



**Holy Trinity**  
Lutheran Church

*Engaged by Grace.*

**WEEKLY**

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Ministry Announcements for the week of December 21 - 28, 2025

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### **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](http://www.engagedbygrace.org)
- 4:00 pm – Concert at Holy Trinity - The Brass Band of Columbus

### **New Ministry Opportunities**

#### **Church Council Leadership Elected**

At a congregational meeting on Sunday, December 14, the following people were elected to serve 3-year terms on Church Council: Kirsten Barrett, Mike Lamont, Tom Lynch and Doug Roberts. Additionally, the following people were elected at December's Council meeting to serve on the Executive Committee: Lynn Anderson, President; Nicole Carothers, Vice-President; Peter Ward, Financial Secretary; Debbie Cochran, Treasurer and Allison Abell, Secretary. We thank them for their willingness to serve. Thanks, too, to outgoing Council Partners: Jill Banicki, Matt Berkemer, Kristin Larrimer and Sarah Shear.

#### **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!

#### **Planning Ahead for Christmas Eve**

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

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

#### **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 the 3<sup>rd</sup> Shift Warming Center at First English Lutheran in January when they're needed most.

#### **2026 Giving Envelopes**

Holy Trinity's 2026 offering envelopes have arrived. Please pick up yours from the table located in the hallway near the church offices. Thank you for your faithful support of Holy Trinity.

## Holiday Movie Night at Holy Trinity

Families of all ages are invited to gather on **Sunday, December 28** for a cozy **Movie Night** as we watch the animated holiday favorite *Klaus* on the **big screen in Grace Hall!**

We'll begin with **snacks and fellowship at 5:30 pm**, followed by the movie starting promptly at **6:00**. Bring your kids, grandparents, neighbors, and friends for a relaxed, come-as-you-are evening together.

### About the movie:

*Klaus* is a beautifully animated and heart-warming reimagining of the origins of Santa Claus. The story follows Jesper, a spoiled and self-centered postal academy student who is sent to a remote, frozen town as punishment. There he forms an unexpected friendship with a reclusive toymaker named Klaus. Through small acts of kindness, their unlikely partnership begins to transform a divided community—showing how generosity, compassion, and friendship can spark hope and joy.

- **Runtime:** approximately **1 hour and 36 minutes**
- **Rating:** PG (suitable for families)

Whether you've seen it before or are discovering it for the first time, *Klaus* offers humor, tenderness, and a meaningful message that resonates with all ages. Wings, popcorn and junior mints provided. Bring a favorite beverage and snack to share!

## Save the Date for Game Night – Sunday, February 1

Holy Trinity's Theme Team is sponsoring a Game Night on Sunday, February 1. People of all ages are invited to attend an evening of dinner, games, and fellowship. Watch for more details coming soon!

## 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](mailto:email@engagedbygrace.org). The cost is \$8/plant.

## Access the Online Directory on Your Phone

If you've opted into Holy Trinity's online directory, you can now access it easily on your mobile device!

### Using the Breeze App

1. Download **Breeze ChMS** from the App Store or Google Play.
2. When prompted, enter our church domain: **holytrinitylutheranchurch8443**
3. Sign in with your usual directory username and password.

### Using the Holy Trinity Church App

You can also reach the directory through the “**Directory**” button in the bottom right corner of our church app. Download the app here: <https://tithely.app.link/holy-trinity-lutheran-church-columbus>

This makes it simple and secure to stay connected with our community wherever you are! Let the church office know if you need any assistance.

## First English Breakfast Ministry

Holy Trinity will provide a hot breakfast to our friends at First English Lutheran Church on **Sunday, December 28**, serving scrambled eggs, grits, chicken and waffles, fresh fruit and breakfast pastries. We will put together sandwiches onsite. With the colder weather setting in, we expect more guests going forward. Donations of personal items – canned food with easy open pop tops, especially hearty soups, chili, stew, pasta meals, cups of noodles, mac and cheese cups and ramen (just add hot water) are the most requested items. Hats, gloves and socks are also in high demand. All donated items should be delivered to Holy Trinity by Sunday, December 28 at 8:00 am for transport to First English, or you can drop off at the Warnements' home in advance, drop to Becky's office, or bring donations directly to First English, 1015 E. Main St. 43205 by 8:15 that Sunday. Breakfast service begins at 8:30 am. If you'd like to contribute food, pantry items or sign up to help serve on the 28<sup>th</sup>, click [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080948AAAD28A57-61042310-copy#](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080948AAAD28A57-61042310-copy#/).

## **Stewardship Corner**

In an attempt to better understand our role as stewards, we can compare our positions as stewards to the function and responsibility assumed by the trustee of a trust. In the same manner as a trustee, a steward is a manager who has the latitude to make decisions in the best interest of the owner. As the trustee is a servant to the trust, the steward is a servant to God as the owner of all that the steward manages. Both the trustee and steward positions are full-time vocations. Being a steward is a whole life commitment, involving all that we are, and all that we possess, and all that we do. God, who has created and redeemed us, deserves our first and best. For more information, please contact Max Buban at [maxmbuban82@gmail.com](mailto:maxmbuban82@gmail.com).

## **News of Invite Ministries**

### **New Prayer Concerns:**

Jean Jones, Janet Benedick's mother, in hospice care

Jan Attanasio, Janet Maxwell's friend, diagnosed with ALS

The family of Fred Sammons, Jeff Sammons' father, who died this week

The family of David Shannon, Kathy Higbee's friend, killed in a car accident on December 10

### **Prayers for Our Members:**

Dave Kriska, at home, recovering from heart surgery

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

Pamela, Barb Keller's daughter, hospitalized following emergency surgery for a dog bite

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

Squire Aschinger, John & Judy McKittrick's nephew, diagnosed with cancer

Eric Decker, Susan Poling-Jones's friend, diagnosed with cancer

Kathy Poling, Susan Poling-Jones's friend, diagnosed with cancer

Mehri Davis, Susan Poling-Jones's neighbor's daughter, in an induced coma following a stroke

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.

## 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 21 - 28, 2025

### Sunday, December 21, 2025

8:30 am – Morning Prayer  
 9:20 am – Church Fam Connect  
 10:00 am - Worship in-person and online at [www.engagedbygrace.org](http://www.engagedbygrace.org)  
 4:00 pm – Concert at Holy Trinity - The Brass Band of Columbus

**Monday** 6:30 pm – BSA Troop 555

**Tuesday** No Events Scheduled

### Wednesday, Christmas Eve

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

**Thursday** **Christmas Day - Church Offices Closed**

**Friday** **Church Offices Closed**

**Saturday** No Events Scheduled

### Sunday, December 28, 2025

8:00 am – First English Breakfast Ministry  
 8:30 am – Morning Prayer  
 10:00 am - Worship in-person and online at [www.engagedbygrace.org](http://www.engagedbygrace.org)  
 5:30 pm – Holiday Movie Night "Klaus"

## 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. 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
Dec. 28	10:00 am		Lynn Anderson	Ben Kaffenberger	Mark Abell Doug Myser	Karen Larson MJ Neiman	Matt Sharp		Suellen Sharp Nancy Riley

### Sunday Worship Texts

Sunday, December 21 – Psalm 130:5-8; John 1:1-18 **Word Made Flesh**  
 Wednesday, December 24 - Psalm 96:7-10; Luke 2:1-14 [15-20] **Birth of Jesus**  
 Sunday, December 28 – Psalm 32:1-2; John 1:19-34 **Shepherds visit the infant Jesus**

### The Holy Trinity Staff:

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

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



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## Holy Trinity Ministry in Action



Helping out behind the scenes with costumes:  
Claire Christman,  
Forrest Sheely and  
Jody Passafume.



*Holy Trinity Mice*, this year's Christmas pageant, was performed during worship December 14. Pictured (L to R) bottom rows: Mrs. Fox, Sadie Cochran, Forrest Sheely, Austin Abell, Ben Abell, Jamie Fink, Isabel Hallas, Leona Royalty, Jordyn Webb, Julian Royalty, and AJ Cucksey. Top Row: Mia Torres, Branham Webb, Noah Schumacher, Charlee Sanghavi, Audrey Hallas, Lydia Schumacher, and Ada Webb.