



The Herald

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

From The Pastor's Desk

Seasonally, we have now moved into my favorite time of year. I am always in awe of the colors of autumn when the leaves on the trees share their dull or bright changes from greens to yellow, red, orange, brown and gold. Flowers and bushes also seem to have a new spurt of color as if they are saying, "I'm going to be something joyful you can remember when your days seem long and bleak as the winter sets in."

November is my favorite month because Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. Most likely this resulted from the wonderful Thanksgiving celebrations I had in my home as a child, with the turkey on the table and many relatives visiting to share the day with us. Such beautiful memories.

The years pass and the things I am thankful for now are so very different from the ones I had as a child...but I am no less thankful for them. And I also think about what it was that I never thought to give special thanks for...and now I realize how blessed I was to have had it.

During the month of November, I encourage each of you to compare what it was you were thankful for as a child to what it is you currently are thankful for and see how different it might be.

So soon after Thanksgiving we turn our thoughts to Christmas and the beauty of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Again...Christmas Day is vastly different from ones I remember as a child, but no less special.

Gail Duff, in her book "The Scented Christmas", writes: "In times gone by, when fireplaces were large enough to sit in, an enormous log called the Yule log was dragged in from the woodland, decorated with evergreens and lit on Christmas Eve. It was kept burning for the whole twelve days of Christmas, and a charred fragment was kept to bring luck for the whole year...and then used as tinder for the log for the following Christmas. Open fires with blazing logs are wonderful at Christmas, and this decorated log, although not nearly as big as the original Yule log, will burn brightly, giving a gentle scent to the room."

What an image that conjures up in one's mind! Think about Christmases long ago when the season seemed to have been more "wonder-filled" and possibly simpler.

Then consider our Christmases today and compare how the dynamics have changed! No more "Over the hills and through the woods to Grandmother's house we go", traveling by horse and sleigh. Today we travel by fast cars, buses, trains, and airplanes.

The Christmas surprise is no longer a single present found hanging in the stocking by the fireplace but packaged in large boxes with brightly colored paper and ribbon. Or perhaps the present is found in a colorful gift bag surrounded by green and red tissue paper. And often it will be something electronic instead of a simple wooden toy or a doll.

Today, many families have little time to spend with each other on Christmas Day as they break the day into segments in order to spend a little time at one place and a little time at another place before the day is over. There are even opportunities in the afternoon on Christmas to begin shopping for "after-Christmas" specials, if you are so inclined.

So many changes...
But there is one thing that has stayed the same for over two thousand years: the birth of a baby named Jesus who was born in a stable and worshipped by shepherds, and for whom the angels sang "Gloria in Excelsis Deo".

May your Christmas be one that allows you to "Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing. Come, adore on bended knee...Christ, the Lord, the newborn King!"

Thanksgiving blessings and Merry Christmas to all...

Pastor Fran

WORSHIP AND MUSIC NOTES

Worship & Music meeting was held on Thursday October 12 at 8:00 PM.

Worship services for November and December:

- November 5-All Saints Sunday – Worship/Holy Communion-Rev. David Kistler
- November 12-24th Sunday after Pentecost-Worship-Recognition of Veterans - Rev. David Rowe
- November 19-25th Sunday after Pentecost-Worship/Holy Communion- WELCA Thank Offering - Rev. Robert Kramer
- November 26-Christ the King Sunday- Worship-Bell Choir will play-April Mulvey
- December 3-1st Sunday of Advent- Worship/Holy Communion-Rev. MaryAnn Hamm.
- December 10-2nd Sunday of Advent- Worship-April Mulvey
- December 17-3rd Sunday of Advent-Worship/Holy Communion-Rev. MaryAnn Hamm.
- December 24- 4th Sunday of Advent- Morning service will be led by members of the congregation.
- December 24- Christmas Eve-Bell Choir-Worship/Holy Communion-Rev. David Kistler
- December 31- 1st Sunday after Christmas- Lessons & Carols Service

Other Notes:

Sanctuary will be decorated for the Christmas season on Saturday, December 9th at 9:00 AM.
 Poinsettia plants will decorate the sanctuary December 17 and 24.
 The next Worship & Music meeting will be held Thursday, November 30 at 8:00 PM.



Worship Attendance



8/27	28
9/3	23
9/10	28
9/17	22
9/24	28
10/1	27
10/8	23
10/15	20
10/22	19
10/29	29



ROCKING HORSE PRESCHOOL

Submitted by Mrs. Woods

Fall is such a fun time in our classroom! Our school year is off to a great start and our students have settled in and are learning the routines and making new friends. We have started our letter and number books as well as introducing our monthly color and shape within our themes. So far we have learned about farm animals, pets, fire safety, forest animals, apples and a few more!

Looking ahead we have our Halloween parties and parade and our Thanksgiving feast coming up. We will also explore the themes of pies and pizza, Halloween and fruits and veggies, Thanksgiving and transportation.



Our PM class is full at 20 students and our AM class has 1 space available with a current class total of 15.

THANK YOU

When you have a few minutes take a walk to the RHPS playground behind the church. You will notice new artificial turf under the playground equipment. The turf was also placed under the fencing to cut down on weeds and the need to weed whack around fencing. It looks very clean and inviting! The turf was donated and installed by Ryan Gordon of Leesport. Ryan owns Everlasting Turf, also located in Leesport. A huge Thank You was sent to Ryan for the donation of his product and his time to install it.

GIFT CARD PROGRAM THANK YOU

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.

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support of the gift card program. There were \$28,325.00 worth of cards sold this year so far. This has generated a profit of \$1,416.25 Thanks again, Phyllis and Sally





NOVEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7:00PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM NA Mtg.	3	4 7-2 Karen Bruno-soap making class 8:30 PM AA Meeting
5 <i>All Saints Sunday</i> 9:00AM Worship/Holy Communion <i>The Rev. David Kistler</i>	6 12:30-3:00 RHPS in fellowship hall & kitchen 1:00PM WELCA 7:00PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	7 9:30-3:00 RHPS in fellowship hall & kitchen	8 9:30-3:00 RHPS in fellowship hall & kitchen 6:30 PM Council meeting	9 9:30-3:00 RHPS in fellowship hall & kitchen 7:00PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM NA Mtg.	10	11 9:30AM-7:00PM NA regional business meeting and dinner 8:30 PM AA Meeting 
12 <i>24th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00AM Worship <i>The Rev. David Rowe</i> <i>Recognition of Veterans</i>	13 7:00PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	14	15	16 7:00PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM NA Mtg.	17 2:00PM Food Pantry Delivery	18 9:00AM Food Pantry Distribution 1:00-6:00PM-Carly Schaeffer- rental for Realty company 8:30 PM AA Meeting
19 <i>25th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00AM Worship/Holy Communion <i>The Rev. Robert Kramer</i> <i>WELCA Thankoffering</i>	20 7:00PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	21 12:30-2:00 RHPS in fellowship hall & kitchen	22	23 Happy Thanksgiving  7:30PM NA Mtg.	24	25 8:30 PM AA Meeting
26 <i>Christ the King Sunday</i> 9:00AM Worship <i>April Mulvey</i> Bell Choir to play	27 7:00PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	28	29	30 7:00PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM NA Mtg. 8:00 PM Worship & Music meeting		



December 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 8:30 PM AA Meeting
3 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00 AM Worship/ Holy Communion <i>The Rev MaryAnn Hamm</i> Lighting of the Advent wreath will begin.	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 Decorating of the Church for Christmas 8:30 PM AA Meeting
10 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00 AM Worship <i>April Mulvey</i> Deadline for Poinsettia orders.	11 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	12	13 6:30 PM Council Meeting	14 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg	15 2:00 PM Food Pantry Delivery	16 9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution 8:30 PM AA Meeting
17 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00 AM Worship/ Holy Communion <i>The Rev. MaryAnn Hamm</i>	18 9AM-3PM RHPS in Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	19 9AM-3PM RHPS in Fellowship Hall	20 9AM-3PM RHPS in Fellowship Hall	21 9AM-3PM RHPS in Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg	22	23 8:30 PM AA Meeting
24 <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00 AM Worship <i>Lay leader service</i> <i>Christmas Eve Service</i> 6:45 PM Bell Choir recital 7:00 PM Candlelight Worship/ Holy Communion <i>The Rev. David Kistler</i>	25 Christmas Day 	26	27	28 7:30 PM NA Mtg	29	30 8:30 PM AA Meeting
31 <i>1st Sunday after Christmas</i> 9:00 AM Lessons & Carols <i>New Year's Eve</i>						

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

November Birthdays:

06-Irvin Kauffman,
Amanda Schwendeman
08-Betty Strause
Rosemary Mowery
10-Ronald Kessler
11-Joshua Buchalter, Everett Graeff
13-Brendan Lenning, Kaitlyn Kuhns
17-Ronald Davidheiser
18-Renee Lenning,
Sarah Yeager,
Melissa Strause
19-Amy Manwiller
21-Debra Yeager
24-Helen Stoudt



25-Thomas Heffner
26-Mason Clery
29-Donna Kessler, Wyatt Reeser
30-Patricia Miller, Gail Putt

November Anniversaries:

December Birthdays:

02-Nettie Kauffman
03-Suzanne Reiber, Sandra Buchalter
05-Sharon Mengle
06-Yvonne Graeff
08-Phyllis Weaver, Jim Beissel
13-Tara Lombardo

16--David Easterbrook
17-Dante DeAntonio
20-Larry Mengle
21-Tanner Mengle
22-Jenna Stoudt
27- Scott Trievel
30-Peter Greely
31-June Gilmer



December Anniversaries:

04-Ronald & Melissa Strause
06-Kevin & Renee Lenning
11-Chuck & Rosemary Mowery

If you do not see your birthday or anniversary listed, it means the office is missing this information. Please write your information down, drop it by the office, or email it to: lchtsecretary@comcast.net. Thank you.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

November Altar Flowers

05- Nettie Kauffman
12- Linda Roshong
19- Vicki Fetterman
26- available

November Bulletins

05- available
12- available
19- Vicki Fetterman
26- Pat Miller

November Ushers

05- Darlene Savage
12- Janet Kleffel
19- Vicki Fetterman
26- Dan DeAntonio

Nursery

There will be no attendant but the room will be open.

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

December Alter Flowers

03- Ron Davidheiser
10- Irvin & Nettie Kauffman
17- Vicki Fetterman
31- Janice Care

December Bulletins

03- Ron Davidheiser
10- available
17- available
24- Donald Kauffman

December Ushers

03- Vicki Fetterman
10- Diana Biehl/Dan DeAntonio
17- Darlene Savage
24- Linda Roshong/ Dan DeAntonio
31- Dennis Savage

Thank You!



Poinsettias: Christmas is right around the corner. We will use poinsettia plants to decorate the sanctuary December 17 and 24th. Watch the weekly bulletin for further information and order form. Order deadline will be Sunday December 10, 2023.

NOTES ABOUT OUR FOLKS

PRAYERS FOR:

- * Pauline Bond at Maiden creek Place.
- * Dennis Stoudt at his home in Leesport.
- * Shirley Weist at Columbia Cottage.
- * Carole Imgrund in Elizabethtown.
- * Audrey Delong at her home in Leesport.
- * Richard Reiber at Berkshire Commons.
- * Betty Strause at Berks Heim.
- * Glenn Miller at the Highlands.
- * All our servicemen and servicewomen at home & abroad.
- * All the leaders of our church, the nation and the world.



CONDOLENCES TO:

- * The family of Eldon Kibler.

THANKS TO:

- * Our mowers, Dennis Biehl, Ken Frankhouser and Dan DeAntonio.
- * All our volunteers who help with the SV Food Pantry.
- * Those who save Redner's tapes.
- * Those who have and continue to support the Gift Card Program.
- * All the leaders of our congregation, the nation and the world.
- * Phyllis Heffner and the altar guild members for their faithful work in support of our worship.
- * Our Women of the ELCA for their care and outreach to the veterans and our community.



STORYTELLING ENGAGEMENT

2023 Mission Support Memo

The eHarmony of Prison Reentry

*As you read this story, what questions arise?
How might you share this story with others in your ministry setting?*

A story from our Grand Canyon Synod

Over 600,000 people are released from prison every year, and as they struggle to rejoin society, they face barriers to connecting with reentry service providers. We are honored that so many of our synods and congregations are active in prison ministry; yet they know the challenge of finding reliable and effective resources to support folks once they've been released.

Our synods are supporting reentry ministry: the Metropolitan Chicago Synod helped start the work and the Grand Canyon Synod has launched the innovative online resource the **Inside Out Network (ION)**, a one-of-a-kind platform that helps returning citizens connect with the support they need for a successful reentry. The Grand Canyon Synod has made a strong commitment, awarding ION an "Adapting, Connecting, Transforming and Sustaining" grant so it can help people access ministries and service providers.

ION is a bit like eHarmony: returning citizens and service providers can find each other and exchange messages, even before release, to make sure returning citizens get the support they need as soon after release as possible. What started as a prison ministry from an ELCA church in the Chicago area is now operating in Illinois and Arizona and launching soon in Oregon, with 6,400 returning citizens and 443 service providers and ministries enrolled. ION is always free to returning citizens, and service providers participate free of charge for a year before paying a modest annual fee.

With the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, ION has gone into Arizona prisons to train staff on using the platform. This has led to inmates enrolling before their release; reports indicate that as release approaches, they are less anxious, seeing ahead of time what help will be available.

ION values its partnerships with ministry and is currently developing a Reentry Congregational Initiative, gathering insights from faith communities that intentionally minister to returning citizens. Many ELCA congregations work in this area, and we welcome any insights they might provide by completing this [survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SLFWMLS). ION intends to develop a guidebook called "Effective Reentry Ministry for Ordinary Congregations"; its valuable "Spiritual Survival Guide for Prison and Beyond" can be read or downloaded free of charge from the ION website at insideoutnetwork.net/resources.

LIGHT MINISTRIES

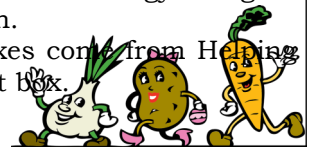
FOOD PANTRY:

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 9:00 to 11:00 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.

Due to Covid 19 distribution continues as a drive through service. Pre packaged boxes come from Helping Harvest . We also pack other donated items into boxes to supplement the Helping Harvest boxes.

Donations are appreciated.



LCHT NEWS



A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make and sell apple dumplings for our annual sale!

We made 400 dumplings (with 324 of those being pre-sold).

We also donated 17 dumplings to the Keystone Veterans.

Also, thank you to Phyllis Heffner for getting all of the ingredients/supplies we needed for the sale.



Many thanks to those church members who made and/or served lunch for the Restoring Hope volunteers on September 11th!

We provided lunch for approximately 25 volunteers.

COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE

*To make the property care easier on the limited members available to help, and stay compliant with our insurance, the bushes at the wall have been replaced with grass and a low maintenance fence.

*We are gathering a call committee and having talks with other churches that are interested in a shared pastor arrangement.

*We are still looking for someone to take over the treasurer position.



HONORING OUR VETERANS



On Sunday, November 12th we will be honoring those members who so graciously served our country.

If you served in the Military please provide your name and the branch of service in which you served to the office by Monday, November 6th.

FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

Ontelaunee Grange will be holding a flag retirement ceremony. If you have flags that are ready to be retired please get them to either Dennis or Darlene Savage no later than November 19



LOOKING FOR ANGELS



The Salvation Army Angel tree Program will again be arriving here at LCHT in November. We will keep you posted in the bulletins with more specific information as we receive it.

We will have 20 name tags to buy Christmas gifts for those in need in our local community. After selecting your name tag please locate the numbers and letters on your tag. Find those numbers on the sign up sheet & sign your name to the right of the number along with your phone numbers. This helps us to keep track of who has which names.

If for some reason you pick a name & are unable to bring a gift in, please contact Renee Lenning 610-858-2428 or Phyllis Heffner 610-926-1004.

BELOW ARE THE ANGEL TREE GIFT GIVING GUIDELINES FROM LAST YEAR. We have not yet received this years guidelines. We will give you any changes to the guidelines as we receive them. Any changes from last year will be added to the announcements in the weekly Sunday bulletin. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

ANGEL TREE GIFT GIVING GUIDELINES

- The Salvation Army has selected the Angel from the neediest in our communities.
 - The items your Angel needs are listed on the tag. You may buy anything listed or you may choose to substitute other age-appropriate gifts. You may purchase more than 1 gift.
 - Gifts must be new – NO used clothing or toys.
 - **Please do not wrap your gifts.** The Salvation Army will un-wrap all wrapped gifts to make sure that gifts are suitable. No toy guns please.
 - All gifts are given anonymously. If using a gift bag for gifts, please secure/attach the Angel Tag to the inside of the bag either with tape or a staple. Please secure/attach Angel Tree card to the gift if not using a gift bag.
- The date gifts need to be returned to the church will be added to the bulletin when we receive that information.**

Angel Tree gifts will be picked up at LCHT. Thank you for your continued support of The Salvation Army Hamburg Service Center Angel Tree Program.

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 Staff Information:

Pastor: Pastor Fran Merkel is available if you find yourself in need of pastoral care. You can reach her by calling 610-390-1419. Office: 610-926-7176 ext. 2
E-mail: LCHTpastor@outlook.com

Secretary: Debra Berg
Office : 610-926-7176 ext. 1
E-mail: lchtsecretary@comcast.net
Office hrs: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday from 9:00-1:00

Sexton: Ana Calencea

Treasurer:
E-mail: lchttreasurer@comcast.net

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

Website: www.lcht.org

Mailing Address:
102 Apple Street
Leesport, PA 19533

Church Fax Number:
610-926-7273

Rocking Horse Preschool Information:

Teacher: Ms. Aliesha Woods
Ms. Elisha Zimmerman
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
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Website: www.lcht.org



Return Service Requested

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