



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 Roman god with two faces, one looking backward and the other looking forward. From him, appropriately enough, we get the name January for the first month of the year. If we take some time to look back to where we've been in this swirling cauldron of 2020, maybe we can catch a glimpse of some possibilities for growth in our role as "church" in 2021.

First and foremost, the onset of the coronavirus pandemic initially left us groping for answers to questions like: When and where and how did it start? How does the virus manifest itself? How can we combat it? At the beginning, answers to these questions were so elusive that we took a generalized, broad-brush approach of shutting down much of society and the economy. In an abundance of caution, churches closed their doors to on-site worship and programs. But based upon guidance from the state and our denominational leadership, we learned how to apply for government assistance and employ some of the precautionary tactics like social distancing, the wearing of masks, and hand-sanitizing. We were resilient and discerning of the best practices for our own particular community.

As we transition to 2021, we can leverage these lessons learned to use appropriate technologies here at Trinity, whether that means an expanded use of screens and projectors to illustrate sermons and classes as well as virtual meeting technology like ZOOM and Skype. Our greater attention to sanitizing, covering up our coughs and sneezes, and staying away from church when we're sick can pay dividends in a healthier congregation. Of course, a large percentage of our population getting one of the vaccines now rolling out will be the greatest deterrence to the contraction of COVID-19 and the ultimate achievement of herd immunity.

And then, secondly, the polarization of our country, not just politically between red states and blue states, but also religiously between those who interpret Scripture and social issues in more "black and white" terms and those who see them more ambiguously in their grayness, must be transcended in the unifying love of Jesus Christ. I don't care where you stand on the spectrum of your Christian affinities, conservative or liberal; if you love the Lord and have a daily walk with the Him, you are my brother or my sister.

On the basis of these common values, let us forge ahead into the coming year, continuing to wear our masks and social distancing until the day when we can safely congregate again, free of restrictions and ready to fulfill our mission ". . . to reach out and serve all people with God's love."

A blessed and happy New Year,
Pastor 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

Worship services for January:

- January 03 2nd Sunday after Christmas , Communion service
- January 10 Baptism of Our Lord
- January 17 2nd Sunday of Epiphany, Communion service
- January 24 3rd Sunday of Epiphany
- January 31 4th Sunday of Epiphany

Worship Attendance



| | |
|-------|----|
| 11/29 | 40 |
| 12/6 | 38 |
| 12/13 | 42 |
| 12/20 | 41 |
| 12/24 | 42 |
| 12/27 | 27 |

Other Notes:

Decorations will be taken down in the sanctuary on Saturday, January 9 at 9:00 a.m.
The next Worship & Music meeting date is Thursday, January 21 at 8:00PM following choir rehearsal.

We will continue to use the prefilled communion cups with wafers for communion. The cups will be in a basket next to the basket with the bulletins. Please take a cup when you pick up your bulletin upon entering the church. There is also an instruction sheet on how to open the cup in the basket.

There are two cellophane covers on top of the cup. Remove the first cover to get the wafer and the second cover uncovers the wine. Please dispose of the cup and covers in the trash can that will be provided. Do not leave the empty container in the pew.

NOTES ABOUT OUR FOLKS

PRAYERS:

- * Shirley Weist, Columbia Cottage, Wyomissing
- * Pauline Bond at Maiden creek Place.
- * Cynthia Leutze at her daughter's home in Mohsville.
- * Lollie Seaman at Rittenhouse Village.
- * Carole Imgrund in Elizabethtown
- * Audrey Delong at her home in Leesport.
- * Richard Reiber at the Highlands in Memory Care.



CONDOLENCES TO:

- * The family of Scott Biehl.

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 fighting the pandemic.



JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 01 - Lisa Kuhns | 12 - Mason Wink |
| 02 - Joseph Lowery | 13 - Paul Clery |
| 09 - Shelby Gabel | 14 - Janet Kleffel |
| Linda Greely | 20 - Alyssa Potts |
| 10 - Pauline Bond | 25 - Victoria Wagner |
| Johnathan Greely | 27 - Derrick Potts |
| Laura Reiger | 28 - Barry Beitler |
| 11 - Elaine Lombardo | 29 - Donna Degler |
| Ronda Wolfe | Sallyann Hoke |
| Bradley Buchalter | |
| Anna Mae Beitler | |

Anniversaries:

- 04 - Michael & Amy Korpics







January 2021



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


 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

**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.**



Nursery

no attendant but room will be open

Ushers

03-Janet Kleffel, Vicki Fetterman
Diana Biehl
10-Phyllis Heffner, Dennis Biehl,
Helen Stoudt
17-Ron Davidheiser, Phyllis Heffner,
Linda Roshong
24- Dennis Biehl, Vicki Fetterman,
Janet Kleffel
31-Helen Stoudt, Linda Roshong,
Vicki Fetterman

Annual congregational meeting

December 13, 2020

The annual congregational meeting was held on Sunday, December 13 following morning worship.

The budget for 2021 was reviewed and approved.

Mike Lowery and Sue Reiber have completed their council service. Nominees to fill their positions were announced. Votes were cast and Janet Kleffel and Ron Davidheiser were voted in as the new members of council.

Council Members for 2021:

Diana Biehl, President
Dennis Biehl, Vice President
Renee Lenning
Phyllis Heffner
Linda Roshong
Vicki Fetterman
Helen Stoudt
Ron Davidheiser
Janet Kleffel



Happy New Year from Troop 160!

Submitted by Karen Bausch

The Troop is having our last sandwich sale on Saturday, February 6, 2021. An order form will be on the bulletin board if anyone is interested.



Thank you for supporting Troop 160.

ROCKING HORSE PRESCHOOL

Submitted by Mrs. Woods



We also were able to still do our Santa shop, which the kids always enjoy! It's fun to see them think about which present they want to pick for all of their loved ones.



Although this December hasn't been what we were hoping we still managed to try and keep a little of the Christmas spirit alive.

During the month the students got to hear some fun stories from Miss Kelly from the Schuylkill Valley Community Library. Pastor Filer also took time out of his schedule to share the story of the first Christmas with us.

We didn't get to do our normal cookies and cocoa day like in past years but we did manage to do a smaller party within the classroom.



We want to thank everyone for their continued support and we hope that everyone has a wonderful Christmas and very happy new year!

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. Requests include personal care items, toilet paper, paper towels, laundry and dish detergent, large size winter coats, boxer shorts, white socks, large size flannel night pants, Crest toothpaste and Old Spice deodorant.



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.

110 families in our community are currently being served by the food pantry. This number has increased due to the continuing unemployment rate. Individuals who never needed help before are finding themselves unable to provide adequate food for their families.

DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS GREATLY APPRECIATED.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:

The prayer shawl ministry group has not been holding face to face meetings. However, you can work on projects anywhere. We will be making shawls for Tower Health with the yarn they provide. Chemo and preemie hats will also be made for patients at Tower Health.

Anyone who has any questions or suggestions please contact Darlene Savage at 610-926-2461 or anyone on the Social Ministry Committee.

Synod News

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

A Note from the Bishop Elect

Dear Friends in Christ - The Seasons of Christmas and Epiphany proclaim the good news: “Christ with us” and “Christ revealed to us!” I cling to these words. I long to hold tight, loved ones who must stay apart for a time: my parents, siblings, nephews and nieces. And I grieve for those we have lost, cry out for an end to this present suffering.

But I also hear this great promise with new ears and insights:

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in deep darkness a light has dawned” (Isaiah 9:2 NIV).

Let us trust that the Light of the World is here already, and yet his coming is on the cusp, ready to start making all things new.

In the coming days, I so look forward to sharing the vision that God is ready to reveal, for new life and renewed purpose across our Synod.

More to come: keep watch! - Chris deForest, Bishop Elect



Lessons and Carols for the Feast of the Epiphany

Lessons and Carols for the Feast of the Epiphany Christ Lutheran and First Presbyterian Churches, both of Allentown, are holding a “Lessons and Carols” service on Zoom for the Feast of the Epiphany. The service on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 begins at 7:30 pm; pre-service music will begin at 7:20. Music in the service will be both live and recorded – the recordings are from 2020 performances of Christ Lutheran’s 12th Night Festival. This ecumenical celebration is for everyone! Here is the information to join the service on January 6.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/107650768?pwd=MXYrcIVsQUVWMTUxcTZwOGdjVVN0Zz09>

From a phone +1 646 558 8656 US (New York); +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 107 650 768

Password: 003931

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: Pat Miller
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

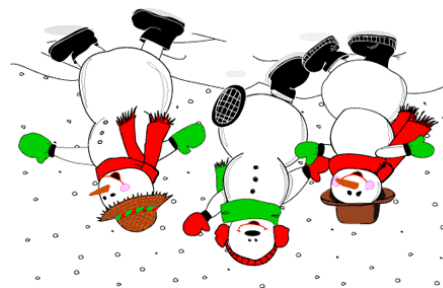
Rocking Horse Preschool Information:

Teachers: Mrs. 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
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Website: www.lcht.org

January 2021



Return Service Requested

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity
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