



The Herald

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

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FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ,

Easter comes late this year—April 17. It’s always on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring solstice. Ash Wednesday, then, comes forty days earlier, not counting Sundays, on March 2. I only mention these little factual gems to highlight the opportunity of a late Easter to put the ravages of winter (and the pandemic, hopefully) behind us as we come together for our mid-week Lenten devotionals.

This year I’m delighted to share with you a Lenten Bible study that will enhance our journey to the cross, intensifying its impact on our faith and life. Two Scripture passages form the foundation for our study:

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another (1 John 4:7-11).

One profound phrase stands out in these verses: “God is love.” Love isn’t simply a passive emotion. It’s based upon God’s active love for us in the self-emptying of Jesus’ life upon the cross:

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by being obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (Philippians 2:5-8).

Jesus, whom we confess to be “very God of very God” in the Nicene Creed, becomes a servant. Truly he is God’s love in action, reaching its fulfillment in his death on the cross for our salvation.

Therefore, let us undertake this special devotional study with a prayer that our minds and hearts might be open to the Gospel of God’s love as it is demonstrated to us by the Servant who is “obedient unto death, even death on a cross.” May his death continue to rescue us from the separation of sin and renew us for a life of love in his name. (See below for further details of “God’s Love Is Shown: A Five-Session Bible Study for Lent” and other special services of worship culminating in our joyous Easter celebration).

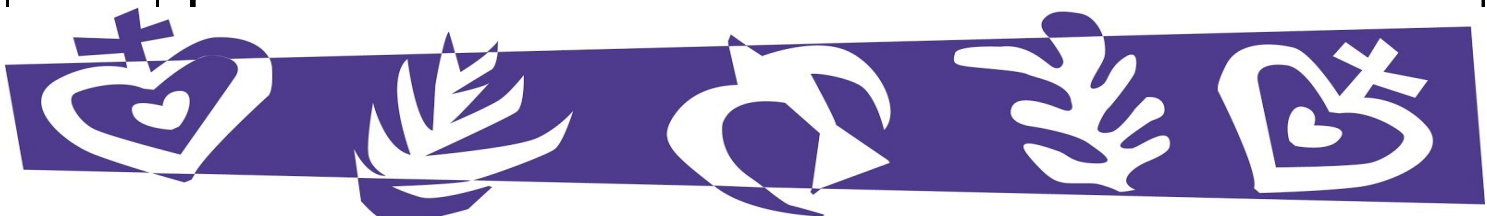
Your pastor and friend,

Carl W. Filer

BAD WEATHER INFORMATION

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

- * On radio WEEU 850AM
- 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 March

March 06 1st Sunday in Lent, Communion service, Bell Choir to play
 March 13 2nd Sunday in Lent
 March 20 3rd Sunday in Lent, Communion service
 March 27 4th Sunday in Lent

Worship Attendance



Other Notes:

The next Worship & Music meeting will be held at 8:00 PM on Thursday, March 31.

LENTEN SCHEDULE:

There will be a five session **Bible Study** for Lent to be held in the lower level classroom.

March 2	Ash Wednesday Service Holy Communion	7:00 PM	1/30 30
March 9	Redemptive Love Small Group Bible Study	7:00 PM	2/6 29
March 16	Compassionate Love Small Group Bible Study	7:00 PM	2/13 26
March 23	Steadfast Love Small Group Bible Study	7:00 PM	2/20 26
March 30	Enriching Love Small Group Bible Study	7:00 PM	
April 6	Living Love Small Group Bible Study	7:00 PM	
April 10	Palm/Passion Sunday Distribution of Palms	9:00 AM	
April 14	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion	7:00 PM	
April 15	Good Friday Tenebrae	7:00 PM	
April 17	Easter Sunday Holy Communion	9:00 AM	

NOTES ABOUT OUR FOLKS

PRAYERS:

- * Shirley Weist, at Columbia Cottage.
- * Delores Seaman, at Rittenhouse.
- * Cynthia Leutze, in Elizabethtown.
- * Pauline Bond, at Maiden creek Place.
- * Carol Imgrund in Elizabethtown.
- * Audrey Delong at her home in Leesport.
- * Richard Reiber at Berkshire Commons. (Please note address change)
- * Dennis Savage in the Reading Hospital.



THANKS TO:

- * 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 Redner's tapes. (Remember to use your save-a-tape card.)
- * All our scientists and healthcare workers who continue the fight against COVID-19.



March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 7:00 PM ASH Wednesday service	3 7:30 PM NA Group Mtg	4 Fellowship Hall Kitchen occupied for soup and sandwich prep.	5 7-11AM Soup & Sandwich pick-up from 9AM to 11 AM. 8:30 PM AA Meeting
6 1st Sunday in Lent 9:00 AM Worship/Holy Communion Bell Choir to play	7 1:00 PM WELCA meeting 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	8	9 7:00 PM Small Group Bible Study <i>Redemptive Love</i>	10 9:30 AM Pastoral Care Team 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Group Mtg	11	12 8:30 PM AA Meeting
13 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:00 AM Worship	14 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	15 7:00 PM Council Meeting	16 7:00 PM Small Group Bible Study <i>Compassionate Love</i>	17 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Group Mtg 	18 2:00 PM Food Pantry Delivery	19 9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution 8:30 PM AA Meeting
20 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:00 AM Worship/Holy Communion	21 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	22	23 7:00 PM Small Group Bible Study <i>Steadfast Love</i>	24 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Group Mtg	25	26 8:30 PM AA Meeting
27 4th Sunday in Lent 9:00 AM Worship	28 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	29	30 7:00 PM Small Group Bible Study <i>Enriching Love</i>	31 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Group Mtg 8:00 PM Worship & Music meeting		

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

MARCH VOLUNTEERS

Altar Flowers

06-Donald Kauffman

13-available

20-available

27-available

Bulletins

06-available

13-available

20-available

27-available

See bulletin board to sign up to sponsor flowers for \$25 or bulletins for \$15. Thank you



Nursery

no attendant but room will be open

Ushers

06-Phyllis Heffner

13-Linda Roshong

20-Dennis Biehl

27-Dan DeAntonio

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays:

01 - Sally Miller

08 - JoAnn Gruber

11 - Kerry Miller

16 - Kenneth Frankhouser

18 - Macy Zimmerman

19 - Darlene Savage

20 - Linda Reichard

21- Judd Weber

27- Sarah Strause

31- Carole Imgrund



Anniversaries:

07 - David & Patricia Easterbrook

24 -Dave & Tracy Stoudt

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.

ROCKING HORSE PRESCHOOL

SUBMITTED BY MS. ALIESHA WOODS



February zipped by! And we were lucky that the weather wasn't too bad. We had lots of fun handing out Valentines to our friends and then getting to look through our bags.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our sandwich sale fundraiser. We are VERY happy to report that we made \$978.75!!! Those funds go towards classroom materials, future field trips and parties through out our school years.



In March we will have picture day on Tuesday March 8th hopefully everyone brings their smiles ☐



During the month of March, we will be exploring the following themes: Money, the letters Y and Z, weather, and everyone's favorite pirates!

We are also looking into scheduling a field trip to the Lehigh Valley Zoo in either April or May.

We will also be holding our highly anticipated Little Caesar's Pizza Kit fundraiser.



LCHT NEWS

COUNCIL OFFICERS ELECTED

Council met on Wednesday, February 9th and elected officers for 2022. The results are as follows:

President - Ronald Davidheiser
Vice President - Linda Roshong
Secretary - Diana Biehl
Treasurer - Patricia Miller



To those newly elected, thank you for your service and dedication and congratulations on your new roles in council. Thank you, Pat, for your continued dedication to the position of Treasurer.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER:

Please make sure to fill out a communion card at least once at the start of the year for our records of communing members.

Cards are located in the pew racks and can be placed in the offering plate or left in the office.

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, March 7 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.

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

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:

toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, mouthwash, deodorant, sleep pants (size L,XL & XXL), toilet paper, white socks, laundry detergent, liquid body soap, paper towels, dish soap.



LCHT 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.

Please contact the church for further information.





SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

MARCH 2022 • ISSUE 3 • VOLUME 30

Beloved Members of our Synod,

At its January meeting, the Synod Council made the difficult decision to once again hold the Synod Assembly online instead of gathering in person. We know this decision may come as a disappointment to you, and I'd like to explain how the Council came to its decision.

First, please know the decision wasn't easy, nor was it unanimous; however, the decision to move online did pass with an overwhelming majority voting in favor. Initially, many council members, like you, very much wanted to hold the assembly in person and gather as planned in Reading. But in discussion, a few realities just could not be overcome: vaccines were still not available for our youngest children (ages 0-4), a new variant was ushering in extremely high transmission numbers, and our local hospitals were struggling to keep abreast of testing and available beds. Given the swift onset and spread of the Omicron variant, the council wondered at the possibility of a new variant emerging at the time of the Synod Assembly. Like you, we just simply can't see into the future.

The gravity of these unknowns increased when coupled with the fact that there was a significant down payment cost for the facility – a cost we could not recoup even if, for whatever reason, we needed to cancel or downsize the Assembly. Use it, or lose it. As long as I have been chairing Synod Council meetings, I have never witnessed the Council making spendthrift decisions. Each financial decision is taken on deliberately and with care, the council focusing on being good stewards always and in every way. It was, in the end, a financial risk too great to take.

So, once again, we will see you online on June 10th and 11th. But we hope you will find a way to see each other in person, gathering safely in smaller numbers as the situation allows, and enjoying each other's company as we get the business done and see what's happening around our Synod and throughout the ELCA.

Yours in Christ,
Kristen Edelman-Weiner
Vice-President, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod

Synod Assembly 2022: Virtual

“STRONGER TOGETHER” June 10-11 • Online



“...but those who wait for the lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:31)

So many things in our world today continue to seek to drive us apart. They sap our hope, our stamina, our strength. But we are strong in the Lord, who is “the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth, who does not faint or grow weary” (Is. 40:28). Our living Lord “gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless” (Is. 40:29).

It is in this power, strength, and in this sharing, from our great God, by the Spirit, in Christ – that we enter this new year 2022 ready to name and proclaim and share strength – becoming STRONGER TOGETHER in Christ Jesus!

One of the most powerful ways we share strength together is by gathering for our annual Synod Assembly. All our pastors and deacons are called to assemble. All our congregations are called to choose and send their voting members. All gather to share our God-given strength, representing the Body of Christ, whose strong life was shared with us through the shedding of his blood on the cross.

So, in gratitude, we gather. In duty, we gather. In weakness and in struggle, we gather – with God as our strength. With overflowing strength, and blessing, and promise, we commit to coming together, working together, sharing together – to become STRONGER TOGETHER.

The Synod Council – the body elected by our previous Synod Assemblies to represent us all – gathered on January 15, 2022, to decide on and finalize the theme, the date, and the location of our next Synod Assembly. After much faithful deliberation, they decided upon June 10 and 11 for the dates. And for the location, **they came to the difficult decision to move this Assembly online**, rather than in-person. In summary, that decision was due to three factors:

The uncertainty of the pandemic; The costs we would all incur if we were forced to cancel a contract with an in-person location; The success we have had in conducting our last two Synod Assemblies online.

It is this third and final point that brings me much thankfulness for our Synod, and much respect for our Synod Council. We all are exhausted by all this, and long so much to see each other, face-to-face. I myself was so looking forward to meeting with you in-person, for the first time as your bishop. I am disappointed, as so many of you are too.

But we can do this. We have proven, two times over, that we can put together a powerful, meaningful, faithful Synod Assembly, online. We have built it, and we have come! In fact, some of us have been better able to attend, through electronic means. It has also been very cost-effective, not needing to travel or lodge overnight.

Bottom line: the past two years, our two online Assemblies have grown and shown OUR STRENGTH TOGETHER. That nothing has stopped us from gathering, from working, from growing young and vital, from gaining strength, from going beyond death to life, TOGETHER. In fact, God who strengthens us, has continued to renew our strength. So together, we gather, we walk, we run, we mount up on eagles’ wings. We fly side-by-side. STRONGER TOGETHER.

And so, the theme has been affirmed by your Synod Council and brought forth, for this Assembly and for this whole year 2022 (and beyond). It shares in the good news, named and proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah. The good news of the living Word made flesh by the Spirit – Christ Jesus our crucified and risen Lord. The same Spirit who on Pentecost was shared with us all – the church, the Body of Christ, in this synod, in our congregations, in all us living members of Christ’s body.

This theme is our call to action: Let us prepare together. Let us gather together. Let us work and worship together. Let us share God’s strength together! O God, we pray: make us STRONGER TOGETHER!

In God’s Love,
Bishop Christopher deForest
January 21, 2022

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 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.

LCHT Staff Information:

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Carl W. Filer
Office: 610-926-7176 ext. 2
Cell: 610-223-7318

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

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: 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 Street
Leesport, PA 19533

Website: www.lcht.org

March 2021



Return Service Requested

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