



TRINITY STEEPLE NOTES

November - December 2025

TRINITY TOGETHER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

For All the Saints: Service Planning We don't like to think about death, yet it is a natural part of our shared humanity. Have you ever thought about how you would like to be remembered and celebrated when you enter the Church Triumphant? One gift you can give your loved ones is filling out our Trinity Funeral Service Form. Do you have particular hymns or scripture that is meaningful to you? Join us to discern your hopes and wishes.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Holy Communion! We share in the Lord's Supper every Sunday. How would you explain this sacrament to a person who has never been to a Christian worship service? This forum is specifically designed for all ages as we help Nina Litvinov prepare for her First Communion on November 23.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Mission Possible: Stories from New Haven Come hear the joyful stories from Jacinda, Declan, Danielle, Andrew, and Dcs. Deborah who spent a week in June serving and learning. A special invitation to those who invested in our youth through the 2025 Youth Stock Sale!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Coffee Talk with Pastor Hans We welcome our senior pastor back after his family leave. Come to reconnect with him and hear about family life with a newborn!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Trinity Advent Breakfast Start the Advent season in fellowship with our Trinity community. We will have a delicious breakfast cooked by Chef Mal Mitchell.

DECEMBER SUNDAY FORUMS

Will be on a variety of Advent topics led by Pr. Hans—details to follow!

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KRISTALLNACHT: THE NIGHT OF BROKEN GLASS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

CIRCLE OF LIGHT VIGIL - 6:30 PM OUTDOORS

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE - 7:00 PM IN THE NAVE

We are grateful to support our covenant partner while the restoration of their worship space continues by holding this year's annual Kristallnacht remembrance service at Trinity. This service offers a moment for us to join together with people of all faiths, honoring the memories of those affected by the tragic events of Kristallnacht in 1938, which marked a dark chapter in history.

As we gather, we not only reflect on the past but also reaffirm our commitment to peace, understanding, and mutual respect in our community. The service will include prayers, reflections, and music, offering a time to stand in solidarity and resilience against hatred and division.

Before the service, a Circle of Light outdoor vigil will be held at 6:30 p.m., allowing us to join in a candlelit tribute to honor those whose lives were lost or forever changed and standing united in remembrance and hope.

Let us come together as a faith community to honor the past and foster a spirit of compassion and unity for our future.

GIVING THANKS

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 26 AT 6:00PM, ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

This year, Trinity has been invited to join the Common Ground Recovery Community on Thanksgiving Eve. They will have a traditional Thanksgiving meal at 6:00 p.m. followed by a Thanksgiving Eve service at 7:00 p.m. with Atonement Lutheran Church - 5 Wyomissing Blvd, Wyomissing, PA 19610

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COMMUNITY ESL CONVERSATION DINNER

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11 AT 6:00 PM

Trinity has joined an initiative focusing on education to strengthen our community. The Harwood Institute started working in Reading back in 2021 in partnership with Centro Hispano and has identified 3 focus areas: English as a Second Language, After- and Out-of-School Activities, and Early Childhood Education.

Last February, we hosted a delicious dinner for 60 people. Mike Faust and Maggie Shelly are once again co-coordinating this dinner which is part of a monthly community dinner series to create safe community spaces for English-language learners to practice English and enjoy time with community members. Opportunities to volunteer include providing food or monetary donations, setting up, sitting at a table to encourage English conversation, and cleaning up. Sign-up sheets will be in the narthex! Speak to Mike or Maggie if you are interested in helping.

To learn more about what’s happening in our community, you can read this article from April 2024:



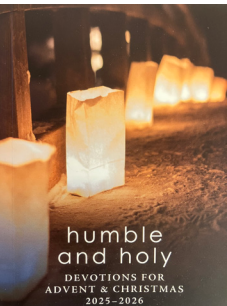
ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 10, & 17 AT 12:05 PM

Take some time to slow down during the hectic holiday season. Our 25-minute Eucharist service will be held in the Chapel and will include songs, scripture, and Holy Communion.

ADVENT AT TRINITY

HUMBLE AND HOLY: DEVOTIONS FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS



The devotional books will be available in the Narthex starting on November 23. While there is no cost for a devotional book, donations to support this ministry are always welcome.

ON BUDGETS AND BABIES



Every morning, part of my routine is taking a look at our family's budgeting software. Often, all I have to do is categorize a couple of transactions, but a few times a month I go through and see where we stand in each budget item, large or small. While this might seem like unnecessary work, it helps us as a family to see whether or not we are living within our means. Even more importantly, it helps us to ensure that our use of money matches our values.

In the past couple of months, what friends have told me for years has started showing up in my spreadsheets—babies are expensive! Even with an abundance of generous gifts from friends, family, and people from Trinity, Nels' arrival

hasn't just caused a sleep deficit. Although we saved for this blessed new reality, there is no doubt that our lives—and our budget—will never be the same!

As we retool our budget for three Becklins, there is one area where I don't expect any changes: our tithe to Trinity and Faith United. Marissa and I have tithed—given 10% of our income—to God's work through the church since we were first married. We've tithed in lean times and in good times, and it's always worked out. Other than our mortgage, it's our largest single expense each month.

When we tell people this—even faithful, churchgoing Christians—they sometimes look at us with astonishment. It is just too much! Although the scriptures prescribe a tithe, specifically of agricultural products like grain, wine, and oil (see Deuteronomy 14:23), many Christians don't continue this ancient practice today.

Why do we? Well, we believe in sacrificial giving to God's mission and ministry. And as a tightly-wound, detail-oriented person, I value a benchmark for sacrifice—a hard number I can plug into my software and my spreadsheets. But we're not bound by the benchmark. When there has been a surplus for us, we've occasionally been able to give even more to capital campaigns and to the social ministries of the larger church—pushing our giving above 10%.

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But it's not about hitting some magic number or getting bonus points. It's about ensuring that we are living our lives in response to God's gifts of life and grace. Some people living with limited means might run the numbers and find a tithe impossible, while others might realize that, to really feel the burn of sacrifice, they'd have to give more than 10% to God's work. When I've talked to people who give beyond a tithe, they have only hardened my resolve—they report that helping to do God's work in the world is so much more enriching than another vacation or a newer car.

Yes, when I look over my budget every month and see those large numbers going to do God's work, I don't fret. Instead I rejoice—because I know that these dollars become the tools of salvation through the Church's ministry—bread and wine for the Lord's table, coffee for fellowship, music that praises and glorifies God, technology that shares the gospel message far and wide, the counsel and care of wise deacons and pastors, the vanguard work of missionaries, food for the hungry, and so much more.

-Pr. Hans

NELS MALCOM BECKLIN'S BAPTISM AT TRINITY! SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28 AT 10:00 AM

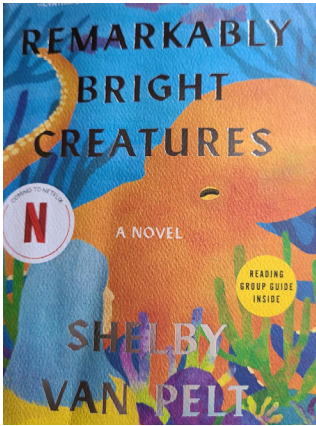


Joint Eucharist with Faith United (Pastor Marissa's congregation) as we continue to celebrate Christ's birth and welcome Nels Malcom Becklin into God's family.

As a sign of both congregations' participation—along with the participation of the wider church in this sacrament—Bishop Christopher deForest of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod will preach and Bishop Stephen Herr of the Lower Susquehanna Synod will preside at the Baptism. Pastors Hans and Marissa, as pastors loci, will lead the remaining portions of the service.

With two congregations attending, we envision that parking will be especially challenging on this date, so plan to park offsite and carpool if you can.

CALLING ONE AND ALL BOOK LOVERS!



If you are an avid reader and enjoy conversation and discussion about books, please consider joining Trinity's book club. We meet every other month on a Thursday evening. Our next gathering will meet on November 13 and the book the group will be discussing will be Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt.

This is a delightfully warmhearted and engaging story about grief, friendship, home, letting go, with a little bit of mystery and a lot of humor, and a wonderful friendship that grows between an octopus and an aquarium worker. Sounds strange indeed, but the lessons learned are invaluable. Two of the members of book club stated, "It was one of the best books I have ever read." So please consider joining us. Men, you too, we

welcome all! If you are interested, please speak to or contact Ginny Biniek, Anita Dolak, Jill Hull, Berni Ilgen, Charlie Norton, Jan Opalinski, Donna Osborne, or Beth Welz for further details. Hope to see you there!

SAVE THE DATE: 50TH MEDIA ANNIVERSARY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11 AT 10:00AM

From the very first broadcast on Berks Cable on January 11, 1976, to today, we're celebrating half a century of local media history! Join us for a milestone celebration. Details to be announced.

ANGEL TREE ADVENT/CHRISTMAS PROJECT

ADOPTING RESIDENTS FROM A DAYSPRING HOME AND
THE LIGHTHOUSE WOMEN AND CHILDREN’S CENTER

This year we have the opportunity to share God’s love and Christmas cheer. Beginning November 16, you will find Angel Tree Tags on the tree in the Narthex.

Dayspring Homes provides a continuum of care which meets the ongoing needs of people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities within a Christian Environment. Learn more by scanning the QR code.



LightHouse Women’s & Children’s Center provides temporary housing to women and children experiencing homelessness. Learn more by scanning the QR code.

You may take a tag from the tree, write your name on Angel Tree gift form, and bring your wrapped gifts to Trinity by **Sunday, December 14.**

STEEPLE NOTES EVENT CALENDAR



BRANDI DIGGS AND AKIKO HOSAKI

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29 AT 12:05 PM

Join us for a midday recital featuring American Soprano Brandi Diggs (Atlanta Symphony, Kennedy Center) and pianist Akiko Hosaki. This program showcases the duo's versatility, offering a repertoire that spans centuries and genres. The performance will include Baroque arias by Handel, romantic German Lieder by Schubert, Spanish songs by

Obradors, and selections of American Spirituals by Undine Smith Moore and Jacqueline B. Hairston. A refined program ideal for your noonday break.



ALL SAINTS VESPERS SERVICE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 AT 5:00 PM

A service of reflection, honoring those that have gone on before us and reminding us of God's light in the darkness. Featuring works by T. Tertius Noble & Samuel Barber.

THE MAGIC OF BROADWAY BY READING CHORAL SOCIETY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT 4:00 PM AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Come and enjoy listening to Reading Choral Society, led by Music Director Dr. Graham Bier, perform choral arrangements of many of your favorite tunes from Broadway. This concert includes classics such as "It's a Grand Night for Singing" and "You'll Never Walk Alone" and recent songs from Hamilton and Wicked. Purchase \$15 adult tickets in advance online or from singers Fred Opalinski, Pat McMahon, Rachel Gambone or Matt Hayes.

Buy tickets online using the QR code, or at the door (Adults \$20, Students \$10.)



STEEPLE NOTES EVENT CALENDAR



SONGS OF THANKFULNESS & PRAISE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26 AT 12:05 PM

Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz will present a brief organ recital of joyful and uplifting pieces in preparation for our Thanksgiving celebrations with family and friends.



RADIANCE OF THE RAINBOW

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 AT 4:00 PM

PRE-CONCERT TALK AT 3:30 PM

The Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus, under the direction of Dillon Beede, will present their winter program. Based on the King's College Festival of Lessons and Carols, the program will celebrate LGBTQIA+ identity and community through choral music, poetry, and storytelling. All donations will be

given to our partner organization for the evening, the LGBT Center of Greater Reading. Please join Dillon Beede and the LGBT Center director Laura Biancone and staff member Suzan Fetzer for a pre-concert talk.

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CHRISTMAS AT TRINITY

DECEMBER 24: NATIVITY OF OUR LORD - 5PM



Festival Eucharist celebrating Christ's birth featuring pre-service music by Trinity Brass and a prelude by the Trinity Orchestra led by David Himes. A signup sheet for musicians wishing to play will be made available closer to the service.

At this service, Dcs. Deborah will lead a special teaching time for young people. Pr. Hans will preach and preside; The Mixed Ensemble will lead the music at this service.



DECEMBER 24: NATIVITY OF OUR LORD - 10:30PM



Festival Eucharist at Midnight celebrating Christ's birth with an extended prelude featuring choral, handbell, and organ works performed by Trinity Choir, Trinity Ringers, and Dr. Wentz. Pr. Hans will preach and preside; Trinity Choir will lead the music at this service.

Please note the service will begin at 10:30PM with the Prelude.



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CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AND WORLD HUNGER GIFTS 2025

Once again we will decorate the church with poinsettias and offer financial gifts to alleviate world hunger. Donations of any amount are appreciated (we suggest \$10 per poinsettia). While some poinsettias will be available to take home, there is no guarantee of availability. You may contribute in honor of or in memory of someone you love. Gifts will be acknowledged in the Christmas Eve bulletin insert.

Use the form below and send it with your gift to Trinity’s office by December 8, 2025. May your Christmas be blessed with the love and peace of Christ.

\$_____ Christmas Decorations \$_____ ELCA World Hunger

Given by _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

_____ I would like to take my flowers home.

_____ Please share my flowers with others.

NOVEMBER BROADCAST SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

6:00 PM

WORLD VIEWS

Womenpriests in Contemporary
Catholicism

6:30 PM

MUSIC FROM TRINITY

Brandi Diggs and Akiko Hosaki

7:00 PM

TRINITY WORSHIP SERVICE

WEDNESDAYS

4:00 PM

TRINITY WORSHIP SERVICE

5:00 PM

MUSIC FROM TRINITY

Brandi Diggs and Akiko Hosaki

5:30 PM

WORLD VIEWS

Womenpriests in Contemporary
Catholicism

DECEMBER BROADCAST SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

6:00 PM

WORLD VIEWS

Reform Judaism: Belief and Practice Today

6:30 PM

MUSIC FROM TRINITY

Christmas Bells are Ringing!

7:00 PM

TRINITY WORSHIP SERVICE

WEDNESDAYS

4:00 PM

TRINITY WORSHIP SERVICE

5:00 PM

MUSIC FROM TRINITY

Christmas Bells are Ringing!

5:30 PM

WORLD VIEWS

Reform Judaism: Belief and Practice Today

TRINITY TV

Trinity broadcasts can be watch on Comcast Channel 190. We also stream our worship service live on Sunday mornings to YouTube and Facebook.

Past Music From Trinity programs, Beneath the Steeple episodes, and Worship/Music clips can be found on:

YouTube



Facebook

