



Dear Parish Family,

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church now celebrates our 75th anniversary. We are part of the two thousand year history of the Christian Church, which has extended itself throughout the world since the commission of the resurrected Jesus to the disciples to announce the Gospel to all nations. Our purpose is to continue to fish for people so that they may receive the forgiveness of sins through Christ and confess the Triune God.

We are not a secular fellowship and social organization. As Saint Paul writes, we are the body of Christ, a fellowship in Christ. No other organization in the community serves this unique purpose, which comes from the Lord Himself. In the short time that our congregation has been in existence, we have embodied Christ's presence along with other churches in the Abington/Willow Grove community.

The meaning of our history is found in the context of the larger history of the Christian Church. We can not know our identity without knowing Christ. We can not know our identity without knowing our vocation in the world. We can not know our identity without knowing the catholicity of the Church, its universal teaching and mission found in particular places but transcending any one place. We confess a faith held by people throughout the world and throughout time. We are called to faithfulness to Christ's teaching and mission.

Holy Trinity is seventy-five years old. Who knows how long our congregation will exist, perhaps one-hundred years, perhaps one thousand years, or longer, or until the end of time, when the new heaven and the new earth come into being? We have been and shall be a part of the rich history of the people of God who have responded to the grace of God. As long as we exist as a congregation, we shall be challenged to do what the Lord requires. Let us pray in this anniversary year of 2005 that our faith may be strengthened, so that we may be more faithful to Christ's command to take the Good News to those who have not heard or who have not yet responded. Being reminded of God's Word and mission are the most vital aspects of our celebration.

In Christ,

Pastor Mike & Pastor Mandy