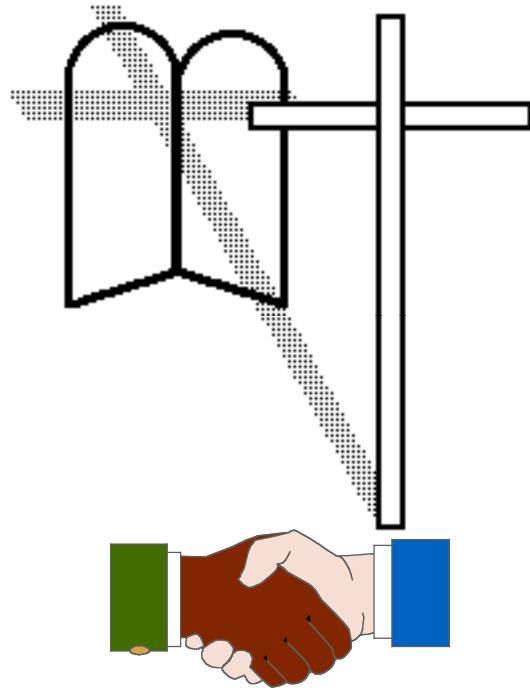


Sunday Morning Fellowship



**A Ministry of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Of the Holy Trinity**

**31 S. Duke St.
Lancaster, Pennsylvania**

Good Morning and Welcome to the Sunday Morning Fellowship.

You are welcome in God's house, this day and everyday, because it is He who has invited you, and He who sustains this ministry and all of us.

The Sunday Morning Fellowship combines breakfast with a brief lesson and worship. Our service incorporates prayer, scripture, video segments, lessons and music. We come to worship God, The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

If you have questions about this Fellowship, Christianity, or anything on your mind, please seek out one of the fellowship leaders this morning.

Relax, you are among friends.

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A Prayer by Martin Luther

What Happens Today?

Coffee Fellowship 7:30-8:00

Conversation, meet new friends
Renew friendships

Breakfast 8:00-9:00

Breakfast is served cafeteria style
Usually includes cereal and milk,
orange juice, pastries, and sometimes
includes hot items. Breakfast is provided
by Costco, Willow Valley, Darrenkamp's and
members of Trinity Lutheran Church.
You may help yourself as often as you like.

Video Segment 8:25-8:40

For approximately 10 minutes each morning
We view a segment from a video series,
usually about the life of Christ.

Lesson 8:40-9:10

A Lesson drawn from the video, or from
some other source, it will always be
Gospel-Centered

Prayer 9:10-9:15

We close with prayer, ending with
The Lord's prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

In Luke 11 we read that Jesus' disciples came to Him and asked Him to teach them to pray, He taught His disciples this prayer:

Our father who art (is) in heaven, hallowed
be thy (your) name,

Thy (Your) kingdom come, thy (your) will
be done, on earth as in heaven

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our trespasses (sins) as we
forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us
from evil.

For thine (yours) is the kingdom and the
power and the glory for ever and ever.

Amen

The last line is not in Luke 11. It is an addition to the prayer and is considered a "Doxology."

The Apostles' Creed

In the Early Church, Creeds were used to define beliefs, to fight heresy and to teach. The Apostles' Creed was not written by the Apostles, but instead represents early apostolic teaching. It is dated approximately 390 AD.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son our
Lord. He was conceived by the power of the
Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
died, and was buried; He descended into
hell; On the third day He rose again. He
ascended into heaven, And is seated at the
right hand of the Father. He will come
again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy
catholic Church, the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of
the body, and the life everlasting.

The Ten Commandments

You can find the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20. Denominations differ over how to number the commandments, but we all agree that there are ten.

- I. You shall have no other gods.
- II. You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain.
- III. Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy.
- IV. Honor your father and mother.
- V. You shall not commit murder.
- VI. You shall not commit adultery.
- VII. You shall not steal.
- VIII. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- IX. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
- X. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, servants, cattle, or anything that is your neighbor's.

The Greatest Commandment

Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was. His answer is actually a quote from Deuteronomy. We teach that His commandment summarizes God's whole law:

Luke 10:25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" 27 He answered: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' " 28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." (NIV)

The Great Commission

Just before Jesus ascended into heaven, He gave His disciples this commandment, what we call "The Great Commission."

Matthew 28: 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (NIV)

Baptism

What is Baptism?

Luther emphasized that Baptism depends on the promise of God. More than that, Luther reminds us, Jesus has ordered those who follow him in faith to practice Baptism, washing new Christian believers with water in the name of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We are acting in accordance with Jesus' commandment.

At the same time, Baptism is not “magic.” It is not merely a physical act to be performed and endured. The water is simply water, essential to life, but only water. It is the promise of God that is the active ingredient in this sacrament. It is the word of God used together with water that makes Baptism an event that creates new life in us.

What does Baptism accomplish?

“He saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we have done, but

according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit, He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ, our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs, according to the hope of eternal life.” (Luther’s Small Catechism)

As Jesus gave it to us, In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and his people, we grow in faith, love and obedience to God’s will.

We would welcome the opportunity to talk with you about your new birth into Jesus’ kingdom. If you have not been baptized, please talk with one of the fellowship leaders.

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is sometimes called the Eucharist or Communion. We believe and teach that you are welcome to participate if you have been baptized and if through the power of the Holy Spirit, you believe that Jesus is your Lord and Savior. You do not have to be Lutheran, or believe any particular teaching about the Lord's Supper. In our Church, Jesus offers an open invitation.

In our church we use bread and wine at the Lord's Supper. We offer communion every week at a short service at 8:00 am in the Chapel on the first floor of the Parish House, and at least once a month in the main church.

Question: What good does this eating and drinking do?

Answer: In communion we say: "Given for you" and "Shed for you to forgive sins."

Therefore, the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation are given to us through these words in the communion. Because, where sins are forgiven, there is life and salvation as well.

Who is Jesus?

The Bible reveals that Jesus is God who became man. Jesus is God because the Bible tells us that he was God and with God before the beginning of the created universe and that the creation happened through him (John 1). Jesus is also a man that was born in Bethlehem 2000 years ago. You know this story as the Christmas story. He was born to Mary, an ordinary young woman before she had sexual relations with Joseph, her fiancée and soon to be husband. This person that we call Jesus Christ is therefore both God and man. This is something that we teach because the Bible has revealed it. We cannot explain how this is possible and we do not try.

What Does the Symbol of the Cross Mean?

The central visual symbol in almost every Christian worship room is the cross, the cruel instrument of torture and death which the Roman Empire reserved for rebellious

slaves, violent criminals and threatening political subversives. Jesus died on such a cross. This symbol is central because we confess, “It is here, on the cross, that God meets us.” Here God makes himself present in weakness: vulnerable, suffering, forsaken and dying. God finds us, we do not find him. The cross is God’s love for us, in that he enters our darkness and embraces us with total unconditional acceptance. On the cross, Jesus defeats all the powers that reign in this world, and God liberates us, completely.

The cross is the source of our salvation, but it is not the end of the story. On the first Easter Sunday morning, God raised Jesus from the dead and he lives today. The cross has central place in our worship because it is through Jesus’ death on the cross and his glorious resurrection that we are justified to God and our sins are entirely forgiven and we can live the new life God intended for us. Jesus is revealed to us as a God that knows our sufferings, and can provide comfort.

Your Fellowship Leaders

Each Sunday, this ministry operates with Lay-Leaders (not ordained). We are all willing to speak with you at any time, about anything. We also have access to Pastors if needed.

Mr. Timothy Wentworth

Tim is the main teacher for the lessons each morning. Tim is retired, but currently works full-time in Christian education and also operates the Christian Library of Lancaster.

Mr. Michael Ervin

Mike is responsible each Sunday for much of the behind the scenes activity, including picking up food and chauffeuring some of the participants. He also delivers any extra food to Crispus Attucks. Mike is currently employed by the City of Lancaster.

Mr. Douglas Frazer

Doug is the backup teacher and assists with serving breakfast. He is active in adult Christian education here at Trinity . Doug is currently employed at Millersville University as a professor of accounting.

Membership?

Membership is not required for participation in the Sunday Morning Fellowship, or any of the activities of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. You are welcome to come every Sunday and come to the activities that are available throughout the week.

While Trinity Church membership is not required, it is encouraged. We would welcome you into membership at any time. Just talk to any of your fellowship leaders about joining the church.

Why do people become members?

Each person's answer might be a little different, but the main reason is that we feel called by Christ to associate with His Church. We desire to be part of the mission and the ministry of a particular congregation. There are many churches in the downtown area; we encourage you to consider joining a church where you feel this call.

Who can be a member?

Any baptized adult can join the church. We do offer a short “inquirers’ class” for people who are considering membership in Trinity Church. If you are not baptized we encourage you to consider receiving this gift of God’s grace (see page 7).

What happens if you are a member?

As a member of the congregation you commit to support the church by regularly worshipping, participating in the church’s life, working for peace and justice, and growing in the stewardship of all God’s gifts.

Does stewardship mean that I have to give money?

Yes and no. If you have money to give we would expect that you would gladly give it. If you have time to give we would expect that you would gladly give it. If you have talent to give we would expect that you would gladly give it. Membership in the church is not about giving money. It is about giving your life.

Some Other Common Questions

Why does this church offer the Sunday Morning Fellowship ministry?

Holy Trinity is a Christian church. As disciples of Jesus we are called to welcome our neighbor into our fellowship, every day, but especially on Sunday mornings. Jesus said in Matthew 25 that when we give food and drink or visit with someone we are doing this to Him. Every Sunday morning we expect Jesus to show up in our Sunday Morning Fellowship, and so far, He has never failed us.

What is a Christian?

A Christian is a follower of Jesus Christ. Jesus calls us to be His disciples. A Christian is baptized into this relationship with Christ and is willing to tell others about what Jesus has done in his or her life.

Is a Christian Different from Others?

Yes, a Christian is different from others in that he or she has heard Jesus' call and has responded.

However, a Christian is tempted like any other human being, but with God's help has the power of the Holy Spirit in the face of temptation. Another difference is that in the face of failure, the Christian has the forgiveness of God, through the life, death

and resurrection of God's Son, Jesus.

What does “Lutheran” mean?

Five hundred years ago, a man named Martin Luther attempted to reform the Roman Catholic Church. While his intention was to return the church to its ancient and original teachings, his reform efforts ended up splitting the Christian church. Lutherans accept as valid interpretations of the Gospel a group of writings called the Augsburg Confessions (and some other writings). These writings are not scripture, but we do accept them as explanations of the Bible. They were written in 1530 (some as late as 1580). Today, Lutherans are a protestant denomination, much like Episcopalians, Methodists, Presbyterians, etc. Luther never wanted his movement to bear his name, he was too humble for that. We call ourselves Lutheran, but we recognize that Luther simply considered us “Christians.”

Do I have to be a Lutheran?

No. While we tend to divide ourselves into different denominations, we are actually one church in the eyes of God. We have people from many different faith backgrounds worshipping in our church and present in the Sunday Morning Fellowship. All are welcome to participate, to worship and to learn. What you should expect is that the teaching and preaching

will be in accordance with Lutheran doctrine. You personally do not have to be “Lutheran.” It is enough that you are baptized and through the power of the Holy Spirit know Jesus as your savior.

What do Lutherans Believe?

While it is difficult to describe in just a short paragraph, many Lutheran teachings are now considered fairly common or mainstream Christian beliefs:

1. We are saved by grace through faith and not by works. Our Sunday Fellowship paraphrase is “God loves me no matter what I do.”
2. The priesthood of all believers: we are able to appeal directly to God, through no intermediary except that of Jesus Christ. And, we are responsible for our neighbor, just as if we were each the parish priest.
3. The Bible is the sole source of authority in the church. Church tradition always takes second place.
4. We are saved and released from sin (we are all saints), but sin stills plays a role in our lives (we are all sinners). Therefore, we remember our baptism, dying and rising daily to new life.

There are many other “Lutheran” teachings in the confessions. Please ask us, or participate in any of the adult education classes.

If you would like to read on your own, we refer you to any of the resources available each Sunday in our Library (1st Floor of the Parish House):

The basics of the Christian faith are taught in a document called the Small Catechism. Luther wrote his Small Catechism as an aid to family and church teaching of the basic principles of the Christian faith:

Luther’s Small Catechism, A Contemporary Translation, Pocket Edition, Augsburg Fortress

Copies are available, just ask.

Empty Vessels, A Prayer by Martin Luther

Behold, Lord, empty vessels that need to be filled. Our Lord, fill them. We are weak in the faith; strengthen us. We are cold in love; warm us and make us fervent, that our love may go out to our neighbors. We do not have a strong and firm faith; at times we doubt and are unable to trust you altogether. O Lord, help us. Strengthen our faith and trust in you. In you we have sealed the treasure of all we have. We are poor; you are rich and came to be merciful to the poor. We are sinners; you are upright. With us, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore we will remain with you, from whom we can receive all good things. Amen.

Notes

**Sunday Morning Fellowship
Contact Information:**

**You can contact your fellowship leaders at:
The Evangelical Lutheran Church
Of the Holy Trinity**

Phone: 717-397-2734

You may leave messages for:

Tim Wentworth

Mike Ervin

Doug Frazer

Bill Roberts

Jim Doyle

**The mailing address of the church is
Trinity Church
31 S. Duke St.
Lancaster, PA 17602**

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