

The Herald

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102 Apple Street ▪ Leesport, PA 19533 ▪ 610-926-7176 ▪ www.lcht.org

⁴⁹When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?" ⁵⁰Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. ⁵¹But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him. (Luke 22:49-51)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Here we are once again, in the aftermath of yet another brutal and senseless mass killing, this time in a school in Parkland, Florida. It is an all too familiar scene in our society. *The Reading Eagle* recently reported in an unusual front page "Our Opinion" piece that since 2013 there have been 291 incidents of guns fired in schools across the country and in the first 45 days of 2018 there already were 17 such occurrences. The opinion piece went on to note that most of the incidents did not involve assault weapons, however, the deadliest of them did which brings me to the purpose of this month's letter.

There are many reasons that Christians should be interested in reducing the incidents of violence in general and gun violence in particular, but the main reason for me is the example Christ set for us in his darkest hours. As the passage above reminds us, even when those who sought to take Jesus' life came out against him, he responded in love with grace and healing.

There are many reasons for the violence that plagues our society. I don't pretend to know all the reasons or their cure, but I have some thoughts that I feel compelled to share with you. Her they are:

1. We need to let our state and federal legislators know that legislative inaction on their part is no longer acceptable. The carnage has gone on for too long, impacting more and more families.
2. We need to request that Congress lift the ban that it placed on the National Institute of Health preventing it from funding studies into the issue of gun violence and the policies that can work to curb its frequency and destructiveness.
3. We need to request that our state legislature and Congress take action to ban from civilian sale and use all semiautomatic and automatic weaponry along with all the devices that can turn a regular rifle into an assault weapon of carnage. Having grown up in a family that hunted game for food, I know that there is no need for such weapons. The argument that such a ban would tread on our 2nd Amendment freedom holds no water because other constitutional freedoms, such as those of

the 1st Amendment, come with limitations (libel laws, etc.). No freedom is unlimited!

4. We need to do a better job of caring for those in our society who become estranged from it or are broken emotionally and/or mentally. One way to do this would be to ensure that everyone has access to quality health-care because they are covered by adequate and affordable insurance.

Please take time to contact (phone call, letter, email) your state and federal representatives and talk with them about these issues. Urge them to not let this moment pass as they have so many times before, and remind them that they were elected to do the people's business, not that of the special interests whoever they may be. The children, teachers and staff of Parkland, Florida; Newtown, Connecticut; Jefferson County, Colorado; and Leesport, Pennsylvania deserve our very best effort in this regard.

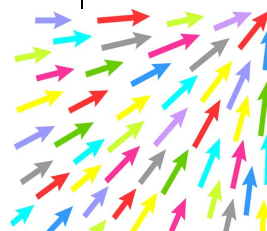
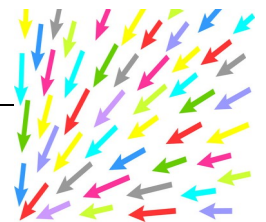
As Christians you and I are called to make Christ's love known in word and deed. Now is the time for us to speak up and to act, not for ourselves, but for the sake of our neighbor – both near and far.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Ritter

!!!OFFICIAL NOTICE!!!

**Annual Meeting of the
Congregation & Brunch**

*March 10, 2018
Brunch following
Worship*



WORSHIP AND MUSIC NOTES

Submitted by Renee Lenning, Chairperson

Mid-week Lenten Soup & Sandwich (6:00 pm) and Worship (7:00 pm) opportunities:

Worship Attendance

- Wednesday, 3/7 – at Trinity UCC
- Wednesday, 3/14 – at Bern UCC
- Wednesday, 3/21 – at Epler UCC



Sunday & Holy Week Services to be held at the Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity:

| | |
|------|-----------|
| 1/28 | 38 |
| 2/04 | 86 |
| 2/11 | 41 |
| 2/18 | 25 (snow) |

- 3rd Sunday in Lent, 3/4 -- Worship w/Holy Communion @ 9 AM
- 4th Sunday in Lent, 3/11 -- Service of the Word @ 9 AM
- 5th Sunday in Lent, 3/18 -- Worship w/Holy Communion @ 9 AM
- Palm Sunday-Passion Sunday, 3/25 -- Service of the Word w/Dramatic reading of Christ's Passion from the Gospel of Mark @ 9 AM
- Maundy Thursday, 3/29 – Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar @ 7 PM
- Good Friday, 3/30 – Tenebrae (Service of Shadows) @ 7 PM

Easter Worship – Sunday, April 1, 2018 @ 9 AM – The Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity

Next Worship & Music Committee meeting, Thursday, March 1, 2018 @ 6:00 PM

NOTES ABOUT OUR FOLKS

PRAYERS:

- * Jim & Audrey Delong, who are at home.
- * Gerri Kauffman, who is hospitalized.
- * The Hoke family who is in transition.
- * Randy Walborn and Lori Buehrer as they prepare to be married
- * Evacuees from Puerto Rico
- * Lorna Oswalt, who continues to receive therapy.
- * John & Shirley Weist, who are at home.

THANKS TO:

- * Ron & Judy Corl and all our other volunteers who help with the SV Food Pantry.
- * Everyone who has and continues to support the Gift Card program.
- * Those who save soup labels.
- * Those who save Redner's tapes. *(Remember to use your save-a-tape card.)*
- * Phyllis Heffner and the members of the Alter Guild.

CONGREGATIONAL & COUNCIL OFFICERS

FOR 2018:

- *Renee Lenning, President
- *Mike Lowery, Vice-President
- *Sue Reiber, Secretary
- *Sue Hawkins, Financial Secretary
- *Pat Miller, Treasurer

2017 5K RESULTS

Submitted by Diana Biehl

Top Finishers:

Troy Rudy time of 21:24
Stephanie Bender time of 21:00

Males 10 and under

1 Marshall McCullough

Female 11-18

1 Emma Christman

Female 19-29

1 Erica Yurvati

Female 30-39

1 Stacey Lipton
2 Brandy Fredericks
3 Kelly McCullough

Male 40-49

1 Robert Motto
2 Jim Gannon

Female 40-49

1 Carol Motto
2 Nancy Rodriguez

Male 50-59

1 David Koehler
2 Russell Motsko
3 Dean Biehl

Female 50-59

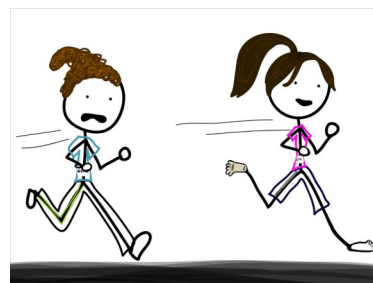
1 Sherri Kreisher
2 Tammy Biehl
3 Renee Lenning

Male 60+

1 James Manzick
2 Gary Dobias
3 David Moodhart

Female 60+

1 Donna Shuman



MARCH 2018



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Beginning in March the church office will no longer be open on Mondays. Generally, it will be open from 9 am until 1 pm Tuesdays through Fridays. It is always best to call before stopping by. | | | | 1 6:00 PM Music and Worship Meeting 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal | 2 7:00 PM Youth Group | 3 8 AM - 4:00 PM Soup and Sandwich Sale |
| 4 <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i> 9:00 AM Worship/ Holy Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School | 5 1:00 PM WELCA meets 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal | 6 | 7 6:00 PM Soup & Sandwich followed by 7:00 PM Worship @ Trinity UCC | 8 6:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal | 9 | 10 2:00 PM-6:00 PM Reserved 6:30 PM LCHT Movie Night |
| 11 <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i> 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Congregational Meeting & Brunch 4:30 PM Cub Committee meeting 6:00 PM Den meeting | 12 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal | 13 | 14 6:00 PM Soup & Sandwich followed by 7:00 PM Worship @ Bern UCC | 15 5:30 PM Soul Supper 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal NEWSLETTER DEADLINE | 16 2:00 PM Food Pantry Delivery | 17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution |
| 18 <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i> 9:00 AM Worship/ Holy Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry | 19 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal | 20 <i>1st Day of Spring</i> | 21 6:00 PM Soup & Sandwich followed by 7:00 PM Worship @ Epler's UCC | 22 6:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal | 23 | 24 9:30 AM-3:00 PM Council Retreat 11:00 AM- 8:00 PM Pack 160 Spaghetti Dinner |
| 25 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School 6:00 PM Den meeting | 26 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal | 27 | 28 | 29 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 7:00 PM Worship/Holy Communion @ LCHT | 30 <i>Good Friday</i> 7:00 PM Worship @ LCHT | 31 |

➡ For up to date calendar information, visit our website, www.lcht.org and click on the Calendar tab. ⬅

MARCH VOLUNTEERS

Altar Flowers

- 4- Sue Reiber
- 11- Irvine & Nettie Kauffman
- 18- Ron & Donna Kessler
- 25- Vicki Fetterman

Bulletins

- 4- Ron Davidheiser
- 11- *available*
- 18- Ron Davidheiser
- 25- Vicki Fetterman

Nursery

no attendant but room will be open

Acolytes

- 4-Makayla Lowery
- 11-Mason Clery
- 18-Evan Lash
- 25-Makayla Lowery

Greeter:

Phyllis Weaver

See bulletin board
to sign up to sponsor the weekly
bulletins, and the altar flowers.

Ushers

- 4-Lowery, Dennis Biehl,
Davidheiser
- 11-Diana Biehl, P. Heffner, Corl
- 18-Davidheiser, Lowery,
Dennis Biehl
- 25- P. Heffner, Corl, Diana Biehl
- 29 - Dennis Biehl, Corl, Diana Biehl
- 30 - Davidheiser, Lowery, P. Heffner

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays:

- 01 - Luke Angstadt
Sally Miller
- 02 - Judy Geisinger
- 06 - Hunter Billig
- 08 - JoAnn Gruber
- 11 - Kerry Miller
- 14 - Beth Goodhart
- 16 - Kenneth
Frankhouser
- 18 - Macy Zimmerman
- 19 - Darlene Savage

20 - Linda Reichard

- 21 - Judd Weber
- 27 - Sarah Strause
- 30 - David Baer
- 31 - Carole Imgrund

Anniversaries:

- 07 - David & Patricia Easterbrook
- 24 - John & Shirley Weist
Dave & Tracy Stoudt
- 30 - Timothy & Melissa Frey



CONGREGATION COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEMBERS & TERMS

| | <u>Term Begins</u> | <u>Current Term being served</u> | <u># of Years within this Term</u> | <u>Term Expires</u> | <u>Years on Council Thru End Of Current Year</u> |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Dennis Biehl | 2018 | 2 nd | 2 | 2019 | 3 |
| Ron Corl | 2018 | 3 rd | 2 | 2019 | 5 |
| Ron Davidheiser | 2018 | 3 rd | 2 | 2019 | 5 |
| Phyllis Heffner | 2018 | 1 st | 2 | 2019 | 1 |
| Renee Lenning | 2018 | 2 nd | 2 | 2019 | 3 |
| Mike Lowery | 2017 | 2 nd | 2 | 2018 | 4 |
| Rebecca Heffner* | 2017 | 1 st | 1 | 2018 | 1 |
| Diana Biehl* | 2017 | 1 st | 1 | 2018 | 1 |
| Suzanne Reiber* | 2017 | 1 st | 1 | 2018 | 1 |

All terms begin in January in the year indicated and conclude at the end of December in the year indicated.

** -- denotes filling unexpired term*



ROCKING HORSE PRESCHOOL

Submitted by Mrs. Woods and Mrs. Leshner

Well the groundhog predicted 6 more weeks of winter. Let's hope he was wrong!!

A big thank you to everyone who attended our Hoss's fundraiser. Our final fundraiser for the school year will be the Little Caesar's Pizza Kit sale. The sale will run from March 12th – April 5th. These are great for those busy nights this spring when sports start back up so considering purchasing a kit or two.



Unfortunately with all the snow days we will be using some of our spring break to make up school. However, March is always exciting as we look forward to spring and things hopefully thawing out a bit. We will be working on the letters V, W, X and lastly Z! As well as learning about, Carnival, Dr. Seuss, spring and Easter!!

At this time our classes for next year are filling fast. If you know of anyone interested in enrolling their child please check with one of the teachers to see if space is available.

Current Wish list:

- Extra Large Google Eyes
 - Glue Sticks
- Extra Fine Sharpies
- Microwavable Popcorn
 - Shaving Cream



COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT

The Berks Festival of Faith program is held the 3rd Thursday of the month (none in Dec.) at Bern Lutheran. It is a program for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD) that provides a free fellowship supper at 4:30 p.m., Sing-along at 5:30 p.m., and an All-join-in-Worship Service at 6:00 p.m.

Last year restaurants, congregations, and Thrivent sponsored the main course of the suppers: baked ziti, spaghetti, shepherds pie, meat balls & mashed potatoes, etc. Some sponsors provided a veggie, or salad, or dessert. A generous bequest from the Estate of Phil Cleres provided funds for the food items needed to complete a menu and provide dinner ware. Our BFF volunteers staffed some of the suppers, but the congregations had volunteers to help serve the supper.

Bern Church has allowed us to use their fully equipped kitchen for the prep work and cooking if needed; a Bern Church member who knows the kitchen has always been available to assist. Our volunteers are available to help set up and serve if needed.

The Berks Festival of Faith is a special ministry that a team of volunteers, most of whom were involved at Hamburg Center, has provided for 17 years. The purpose of this ministry is to give 'special needs' people a fellowship supper and worship experience that could prepare them to worship and participate in a community congregation. Members of community congregations are welcome ...needed ...to attend and assist out ID/DD individuals at supper and in the worship Service.

We would be most grateful if you would have a group - men, women, youth - in your congregation that would provide the supper. For more information and to make arrangements, please contact me at the information below. *

Thanks so much.

Blessings and Peace. Rev. David Kistler, 45 Tower Dr., Topton, PA 19562





BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Submitted by Adrienne Lesher

It is never too early or late to join us and have a ton of fun! Day Camps/Camping, Community Events, Earning Badges, Pinewood Derby, Cub mobile Races, Holiday Parties, Adventures/Trips and so much more! For more information, call Cubmaster Jason Witters at 484-671-2471 for Cub Scouts (Kindergarten—5th grade; ages 5-11) or Scoutmaster Karen Bausch for Boy Scouts (6th —12th grade).



LEESPORT BOY SCOUT TROOP 160 SPAGHETTI DINNER



Will be held on **Saturday, March 24** from 3:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at LCHT. The dinner includes meatballs, salad, Italian bread and a beverage. You may enjoy this dinner either by eat in or take out. Price for adults is \$8.00, children ages 5 to 10 is \$5.00 and children under 5 are free. To reserve tickets please call 610-373-5709.

YOUTH GROUP PANCAKE BREAKFAST SUCCESS!

The pancake breakfast was held Sunday February 11. Seven of our youth helped prepare and serve pancakes, sausages, juice, coffee and various toppings. The kids also had made chocolate covered pretzels a week earlier to sell to folks. Overall it was a large success with the youth earning enough to cover costs and earn money to help pay for a trip to an indoor water park in the Poconos. The group wants to open it up to the congregations in the Schuylkill Valley Pastors Association the next time and perhaps eventually opening it up to the community. Thank you to all who came out and supported this event!

LCMT MINISTRIES INFORMATION

2018 MISSION TRIP:

The 2018 Mission Trip will be returning to Monmouth County, NJ in continuing support of the Super Storm Sandy recovery efforts. The trip is schedule for April 22 to 27, 2018. If you are interested in going on the trip please attend the meeting on February 6 at 7:00 pm or see Dan DeAntonio.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:

The prayer shawl ministry group meets the third Sunday of the month from 2 to 4 p.m. Ideas for new projects are always welcome. You do not have to come to the monthly get-togethers, you can work on projects anywhere. Anyone who has any questions or suggestions, call Carolyn Heffner at 610-926-9662 or 484-332-0783.

FOOD PANTRY:



FEED THE HUNGRY

Our church is the distribution site for the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry. It is a monthly distribution done on the third Saturday of each month, from 9 to 11 a.m. Please contact the church for further information.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

MONTHLY MEETING

Join us on Monday, March 5 at 1:00 p.m. for our monthly meeting.

REDNER'S REGISTER TAPES

Submitted by Janet Kleffel

Did you know that Redner's Warehouse Markets gives 1% of purchases back to the Women of the ELCA? This one percent can really add up! And the monies goes to good things like the Mission Trip, VFW, Berk's Women in Crisis, just to name a few.

In order for Redner's to count the

receipt (a.k.a. - register tape), it has to be the ENTIRE receipt, and it has to have a "save-a-tape" number on it. How do you insure this? Well, you must use your pump perks card or save-a-tape card at the checkout. Then, just drop the ENTIRE receipt in the box at the ushers station in the narthex. DO NOT cut the bottom off. We only get credit for COMPLETE tapes! Also, please be sure to turn your tapes in in a timely manner, as Redner's will not accept any over three years old.

Your help is so appreciated. If you have any questions, please see Janet Kleffel.

LABELS TO SAVE

The Women of the ELCA continue to save **THE BARCODES** from Pepperidge Farms, Franco-American and Swanson products. The bar codes are sent to Solheim Lutheran Home in Los Angeles in support of the Navajo Lutheran Mission and School in Rock Point, AZ, where they are used to purchase vans and school supplies at the mission.

Keep on saving the bar codes and place them at the usher's station or give them to Darlene Savage.

Reading Fightin' Phillies

Saturday, June 30th join us at The Reading Fightin' Phils @ 6:35 pm in the Club 67 Area for food and fun. See Dennis Biehl for details and tickets.



New Members Welcomed!

If you or anyone you know is looking for a church home, let Pr. Ritter know. He will be happy to meet with them and to share the ministries of the people of God at LCHT. New members will be received into membership at times appropriate for them. You can contact Pr. Ritter at dsritter@ptd.net or 484-529-7801.

Deadline for submissions for the April Newsletter will be Thursday, March 15.



A Lending Library Has Begun

Because of our congregation's participation in the Reformation 500 Bookstore, we received approximately 20 books that can be borrowed for your personal reading. To borrow a book you simply need to place your name and requested information on the clipboard that is located next to the books. The books are on the shelves under the display case in the narthex. Happy reading!

LCHT MOVIE NIGHT SATURDAY, MARCH 10

6:30 p.m.

The movie will be shown downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.



1st Annual CHILI Cook off

Time: 11 am to 3 pm

Location: 102 Apple St, Leesport, Pa 19533

Cost: \$5.00/person

Chili judging @ Noon/People's choice award @ 2:45 pm

Bike Safety Rodeo and Carnival Games

Additional Food and Drinks will be available to purchase

March 17. Farm Family Appreciation Celebration.

Doors open at 6:15 PM, but no earlier. Dinner buffet – 7:00 to 8:00 PM (Tables will be held for families that work late.) Hoedown and Country music by "The Outlaws," with line dance music between sets – 8:00 to 11:00 PM. Hamburg Field House, Hamburg, PA - Exit #30 off I-78. For more information and to register, visit the [synod website](#).

March 17. Class for Lay Persons. Dr. Michael Krentz leading a class entitled "The Theology of Luther's Hymns and the Music of JS Bach." The class will be offered on Saturday, March 17, from 9:00 a.m. until noon at the Lutheran Center. Any member or friend of one of our congregations is welcome to attend. The cost is \$10 and can be paid the morning of the event; but you must register by Wednesday, March 14 by calling Pastor Mary Gade at [610-266-5101](tel:610-266-5101).

About The Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity

Our Mission:

"The Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity is a worshipping, growing community of faith in Christ Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit to reach out and serve all people with God's love."

About The Herald:

The Holy Trinity Herald is a newsletter distributed at the beginning of each month, except August. Articles can be submitted to the church office or e-mailed to the Secretary (preferred).

Deadline for article submission is the 15th of each month.

LCHT Sunday Schedule:

Worship at 9 a.m.

Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. for adults and confirmands

LCHT Staff Information:

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Dennis Ritter
Office: 610-926-7176 ext. 2
Cell: 484-529-7801
Email: dsritter@ptd.net

Secretary: Amanda Schwendeman
Office : 610-926-7176 ext. 1
Email: lchtsecretary@comcast.net
Office hrs: Tuesday - Friday 9 to 1

Sexton: Ana Calencea

Treasurer: Pat Miller
Email: lchttreasurer@comcast.net

Music Director: Virginia Lash
Home: 610-916-1316
Email: vlash224@comcast.net

Mailing Address:

102 Apple Street
Leesport, PA 19533

Website: www.lcht.org

Church Fax Number: 610-926-7273

Rocking Horse Preschool Information:

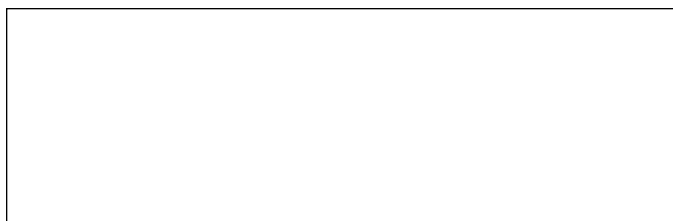
Teachers: Mrs. Aliesha Woods
Mrs. Adrienne Leshner
Office: 610-926-7176 ext. 3
Email: rhps@comcast.net

Mailing Address:

Rocking Horse Preschool
The Lutheran Church
of the Holy Trinity
102 Apple Street
Leesport, PA 19533

Website: www.lcht.org

March 2018



Return Service Requested

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity
102 Apple Street
Leesport, PA 19533