



The Herald

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

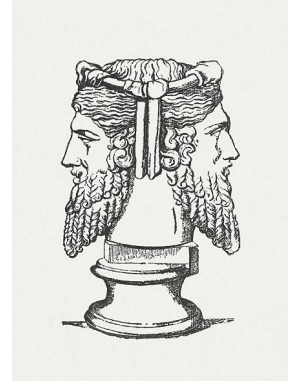
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FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ,

Janus was the two-faced Roman god from whom we get the name of the first month of the year, January. One face looked back to the past, to all the events that made Rome the great empire it was. The other face looked to the future, projecting ahead a vision of what these past experiences might foretell. As we here at The Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity stand on the cusp of a New Year, we, too, can take stock of our life together this past year, of the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on us in ways both small and large. For instance, we have had to make decisions: to mask or not to mask, Communion at the pews or at the altar, to shake hands or bump elbows. While seemingly small, insignificant gestures, we've witnessed how they can cut a wide swath across our communities and become flashpoints for conflict in our schools and politics. In a larger, more important sense, however, the ongoing pandemic with its progression of variants and failure to get universal assent to vaccinations have left us as congregations scrambling for ways to continue doing what is in our DNA as the Body of Christ: bringing people together for corporate worship as well as the various small groups that keep us viable and growing.



As we look ahead to 2022, it's important that we take the risk of getting outside of our comfort zones so we can become relevant to those unchurched people who so need a relationship with the God of love who reveals Himself in Jesus the Christ. When we operate by our habitual patterns, we strengthen certain neural pathways in our brain which cause us to be "set in our ways." Good habits, especially as we age and experience some slowing down of our cognitive abilities, can save space in our brain for creativity in the most important areas of our lives like relationships. Just like farmers and grass cutters are encouraged to plow and cut across habitual patterns of sowing seeds and cutting grass, we as Christians can literally create new responses and allow rigid ones to die off by creating new ways of expressing our faith through worship and social outreach practices. As Jesus put it in Mark 2:22 and Luke 5:37-38, "New wine demands fresh skins, or otherwise we lose both the wine and the container."

They say that "you can't teach an old dog new tricks." That may be true for certain areas of life, but as far as our life together with Christ is concerned, the prophet Joel says it best, speaking God's words: "I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;...your old men (and women) shall dream dreams, and your young men (and women) shall see visions." (Joel 2:28). That promise of God we claim as we enter 2022 and all its possibilities for transformation and new life.

Your pastor and friend,
Carl W. Filer

BAD WEATHER INFORMATION

In the event of bad weather, please refer to the following for cancellation notification:

- On the internet: www.wfmz.com
- On television: channel 69 news
- By telephone: 610-926-7176 option 5 for special announcements



WORSHIP AND MUSIC NOTES

Submitted by Nettie Kauffman

Worship services for January:

- January 02 2nd Sunday of Christmas, Holy Communion service.
- January 09 Baptism of Our Lord - Installation of new council members.
- January 16 2nd Sunday of Epiphany, Holy Communion service.
- January 23 3rd Sunday of Epiphany
- January 30 4th Sunday of Epiphany

Worship Attendance



11/28	32
12/05	29
12/12	34
12/19	30

Other Notes:

*Decorations will be taken down in the sanctuary on Saturday, January 8 at 9:00 a.m.

*We will continue with "Masks are optional" for worship services.

*Sunday, February 6th the Bell Choir will play. This is "Souper Bowl Sunday." All monetary donations collected this day will be given to special outreach projects. Place your donation in the bucket who you feel will win the Super Bowl!

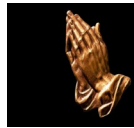
*Worship & Music committee discussed looking into the placement of a sign indicating there is a Labyrinth on the property and signs designating the location of the labyrinth.



NOTES ABOUT OUR FOLKS

PRAYERS:

- * Shirley Weist, Columbia Cottage, Wyomissing
- * Pauline Bond at Maiden creek Place.
- * Cynthia Leutze at the Masonic Home in Elizabethtown.
- * Lollie Seaman at Rittenhouse Village.
- * Carole Imgrund at the Masonic Home in Elizabethtown
- * Audrey Delong at her home in Leesport.
- * Richard Reiber at the Highlands in Memory Care.
- * Dennis Stoudt at his home in Leesport.
- * Gordon Kistler at his home in Mohrsville.



THANKS TO:

- * Everyone who decorated the Church for Christmas
- * Everyone who sponsored Poinsettias for Christmas.
- * All our volunteers who help with the SV Food Pantry.
- * All the leaders of our church, the nation and the world.
- * All the frontline workers who continue to fight the pandemic.

Thank You

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays:

- 01 - Lisa Kuhns
- 02 - Joseph Lowery
- 09 - Linda Greely
- 10 - Pauline Bond
Johnathan Greely
- 11 - Elaine Lombardo
Bradley Buchalter
Anna Mae Beitler
- 13 - Paul Clery
- 14 - Janet Kleffel
- 20 - Alyssa Potts
- 25 - Victoria Wagner

- 27 - Derrick Potts
- 28 - Barry Beitler
- 29 - Donna Degler
Sallyann Hoke



Anniversaries:

- 04 - Michael & Amy Korpics







January 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1  8:30 PM AA Meeting
2 <i>2nd Sunday after Christmas</i> 9:00 AM Worship /Holy Communion	3 1:00 PM WELCA 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	4	5	6 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg.	7 4:30PM-7:00PM Sandwich sale prep	8 7-11 AM Sandwich sale 9:00 AM Removal of Christmas Decorations 8:30 PM AA Meeting
9 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i> 9:00 AM Worship Installation of new council members	10 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	11	12 7:00 PM Council meets	13 9:30 AM Pastoral Care Team 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg.	14 2:00 PM Food Pantry Delivery NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	15 9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution 8:30 PM AA Meeting
16 <i>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</i> 9:00 AM Worship: Holy Communion	17 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	18	19	20 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg.	21	22 8:30 PM AA Meeting
23 <i>3rd Sunday of Epiphany</i> 9:00 AM Worship	24 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	25	26	27 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg. 8:00 PM Worship & Music meeting	28	29 8:30 PM AA Meeting
30 <i>4th Sunday of Epiphany</i> 9:00 AM Worship	31 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal					


 For up to date calendar information, visit our website, www.lcht.org and click on the on [Calendar](#) tab.
 

JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

Bulletins

03-available
10-available
17-available
24-available
31-available



Altar Flowers

03-available
10-available
17-available
24-available
31-available

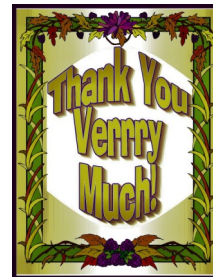
Nursery

no attendant but room will be open

See bulletin board to sign up to sponsor flowers or bulletins.
The cost to sponsor flowers is \$25.
The cost to sponsor bulletins is \$15.

Ushers

02- Janet Kleffel
09- Phyllis Heffner
16- Linda Roshong
23- Vicki Fetterman,
30- Dan DeAntonio



ROCKING HORSE PRESCHOOL

Submitted by Ms. Woods



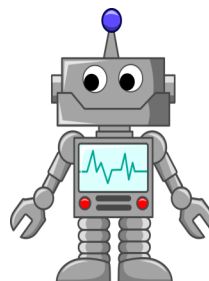
December was such a fun month here at school! We are always so busy preparing for the upcoming Christmas season! We had fun making ornaments, shopping for gifts for our loved ones during our "Santa shop" and having a cookies and cocoa day with our families.



A special thank you to our volunteers! We hope everyone enjoyed the holiday break and is ready for the what the new year brings.



As we look forward to January, we will be learning about the letters P, Q, R, S and T. We explore the themes of penguins and polar bears, queens and kings, robots, snow, and transportation.



Wish List:

- Gallons of Spring Water
- Staplers
- Cd/Tape Player
- Mini Sticky Note Pads
- Glue Dots
- Paper Plates (uncoated) Large & Small
- Fine Point Sharpies

If anyone has gently used toys they are looking to get rid of please consider RHP. Call or email (610-926-9428 or

rhps@comcast.net) to see if we are still in need.



THANK YOU

LCHT NEWS

Annual congregational meeting

December 12, 2020

The annual congregational meeting was held on Sunday, December 12 following morning worship.

The budget for 2022 was reviewed and approved.

Dennis Biehl, Renee Lenning and Helen Stoudt have completed their council service. Nominees to fill their positions were announced. Votes were cast and Dan DeAntonio, Darlene Savage and Dennis Savage were voted in as the new members of council.

Council Members for 2022:

Diana Biehl

Ron Davidheiser

Daniel DeAntonio

Vicki Fetterman

Phyllis Heffner

Janet Kleffel

Linda Roshong

Darlene Savage

Dennis Savage



Thank you to all Angel Tree Participants

The angel tree program has ended for this year. We would like to let you know how much we appreciated everyone in the congregation and the Rocking Horse Preschool for their participation. We had twenty-five names from the Hamburg Salvation Army and all names were taken. On Dec. 6th all gifts were picked up and delivered to the Hamburg Salvation Army. You are a very dedicated, compassionate and faithful group of people. Your generosity, and kindness will bring smiles to a lot of people this year in the Hamburg area.



Thank you very much,
Phyllis Heffner & Sally Miller

The next sandwich sale will be held at LCHT on Saturday, January 8, 2022.

Sandwich pick-up will be from 8:45 AM to 10:30 AM.

Please see form on the bulletin board to place your order by January 3, 2022.

Sale proceeds will benefit Leesport Lock House.



GIFT CARD PROGRAM:

Gift cards continue to be available for Redner's and Weis.

Giant gift cards are available upon request.

All cards are available in \$25, \$50 and \$100 denominations.

Cards can be purchased after church on Sunday mornings from Phyllis Heffner.

If Phyllis is not in attendance she can be reached at 610-926-1004.

Please leave a message with your request and she will make arrangements to deliver your cards.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA

MONTHLY MEETING

Join us on Monday, January 4 at 1:00 p.m. for our monthly meeting.

REDNER'S REGISTER TAPES

Submitted by Janet Kleffel

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 go 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.

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.

Veterans Making a Difference is an ongoing project through WELCA and Pastoral Care.

Thank you to everyone who donated during Advent and throughout the year.

There is a box in the narthex for collecting needed items for the veterans. Items will be delivered as they accumulate.

Suggested items for donation are:

Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Mouthwash
Deodorant
Shampoo
White socks
Sleep pants (size L,XL & XXL)
Toilet paper
Paper towels
Laundry detergent
Liquid body soap
Dish soap



LCMT MINISTRIES INFORMATION

FOOD PANTRY:

Our church continues to be 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.

There is an income guideline and a registration form to fill out, giving us your name and address as well as the number of family members in your household. Also, there are brochures and information available on heating assistance, ways to conserve energy and general concerns of limited income families. Please contact the church for further information. We continue to serve around 80 local families every month.

DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS GREATLY APPRECIATED.



The Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry is in need of YOUR HELP! We have plenty of supplies and funds (thank you for your continued donations), but we are in the process of re-organizing and need volunteers to take some more leadership roles. With the changes of a new organization, **we are in need of leadership and board members.**

We are so grateful that many have stepped forward to be in charge of the distribution, but now we are specifically looking for individuals to represent their churches on the board that would oversee the organization. **This would be for a 2-3 year commitment (depending on the term limits that are established by this new group) beginning in about 18 months. The committee meets approximately four times per year (once a quarter)** and does not take too much of your time outside of those meetings.

If you would like to volunteer to represent your church on this committee, please speak with your pastor and have them contact Rev. Gary Rarick, administrator of the SV Food Pantry or if you have any questions.

His contact information is: pastorrarick@gmail.com or 610-401-1545.

Pastor Gary will be stepping down as the administrator once the new organization is up and running, but he is working diligently with the current committee to get the new organization established.

NEPS Pandemic Update – December 2021

The Latest Situation: The Covid-19 pandemic continues to generate fear, concern, confusion and division across the country and within our own Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. The most recent developments – some troubling, some hopeful – include:

- The rise of new variants, especially “omicron”;
- The ongoing and in many cases, increasing numbers of new cases;
- The continued reluctance and refusal of some to get vaccinated, or to wear masks;
- On the good side: the increased opportunities for testing, for boosters, and for vaccines for all ages.

Here in our Synod, I now encourage us to use another trustworthy source of information to help guide our decisions concerning the pandemic: the “Covid Act Now Coalition.” This non-profit, web-based resource brings together non-partisan experts in medicine, law, and public policy, to provide objective data and analysis. Their website is being consulted as a reliable source by synods and congregations across the ELCA. From their site, we can see clearly that things are still very threatening here in NE Penn: all 14 of our counties have threat levels of “VERY HIGH” or “SEVERE” – Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, and Schuylkill all are in that worst category. Additionally, the vaccination rate is at or below 60% for 7 of those 14 counties. Most of these numbers are worse than the data for many of our neighboring synods, including the Southeastern Penn Synod, whose leaders have nonetheless chosen to put in place stricter guidelines than we have. I believe we can become safer and return to “normal” sooner if we follow their lead.

Dr. Luther Shows The Way: Almost exactly 500 years ago – in November 1520 – Martin Luther published one of his most ground-breaking treatises: “On the Freedom of a Christian.” He begins the document with this famous declaration: “A Christian is the most free lord of all, subject to none. And a Christian is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to everyone.” He goes on to describe how God, through Christ’s sacrificial love for us on the cross, has granted us the grace and the freedom to make our own decisions; but this freedom does not release us to disregard the truth, or our call to care and concern for our neighbor. Luther writes: “Therefore [Christians] should be guided in all [their] works by this thought and contemplate this one thing alone, that [they] may serve and benefit others in all that [they do], considering nothing except the need and the advantage of [the] neighbor.” So “what does this mean?” The inconvenience of mask wearing; and even the threat of temporary cold-and-flu reactions to vaccinations – these are simply the sacrifices we are called to make, as “the dutiful servants of all, subject to everyone.” It is within this traditionally and theologically Lutheran framing that we maintain our vigilance; and update our guidelines here.

Latest Synod Recommendations: As we prepare for the larger crowds of Christmas Eve – and with Lent, Holy Week and Easter not far away – I am recommending the starting, the continuation, or the resumption, of any and all common-sense and good-neighbor precautions, including:

- Proof of vaccination or a negative test for all indoor events
- Indoor masking
- Good air circulation, including open windows where feasible
- Social distancing, frequent washing and other effective protocols.

Furthermore – at their January 15 meeting, I am encouraging our Synod Council to discuss and decide upon further appropriate actions, which may include mandates that all Synod-sponsored indoor events require masking, proof of vaccination, and/or proof of a negative test. As the duly elected governing body of this Synod, your Synod Council has the right and responsibility to make these decisions for Synod gatherings. When it comes to our individual worshipping communities, our authority is more limited; Synod Council (and myself) can only make clear and strong recommendations – based on the best science, on good conscience and on our common love for our neighbors, especially those who are most vulnerable. In other words, all congregations have the “freedom of a Christian” to decide for themselves how they will choose to act – or refuse to act. I invite us all to follow our baptismal call and Lutheran heritage, to follow God’s will and God’s love for all.

In God’s Love,
Bishop Christopher deForest

About The Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity

Our Mission:

“The Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity is a worshipping 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 by the beginning of each month, except August. Articles can be submitted to the church office or e-mailed (preferred) to the Secretary.

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

LCHT Sundays’ Schedule:

Worship at 9 a.m.

LCHT Staff Information:

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Carl W. Filer
Office: 610-926-7176 ext. 2
Home: 610-223-7318
Email: LCHTpastor@outlook.com

Secretary: Debra Berg
Office : 610-926-7176 ext. 1
E-mail: lchtsecretary@comcast.net
Office hrs: Monday, Wednesday,
Thursday 9-1

Sexton: Ana Calencea

Treasurer:
E-mail: lchttreasurer@comcast.net

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

Mailing Address:
102 Apple St.
Leesport, PA 19533

Website: www.lcht.org

Church Fax Number:
610-926-7273

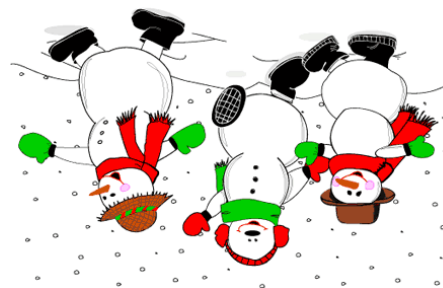
Rocking Horse Preschool Information:

Teachers: Ms. Aliesha Woods
Ms. Kimberly Wentzel
Office: 610-926-7176 ext. 3
Email: rhps@comcast.net

Mailing Address:
Rocking Horse Preschool
The Lutheran Church
of the Holy Trinity
102 Apple St
Leesport, PA 19533

Website: www.lcht.org

January 2022



Return Service Requested

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity
102 Apple Street
PO Box 221
Leesport, PA 19533