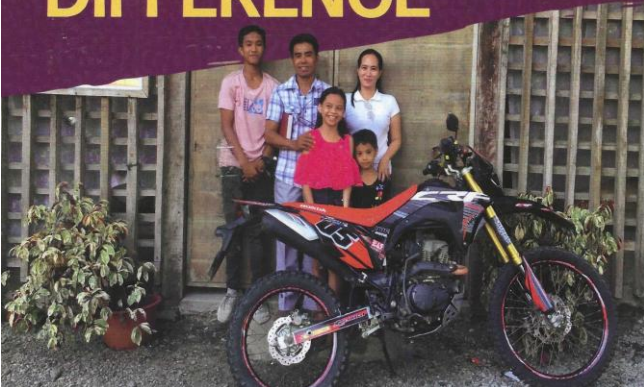


Ephesians 3: 20 – 21!



Your church is making a
DIFFERENCE

ANM ADVANCING
NATIVE
MISSIONS



Dear Friends,

We want you to know that someone is encountering Jesus for the first time because your church gave. Your generosity and prayers are making a difference around the world. Please continue to pray for those who still need to hear the Gospel. Thank you for your faithfulness in missions through ANM. You have blessed others in India & the Philippines.

Thank you,
Danny.



Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow!
November 6, 2025

Dear Friends,

God's blessings are flowing indeed! There are too many wonderful answers to prayer to share on one page, but I'd like to share some of the exciting highlights and additional prayer requests.

Discipleship House - Four young adults continue to bless our community in Minneapolis with their presence, their hunger for God, and their desire to walk in the way He is calling them. I spoke to several participants of a recent young adults retreat who shared how much the fellowship spiritually impacted them!

Didi and Serafina Panzo - Following their home assignment, they will return to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) on December 3, 2025. Praise God for their calling, and unique gifts, to return to a very challenging ministry: serving the church, clinics, Bible school, and orphans. My wife and I have visited them there and seen the multiple languages Didi can switch into, depending on the mother tongue of the congregation, to facilitate translation. We've also seen how he has a constant stream of people seeking him out for his counseling services, and has gained respect and influence in the CELCCO churches. They are asking for prayer for guidance, protection, good insurance while in the DRC, drilling for drinking water for themselves and the orphans they are helping, good electricity in their rental home, and wisdom for their new plan of operation as they return. Last year, Didi was severely injured in a car accident. Praise God for His protection and healing!

RTC - Praise God for safety for Jay Mikaelson and her daughter and son-in-law, Theresa and Mitch, as they traveled overnight on what's known as "Death Road" with its turns and drop-offs, from Caranavi to La Paz, Bolivia, to get Jay to the airport in time for her return flight to the US. The taxi driver was not fit to drive overnight, so Mitch had to drive it, which was his first time driving that road. The dust created a 'brown-out' when vehicles passed, and dense fog filled the high mountains. God was with them! The Assemblies of God now has total responsibility and ownership of Radio Television Caranavi, following a three-year process. The TV is on the air, and the radio is available online. We praise God for that answered prayer!

Ekka's School in India - 54 students are now attending the school ministry, which is from preschool to 2nd grade. Your prayers for the teachers, who are called Kingdom workers, are greatly appreciated.

Gloria Traveling to Kenya - Gloria will be traveling on November 13 with a team from Houston, TX, to have an eye camp in Ngong, outside of Nairobi. The Kibera church has been making efforts to start a church plant there. Pray that this eye service and opportunity to hear the Truth will bring more people to faith in that area. They will also attend a service at Ewuaso Osiligi Rescue Center and School, primarily attended by Maasai people, with four confirmands and several baptism candidates.

Vincent and Julia - They have felt God directing them to the children and have held two Sunday School seminars (like VBS) attended by 250 children. They were also well attended by adults, who drifted in to participate in the teaching, standing around to catch a glimpse. As the seminars progressed, more men and women expressed interest in volunteering and taking an active role in the events. Multiple village leaders have requested workshops in their villages. Praise God!

Thank you for your partnership in ministry!

In Christ,


 Kyle Scott, Executive Director



**WORLD
MISSION
PRAYER
LEAGUE**

TOGETHER IN CHRIST, GLOBAL PRAYER & MOBILIZATION

232 Clifton Avenue
 Minneapolis, MN 55403-3466
 wmpl@wmpl.org
 612.871.6843
 wmpl.org

4837 52A St
 Camrose, AB T4V 1W5
 canada@wmpl.org
 780.672.0464
 wmpl.org



*It is the right of every woman to give birth...
And the right of every baby to be born!*

November 28, 2025

Dear Friend of Birthright,

Believing in the right of every woman to give birth to her child with dignity, and the right of every child to be born is the ministry of Birthright.

Without the benefits of any large endowments, Birthright relies on the generosity and good will of churches and individuals. Birthright's concern is always the baby. We continue to pray for all expectant mothers and their babies.

We thank you for your continued support of Birthright and prayerfully ask you to continue to support our ministry.

Thank you and may you have a happy and Blessed Christmas.

With gratitude,

Joanne Uetz, SSJ

Joanne Uetz, SSJ
Director



CHURCH COUNCIL



Notes from Council:

We will be giving highlights from our last council meeting each month in Echoes. Once the minutes are approved from the previous month, they will be available in the Narthex.

Council met on Tuesday November 11th

Treasurer's report - The deficit has reduced by \$10,805. We are grateful to all.

Evangelism - The committee needs additional members and a chairman. We hope members of the congregation will consider joining this committee.

Investment - Alan Hinkle is stepping down as chair of the committee. We thank him for his hard work and dedication to the committee.

Property - Council approved \$1,700 to replace a leaking valve and auto fill on the boiler. The toilets throughout the church have been replaced. Council has asked Property to look at the area around the ramp from the parking lot to the portico as water was pouring over the gutter during the last rain. Benet has agreed to become chair of the committee.

Stewardship - The committee continues the campaign to shrink the deficit.

Family Ministry - 19 care packages have been prepared by the participants of the Family Sunday School class to send to college students and military servicemen.

New Business - Council approved \$3,302 to be used from the Memorial fund for new computers and necessary programing for the office.

As always if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please talk to any of the council members. If you are unsure who we are, our pictures are in the Narthex.

Respectfully,
Janice Donnelly, Council President.

Can We Talk Money?

Give to Holy Trinity During Retirement Years through A Qualified Charitable Distribution

The end of the year is approachng, and that means it is time to think about tax-efficient year-end giving!

Retirement-age individuals and couples may find that they don't need income from their traditional IRAs in certain years or all years. Their other sources of income may be sufficient.

Some may not want all of the IRA income because these withdrawals are subject to ordinary income tax, and more taxable income may push these IRA owners into a higher tax bracket. In particular, a higher tax bracket can have adverse impacts on Social Security payments and Medicare benefits.



Regardless, when you reach age 73 the IRS mandates that traditional IRA owners take annual income withdrawals, known as Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs). Failure to take these withdrawals could subject you to stiff penalties.

Thankfully, charitably-minded individuals and couples age 70½ and older have a tax-smart strategy available with traditional IRAs: the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). The QCD allows a donor to instruct a traditional IRA¹ administrator to send up to \$108,000 per year—all or part of the annual Required Minimum Distribution—to an operating charity. Couples who submit tax returns with married filing jointly status each qualify for an annual QCD of up to \$108,000.

You must specify that your IRA distribution goes directly to a designated charity or charities so that you do not need to report the Qualified Charitable Distribution as taxable income, and you do not owe any taxes on the QCD. In addition, the assets can be put to good use by your favorite operating charity (**think Holy Trinity!**), making QCDs a win-win strategy.

Sometimes you may also find that the QCD provides greater tax savings than cash donations for which charitable tax deductions are claimed. This is because Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) is reduced, as shown in the following case study, and AGI is used in several key

calculations, such as determining the taxable portion of Social Security benefits or what deductions and credits donors qualify for receiving.

In addition, although the QCD is not deductible as a charitable contribution a Qualified Charitable Distribution allows a donor to receive a tax benefit even if the donor does not itemize deductions. This is the result of the QCD being excluded from taxable income.

Case Study: Enhancing Tax Savings with A QCD Gift

Bob will submit tax returns with the single filing status and have ordinary income of \$80,000 in 2025. Bob is 75 years old in 2025 and needs to take a Required Minimum Distribution from his traditional IRA. In this instance, Bob's IRA is valued at \$1,050,000, resulting in a projected RMD of \$42,683 (\$1,050,000 divided by the IRS mandated age 75 distribution period amount of 24.6). If Bob makes a QCD for \$3,000, his adjusted gross income is reduced to \$77,000. If Bob takes the standard deduction, as most people do, he saves the tax on \$3,000. The reduced income may also reduce taxes on Social Security benefits and Medicare premiums.

Holy Trinity is prepared to receive your gift and, in fact, has already received a QCD gift.

If you think a Qualified Charitable Distribution is for you, contact your IRA administrator.

If you need more information, contact your financial advisor or call Alan Hinkle at 215-704-4511.



**QUALIFIED CHARITABLE
DISTRIBUTION FROM YOUR IRA**



Calling all Carolers....

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS IN ADVENT!

To bring the joy and hope of Jesus this Advent season we'll be caroling indoors at a few retirement communities where some of our long-time members now live.



Please prayerfully consider joining us
a few of the Sundays in Advent, **Dec. 7 & 21.**

We will meet in Fellowship Hall at 11:30 a.m. for a light lunch,
then carpool to the venues. We will be singing from 1:30 ~ 2:30 p.m.

December 7th at Rydal Park in Jenkintown

December 21st at Ann's Choice in Warminster

Sign-up sheet in the Narthex so we know how many sandwiches to order.



Friendly Gingerbread House building Competition Sunday, Dec. 7 during the Sunday school hour.

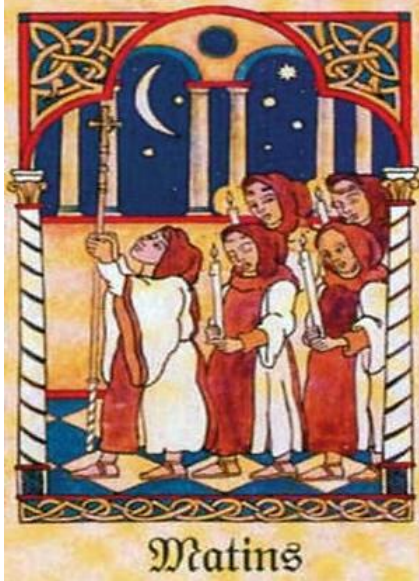


*on December 21 we will gather for
Cookies & Carols in Fellowship Hall *



“Prayer belongs to the church and indeed is the chief bastion of the church” (Melanchthon). Sing to God’s glory, meditate on God’s word, and intercede for God’s people with Holy Trinity.

ADVENT MORNING PRAYER



Matins services,
**every weekday morning
in December**
(including December 25),

9:30-10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER

Vespers services, **Wednesdays in Advent**
December 3, 10, and 17

6:00 – 6:30 p.m. – Musical recitals

Dec. 3: Mark Hughes, piano

Dec. 10: Pennsylvania Youth Chorale

Dec. 17: Thomas Hobson Williams and
Brian Freer, sax with string quartet

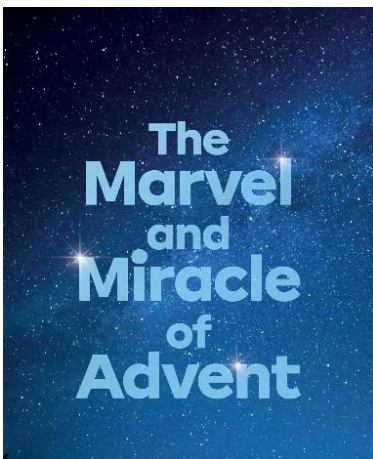
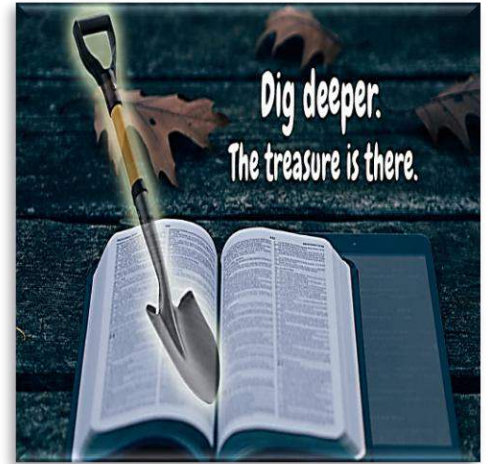
6:30 – 7:00 p.m. – Vespers

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. – Dinner + discussion



3 Adult Learning Opportunities continue ...
Here is an opportunity to dig deeper into each week's
three Scripture readings with
A Longer Look at the Lessons.

This Bible Study, based on the Bible readings
in our worship, provides information about the
readings and their contexts. The class meets in
Fellowship Hall stage end at 10:30 a.m. each
Sunday. Pastor Guenzel facilitates the discussion.
All older teens and adults are welcome!



Join Tom Schied in the study **beginning Sunday, November 30th** for a 4 week study **The Marvel and Miracle of Advent** by Christine Caine & Lisa Harper.

This study aims to move beyond seasonal waiting
to a more active and joyful anticipation, encouraging
participants to recapture the wonder of Christ's love and
share the hope of the gospel with others.

It emphasizes that God's kindness is not earned by
behavior but is a gift through Jesus's presence.

REASON FOR HOPE: APOLOGETICS WITHOUT APOLOGY

A course on living out 1 Peter 3: 15:

"In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy,
always being prepared to make a defense to
anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope
that is in you."

12 Sundays, September - December 2025

Fellowship Hall Led by Pastor Maurice



Men's Devotional Group

Date: Sunday, December 7th

Time: 3:00 PM

Place: The Iron Abbey

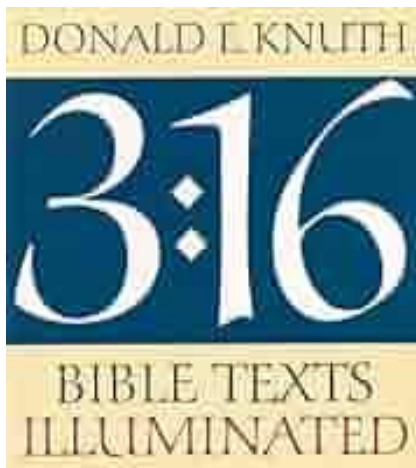
680 Easton Road, Horsham

(215) 956 - 9600

Menu: ironabbey.com

RSVP only if you plan to attend

Tom Schied @ tom831@hotmail.com



Thursday morning Meanderings
with Pastor Maurice

3:16 Bible Texts Illuminated

Thursdays in Dec. 4th, 11th, & 18th
at 10:00 a.m.

Bagels and such on the house of course!
Join us for stimulating discussions
& lively conversations.



The NALC Advent & Christmas Devotional can be downloaded here:
thenalc.org/en-us/advent/



Frysville Farms offers your choice of three beautiful colors and prices that match 2019 costs! Thanks be to God!

Poinsettia Order Form

Deadline: December 8, 2025

\$_____ Red Poinsettias (6 1/2" plant) @\$10.00 per plant

\$_____ White Poinsettias (6 1/2" plant) @\$10.00 per plant

\$_____ White Glitter Poinsettias (6 1/2" plant) @\$10.00 per plant
to see a picture visit frysvillefarms.com

*Plants **must** be taken home
after the service on Christmas Eve.*

Dedicate or memorialize as follows:

To the glory of God and (with thanks for the life of ... / with gratitude for...)

Your Name:

Enclose your order with payment, checks payable to Holy Trinity
and place in the offering plate.



Joy in Giving

Then the people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the LORD. David the king also rejoiced greatly. (1 Chronicles 29:9)

As we approach the end of the calendar year, we encourage you to review your giving to your church and consider a year-end contribution. God continues to bless us every minute of every day with His saving love and grace. Our giving as stewards of God's gifts not only reflects our love for Christ, but for the mission and ministry of the Church. The scripture tells us that the people of Israel in the time of King David rejoiced because they had given *willingly with a whole heart*.

God continues to bless us every minute of every day with His saving love and grace. Our giving as stewards of God's gifts not only reflects our love for Christ, but also for the mission and ministry of the Church of Jesus.

We are not giving just to fulfill a budget. We are giving because that is what Christ calls us to as his disciples. The One who gave His very life for us on a cruel cross now calls us to likewise give in His Name to His mission and ministry, with a cheerful heart, in gratitude for God's indescribable gift (2 Corinthians 9:7, 15).

We can give through the weekly envelopes provided by the church. Pick up your envelopes for 2026 in the Fellowship Hall. An easier way of giving is by electronic transfer with regular withdrawals from your financial institution, which usually has no service charge. Or you can give through the Simply Giving program. Find out about Simply Giving by picking up a brochure in the Narthex.

Thank you for your faithful support of the ministry of Holy Trinity by your regular giving!

In Christ,

Holy Trinity Stewardship Committee

2ND **FRIDAY NIGHT** *ers*

DECEMBER 12TH

We start at 6:30 p.m. no sign up required.
Each month has a theme. Bring a dish to share.

This month's theme:

COOKIES!!!

Please bring your favorite cookie(s) to share.
All leftover cookies will be donated
to the Bread of Heaven Food Pantry.

There will be Christmas trivia
and a Christmas Song Quiz
with a prize for who gets
the most correct.



2nd Friday Nighters is a group of adults who get together
once a month for food and fellowship. Come out and get
to know your fellow church members a little better.

Questions: Contact Susan Schied slschied@verizon.net



Sounds of the Season

a Winter Concert

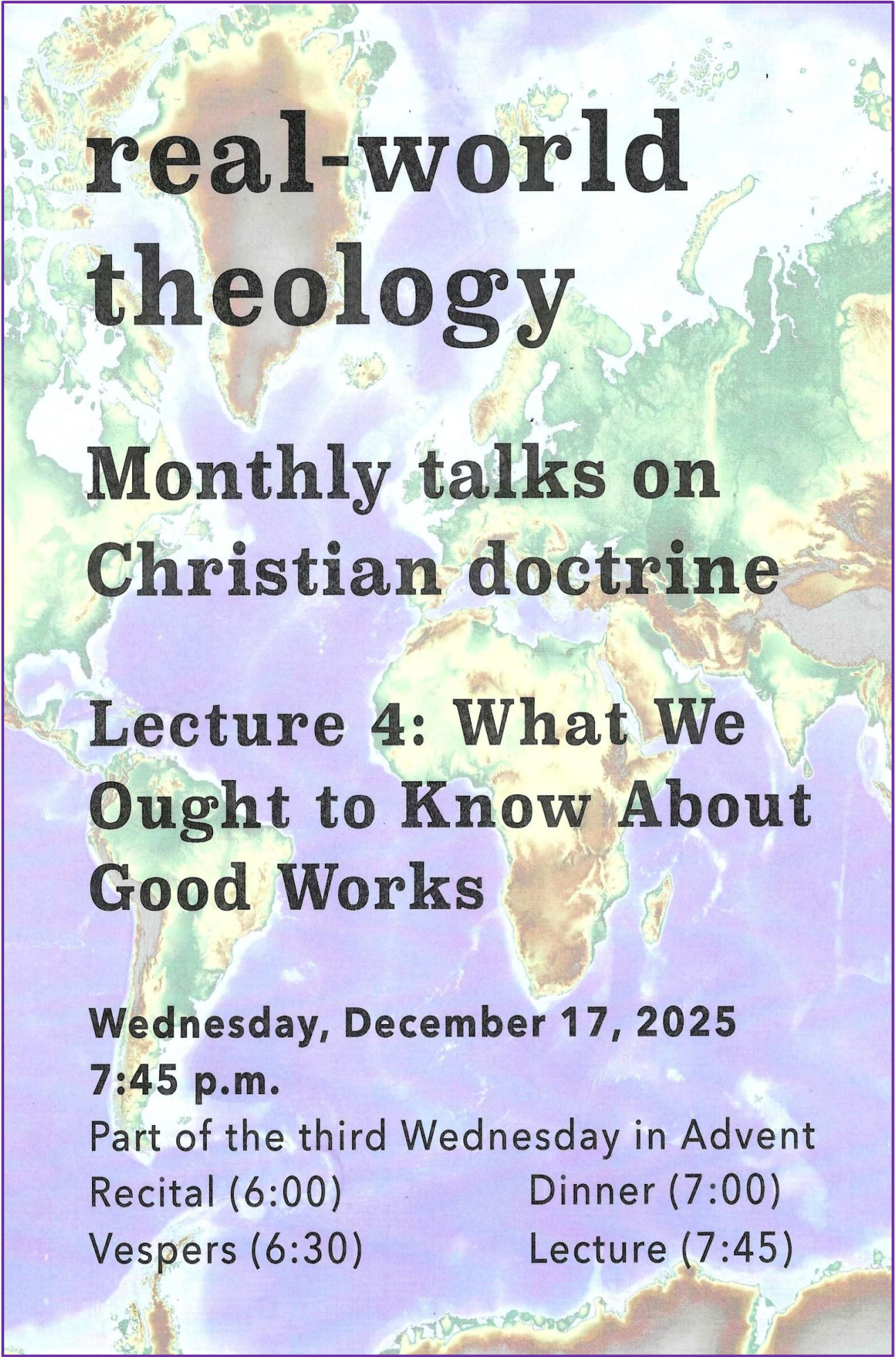
Sun. December 14, 2025
at 4:00pm

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Abington, PA

Tickets available at the door for ages 5+
\$15 (cash/check) or \$17 (Venmo)



Pennsylvania Youth Chorale
INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS THROUGH MUSIC



real-world theology

**Monthly talks on
Christian doctrine**

Lecture 4: What We Ought to Know About Good Works

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

7:45 p.m.

Part of the third Wednesday in Advent

Recital (6:00)

Dinner (7:00)

Vespers (6:30)

Lecture (7:45)

**Your \$10 Donation
Covers...**



**SENDING
YOUR SHOEBOX AROUND
THE WORLD**

and Other Project Costs

We packed **492 shoeboxes** at our church Operation Christmas Child packing party on November 15. We are now asking you to consider helping us defray the suggested shipping cost of **\$10/box** (not the actual cost as Samaritan's Purse absorbs the remainder).

Please place whatever you feel led to give in an envelope and mark it "**OCC Shipping.**" You may place it in the offering or leave it in the office. Thank YOU!

Christ's Home Christmas Collection for Children and Teens

Christ's
Home

Consider making a contribution of:

Diapers of all sizes and/or

Select and purchase an item
from the Amazon wish list



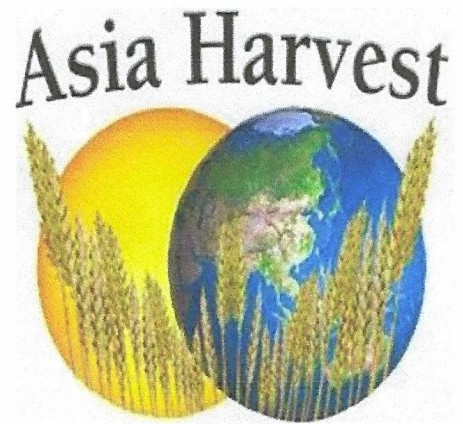
www.christshome.org/how-to-help/donate/

If you are not a shopper, cash or check made out to Holy Trinity with "Christ's Home" in the memo line would be truly appreciated.

Bring any gifts to the marked collection basket in the narthex.

Will You Give Bibles to New Believers?

A core need for any new Christian is a Bible. Having one's own copy of the Word of God is a precious gift to thousands, if not millions, who are hearing the Gospel for the first time and responding. Asia Harvest believes that the Gospel must be preached to every nation, tribe, and tongue. So they focus on outreach to thousands of people groups throughout Asian countries, who have not yet heard the Word.



Asia Harvest is a small organization following the command of Matthew 24:14 to proclaim the Gospel throughout the entire world, and then Jesus will come. They are our evangelistic hands and feet halfway around the world, which is why Pastor Maurice and your Social Ministry committee feel it is vital that we continue providing them with **Bibles for New Believers.**



Asia Harvest states, "Providing God's Word is central to our mission to nourish and establish new believers in their faith." They go on to note the significant shortage of Bibles in Asian countries where millions of new Christians still lack access to one. Sometimes a church is blessed to have just one copy.

A Bible costs an average of \$3 to print and deliver in Asia. How many will you consider giving as a gift to new believers who, more than anything else, desire God's Word to hold in their own hands and read, just like you can do every day, any time you wish?

Please place your contribution (check made out to Holy Trinity with "Asia Harvest" in the memo section) in an envelope marked "Asia Harvest Bibles."



HOLY COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

After the Agnus Dei, the choir and the organist will be communed at the altar. Then the ushers will release the rest of the congregation, pew by pew.

Those who wish to commune at the altar will line up on the left (lectern) side of the center aisle. (You need not be sitting on the left side of the sanctuary to join this line.)

- These communicants will be invited in groups of approximately 25 to mount the lectern-side stairs into the chancel; they will take positions around the altar as indicated by the minister.
- Kneeling to receive the body and blood of Christ is customary, but those for whom kneeling would be difficult may stand.
- The entire table will be dismissed at the same time, and all will leave the chancel by way of the lectern-side steps and return to their seats by way of the side aisle before the next table is gathered.

Those who wish to commune at the station in the nave will line up on the right (pulpit) side of the center aisle. (You need not be sitting on the right side of the sanctuary to join this line.)

- These communicants may proceed directly, one by one, to receive the body and blood of Christ.
- They will return to their seats by way of the side aisle on the pulpit side.

Any who are not communing, including children, may come forward in either line to receive a blessing.

Don't forget to worship with your Holy Trinity family on Christmas Eve



Christmas Eve, December 24, 2025

7:00 PM Carols

7:30 PM Holy Communion



For the month of November we served **165 guests** with a total of **644 served**.
With **18 new guests** for just three Thursdays in November.



***Bread of Heaven* Christmas Meal Collection: for Homemade Chili Dinner**

We will be putting together Christmas Bags
for our guests at the *Bread of Heaven*
Food Pantry for 3 Thursdays in December.



Donations needed for these items:

**Diced Tomatoes, Kidney Beans, Corn bread mix, potatoes au gratin,
Chili Seasoning packets, canned diced tomatoes with chilies, cake mix,
and money to purchase ground beef and peppers.**

*Thanks be to God for the outpouring of His Holy Spirit which inspires
Holy Trinity's faithful disciples to provide so generously to those in need!*



The Bread of Heaven Food Pantry would like to show a small taste
of kindness and the wonder of Christmas to our guests by giving out
homemade cookies. Precisely, we need **2,400 cookies**.

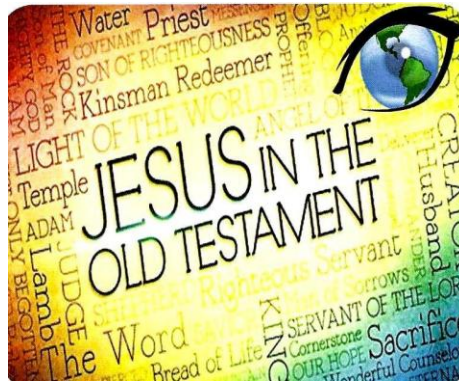
This large undertaking can be achieved with your help.

Please donate any kind of homemade cookies
(please no peanut butter or nuts)

We will be collecting cookies **each Sunday of Advent**.

*If you have any unused Christmas Cards that you would like
to provide with your cookie donation along with a Christmas
message that would be greatly appreciated!

Lutheran Church Women's Circle Bible Study



December Topic

In November the ladies Bible study looked at God's calling of Abraham and the promise of blessings but how Abraham's life is like all people's: full of ups and downs.

In December we will compare the wait for the son of the promise to Abraham with the son promised to Zechariah. The connection between the two might also help us understand why the coming of Jesus was so long awaited as well. It will be a short lesson (half the length) because for the December study we usually have other things to do as well (like cookie or gift swapping)!

★ DECEMBER CIRCLES ★

Eve Circle - Thursday, December 4 at 6:00 p.m. in the SS Peter and Andrew Study.

Leader: Noreen Weld (215) 659-8089 lajennyda@aol.com

Miriam Circle - Monday, December 8 at 12:30 p.m. in the Study and Zoom

Leader: Sandy Schmidt (215) 657-5065 sandyschmidt19001@yahoo.com

Ruth Circle - Sunday, December 14 at 11:45 a.m. in the SS Peter & Andrew Study.

Leader: Katie Beyer (215) 572 - 6864 kbeyer0403@gmail.com

Hannah Circle - Monday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. in Sons of Thunder Youth room.

Contact: Deb Mumford (267) 210-1789 Debssam@msn.com



It's an easy way to shop and a great way to help...

Holy Trinity LCW have Giant Food Stores Gift Cards for purchase.

If you are interested in obtaining Giant Gift Cards, contact Nancy Ischinger, she will complete your orders. Cash purchases are always welcome. All checks for gift cards should be made payable to "HTLCW". HTLCW receives a 5% cash back award for each card sold which goes to our scholarship fund. Thank you for your support.

Profits from Giant Gift Card Purchases Do Good Works

Those who purchase Giant Food Store gift cards help the women of Holy Trinity to do good works. The women realize 5% or \$50 of every \$1000 sold. In 2025, the women were able to accomplish the following with these proceeds:

- Purchase 30 pairs of Jockey monthly underwear for the girls 10-14 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.
- Provide \$250 in Target gift cards for the 10 women living at the Life Turning Point, a Christian home in Philadelphia for single women and their children.
- Provide for students at Penn State Abington who are food insecure and lack sufficient funds for certain supplies: 4 containers of 112 Tide laundry pods each, 40 rolls of toilet paper, and 12 bottles of hand soap.
- Cover registration costs for women attending NALC conferences and provide scholarships as needed for our women attending our retreat.

We appreciate every purchase of these gift cards and encourage you to continue doing so. Cards are sold in \$25 increments, and you may purchase as many as you wish. To buy Giant cards, see Nancy Ischinger. Pay in cash or checks made out to "HTLCW."





Christmas greetings from your library staff!
We hope you will make time to visit.

May God bless you at Christmas and always,
Linda K., Noreen, Sandy S., Linda F.,
Debbie, Nancy M., Beth, Sandy M.



Well, it's not too late.

Two weeks ago we filled out pledge cards
and dropped them in the Jehoiada chest.

Remember, a pledge card focuses on the spiritual
concept of responding to God's generosity personally.

Sure, there's offering envelopes and other ways to show
financial commitment (e.g., EFT through your bank,
donations directly to the church, the Lutheran Church Women keep a
Thanksgiving box that collects donations for whatever a person wants to
specifically thank God for).



But a pledge card demonstrates through the grace of God, and in thanksgiving for
all of God's blessings, that we pledge our gifts towards ministering to our
community. Giving is a spiritual discipline and an aspect of our relationship with
God.

Will the 'Pledge Card Police' come after me if I don't meet my pledge?

No, of course not. The quarterly statement you receive will show your total
contributions against your pledged amount. No one is going to call and demand
you make up the difference. A pledge helps your dedication and recognition of
God's generosity in your life.

Imagine our church having so much blessing from God that we can pour it out on
our neighbors!

There are pledge cards in the Narthex for you to complete and drop into the
offering plate. Thank you for your generosity and commitment!

~ Sarnelli House Needs ~

Men's & Women's coats & warm jackets
Men's jeans esp. waist sizes 32, 34, 36

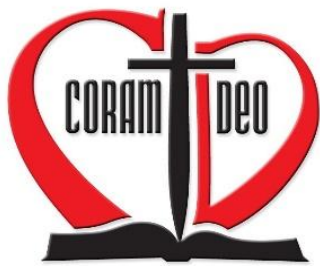
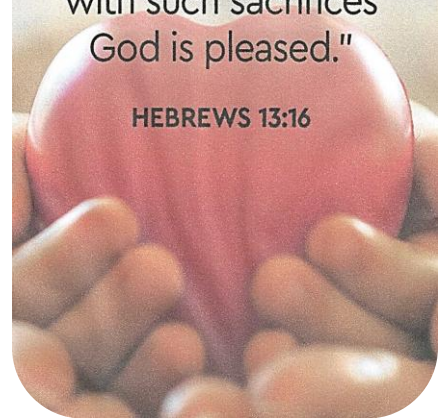
Women's jeans Hoodies
Gloves Knit caps
Blankets

Underwear and socks are always in need.

Leave your donations in the Narthex.

"And do not forget
to do good and to
share with others, for
with such sacrifices
God is pleased."

HEBREWS 13:16



Coram Deo

Meeting once a month on the 2nd Monday of each month
in the SS Peter & Andrew Study at 7:30 p.m.

All are invited to join - even if it's "just for one book".

Books we are reading for the monthly gatherings:

December 8 - *The Ladies' Paradise* by Emile Zola

**January 12 - *Shop Class As Soulcraft: An Inquiry into the Value of Work*
by Matthew Crawford**

**February 9 - *The Good Neighbor; The Life and Work of Fred Rogers*
by Maxwell King**

**March 9 - *A Sportsman's Notebook (aka Sportsman's Sketches)*
by Ivan Turgenev**



SINGLE SERVE OPPORTUNITY

SUNDAY, DEC. 28 10:30 AM

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

**HELP MAKE OUR HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY
A ROARING SUCCESS!**

The volunteer sign-up sheet is in the Narthex as well as a sign-up sheet
for attendance. Bring your children & grandchildren for a fun event!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

*Happy
Birthday*


**JESUS
PARTY**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE SEASON!

You're invited to take part in our Nativity Pageant
and celebrate with us at our
Happy Birthday Jesus party.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28TH

10:30 AM

Children of all ages

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
2086 Parkview Ave., Abington
(215) 659 - 2642**



December Worship Assistants Schedule



December 7

Usher 3	Lector- Sat Linda Cassady	Cantor Deb Mumford
Stream Rob	Sun Erica Walsh	Acolyte Dave Tolton
Team Ischinger	Christophers Sue & Deb	Crucifer Charlie Tolton
Healing Nancy		
Prayer King-Berkovitz		

December 14

Usher 4	Lector - Sat Bruce Freer	Cantor Sophia Breslin
Stream Charlie	Sun John Bleimaier	Acolyte Scott Brown
Team Tolton	Christophers Sherry & Linda	Crucifer Suzanne Brown
Healing Wayne		
Prayer Laudenslager		

December 21

Usher 5	Lector-Sat Karen McGovern	Cantor Ravinia Lee
Stream Gloria	Sun Linda Borkowski	Acolyte Sherry Breslin
Team Ischinger	Christophers Beth & Frank	Crucifer Otis Bricker
Healing Sue		
Prayer Tolton		

December 24

Usher 4	Lector Scott Brown	Acolyte Steph Templeton
		Crucifer Allan Shikhvarg
Torchbearers	Bookbearer	Stream Team Hannah Mumford

December 28

Usher 1	Lector Sat Linda Cassady	Cantor
Stream Rob	Sun Larry Guenzel	Acolyte Linda Borkowski
Team Ischinger	Christophers Nancy & Wayne	Crucifer Sherri Gregg
Healing Deb		
Prayer Mumford		

If you cannot serve please contact someone on the list and find a replacement.

If you cannot find a replacement simply contact the office
(215) 659-2642 or email Deb at secretary@holyltrinity.net

Called to *Serve*

DECEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 ADVENT 1 9:00 Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School Pre-K thru Adult 11:30 Advent Wreath making 6:00 NA	1 6:00 NA 7:00 Women's Prayer Group	2	3  6:00	4 10:00 Bread of Heaven 10:00 Meanderings 6:00 Eve Circle 6:30 Handbell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir	5 7:30 AA	6 5:00 Holy Communion 6:30 Penn State Dinner 7:00 AA
7 ADVENT 2 9:00 Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School Pre-K thru Adult 11:30 Gingerbread house making 11:30 Council 1:30 Caroling at Rydal Park	8 12:30 Miriam Circle 6:00 NA 7:30 Coram Deo	9	10  6:00	11 10:00 Bread of Heaven 10:00 Meanderings 6:30 Handbell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir	12 6:30 FRIDAY NIGHT 7:30 AA	13 5:00 Holy Communion 7:00 AA
14 ADVENT 3 9:00 Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School Pre-K thru Adult 11:45 Ruth Circle 4:00 PYC Concert 6:00 NA	15 6:00 NA 7:00 Hannah Circle	16	17  6:00	18 10:00 Bread of Heaven 10:00 Meanderings 6:30 Handbell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir	19 7:30 AA	20 5:00 Holy Communion 7:00 AA
21 ADVENT 4 9:00 Holy Communion 1:30 Caroling at Ann's Choice 6:00 NA	22 6:00 NA	23	24  7:00 Carol sing 7:30 Holy Communion	25 OFFICE CLOSED 	26 7:30 AA	27 5:00 Holy Communion 7:00 AA
28 Christmas 1 9:00 Holy Communion  Party 6:00 NA	29 6:00 NA	30	31 			

SPECIAL DATES:

Advent Matins - 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
every weekday morning Dec. 1 - Dec. 24

Advent Vespers - December 3, 10 & 17

6:00 p.m. Music

6:30 p.m. Vespers

7:00 p.m. Dinner

7:30 p.m. Topic/Event

Merry Christmas



AND A

