



Holy Trinity  
Lutheran Church

*Engaged by Grace.*

WEEKLY

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Ministry Announcements for the week of January 11 - 18, 2026

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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)  
7:00 pm – Confirmation/High School Youth Group

### **New Ministry Opportunities**

#### **Welcome New Members**

On Sunday, January 11, the following people will be received as members of Holy Trinity: Elisabeth and Guy Dilz; Patty and Jamie Duff w/Callan, Elsie, and Aidan; Steve and Kara Fink w/Sam and Jamie; Sayaka Imura; Clayton Messinger; and David Stanislav. Please introduce yourself!

#### **Neighbor-to-Neighbor Learning Opportunities**

The Neighbor-to-Neighbor ministry team is planning to attend two events in January. All are welcome.

#### **January 19<sup>th</sup> Capital University, MLK Day of Learning**

##### **Unfinished Business: The Ceilings We Break**

For over three decades, Capital University has been committed to recognizing, celebrating, and embodying the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Rather than treating this day as a "day off," they encourage campus and community members to engage in a "day on" — a day to be inspired by Dr. King's vision, reflect on his contributions to civil rights, and actively participate in community-building efforts. A description of the days' events can be found at <https://www.capital.edu/student-life/arts-and-culture/annual-events/martin-luther-king-jr-day-of-learning/>.

#### **January 25<sup>th</sup>, 4:30pm – First English Lutheran and Urban Connections' Impacting Community Series Human Trafficking**

First English and Urban Connections invite supporters, the community, and experts into discussion about topics that impact our community. As we learn and grow together, speakers are asked to share 3-5 ways that can have a positive impact on our community right away. Everyone's invited on the 4th Sunday of every month at 4:30pm at First English Lutheran Church (1015 E. Main Street, Columbus, OH 43205). January's topic is Human Trafficking, with Freedom Ala Cart's Paula Haines. Freedom a la Cart is a cafe + bakery + catering business that serves fresh, delicious cuisine. Each purchase provides workforce training and wrap-around services for survivors of sex trafficking. For more information about either of these events, please contact David Kriska at 614-961-7828.

## **Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 25**

Mark your calendars for Holy Trinity's annual congregational meeting on **Sunday, January 25 at 11:15 am**, immediately following the 10:00 worship service. Copies of the 2025 annual report will be available for your review prior to the meeting.

## **Thank You from Habitat for Humanity**

As we look back on 2025, our hearts are full of gratitude—for you and for all that we accomplished together. Because of your generosity, time, and belief in Habitat MidOhio's mission, families across central Ohio experienced real, lasting change this year. Whether you volunteered on a build site, made a generous gift, shopped or donated at one of our ReStores, sponsored a playhouse build, or shared our mission with others, you were an essential part of this work. Your support showed up in meaningful, tangible ways for our neighbors and our communities.

Together in 2025, you helped make the following possible:

- **15 families** achieved safe, affordable homeownership
- **116 critical home repairs** were completed, helping families remain safely housed
- **73 playhouses** were designed and built, creating joyful spaces for children
- **3,966 unique volunteers** served alongside us
- **49,791 volunteer hours** were invested across central Ohio
- **8 Habitat homeowners** paid off their mortgages, achieving lasting affordability and security for families

These numbers tell an incredible story, but they only begin to capture the impact. They represent families with stability, children with safe places to play, and neighborhoods strengthened through partnership. As we look ahead to 2026 and beyond, we hope you'll continue building with us because together, we are creating a future where everyone has a decent place to call home.

From all of us at Habitat for Humanity-MidOhio, thank you for being part of this mission.

## **First English Breakfast Ministry**

Holy Trinity will provide a hot breakfast for our friends at First English Lutheran Church on **Sunday, January 25**, serving scrambled eggs, ham, potatoes, fresh fruit, grits, 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, January 25 by 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 25<sup>th</sup>, click <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080948AAAD28A57-61444047-first#/>.

## **WELCA Bible Study**

Have you made your New Years Resolutions yet? A good one to add would be the monthly Bible Study held on the last Tuesday of months January through May and September through November at 10am in the library. This month we start off with *Now Let Us Pray*, praying with our bodies and the body of the Earth. We will consider dangers for our planet, including climate change, as we look at special parts of creation by studying Scripture. **Join us on Tuesday January 27, at 10am in the church library.** You do not need to be a member of WELCA to attend. All are Welcome!

## **American Red Cross Blood Drive**

The next blood drive at Holy Trinity in partnership with the American Red Cross is **Thursday, January 29 from 9am-2pm**. You can make an appointment at 1-800-REDCROSS or [www.redcrossblood.org/give](http://www.redcrossblood.org/give).

## **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.

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

Holy Trinity's Theme Team is sponsoring a Game Night on **Sunday, February 1 from 5:00-7:00 pm**. People of all ages are invited to attend an evening of dinner, games, and fellowship. A main dish will be provided. Everyone is asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. We look forward to seeing you there!

## **Thank You**

From the staff at Holy Trinity, thank you for the gifts you gave to us at Christmas. It's our pleasure and joy to be partners with you in ministry. We look forward to new activities and ministry opportunities in 2026!

## **Stewardship Corner**

Jesus told us not to worry about our lives, what we'll eat, or what we'll wear. God promised that, as God cares for the grass which is temporal, God will care far more for us (Luke 12:27-28). God told us that freedom from worry over temporal things lies in giving away our possessions and seeking God's kingdom. *"But seek His kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. Do not be afraid little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted..."* (Luke 12:31-33) For more information about stewardship, please contact Max Buban at [maxmbuban82@gmail.com](mailto:maxmbuban82@gmail.com).

## **News of Invite Ministries**

### **New Prayer Concerns:**

Brian Johnson, undergoing an MRI on his head and back after a fall  
Lindsay Larson, Karen and Don Larson's granddaughter, hospitalized at Children's  
Holy Trinity members traveling to Egypt with Trinity Seminary's Middle Eastern Travel Seminar

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

Wes Jones, anticipating next steps regarding lymphoma and atrial fib  
Dave Kriska, 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  
Jan Attanasio, Janet Maxwell's friend, diagnosed with ALS

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 Embrace Ministries

### 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.

## 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.

## News of Empower Ministries

### Empowerment Shelf – January 2026

#### By Elizabeth Sammons with love from Neighbor-to-Neighbor

*The Sum of Us*, *Jayber Crow*, and *Forbidden Fruit: Love Stories from the Underground Railroad* are Neighbor to Neighbor's books of note for this month. This literature intends to expand our awareness, theology and/or acceptance of diverse viewpoints. We hope you'll discover how these writings from various generations embrace what it means to be human and to walk in spirit. ...

*The Sum of Us* by McGhee, Heather

This book, edited for young readers, is a call to action. McGhee examines how damaging racism is, not only to people of color, but also to white people. She offers hope and real solutions so that we can all prosper.

*Jayber Crow* by Berry, Wendell

From his own barber shop, Jayber Crow, orphan, seminarian, and native of Port William, recalls his life and the life of his community in the middle of the 20th century. He is both participant and witness as the community attempts to transcend its own decline, meanwhile learning the art of faithful love.

*Forbidden Fruit: Love Stories from the Underground Railroad* by DeRamus, Betty

A Pulitzer Prize finalist, this award-winning journalist rummaged through musty records and forgotten memoirs to resurrect this book's unsung heroes. Despite the risks, some American slaves partook of the "forbidden fruit" of marriage. Enslaved spouses grieved deeply and sometimes made Herculean efforts to reunite. DeRamus recounts the tales of soulmates who braved bloodhounds, bounty hunters, and bullets to preserve their vows of love.

## Ministry Calendar at Holy Trinity for January 11 - 18, 2026

### Sunday, January 11, 2026

8:30 am – Morning Prayer  
9:20 am – ChurchFam Connect  
10:00 am – Worship in-person and online at [www.engagedbygrace.org](http://www.engagedbygrace.org)  
11:15 am – Adult Sunday School Discussion of Gospel of John  
7:00 pm – Confirmation Class and HS Youth Group

**Monday** 6:30 pm – BSA Troop 555

**Tuesday** 1:30 pm – Library Committee

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

**Thursday** 6:30 pm – Bell Choir  
7:30 pm – Sanctuary Choir

**Friday** No Events Scheduled

**Saturday** No Events Scheduled

### Sunday, January 18, 2026

8:30 am – Morning Prayer  
9:20 am – ChurchFam Connect  
10:00 am – Worship in-person and online at [www.engagedbygrace.org](http://www.engagedbygrace.org)  
11:15 am – Adult Sunday School Discussion of Gospel of John

## Holy Trinity Schedule of Worship Servers – January 2026

Date	Time	Welcome Center	Assisting Minister	Lay Reader	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Livestream	Bread Bakers	Communion Team
Jan. 11	10:00 am		Tim Hudson	Ben Kaffenberger	Tom Wuichet Skip Duncan	MJ Neiman Jeff Sammons	Ben Kaffenberger		Nancy VanFossen Lynn Anderson
Jan. 18	10:00 am	Bob and Barb Campbell	Peg Steele	Beth Myser	Matt Sharp Ben Kaffenberger	AC Cochran Sharon Hamersley	Tim Rice	Suellen Sharp	Suellen Sharp Nancy Riley
Jan. 25	10:00 am		Jody Passafume	Dyann Taylor	Dan Perry AC Cochran	Nancy Riley Elli Cucksey	Matt Sharp		Kathy Higbee Marie Tanner

### Sunday Worship Texts

Sunday, January 11 – Psalm 104:14-16; John 2:1-11 **Wedding at Cana**

Sunday, January 18 – Psalm 127:1-2; John 2:13-25 **Jesus Cleanses the Temple**

### 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>

