

“Growing in Faith, Making a Difference, Open to All”

“Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor’s eye.” (Matthew 7:3-5)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As February arrives, we begin one of the most powerful seasons of the church year: Lent. Starting on February 10th with Ash Wednesday, the next six weeks help us to prepare for the events of Holy Week – from Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, to his final meal with the disciples on Maundy Thursday, his crucifixion upon the cross on Good Friday, and finally his resurrection and triumph on Easter Sunday.

So, what *is* Lent? Well, Lent is *log time*.

Jesus spoke the above words as part of his famous sermon on the mount. They’re included in his teachings about judging other people, and his meaning is hard to miss. Our Lord is telling us to reserve our judgment of the people around us and to instead spend some time considering our own thoughts, words, and behaviors.

As human beings, we are quick to be critical of the people around us. Quick to notice their inconsistencies, their imperfections, their inadequacies. Quick to acknowledge their failures, faults, and foibles. We love to point out the sins of others, the poor choices they’ve made, how they’ve fallen short, and the things we think are simply *wrong* about their personality, words, and behaviors. We may choose to hide this criticism and judgment under the guise of “loving the sinner and hating the sin” or a false façade of concern and care, but the truth is that this way of behaving and speaking and thinking about others is really just about trying to make *ourselves* feel superior.

For whatever reason, people of faith are especially prone to acting this way. Jesus once shared a parable about a religious man who spent time telling God about all the wonderful, holy things he regularly performed, praying, “thank you that I am not like *those other people*: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even this tax collector. “ (Luke 18:11)

Jesus calls this what it is: sin. If you’re looking for something to fast or abstain from this Lent, here is a good place to start.

During Lent, we’re invited to consider the logs in our own eyes. We’re encouraged to turn our judgmental gaze inwards, to focus on our own shortcomings and sin. As we get ready for Holy Week and Easter, the best way to prepare is through an honest season of introspection, reflection, and repentance. When we do so – when we consider *our* sinful thoughts, words, and behaviors – we’ll find that we have more than enough to worry about, more than enough to keep us busy, more than enough to pray about and repent of.

In fact, if we take this command seriously, we might not even get around to judging the sins of the co-workers, friends, neighbors, and family around us at all! We’ll leave that to Jesus, and join the tax collector who simply prayed, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner.” (Luke 18:13)

Throughout this season, amidst the truly hard work of confession and repentance, take joy, people of God. For at the end of Lent there is an empty tomb, and a proclamation that the mercy we pray for has come.

Your co-worker in Christ,

Pastor Josh ☺

GROWING IN FAITH

Ash Wednesday Worship- Feb 10th @ 7:00pm

As we begin the season of Lent, you're invited to join us for worship at 7:00pm on Ash Wednesday, February 10th. During the worship service we'll hear Christ's call to repentance. We'll hear the words spoken to Adam and Eve so long ago, reminding us of our mortality: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19b) We'll receive ashes on our forehead - yet these ashes will be in the shape of a *cross*, reminding us of the hope and grace we have in Christ. Join us as we worship, and invite a friend to come and see!

If you are able to help on Ash Wednesday, we do need volunteers to serve as ushers, lectors, and communion assistants. You can sign up on the bulletin board in the CLC or by calling the church office.

Dinner Church – every Wednesday @ 6:00pm

Like dinner? Like church? Join us every Wednesday during Lent at 6:00pm for Dinner Church! The earliest form of Christian worship actually took place around the table, where believers shared a sacred meal - much like the meals Jesus shared with his disciples. Now we will come together each Wednesday in Lent (starting on February 17th) for a time of sacred worship, meal, and conversation. Each week, as a community, we will prepare the table, break bread, share conversation, and build one another up. Though it will feel different than the worship services we're used to Sunday mornings, it will be a holy time where God is present with us and among us.

If you're able to help provide any soup or bread on a particular Wednesday, please sign up on the bulletin board in the CLC. All soups are welcome, and we're hoping to have three or four different types each week. See you at the table!

Bible Study

This month Holy Trinity's Friday afternoon Bible study will meet on February 12th and 26th, 12:00-1:30pm. Our group will continue to discuss the Beatitudes, where we find God in unexpected places and ways. No

matter whether you've studied the Bible before or never even seen one, you're invited to join us for a fun time of faith and fellowship. Friends are welcome too!

Help Celebrate a Baptism!

For the first time in months, on Sunday, February 28th Holy Trinity will have a baptism during worship! In celebration of this sacred occasion, you're invited to bring signs of your own baptism to worship that morning! If you have your baptismal candle, be sure to bring it along with you, as well as a picture, keepsake, certificate, or anything else that helps to recall your baptism. We'll be sharing them in worship as we celebrate and give thanks together!

Youth Group

Don't you wish you could be a fly on the wall at Youth Group meetings?

Along with the laughing and fooling around, and the occasional "bing!" of someone's cellphone, you'd hear some really amazing thoughts, questions and concerns.

At our last meeting we talked about Islam: what Islam is, its origins, what Muslims believe and practice, and more. We talked about what it might be like to be Muslim in today's world (and in our own country). You should have heard the thoughtful questions! The knowledgeable answers! These kids are smart, inquisitive and interested in learning!

We've recently met to start planning for this Winter/Spring session, and if you have a youth, we have some dates for you:

- **Sunday, Feb. 7** 6:00 PM SUPERBOWL PARTY at the Williamson's. Bring a snack to share and a friend if you want!
- **Sunday, Feb. 21**, 5 PM - 8 PM - Regular Youth Group Meeting in the CLC. Dinner Provided.
- **Wednesday Evenings, 2/10, 2/17 and 2/24**, 7:00 PM – Dinner Church. Youth and families are invited to participate.
- ****Sunday, March 13**, 5 PM - 8 PM Regular Youth Group Meeting in the CLC. Dinner Provided. (**Because of Spring Break, this is NOT the normal third Sunday)

- **Saturday, 4/9** - Time and Cost TBD - Escape the Room Philly - Drivers are also needed! (<http://www.escapetheroomphilly.com>)
- **Sunday, 4/17** 5 PM - 8 PM - Regular Youth Group Meeting in the CLC. Dinner Provided.
- **Sunday, 5/15** 5 PM - 8 PM - Regular Youth Group Meeting in the CLC. Dinner Provided.

Members of the Holy Trinity, we need your help!

- **Sign up to bring dinner for a meeting!** Email kristine_delmonte@hotmail.com to sign up for Feb. 21, March 13, April 17, or May 15. Our Youth are easy to please (but hungry!) Some ideas: Meatball sandwiches, hoagies from Wawa, Lasagna, Tacos, casserole, soup, and more. Let me know if you need more ideas.
- **Help us make the Youth Group Room more Youth-friendly.** Like to contribute? We need new or gently used beanbag chairs, cool lights, a white board, a dorm-sized fridge and more. Contact Kristine or Tom DelMonte or Pastor Josh if you want more information.

And most importantly, we need your prayers for our Youth. Pray for our Youth to have strength to make the hard choices; pray for our Youth to have wisdom to know what's right in challenging situations; pray for our Youth to stay safe as they grow through their teenage years; pray for our Youth to feel God's presence in their every day lives. Please stop by the bulletin board in the CLC and drop them a note in the envelope. The notes are very much appreciated!

Kristine and Tom DelMonte

Sunday School

Our Sunday school students will continue to meet during worship every week this month *except* for Sunday, February 14th. All of our young people are invited to join us as we learn more about the day's readings and how we can know and follow Jesus in our own daily lives. We're still looking for a few new Sunday school teachers, so if you're interested please talk to Kim, Marianne, or Pastor Josh!

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Giving Garden

"A garden really lives only insofar as it is an expression of faith, the embodiment of a hope and a song of praise."

Russell Page, *The Education of a Gardener*, 1962

Currently our garden is in hibernation mode. But have you noticed that the days are already getting longer? And with each passing day, we are one day closer to spring and another season of planting and harvesting and sharing the abundance!

Refugee Blankets

During the season of Lent our congregation is invited to help provide blankets for those in need!

For more than 60 years, congregations across the U.S. have been responding to Jesus' call to be neighbor to those in need, in partnership with Church World Services. By providing blankets for refugees and victims of disasters, we can give the simple and powerful gifts of warmth, shelter, and protection from the elements.

Envelopes for any contributions will be available in the church pews and can be placed in the offering plate. Blankets are \$10.00 each. We'll also have a display up front for change and special donations from our children.

This important mission will start on Sunday, February 14th and end Palm Sunday, March 20th.

Blessings,
Susan Snow

OPEN TO ALL

Free Trumpet Concert – Spread the word!

On Sunday, February 21st at 3:00pm, Holy Trinity will host a free concert by Dr. Ed Jakuboski! Ed is part of Spark Brass, the fantastic brass quintet that played at our church last year, and he is an extremely talented and skilled musician. He is also a strong advocate for musical education, and loves sharing the joy that only music can bring. Please help spread the word to friends and family, and invite our neighbors to join us!

Ferris Baby Shower

As Pastor Josh and Annie prepare for the birth of their baby girl, Holy Trinity is throwing them a baby shower! All the girls and women of the church are invited to join the party on Saturday, February 13th, 2:00pm to 4:00pm in the CLC. Pastor and Annie are registered at Babies R Us (go to www.babysrus.com, click on 'baby registry' at the top, and search by either name) and Amazon (visit <https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg> and search by either name).

Snow Reminder

Even with the storm we recently had, our building was open for worship on Sunday morning! No matter what the weather does, Pastor Josh (who does live next door, after all) will *always* offer worship services on Sunday mornings. Your safety is most important, so if you don't feel safe traveling, please stay at home. If you're scheduled to serve as a worship volunteer, it's okay to miss worship if the weather is bad. God willing, there won't be any more snow storms this winter to worry about!

A Narberth Epiphany

(Dear sisters and brothers – the following appeared in Holy Trinity's weekly email devotion during the first week of January. May it bless you as it blessed me.)

"They set out; and ahead of them went the star they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." (Matthew 2:9-11)

In the Christian liturgical calendar, today is celebrated as the Epiphany of our Lord. Today we celebrate the magi (or wise men) arriving to pay homage to Jesus. Not much is known about these magi, but we know they came from "the East" (Matthew 2:1), which means that they were *Gentiles*. At that time, God's people divided the entire world between Jewish and Gentile, and Gentiles were considered unclean outsiders who were *not* part of God's people. As those magi came to worship the newborn Jesus, it was a proclamation that God's love and grace - manifested in Jesus - is for *all* people. No one is outside the reach of God's love and salvation. No one.

The magi came bearing gifts that are both familiar and strange: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These gifts revealed who Jesus is, and why he had come:

- **Gold**, a gift fit for royalty, fulfilling the ancient prophecy (Isaiah 60:6), and declaring that Jesus is indeed King.
- **Frankincense**, a gift fit for a priest, used as incense in worship (Exodus 30:34), and declaring Jesus' divinity as High Priest.
- **Myrrh**, a perfume used to anoint and prepare the dead, offered to Jesus on the cross (Mark 15:23), wrapped around him after his death (John 18:39), and declaring Jesus as the one who came to die and bring us life.

And to find the newborn Jesus, they followed a star. A light in the sky drew them, stirring up something within them, calling them to seek after Jesus.

It was the same light that drew two visitors to our door on Christmas Eve, as I was able to witness a modern-day Epiphany right here in Narberth. The warm weather allowed us to open all the doors in our sanctuary, even the ones leading outside to the street. Starting at 4:00pm, the doors were cast open, the candles were lit, and the light was shining out onto the sidewalk and street.

The first visitor came wandering in (from an easterly direction, I think) as the band was warming up for the family service. She was drawn by the candles, the light, the music. She was looking to pay some money and light a candle, and I shared that as a Lutheran church we don't really have that tradition or practice. We talked about the differences between Lutheranism and other Christian traditions, and I told her the Good News that Jesus came to forgive, love, and save her. With a smile, she asked if she could come back later to worship - and five hours later she walked into our candlelight service and held the light of Christ as we sang together.

The second visitor entered our building during the end of the candlelight service. As he walked by on the sidewalk, he heard the voices and saw the candles lifted high, and he came in to pay homage with us. His eyes were big and he was overwhelmed with joy. It had been a long time since he stepped into a church, and thanks to some bad experiences as a child, he wasn't sure he was going to ever visit one again. But when he saw the light, he couldn't stay away. He came, he worshiped, he gave thanks, and he heard that he is still God's beloved child.

As we begin this new year, I pray you experience the Epiphany of Jesus in your own life, and that you be consistently and irresistibly drawn to the light of Christ shining in this world. Let us bring him every gift, and follow where he leads.

your co-worker in Christ,
Pastor Josh

Financial Snapshot

Member Giving

2015 vs 2014

November 2015	November 2014
\$10,264.10	\$10,257.00
December 2015	December 2014
\$14,250.00	\$17,416.00
End of year 2015	End of year 2014
\$119,704.10	\$114,229.78

Celebrate with us...

February	Name
4	Bob Recchiute
6	Danielle Py-Salas
8	Colin McConnell
8	Patrick McConnell
16	Robert Groves
21	Eviva Salas
24	Dewey Stuart
25	Robbie Starankovic, III
27	Bob Adams



February 2016	02/07/2016	Ash Wednesday 02/10/2016	1st Sunday in Lent 02/14/2016	2nd Sunday in Lent 02/21/16	3rd Sunday in Lent 02/28/16
ALTAR CARE	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild
COUNTERS	Nancy Hall and Dick Hoey	Nancy Hall and Dick Hoey	Nancy Hall and Dick Hoey	Nancy Hall and Dick Hoey	Nancy Hall and Dick Hoey
USHERS	Aaron Simms and Dick Hoey	<i>Please sign up in the CLC</i>	Alan Herold and Al Gebhart, III	Carter Williamson and Bruce McCluskey	Rob Folk and Tom DelMonte
LECTOR	Annie Ferris	<i>Please sign up in the CLC</i>	June Duncan	Eddie Williamson	Gail Whittingham
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Bruce McCluskey	<i>Please sign up in the CLC</i>	Dave Steiger	Annie Ferris	Owen DelMonte
COFFEE HOUR	Marianne Folk	No Coffee Hour	Teresa Gebhart	Louise Hoffman	Kristine DelMonte
ACOLYTE	Jacob Simms	<i>Please sign up in the CLC</i>	Ayden Herold	Royce Engelhard	Henry Folk
NURSERY	John Williamson	No Nursery	John Williamson	John Williamson	John Williamson
SUNDAY SCHOOL K-2	Marianne Folk	No Sunday School	No Sunday School	Kim Crews-Engelhard	Marianne Folk

FEBRUARY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 8:30-1:30 office open 3:30pm Yoga	2 8:30-1:30 office open 2:30pm Finance Committee 7:00pm Eating disorder support group	3 8:30-1:30 office open	4 8:30-1:30 office open	5	6
7 10:15am Worship with Sunday School	8 8:30-1:30 office open 3:30pm Yoga 6:30pm Policy Team	9 8:30-1:30 office open 7:00pm Eating disorder support group	10 Ash Wednesday 8:30-1:30 office open 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship	11 8:30-1:30 office open 6:30pm Church Council	12 12:00pm Bible Study	13 2:00pm-4:00pm Pastor Josh and Annie Baby Shower
14 1 st Sunday of Lent 10:15am Worship NO Sunday School	15 President's Day Office Closed 3:30pm Yoga	16 8:30-1:30 office open 7:00pm Eating disorder support group	17 8:30-1:30 office open 6:00pm Dinner Church	18 8:30-1:30 office open	19	20
21 2 nd Sunday of Lent 10:15am Worship with Sunday School 12:00pm Confirmation 3:00pm Ed Jakuboski Trumpet Concert 5:00pm Youth Group	22 8:30-1:30 office open 3:30pm Yoga 6:30pm Building Team	23 8:30-1:30 office open 7:00pm Eating disorder support group	24 8:30-1:30 office open 6:00pm Dinner Church	25 8:30-1:30 office open	26 12:00pm Bible Study	27 1:00pm – 4:00pm Private event in CLC
28 3 rd Sunday of Lent 10:15am Worship with Sunday School 12:00pm Confirmation	29 8:30-1:30 office open 3:30pm Yoga					



Holy Trinity

LUTHERAN CHURCH

N A R B E R T H

Growing in Faith - Making a Difference - Open to All

196 Woodbine Avenue

Narberth, Pa 19072

holytrinitynarberth@gmail.com

610.664.5503

Sunday Worship - 10:15am

Office open Monday - Thursday until 1:30pm



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
196 Woodbine Avenue
Narberth, PA 19072

Holy Trinity Happenings:

2/10 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship
2/17 6:00pm Dinner Church
2/21 3:00pm Concert at Holy Trinity
2/26 12:00pm Bible Study

We are especially Thankful for: