

# The Herald

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

Worship & Music	2
Notes About Our Folks	2
Lenten Services	2
February Calendar	3
Volunteers	4
LCHT Ministries	4
Gift Card Program	4
RHPS	5
WELCA	5
Choice Dollars Program	5
Celebrations	6
Memorial Contributions	6
Boy Scouts	6
Youth Group	6
LCHT News	7

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As promised in my letter in the January *Herald*, I want to look at some of the positive gleanings from the vitality survey that Pr. Gade administered back in October. These are aspects of our congregational life that we can build upon and use to promote LCHT in the greater Leesport area.

First, 29 of 40 respondents indicated that the congregation's worship nurtures their faith. Worship is perhaps the most visible activity of the congregation, so it is important that it is seen as a positive by so many of the respondents. We need to continue to focus upon this aspect of our communal life and strive to improve the experience for more and more of our sisters and brothers in Christ. One way to do this is to willingly share your likes and dislikes with members of the worship and music committee and me so that together with the staff we can work to create worship experiences that connect you with God and deepen your faith in God through Jesus Christ. Finally, if you like what you experience at LCHT in worship, then invite someone who has been absent or has never experienced worship here to join you.

Another strength identified in the survey was that LCHT helps deepen one's relationship with God. 29 of 40 respondents indicated that this was so for them. This deepening of one's relationship with God occurs through the way we treat each other and how we work together to accomplish God's mission in the world. The Christian faith puts a lot of emphasis upon physical presence. Being together in community is an important expression of God's presence for us as Christians. Praying for each other and others, working together to make a difference in peoples' lives and our community, and sharing fellowship are but a few of the ways that we experience Christ's presence in our midst.

Finally, three measures from the survey indicate that LCHT has a strong sense of service to others in the local

## BAD WEATHER INFORMATION

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

- On the internet: [www.wfmz.com](http://www.wfmz.com)
- On television: channel 69 news
- By telephone: 610-926-7176 option 5 for special announcements

community and beyond. 35 of 40 respondents indicated that LCHT helps those in need, 24 of 40 indicated that the congregation readily engages with the local community and 21 of 40 indicated that it is a positive force in the community. None of these surprise me, for I have found them to be true time and again in my short tenure with the congregation. From the Rocking Horse Pre-school to our charter relationship with Troop 160 and Pack 160 and from our strong commitment to the Schuylkill Valley Pastoral Association's Food Pantry to our Mission Team ministry, LCHT time and again proclaims its connectedness to the community and its desire to serve those – both near to us and far away – who are in need. This is a heritage worth celebrating and sharing with others. It is an aspect of our life that should enable us to attract young adults who desire to serve if we market it appropriately and in the right places.

As you can see, while we have our challenges, all is not gloom and doom. We need to find ways to lift up and celebrate these very real and positive aspects of our life in Christ here at the Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity. Your partnership in this regard is needed and welcomed, for it is only as we work together with the Holy Spirit that we can be and do what God has called us to be and do.

Yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Ritter*



# WORSHIP AND MUSIC NOTES

Submitted by Renee Lenning, Chairperson

Worship services for February:

February 4 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany – Communion service, bell choir will play, Scout Sunday and Souper Bowl offering

February 11 – Transfiguration of Our Lord & Blessing of Prayer Shawls

February 14 – ASH WEDNESDAY - community service at Bern Lutheran (noon & 7pm)

IMPOSITION OF ASHES at LCHT from 11am until 1pm. Come when you can and as you are! This is not a worship service.

February 18 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent, Communion

February 25 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

## Worship Attendance



12/31	27
1/7	40
1/14	51
1/21	50

### Other Notes:

- \* LCHT will be hosting Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. All mid-week Lenten services will be hosted by other congregations. (see newsletter for schedule)
- \* Next meeting is Thursday, March 1 at 6:00 p.m.

## NOTES ABOUT OUR FOLKS

### PRAYERS:

- \* Mark Stump and his family.
- \* John & Shirley Weist, who are at home.
- \* Pauline Bond, who is at home.
- \* Yvonne Graeff who is rehabbing at home.
- \* Daryl Savage, continuing recovery in the Pittsburg area.
- \* Gerri Kauffman, who is at Berks Heim.
- \* The Hoke family who is in transition.
- \* The evacuees from Puerto Rico.

### THANKS TO:

- \* Ron & Judy Corl and all our other volunteers who help with the SV Food Pantry.
- \* Everyone who helped de-decorate the church.
- \* Everyone who has, and continues to, support the Gift Card program.
- \* Those who designate their choice dollars to "LCHT".
- \* Those who save Redner's tapes. (Remember to use your save-a-tape card.)
- \* To all the leaders of our church, the nation and the world.

### CONDOLENCES TO:

- \* The family of Wilbur "Bud" Minnich



## LENTEN SERVICES

### Mid-week Lenten Services Begin February 14<sup>th</sup>

Once again this year our congregation will be uniting with our sister congregations in the Schuylkill Valley for mid-week worship during Lent. When there is soup, sandwiches and worship the times are – 6 pm soup and sandwiches and 7 pm worship. The schedule for the series is as follows:

**February 14 (Ash Wednesday)** – Bern Lutheran Church (Noon or 7 pm)

**February 21** – Soup, Sandwiches & Worship @ Gernants

**February 28** – Soup, Sandwiches & Worship @ Eppler's UCC

**March 7** – Soup, Sandwiches & Worship @ Trinity UCC

**March 14** – Soup, Sandwiches & Worship @ Bern UCC

**March 21** – Soup, Sandwiches & Worship @ Epler's UCC



**March 29 (Maundy Thursday)** – the Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, 7 pm

**March 30 (Good Friday)** – the Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, 7 pm

Please make time for these additional opportunities for worship and fellowship as we journey with Jesus to Good Friday's cross and Easter's empty tomb and the good news that "Christ is risen!"

# February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Youth Group	<b>3</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Cub Scout Sandwich Sale prep
<b>4</b> <i>5th Sunday of Epiphany</i> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship/ Holy Communion and Souper Bowl Sunday & Scout Sunday <b>10:30 AM</b> Sunday School	<b>5</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> WELCA meets <b>7:00 PM</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Mission Trip Meeting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Girl Scouts <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Lay Eucharist Minis- ter Training @ LCHT <b>6:30 PM</b> LCHT Movie Night
<b>11</b> <i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship <b>10:15 AM</b> Pancake Breakfast <b>4:30 PM</b> Cub Scout Commit- tee meeting <b>6:00 PM</b> Den meeting	<b>12</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Council meets	<b>14</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>11:00-1:00 PM</b> Imposition of Ashes @ LCHT <b>Noon &amp; 7:00 PM</b> Bern Lutheran Church	<b>15</b> <b>NEWSLETTER</b> <b>DEADLINE</b>  <b>5:30 PM</b> Soul Supper <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b> <b>2:00 PM</b> Food Pantry Delivery	<b>17</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Food Pantry Distribution <b>2:00 PM</b> Reserved
<b>18</b> <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship/ Holy Communion <b>10:30 AM</b> Sunday School <b>2:00 PM</b> Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>19</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Pastoral Care Team Meeting	<b>21</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Lenten Soup, Sandwich & Worship @ Gernants	<b>22</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Girl Scouts <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>2:00 PM</b> Cub Scout Blue & Gold Banquet
<b>25</b> <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship <b>10:30 AM</b> Sunday School <b>6:00 PM</b> Den meeting	<b>26</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Lenten Soup, Sandwich & Worship @ Epler's UCC			


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

# FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

## Altar Flowers

4-Sue Reiber  
11-Mr & Mrs Walter Heffner  
18- Sue Reiber  
25- Dennis & Sue Biehl

## Bulletins

4- Irvin & Nettie Kauffman  
11-Mr & Mrs Walter Heffner  
18-*available*  
25-Dennis & Sue Biehl

## Nursery

*no attendant but room will be open*

## Acolytes

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

## Greeter:

Dennis Savage

## Ushers

4-Dennis Biehl, Ron Davidheiser,  
Ron Corl  
11-R. Heffner, Diana Biehl, Lowery  
18-Davidheiser, Corl, Dennis Biehl  
25- Lowery, P. Heffner, Davidheiser

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

## LCMT MINISTRIES INFORMATION

### 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 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.

### 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. Some of the projects that we are currently knitting and crocheting are prayer shawls to give out for various reasons, baby blankets for Baptisms at our church and for babies at Mary's Shelter, and scarves and wash clothes for Opportunity House, The Children's Home of Reading, and Mary's Shelter. 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.

## GIFT CARD PROGRAM QUESTIONS

- 1. WHY BUY A GIFT CARD FROM THE CHURCH?** Our church will receive a 5% rebate with each gift card you purchase. The proceeds from the sales of these gift cards goes towards the capital improvement fund.
- 2. DOES THE GIFT CARDS COST ME ADDITIONAL MONEY?** No! If you buy a \$50 gift card, it is worth \$50. The proceeds the church gets is from the Store, not from you!
- 3. MY STORE OFFERS FUEL PERKS. WILL I STILL GET THEM IF I USE A GIFT CARD FOR MY PURCHASE?** Absolutely! The gift card is just a way for you to pay for your purchase, you will still get all your store's perks.
- 4. WHAT STORES CAN I GET GIFT CARDS TO?** Redner's, Giant or Weis. The Redner's gift cards may be used at any Redner's (including the pharmacy) or Redner's Quick Shoppes. Cards may be used to purchase gas; you would have to pre-pay with the card. Giant cards also may be used at any Giant store and at its gas pumps. Giant cards will not be accepted at the pharmacy. Weis cards also may be used at the following stores: Cressler's, King's, Mr. Z's or Scot's Lo Cost.
- 5. WHAT AMOUNTS CAN I BUY THE GIFT CARDS FOR?** Cards in amounts of \$25, \$50, \$100 are available and can be paid for with cash or checks made payable to The Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity.
- 6. REMEMBER** with the gift cards from Redner's and Giant you can buy other gift cards like Sears, Olive Garden & etc.
- 7. WHAT IF I STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?** Please see Phyllis Heffner, Sally Miller or see back of card for details.



# ROCKING HORSE PRESCHOOL

*Submitted by Mrs. Woods and Mrs. Leshner*

Welcome February! Let's cross our fingers that we don't have any more snow days! January was a tough

month to get much accomplished at school. AM Group will be making up 2 classes.

As we look forward in to February, we will have our Valentines parties where students get to "mail" their valentines to their classmates and enjoy some party snacks. In class we will be learning about the letters S, T, U and V, dinosaurs, president's day and the circus as well.

Open enrollment has now begun for the 2018-2019 school year. Class spaces fill quickly so if you or

someone you know has interest in sending their child please feel free to email us at: [rhps@comcast.net](mailto:rhps@comcast.net) or call the preschool at 610-926-7176.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Hoss's fundraiser, we appreciate your support!

## WISH LIST

Toilet Paper  
Baby Wipes

## WOMEN OF THE ELCA

### MONTHLY MEETING

Join us on Monday, February 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.

How does Redner's calculate the one percent? Glad you asked. Well, we depend on church members to drop off their Redner's receipts. However, its not quite that simple.

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 BAR-CODES** 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.

We are just one of 525 congregations participating in this worthwhile project. Keep on saving the bar codes and place them at the usher's station or give them to Darlene Savage.

## CHOICE DOLLARS PROGRAM

Thrivent Financial Is a Champion for LCHT:  
You Can Be One Also



Thrivent Financial's *Choice Dollars* program has provided millions of dollars to congregations just like the Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity. **If you are an eligible Thrivent member with choice dollars, you can direct them to LCHT at no cost to you.** Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 1-800-847-4836 and say, "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. If you are not sure if you have any choice dollars to designate, you can call the toll-free number noted previously for assistance. You will need to select LCHT on a periodic basis so that it can continue to receive your choice dollars. Your support of our congregation in this regard is greatly appreciated.



# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

*Submitted by Adrienne Lesher*

December found Pack 160 at Berks Heim singing Christmas Carols for the residents. We want to say thank you to all who participated in our Cash Cow day at Hoss's in December as well. Your support is appreciated very much! January found the boys enjoying a pajama and movie night in the church basement with popcorn and snacks. 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 Cub-master Jason Witters at 610-515-5385 for Cub Scouts (Kindergarten—5th grade; ages 5-11) or Assistant Scout Master Karen Bausch for Boy Scouts (6th —12th grade).

## **CALLING ALL YOUTH GRADES 1 TO 8**

Come on out for our next youth group meeting on Friday, February 3 from 7-8:30 p.m. downstairs in the fellowship area. We will have a time for games, snacks and fun. Plan to come out and bring a friend. We would love to see you. If you have questions, email Mike or Lori Lowery at [mllowery@comcast.net](mailto:mllowery@comcast.net). Thanks! Hope to see you there!

## **FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS**

### Birthdays:

- 02 - Virginia Lash
- 03 - Donald Kauffman  
Anita Bond  
Thad Kistler
- 09 - Eleanor Catherman  
Lori Witinski
- 12 - Ellie Nolt
- 14 - Susan Hawkins  
Rebecca Heffner
- 16 - Aimee Hoke
- 22 - Barrett Lash
- 24 - Dwayne Kuhns

- 25 - Carin Williams  
Georgia Manwiller  
Richard Hawkins Jr.
- 28 - Boris Pikhtovnikoff

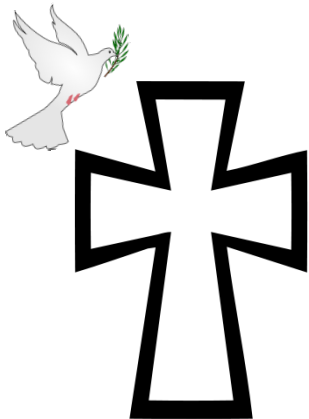
### Anniversaries:

- 02 - Richard & Sue Reiber
- 18 - Ralph & Lollie Seaman
- 19 - Warren & Ruth Seip
- 21 - Dennis & Helen Stoudt
- 25 - Mark & Mary Ann Franklin
- 27 - Kenneth & Cynthia Frankhouser



## **MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

Submitted by Nettie Kauffman



***In Loving Memory of Ruth Seip:***  
Michael & Karen Gibson

***In Memory of Loved Ones:***  
Phyllis Weaver

***In Memory of Deanna Sue Miller:***  
Dr. Julia Breur LLC  
Steven & Gail Miller  
William & Linda Blank  
Nancy Shellhammer  
Glenn & Sally Miller  
David & Elaine Lombardo  
David & Mary Lynne Rathman

***In Memory of Barry Weaver:***  
Phyllis Weaver

***In Memory of Wilbur "Bud" Minnich:***  
Leesport Area Historical Society  
Glenn & Sally Miller  
Phyllis I. Weaver  
Irvin & Nettie Kauffman

# LCHT NEWS

## Lay Eucharist Visitor Training Event

**What is a Lay Eucharist Visitor?** It is an individual who has received special training to take the sacrament of Holy Communion to members of the congregation who are homebound or institutionalized. This ministry is under the guidance of the congregation's pastor and is a way of increasing the frequency with which those who are homebound or institutionalized can receive Holy Communion.

Pastor Ritter will be providing this training on **Saturday, February 10, from 9 am until 4 pm in LCHT's fellowship hall (lower level).** Contact Pr. Ritter to register for this training by **Monday, February 5, 2018.** The cost is \$25/person which will be covered by the congregation. It includes all materials, drinks, morning snacks and lunch. Participants should dress comfortably and bring with them a Bible and a pen/pencil.

### 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!

### New Members Wanted and 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](mailto:dsritter@ptd.net) or 484-529-7801.

## Reading Fightin' Phillies

Saturday June 30 at the club 67 picnic area includes food and beverage, cost will be around \$29 per person, under 5 are free. Look for a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.



Submitted by Sally Miller

*Phyllis Heffner and I want to thank the congregation & Rocking Horse Preschool for their participation in the Hamburg Salvation Army Christmas Angel Tree program for 2017.*

*We had 40 names this year. Ten adults and 30 children. All the gifts arrived at the church on time and were picked up and delivered to The Hamburg Center. These gifts were to go to some one in our local area. It was through your generosity and kindness that Christmas was special for those in need.*

*Thank you for your continued support of the Angel Tree Program here at Trinity it is much appreciated.*

## **LCHT MOVIE NIGHT SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10 6:30 p.m.**



The movie will be shown downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Bring blankets, chairs and even snacks to enjoy along with the movie.

## Join us for our 1st annual All you can eat Pancake Breakfast

Date: Sunday, February 11, 2018

Time: 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Price: \$6.00 adult, \$3.00 kids 5-12;

4 and under free

We will be serving sausage, pancakes, juice and coffee; and other toppings for the pancakes.



# 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 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 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

## LCHT Sundays' Schedule:

Worship at 9 a.m.

## LCHT Staff Information:

**Pastor:** The Rev. Dr. Dennis Ritter  
Office: 610-926-7176 ext. 2  
Cell: 610-451-3082  
E-mail: dsritter@ptd.net

**Secretary:** Amanda Schwendeman  
Office : 610-926-7176 ext. 1  
E-mail: lchtsecretary@comcast.net  
Office hrs: Monday - Friday 9 to 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 Street  
Leesport, PA 19533

**Website:** www.lcht.org

**Church Fax Number:**  
610-926-7273

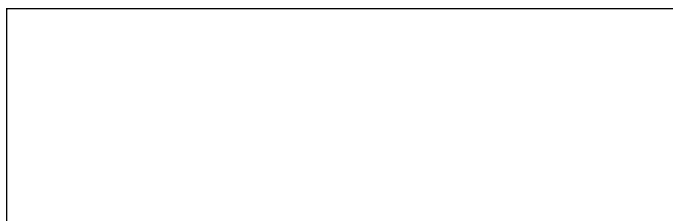
## Rocking Horse Preschool Information:

**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

February 2018



*Return Service Requested*