



# Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

*Engaged by Grace.*

# WEEKLY

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Ministry Announcements for the week of January 25 – February 1, 2026

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## Our Sunday Schedule

8:00 am – First English Breakfast Ministry  
8:30 am – Morning Prayer with Communion  
9:20 am – Church Fam Connect/3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Faith Life Milestones  
10:00 am –Worship in-person and online at [www.engagedbygrace.org](http://www.engagedbygrace.org)

## New Ministry Opportunities

**Worship is ON This Sunday, January 25 -**

**Annual Meeting is POSTPONED until Sunday, February 8**

While worship will proceed as scheduled at 8:30 and 10:00 this Sunday morning, both in-person for those who are able to attend and online at 10:00, the Executive Committee of Church Council is rescheduling the Annual Meeting for 11:15 am on Sunday, February 8. This decision hopes to accommodate greater participation in the meeting given the prospective disruption of travel due to harsh winter weather predicted for this weekend.

**Everyone's Invited 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. Bring your favorite game or come learn a new game. A main dish will be provided. Everyone is asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please RSVP at the signup table in the Gathering Place. We look forward to seeing you February 1<sup>st</sup>!

**Save the Date for Vacation Bible School – Sunday, June 14 – Thursday, June 18**

If the winter weather has you dreaming of summer, make sure VBS is in your plans. Kickoff will be Sunday, June 14 and continuing daily Monday-Thursday from 9:00-11:30 am. Children ages 3 years-fifth grade are invited to attend. Students going into sixth grade and older are invited to volunteer. Watch for more information and registration coming soon!

**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).

## ELCA Bishop Curry's Statement on Unrest in Minneapolis

*Learn to do good; seek justice; rescue the oppressed; defend the orphan; plead for the widow. (Isaiah 1:17)*

Alongside our siblings in Christ in Minneapolis and throughout Minnesota and all who have been impacted by aggressive immigration enforcement and violence by federal law enforcement agents, I mourn the shocking shooting death of Renee Nicole Good by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent on January 7, 2026. I join calls for a thorough investigation into this case, accountability for the shooting and a de-escalation of ICE enforcement across the United States. Alongside the Lutherans who have held vigils in Minneapolis and around the country, our church prays for God's peace in this community and justice in this case.

The ELCA is committed to upholding and guaranteeing basic human rights for the safety of migrants and their families. Our church works toward just and humane policies affecting migrants in and outside the United States. We decry language that dehumanizes immigrants who are beloved children of God and escalates tensions between federal agents and communities. Surges of immigration enforcement and violent encounters like we are seeing in Minneapolis — as well as in Chicago; Atlanta; Los Angeles; Portland, Ore.; and Washington, D.C.— have indiscriminately targeted our neighbors, creating fear and uncertainty. This has created conditions where immigrants, those accompanying them and federal agents are all at risk.

ELCA social teaching provides guidance in complex situations: "Public safety depends upon trust in law enforcement to respect and protect the rights of all." As a church, we are concerned by the trend of law enforcement and federal agents involved in immigration enforcement relying on the use of force in our communities without sufficient accountability or oversight.

God calls us to be witnesses to God's presence, healing and hope. I invite ongoing prayers, vigils and advocacy for peace and justice, and I affirm the ELCA's "pledge to continue our church's historic leadership in caring for refugees and immigrants."

In Christ,  
The Rev. Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## Neighbor to Neighbor Ministry Opportunity – January 25<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm

### 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. 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. Holy Trinity's Neighbor to Neighbor Ministry Team plans to attend this event on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome. For more information about, please contact David Kriska at 614-961-7828.

## Holy Trinity Hot Topic Happy Hour – Public Health

### Sunday, February 22 5:30-7:00 pm with childcare

Heidi Welch will share insights on current efforts by Health Impact Ohio, where she serves as Chief of Strategic Engagement and Operations, to collaborate on improving access to quality and equitable health and social services for Central Ohio's most marginalized communities.

Jasmine Garnes, CEO of 3rd Shift Warming and Cooling Center at First English Lutheran Church, will share experiences in running a 24-hour shelter on the near East Side of Columbus.

Dan Sharpe, Vice President of Community Research and Grants Management at The Columbus Foundation, will discuss the current state of nonprofit needs in the city and how we can share resources to support them.

## **Stewardship Corner**

If you have an income, you have the ability to give. Be glad and give thanks to God for God's provision. Lord, I thank you for the opportunities to give. *"The Macedonian churches urgently pleaded...for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints"* (2 Corinthians 8:2,4). For more information about stewardship, please contact Max Buban at [maxmbuban82@gmail.com](mailto:maxmbuban82@gmail.com).

## **News of Invite Ministries**

### **New Prayer Concerns:**

Genie Craven, hospitalized at Riverside and undergoing tests  
Pom, Na Brown's friend, recovering from a seizure  
The family of Elia, Cara Evanchan's aunt, who died recently

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

Marge Markowich, hospitalized at Dodd Hall, recovering from a stroke  
Dale Svendsen, recovering at home, following surgery  
Brian Johnson, undergoing an MRI on his head and back after a fall  
Wes Jones, undergoing treatment for lymphoma and atrial fib  
Dave Kriska, recovering from heart surgery  
Peter Ward, dealing with back issues  
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  
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  
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 McKitrick'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

### 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.

### 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://tithe.ly.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.

## News of Empower Ministries

### Hat & Mitten Tree Thank You

Thank you to everyone that donated hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and socks to Holy Trinity's recent collection for the Hat & Mitten Trees. More than 200 items were delivered to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Shift Warming Center at First English Lutheran Church. These items will certainly be put to good use in the days and weeks ahead.

### 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 re-unite. DeRamus recounts the tales of soulmates who braved bloodhounds, bounty hunters, and bullets to preserve their vows of love.

### 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.

## Ministry Calendar at Holy Trinity for January 25 – February 1, 2026

### **Sunday, January 25, 2026**

8:00 am – First English Breakfast Ministry  
 8:30 am – Morning Prayer  
 9:20 am – ChurchFam Connect/3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Faith Life Milestones  
 10:00 am - Worship in-person and online at [www.engagedbygrace.org](http://www.engagedbygrace.org)

**Monday** 6:30 pm – BSA Troop 555

**Tuesday** 10:00 am – WELCA Bible Study

**Wednesday** 10:15 am – Preacher’s Bible Study

**Thursday** 9:00 am – Red Cross Blood Drive  
 5:30 pm – Supper at Church  
 6:00 pm – Children’s Choir  
 6:30 pm – Bell Choir  
 7:30 pm – Sanctuary Choir

**Friday** 3:00 pm- Girl Scouts Troop 6861

**Saturday** No Events Scheduled

### **Sunday, February 1, 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)  
 5:00 pm – Holy Trinity Game Night

## Holy Trinity Schedule of Worship Servers – January & February 2026

Date	Time	Welcome Center	Assisting Minister	Lay Reader	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Livestream	Bread Bakers	Communion Team
Jan. 25	10:00 am		Keith Townsend	Dyann Taylor	Dan Perry AC Cochran	Nancy Riley Elli Cucksey	Matt Sharp		Chris Grabenstatter Janette MacConnell Kris Kochheiser
Feb. 1	10:00 am		Elli Cucksey	Keith Townsend	Mark Abell Doug Myser	Deb Bickford Peter Ward	Ben Kaffenberger	Chris Grabenstatter	Kathy Higbee Marie Tanner
Feb. 8	10:00 am		Lynn Anderson	Lynn Anderson	Doug Myser Skip Duncan	Peg Steele Susan Setterlin	Jared Forts		Joanne Duncan Terri Michael
Feb. 15	10:00 am	Benson Ross	Keith Townsend	Tim Hudson	Dan Perry AC Cochran	Carolyn Cramer Chris Pryor	Noah Fox	Nancy VanFossen Lynn Anderson	Nancy VanFossen Lynn Anderson

### **Sunday Worship Texts**

Sunday, January 25 – Psalm 139:13-18; John 3:1-21 **Nicodemus**

Sunday, February 1 – Psalm 42:1-3; John 4:1-42 **The Woman at the Well**

### **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>



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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