

The Messenger

February 2026

Volume 90, Issue 1

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From our Pastor

We're going on a journey

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

We begin Lent, as we do each year, with Jesus being driven into the wilderness, into the parched desert, where he is tempted and tested and offered the world. In this year's gospel reading on the first Sunday in Lent, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the desert after his baptism.

Jesus is baptized, and his journey begins.

The linking of Jesus baptism to the start of his ministry in the wilderness reminded me of a hymn in our hymnal called "I'm Going on a Journey."

I'm going on a journey, and I'm starting today.
My head is wet, and I'm on my way.
Christ's mark is on me; it's on you, too;
it says he loves me, and he loves you, too!

Our heads are wet and we're on our way. This is our Lenten journey, with heads wet from baptism, and a faith journey, both individual and collective, that calls us to follow Jesus in the work of caring for each other and proclaiming to the world, "and he loves you, too!"

As we gather this Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18, our focus turns to the journey once again.

Blessings to you, dear church, as we journey.

Pastor Brenda +



Lent at Holy Trinity

Lent begins this year with Ash Wednesday on February 18. Please mark these dates on your calendar.

Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. There will be two liturgies at Holy Trinity for in-person worship at 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m. Both services will include imposition of ashes and the Eucharist. The evening service will be live-streamed.

Lenten Prayer Retreat

Mark your calendar for our Lenten Prayer Retreat, which will be held Saturday, February 21, the first Saturday in Lent, from 9 a.m. to noon. The prayer retreat this year will include the opportunity to paint Ukrainian Easter eggs, led by Bonnie Massing.

We will begin in the sanctuary with communal prayer, then break off into interactive prayer stations that will be set up throughout the building. You will go to the prayer stations on your own.

We will gather together at the end of the morning for a meditative rite of healing, with laying on of hands and anointing.

Please join us as we begin this Lenten season in prayer.

Morning Prayer

We will be gathering at the church to pray Morning Prayer on weekdays during Lent at 8:30 a.m. We meet in the sanctuary, and are seated in the choir pews in the chancel. Because we typically pray for every member of the congregation by name during Lent at these services, we have created a simplified order of Morning Prayer for you to pray at home every day during this season. See that order, and the list of names for each day, in an insert in this newsletter.

Wednesday Evening Prayer and Thursday Lenten study

We will gather for Evening Prayer on Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. At this quiet, mid-week, traditional vespers service, our prayers rise as incense as we enter the quiet of the night.

We will have a Lenten study as part of our Thursday evening Zoom Happy Hour. If you would like to participate via Zoom, please contact the church office so that we can email you the Zoom link.

The link for the Happy Hour, which will be held February 19, 26, March 5, 19, 26 at 7 p.m., and March 12 at 8 p.m., is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81362158983?pwd=7wQM6XF8IVlyO3Afk3ICvoLw77dv8P.1>

Meeting ID: 813 6215 8983

Passcode: 161662

Stations of the Cross

We will gather to pray Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings at 5:30, in the chancel area of the sanctuary. Please enter through the office door. For those who would like to pray Stations from home, our recording of Stations of the Cross from 2020 is available on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCamd1F705R3knw7NEksvFvg>.

Join us during Holy Week

As we look ahead to late March, we are planning worship every day during Holy Week, which begins on March 29 with our Palm Sunday services.

Here is the listing of services for Holy Week:

Saturday, March 28, 5:30 p.m. — Eve of Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 29, 9:30 a.m. — Palm Sunday

Monday, March 30, 7 p.m. — Evening Prayer for the Monday in Holy Week, with rite of healing

Tuesday, March 31, 7 p.m. — Evening Prayer for the Tuesday in Holy Week

Wednesday, April 1, 7 p.m. — Evening Prayer for the Wednesday in Holy Week

Thursday, April 2, 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m. — Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 3, 7 p.m. — Good Friday

Saturday, April 4, 8 p.m. — The Great Vigil of Easter

Sunday, April 5, 9:30 a.m. — Celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ

We are planning to live-stream services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday evening, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday.

Sunday School Lenten Project 2026: It's Bunny Time!

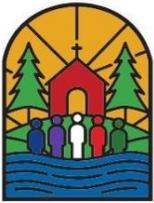
The Parish Education Committee is requesting participation from the congregation in our SCS Lenten Project.

For the Good Shepherd Center's Easter basket distribution this year, we will again be collecting chocolate bunnies. We ask that the bunnies be medium-sized, preferably 6 oz. Having a uniform size helps make the preparation of the baskets a little easier for GSC staff. Bunnies can be brought in, starting on Ash Wednesday (February 18) and placed on a table located in the administrative hall near the back alley door. Please drop your bunnies off at Holy Trinity as soon as you can, in order for GSC to have them in time for the Easter basket distribution dates. Thank you so much in advance for any help you can provide with our Lenten Project!

Kris Abraham,

Parish Education Committee Chair





**NORTHWESTERN
PENNSYLVANIA
SYNOD, ELCA**

Office of the Bishop _____ Rev. Kristen M. Papson, Bishop _____

January 20, 2026

Dear beloved siblings in Christ in the NWPA synod,

I write to you today, knowing that the recent news in both our country and the world can feel overwhelming and bring anxiety and fear. I am grieved by the news of escalating tensions in our country's relationships, both among our neighboring countries and also among those who live in our own communities and cities.

However, the Good News of Christ calls us to proclaim the truth in the midst of these situations: in Christ's love, there is no stranger. We are all beloved children of God, all created in the image of God, and all are inherently worthy of dignity, respect, compassion, and care. In a world where what divides us is often most emphasized, we need to remember the unity of Christ that we find in the waters of baptism.

In these times, we cling to the hope of Christ, the support of the communities that surround us, and the enduring presence of Christ whom we see most clearly among the oppressed, fearful, forgotten, and marginalized. We are called to be a people who beat our swords into plowshares, following the example of Christ who refused to wield power or might, but instead became a servant, aligning himself with those most in need.

To this end, let God's calling guide your actions. I encourage you to pray for one another, speak out as you are able, care for those most impacted by these rising tensions and violence, support one another in these difficult times, and advocate for justice for all our neighbors. Please take care of yourselves, pray for God's kingdom and justice to be fulfilled, and seek out those who especially need the Good News today.

May God's abounding love and peace surround you and sustain you, and know that my prayers are with you in your ministry and in your callings.

Bishop Kristen Papson

22598 Titusville Road PO BOX 43 Pleasantville, PA 16341 814.589.7660

Ukrainian Egg Classes for EVERYONE Are Available During Lent at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Great artistic skill not necessary. Come, learn, and have a wonderful time with friends.

There is no minimum or maximum classes you need to attend. You are welcome for any and all classes. Come when you can.

Class Information:

Thursday evenings

Dates: February 19, 26 March 5, 12, 19 and 26.

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Brath Hall

What you need to bring for each class:

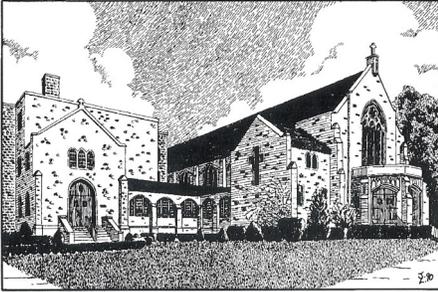
2 raw eggs (bring eggs in an egg carton)

\$1.00 to cover cost of supplies.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February 2026</h1>						
1 Presentation of Our Lord 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion 10:45 SCS/Confirmation Classes 7:00 AA Big book meeting	2 6:00 Property 6:00 Fiber Arts Group	3 7:00 Parish Ed	4 1:00 Grief Support Group 6:00 Dance Lessons 6:00 Choir Rehearsal	5 4:00 CCSS 6:00 Dance Lessons 7:00 Happy Hour (Zoom)	6	7 Alyssa Martin Bridal Shower Hospitality Room 5:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion (with prayers for healing)
8 5th Sunday after Epiphany 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion 10:45 SCS/Confirmation Classes 10:45 SOUPER BOWL 7:00 AA Big book meeting	9 6:00 Fiber Arts Group 7:00 GSO Exec Board Meeting	10 9:00 Flying Quilts 6:30 Worship and Music	11 1:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 Dance Lessons 7:00 GSO Board Meeting	12 5:30 Officers Planning Meeting 6:30 Finance Committee 6:00 Dance Lessons 8:00 Happy Hour (zoom)	13	14 5:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion (spoken)
15 Transfiguration of Our Lord 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion 10:45 SCS/Confirmation Classes 7:00 AA Big book meeting	16 6:00 Fiber Arts Group 7:00 AA Big book meeting	17 12:00 Fastnacht Lunch 7:00 Congregation Council	18 12:10 Ash Wed Service 1:30 Grief Support Group 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 Dance Lessons 7:00 Ash Wed Service	19 8:30 AM Prayer 6:30 Egg Decorating 6:00 Dance Lessons 7:00 Happy Hour (Zoom)	20 8:30 AM Prayer 5:30 Stations of the Cross	21 PRAYER RETREAT & EGGS 5:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion (spoken) SPINNERS AND WEAVERS EGG CLASS
22 1st Sunday in Lent 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion 10:45 SCS/Confirmation Classes 7:00 AA Big book meeting	23 8:30 AM Prayer 6:00 Fiber Arts Group	24 8:30 AM Prayer 9:00 Flying Quilts	25 8:30 AM Prayer 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 Dance Lessons	26 8:30 AM Prayer 6:00 Dance Lessons 6:30 Egg Decorating 7:00 Happy Hour (Zoom)	27 8:30 AM Prayer 5:30 Stations of the Cross 6:00 Girl Scouts	28 5:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion (spoken)

Evangelical Lutheran Church
of the Holy Trinity
One Trinity Place
Greenville, PA 16125



The Messenger is a publication of:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church
of the Holy Trinity
1 Trinity Place
Greenville, PA 16125
724-588-8870

Email address

holytrinitygreenville@verizon.net

Website:

www.holytrinitygreenvillepa.com

Staff

Pastor:

Pastor Brenda Martin

Director of Music:

Steve Repasky

Office Administrator:

Catherine Richardson

Directors of Parish Ministry:

Don and Sue Achenbach

Sexton:

Jennifer Martin

Officers of the Congregation

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Tammy Daniello

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Mike Bradley
Tammy Daniello
Chuck Lanning
Jim Martin
Matthew Morgan
Jill Murrin
Bob Olson
Barry Oman
Barbara Swartz
Nicole Weaver
Jamin Wentling

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.