



Holy Trinity
Lutheran Church

Engaged by Grace.

WEEKLY

Ministry Announcements for the week of December 7 - 14, 2025

Our Sunday Schedule

- 8:30 am – Morning Prayer with Communion
- 9:20 am – Church Fam Connect
- 10:00 am – Worship in-person and online at www.engagedbygrace.org

New Ministry Opportunities

Planning Ahead for Christmas Eve

Invite your friends and family to join us for any of our worship opportunities on **Wednesday, December 24:**

- **4:00 pm** – Family Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
- **8:00 pm** – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Communion and Choir

Hello from Cyndy Decker and Holy Trinity's LSS Food Pantry Team

As you know, Holy Trinity has been sending a team of 8-10 members twice a month to the LSS Food Pantry on Champion and Frebis Aves. Most months we serve 150 to 180 people during the 3-4 hours that we are there. This past month with the government shut-down, we served 223 on the first Thursday (50 above our normal count). The patrons were very appreciative!

In November, we also had the honor of handing out the *Thankfull* Bags that the Lutheran Churches in Franklin County collected. Holy Trinity alone gathered 150 bags together. Every bit helps and I wish you could have seen the joy on people's faces as they were given not only a *Thankfull* Bag but a Turkey, Bread and lots of Produce from the Mid-Ohio Food Collective.

Most of us have never known the anguish of going to bed hungry. Or the shame felt by parents who can't provide a holiday meal for their children. God bless all of you who were inspired to generously give to those neighbors less fortunate. May your holiday spirit continue throughout the year! -The LSS Food Pantry Team

Cookies for Boulevard Presbyterian Christmas Boxes

Holy Trinity is once again partnering with Boulevard Presbyterian Church in the Community Christmas Box project by donating 40 dozen cookies. Homemade cookies of any kind are welcomed. Please package your cookies in boxes or containers so they can easily be transported and divided at Boulevard. The cookies will create festive plates to be distributed to support survivors of human trafficking through Freedom ala Cart. Be sure to have your cookies on the table in **Holy Trinity's church sacristy** (the room near the parking lot doors just outside of the sanctuary) by **11:00 am Thursday, December 11th**. You can sign up in the Gathering space or at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E44ADA92DA0F9C52-46285693-cookies#/>
Thank you for your ministry to make the Christmas season special for those in need.

Interested in Learning More about Holy Trinity?

An informal gathering will take place on **Sunday, December 14 at 9:15 am** for anyone interested in learning more about Holy Trinity. We'll get to know one another a little better and the ministry we share.

People interested in membership will be received later in the month. For planning purposes, it would be helpful to indicate your interest by emailing Pastor Steve (steve.wachtman@engagedbygrace.org) or Laura Hudson (laura.hudson@engagedbygrace.org) or by signing up at the signup table in the Gathering Space.

Congregational Meeting

A brief congregational meeting for the purposes of electing council members and introducing Breeze, Holy Trinity's new online membership database, will be conducted on **Sunday, December 14 at 11:15 am**, immediately following the 10:00 worship service. See you there!

Hat & Mitten Tree

Holy Trinity will continue its annual tradition of decorating a Hat & Mitten Tree. Everyone is invited to hang handmade or newly purchased hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and socks on the tree. Contributions will be donated to those in need in January when they're needed most.

Concert at Holy Trinity

Please join us **Sunday, December 21 at 4:00 pm** when the Brass Band of Columbus returns with their beloved annual Christmas program, a festive celebration for the whole family. A light reception follows. Come for an afternoon of beautiful music and invite a friend!

Poinsettias

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia(s) to beautify the sanctuary for Christmas, please sign up at the Collection and Signup Corner or contact the church office at 614-486-9433 or email@engagedbygrace.org. The cost is \$8/plant.

Council Meeting Recap – November 2025

Following is a brief recap of the November 2025 Church Council meeting:

- November's Leadership Discussion: Congregational Safety Plan
 - Main Doors remain locked unless reception office is staffed
 - Other doors remain locked at all times
 - Staff remain vigilant about being aware of who is in the building and reporting as needed
 - Church and preschool staff participated in a consultation with UA Police
 - UA police commended us for being proactive with our safety plan
 - Remote access is currently available on CDP door, will soon be installed on front main door
 - Recommended to consider training 8 people to serve as a Community Response Team
- Approval of Consent Agenda including staff and financial reports.
- Ministry Team Updates:
 - Laura Hudson discussed facility use as a ministry. The vision was to have space large enough for activities that don't necessarily involve worship while still building faith and community. Holy Trinity's facility is used for church-sponsored events such as meals, funerals, receptions, youth activities and the Child Development Programs. It is also utilized by Holy Trinity members for private events and community groups for weekly, monthly or annual gatherings. Holy Trinity views this as part of our outreach to the community. Non-member groups do not pay a set fee to use the space but are encouraged to make a donation as they are able.
 - Dan Perry reported on annual gains for Mission Endowment Fund, half of which are used to pay off the loan for the organ. The remaining proceeds are distributed as grants to the community, Southern Ohio Synod or ELCA missions, and Holy Trinity ministry activities. The congregation will have the opportunity to approve the recommendations at the annual meeting in January 2026.

- Council also discussed:
 - The new Breeze database and online directory which will be introduced to the congregation as part of the congregational meeting on Sunday, December 14.
 - Council Nominations for the 2026 term (nominees to be announced soon).
 - Reviewed HopeWood Pines list of projects/needs and associated costs. Council voted to contribute \$10,000 with the understanding HopeWood would apply it where it's most needed. Holy Trinity's contribution will come from our recently received Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC).
 - Pastor Steve asked Council's thoughts re: creating an emergency assistance fund. Discussed wanting to support those in need while noting this is not a long-term solution. Should we consider creating a group that would establish guidelines for the distribution of such funds? There was also discussion about groups Holy Trinity supports that are better equipped to help those in need.
 - Based on staff recommendations, a motion was approved to conduct Christmas Eve worship services at 4:00 and 8:00 pm this year. The 11:00 service has not been well-attended since the pandemic with less than 10 people in attendance in recent years and only 4 last year.
 - Initial review of 2026 Ministry Spending Plan draft. Staff will be in touch with ministry leaders in the coming month re: budget considerations for next year.

Advent Devotions

Advent has begun and everyone is invited for a special time of preparation. Advent devotional booklets are available for at-home study individually or with your family. The devotion includes a river stone that you will use along with the weekly meditations. You are invited to take home a set of materials if you haven't already done so. May this time of Advent be blessed for all!

Stewardship Corner

As winter nears, many sigh with regret. We long for the budding of trees, not the falling of leaves. We yearn for warm breezes, not stinging winds. Yet we rely on God's grace, for we know God will bring us again the warmth and life of spring. We can also rely on God to provide for all our needs, even as we go through the lean, cold periods of our lives. God promises to make us *"rich in every way so that [we] can be generous on every occasion..."* (2 Corinthians 9:11). For more info, contact Max Buban at maxmbuban82@gmail.com.

News of Invite Ministries

New Prayer Concerns:

Dave Kriska, recovering from surgery on Wednesday, December 3
 Eric Decker, Susan Poling's friend, diagnosed with cancer
 Kathy Poling, Susan Poling's friend, diagnosed with cancer
 Mehri Davis, Susan Poling's neighbor's daughter, in an induced coma following a stroke
 The family of Ed Kilbarger, Hudson family friend, who died this week

Prayers for Our Members:

Peter Ward, dealing with back issues
 Marge Markowich, recovering from shoulder replacement surgery
 Joanne Duncan, recovering from various medical issues
 Miriam Ringquist, at Dublin Retirement Village
 Floradelle Pfahl, at Ganzhorn Suites

Prayers for Our Family and Friends:

Chuck Jentes, Jill Banicki's father, recovering from major surgery
 Joe Berkemer, Matt Berkemer's uncle, undergoing chemotherapy
 Phyllis Bliss, friend of Holy Trinity, undergoing kidney dialysis twice/week
 Wayne Engel, Shirley Boyd's cousin, struggling with cancer

James Gildea, Shirley Boyd's friend, recovering from a fall that fractured vertebra in his neck
Betty Mak, Shirley Boyd's friend, undergoing daily home dialysis
Pom, Na Brown's friend, who recently suffered a stroke
Violet, Carolyn and Clyde Cramer's neighbor's 8-year-old granddaughter, diagnosed with leukemia
Joe Stone, Genie Craven's son-in-law, dealing with the result of neck surgery
Abby Moeller, Kristin Farley's friend's 14-year-old daughter, recovering from an ATV accident
Tim Curry, Bev Farrell's brother and JoAnn Curry's brother-in-law, struggling with Parkinson's
Melissa, Sue Ferguson's daughter, diagnosed with colon cancer
Alan Greiner, Barb Keller's brother, dealing with multiple serious medical issues
Rodney Larson, Don Larson's brother, diagnosed with cancer
Randy Isaacson, Anna Lynch's father, dealing with health challenges
Jerry Markowich, Pastor Dave Markowich's brother, hospitalized with an infection
Mary Ortwine, Pastor Dave Markowich's sister, undergoing health tests
Nate Poole, Janet Maxwell's friend, following a severe neck injury resulting in paralysis
Darlene Madden, Janet Maxwell's friend, diagnosed with cancer
Chris Stewart, Janet Maxwell's friend, diagnosed with cancer
Maggie Carr Miller, Janet Maxwell's friend, diagnosed with cancer
Squire Aschinger, John & Judy McKittrick's nephew, diagnosed with cancer
Lucas, Susan Poling-Jones and Tony Jones' nephew, recovering from seizures and a brain bleed
Heidi McCarthy, Susan Poling-Jones' friend and mother of 3 children, undergoing radiation for breast cancer
Ben Souders, Susan Poling-Jones' friend's son, diagnosed with bipolar disorder
Lois Rozenquist, Susan Setterlin's friend, battling non-operable lung cancer
Leia Kaufman, Suellen Sharp's cousin, in the ICU at Riverside
Caitlyn Carey, Matt & Suellen Sharp's sister-in-law, diagnosed with cancer
Amy Lavoie, Becky Warnement's cousin, battling a recurrence of lung cancer
Those affected by natural disasters, the Armed forces, victims of terror, and all those on the margins of society most vulnerable to unrest, oppression and exploitation.

2026 Altar Flowers

Altar flowers beautify our worship space and are a lovely way to acknowledge special events or remember loved ones. Sign-up sheets are now available for 2026 altar flower dedications. Sign up at the flower stand near the Info Center or by contacting the church office at laura.hudson@engagedbygrace.org or 614-486-9433. Checks, electronic drafts, or credit card payments should note "flowers" in the memo. The cost is \$35.

News of Embrace Ministries

It's Christmas pageant time!

Holy Trinity's Children's Christmas pageant will take place on **Sunday, December 14th during the 10:00 worship service.** If your child is interested in taking part in the program, please contact Josh Brodbeck at Joshua.brodbeck@engagedbygrace.org or Noelle Fox at Noelle.fox@engagedbygrace.org. Rehearsals will primarily be on Thursday evenings from 6:00-6:25 pm through December 11. A simple meal is available on Thursdays from 5:30-6:00 prior to practice. We look forward to another wonderful pageant!

Council Seeking Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for a slate of candidates to serve 3-year terms on Church Council. All confirmed members of Holy Trinity are eligible to serve. Church members are invited to suggest candidates (including themselves) to Council President Chase Leibold leibold.9@gmail.com, Pastor Steve Wachtman steve.wachtman@engagedbygrace.org or the church office email@engagedbygrace.org or 614-486-9433.

News of Empower Ministries

Empowerment Shelf - December 2025

By Elizabeth Sammons with love from Neighbor-to-Neighbor

Yusuf Azeem is Not a Hero, *Wandering in Strange Lands* and *The Odyssey of Phillis Wheatley* are books of note for this month. This literature intends to expand our awareness, theology and/or acceptance of diverse viewpoints. We in Neighbor-to-Neighbor hope you'll discover how these writings from various generations embrace what it means to be human and to walk in spirit. ...

Yusuf Azeem is Not a Hero by Faruqi, Saadia

Yusuf is excited to start middle school in his small Texas town, but with the twentieth anniversary of the September 11 attacks, it feels like the country's same anger and grief is all focused on his Muslim community. -- For grades 4-7.

Wandering in Strange Lands by Jerkins, Morgan

While the great migration of African Americans from south to north in the early/mid 20th century provided black people with new economic opportunities, it also disconnected them from their roots, their land, and their sense of identity. In this deeply personal exploration, the writer recreates her ancestors' journeys across America, following the migratory routes they took from Georgia and South Carolina to Louisiana, Oklahoma, and California.

The Odyssey of Phillis Wheatley by Waldstreicher, David

Admired by George Washington, ridiculed by Thomas Jefferson, published in London, and read far and wide, Phillis Wheatley led one of the most extraordinary American lives. Seized in West Africa and forced into slavery as a child, she was sold to a merchant family in Boston, where she became a noted poet at a young age. Mastering the Bible, Greek, and Latin, she composed elegies before and after her emancipation, for local elites, celebrated political events, praised warriors, and used her verse to variously lampoon, question, and assert the injustice of her enslaved condition.

Ministry Calendar at Holy Trinity for December 7 - 14, 2025

Sunday, December 7, 2025

8:30 am – Morning Prayer
 9:20 am – Church Fam Connect
 10:00 am - Worship in-person and online at www.engagedbygrace.org

Monday 6:30 pm – BSA Troop 555

Tuesday No Events Scheduled

Wednesday 10:15 am – Preacher's Bible Study
 1:30 pm – WELCA Esther Circle II

Thursday 5:30 pm – Supper at Church
 6:00 pm – Children's Choir
 6:30 pm – Handbell Choir
 7:30 pm – Sanctuary Choir

Friday 10:00 am – CDP Holiday Gathering
 3:00 pm – Girl Scout Troop 6184

Saturday 8:00 am - Private Event

Sunday, December 14, 2025

8:30 am – Morning Prayer
 9:15 am – Intro to Holy Trinity
 10:00 am – Children's Christmas Pageant
 10:00 am - Worship in-person and online at www.engagedbygrace.org
 11:15 am – Congregational Meeting

Holy Trinity Schedule of Worship Servers – December 2025

Date	Time	Welcome Center	Assisting Minister	Lay Reader	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Livestream	Bread Bakers	Communion Team
Dec. 7	10:00 am		Tim Hudson	Keith Townsend	Ron Benedick AC Cochran	Herb Maxwell Janet Maxwell	Ben Kaffenberger	Becky Warnement	Kathy Higbee Marie Tanner
Dec. 14	10:00 am		Ron Benedick	Ron Benedick	Chris Pryor Adam Wagenbach Peter Ward	Jody Passafume Jeff Sammons	Noah Fox		Chris Grabenstatter Janette MacConnell Kris Kochheiser
Dec. 21	10:00 am		Elli Cucksey	Ron Benedick	Tom Wuichet Tim Stock	Nancy Riley Elli Cucksey	Tim Rice	Suellen Sharp	Terri Michael Joanne Duncan
Dec. 24	4:00 pm		Middle School	Middle School	Middle School	No Communion			
Dec. 24	8:00 pm		Keith Townsend	Elli Cucksey	Skip Duncan John Schueler	Choir Members	Matt Fox	Dyann Taylor	Nancy VanFossen Lynn Anderson

Sunday Worship Texts

Sunday, December 7 – John 11:11-27; Ezekiel 37:1-14 **Ezekiel: Valley of Dry Bones**

Sunday, December 14 – John 4:13-14; Isaiah 55:1-13 **Word Accomplishes God's Purpose**

The Holy Trinity Staff:

Pastor: Steve Wachtman (steve.wachtman@engagedbygrace.org)
 Preschool: Molly Capuano and Jackie Newlon (directorhtcdp@gmail.com)
 Administrator: Laura Hudson (laura.hudson@engagedbygrace.org)
 Minister of Music: Joshua Brodbeck (joshua.brodbeck@engagedbygrace.org)
 Director of Faith Formation: Noelle Fox (noelle.fox@engagedbygrace.org)

For mobile giving options, scan code below with your phone's camera or go to <http://www.engagedbygrace.org/offering>

