



The Herald



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

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From The Pastor's Desk:

How quickly the Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas Seasons fly past. In the beginning of November we start to plan for Thanksgiving, while often hearing the music and commercials for Christmas presents. Even though we may have thought there was lots of time, that time has flown, and we are now on the doorstep of a New Year.

New Year's Eve is a time to reflect on the past year, embrace the present and look forward to the year ahead. Folks all over the world have New Year's traditions they enjoy along with family and friends. There are many ways to celebrate, and some of them can even be done from your comfortable sofa.

Believe it or not, New Year resolutions are said to have been around since ancient Babylonian times. So, when writing out this year's goals, remember that for approximately 4,000 years, people have been working toward achieving their resolutions.

In Brazil, it is considered good luck to start the new year by jumping over seven waves. You get one wish for each wave, so be ready with your list!

Mistletoe isn't just a Christmas tradition. The Irish believe that if you put a sprig of mistletoe, holly or ivy under your pillow on New Year's Eve, you'll dream of your future love.

Want to go places in 2024? Take a cue from the Colombians, who walk around the block carrying empty suitcases on New Year's Eve to bring a year filled with travel.

Similar to throwing change and making a wish, many Romanians believe that tossing a coin in the river on New Year's Eve will provide good luck for the whole year. So gather your pennies and bring on the good fortune!

In Scotland, a tradition known as first-footing will supposedly determine whether your household has good luck or misfortune for the rest of the year. For prosperity in 2024, superstition says the first person to enter your home at midnight should be a tall, dark-haired male. He should also bring symbolic gifts like coins or black buns. Really?

There are many other traditions such as watching the ball drop in New York, making a toast at midnight, taking a polar bear plunge.

But I believe the best tradition is to say a prayer to God for bringing me safely through this past year, and asking a blessing for the year to come. Traditions and superstitions provide fun and adventure, but the love of God provides undeserved grace and mercy. Be sure to share some of your New Year's Eve with Him.

Pastor Fran

Traditions were found on www.thepioneerwoman.com/holidays-celebrations/g34787153/new-years-traditions/

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 and February 2024

- January 07- Baptism of Our Lord-Holy Communion-Installation of elected officials -
Rev. Fran Merkel
- January 14- 2nd Sunday after Epiphany-Worship Service-*Rev. Burlington Latshaw*
- January 21- 3rd Sunday after Epiphany-Holy Communion-*Rev. Robert Kramer*
- January 28- 4th Sunday after Epiphany-Worship Service-*Rev. David Rowe*
- February 04-5th Sunday after Epiphany
- February 11-Transfiguration of Our Lord, *Rev. MaryAnn Hamm*
- February 18- 1st Sunday of Lent
- February 25- 2nd Sunday of Lent

Worship Attendance



11/5	26
11/12	25
11/19	31
11/26	34
12/3	23
12/10	36
12/17	23
12/24	20
12/24	57
12/31	20

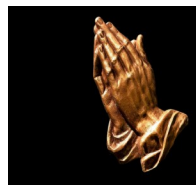
Other Notes:

- *Decorations will be taken down in the sanctuary on Saturday, January 6 at 9:00 a.m.
- *Sunday, February 11 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!
- *Ash Wednesday is February 14. Updates on Lenten services will be in your weekly bulletins.
- *February supply pastors will be printed in bulletins as soon as names become available.

NOTES ABOUT OUR FOLKS

PRAYERS:

- * Shirley Weist, Columbia Cottage, Wyomissing
- * Pauline Bond at Maiden creek Place.
- * Carole Imgrund at the Masonic Home in Elizabethtown
- * Audrey Delong at her home in Leesport.
- * Richard Reiber at Berkshire Commons.
- * Dennis Stoudt at his home in Leesport.
- * Betty Strause at Berks Heim.
- * Glenn Miller at The Highlands.



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.
- * Everyone who participated in the Angel Tree Program

Thank You

JANUARY and FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

January Birthdays:

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

- 29 - Donna Degler
Sallyann Hoke

Anniversaries:

- 04 - Michael & Amy
Korpics

February Birthdays:

- Birthdays:
- 02 - Virginia Lash
- 03 - Donald Kauffman
- 09 - Lori Witinski
- 14 - Susan Hawkins,
Rebecca Heffner
- 22 - Barrett Lash
- 24 - Dwayne Kuhns
- 25 - Georgia Manwiller
Richard Hawkins Jr.
- 28 - Boris Pikhtovnikoff

Anniversaries:

- 02 - Richard & Sue Reiber
- 21 - Dennis & Helen
Stoudt
- 25 - Mark & Mary Ann
Franklin
- 27 - Kenneth & Cynthia
Frankhouser







January 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2	3	4 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg.	5	6 9:00 AM Removal of Christmas Decorations 8:30 PM AA Meeting
7 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i> 9:00 AM Worship /Holy Communion Installation of elected officials <i>The Rev. Fran Merkel</i>	8 1:00 PM WELCA 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	9	10 6:30 PM Council meets	11 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg.	12	13 8:30 PM AA Meeting
14 <i>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9:00 AM Worship <i>The Rev. Burlington Latshaw</i>	15 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	16	17	18 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg.	19 2:00 PM Food Pantry Delivery	20 9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution 8:30 PM AA Meeting
21 <i>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9:00 AM Worship/Holy Communion <i>The Rev. Robert Kramer</i> 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting	22 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	23	24	25 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg. 8:00 PM Worship & Music meeting	26	27 1:00-6:00PM Hall Rented- Ana Calancea 8:30 PM AA Meeting
28 <i>4th Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9:00 AM Worship <i>The Rev. David Rowe</i>	29 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	30	31			


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


JANUARY & FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

January

Alter Flowers
07--available
14--available
21--available
28--available

Bulletins

07--available
14--available
21--available
28--available

Ushers

07--Linda Roshong
14--Dennis Savage
21--Linda Roshong
28--Vicki Fetterman

Nursery will be open but
no attendant is available.

February

Alter Flowers
04--available
11--available
18--available
25--available

Bulletins

04--available
11--available
18--available
25--available

Ushers

04--Dan DeAntonio
11--Dennis Savage
18--Lori Lowery
25--Vicki Fetterman

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

Thank
You

ROCKING HORSE PRESCHOOL

SUBMITTED BY MS. WOODS

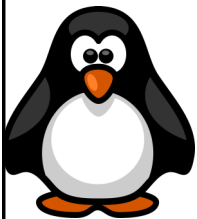


It's hard to believe we are starting another new year already. The first half of our school year has flown by and our students have learned so much already!

We had many fun activities during the month of December such as, our annual Santa Shop where students get to pick out gifts for their loved one, present making, and cookies and cocoa day!



Progress reports were also sent home at the end of the month so parents could see how their child was doing at preschool.



During the month of January we will continue with our alphabet books learning the letters L-N and in February N-Q.

In January we will explore the themes of mittens, winter weather, penguins & polar bears, dinosaurs and construction.

In February we will focus on fairytale, community helpers, love and the zoo. During February we will also have our Valentine's parties where students will get to exchange Valentines with one another.



As a reminder, our open enrollment period for the upcoming school year will be begin February 1st. So if you know anyone looking for a preschool program please send them our way.

We also, will be looking to do our R&K fundraiser in early Spring so keep an eye out for more information in the future on this popular fundraiser.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

BREAKFAST AT ONTELAUNEE GRANGE:

The first Sunday of January, February, March, April and May.
Breakfast will be served from 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM.



LCHT NEWS

Annual congregational meeting

December 10, 2023

The annual congregational meeting was held on Sunday, December 11 prior to morning worship. The budget for 2024 was reviewed and approved.

New council members for 2024 were elected. Lori Lowery, Janice Care and Daren DeAntonio. Council officers to be determined.

Council Members for 2024:

Linda Roshong	<i>Daren DeAntonio</i>
Ron Davidheiser	<i>Darlene Savage</i>
Daniel DeAntonio	<i>Dennis Savage</i>
Vicki Fetterman	<i>Janice Care</i>
<i>Lori Lowery</i>	

We want to thank Phyllis Heffner, Janet Kleffel and Diana Biehl for their years of service.

ANNUAL REPORTS:

All leaders of organizations and committees please be sure to submit a report to the office highlighting the work/activities of your organization or committee by Monday, February 5.

The office email address is lichtsecretary@comcast.net.



Thank you to all Angel Tree Participants

The angel tree program has ended for this year. A huge thank you to everyone in the congregation and the Rocking Horse Preschool for their participation.

There were twenty-five names from the Hamburg Salvation Army and all names were taken.

On Dec. 4th 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.



SANDWICH SALE:

The next sandwich sale will be held Saturday February 3, 2023. Order deadline is 1/29/2024.

Sandwiches will be ready for pick up around 8:45 AM. Watch bulletin board for sign up sheet to be posted.

Sale will benefit Relay for Life.



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 8 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.

W.E.L.C.A. EXTENDS AN INVITATION

On December 4, 2023 the W.E.L.C.A. group met to discuss concerns of members within our church as well as to see where the future of this group would be headed for the Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity. Since we are basically one of the only functioning groups within our church at the present time, it was decided to continue with meeting on the regular monthly basis from October thru June. The meetings will still take place on the first Monday of each month (unless a holiday falls on that day) at 1:00 pm.

It was indicated we would do a short business meeting and then continue with a Bible Study with Pastor Fran Merkel leading this Bible Study. At this time, we are seeking others (male and female) to join us in with the Bible Study period. This would begin at 1:15 pm. If the first Monday of the month does not suit your schedule, please let me know and we can discuss changing to another Monday which might be more suitable to you and others. We can discuss making a change.

Please contact me to let us know you will gladly join in with the Bible Study portion (at 1:15 pm) of the monthly W.E.L.C.A. meetings. We look forward to having more of our members (male and female) participate in this worthwhile study of the Bible.

Janet Kleffel, President of W.E.L.C.A.

610-926-2083

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.

During the month of October 2023 we served:

101 families-
67 children
99 adults
96 seniors
11 new recipients

For a total of 260.

DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS GREATLY APPRECIATED.



PRAYER SHAWL:

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is reactivated. Anyone in need of a prayer shawl or knows of someone in need of one please see Carolyn Heffner.

See Carolyn with any questions or if you would like to help.





February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
COMMUNION SUNDAYS are dependent upon the availability of a supply pastor. Please check weekly Sunday bulletins for updates.				1 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Group Mtg.	2	3 8:30 PM AA Meeting
4 <i>5th Sunday after Epiphany -</i> 9:00 AM Worship	5 1:00 WELCA 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal ANNUAL REPORTS DUE	6	7	8 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Group Mtg.	9	10 8:30 PM AA Meeting
11 <i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i> 9:00 AM Worship <i>"Souper Bowl Sunday"</i> <i>Rev. MaryAnn Hamm</i>	12 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	13 6:30 PM Council Meeting	14 7:00 PM <i>ASH Wednesday</i> Newsletter Deadline	15 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Group Mtg.	16 2:00 PM Food Pantry Delivery	17 9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution 8:30 PM AA Meeting
18 <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i> 9:00 AM Worship 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting	19 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	20	21 Mid week Lenten Service Time & location TBD	22 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Group Mtg.	23	24 8:30 PM AA Meeting
25 <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i> 9:00 AM Worship	26 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	27	28 Mid week Lenten Service Time & location TBD	29		

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: 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
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

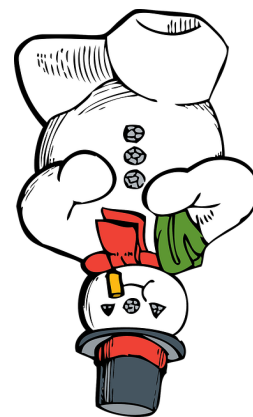
Rocking Horse Preschool Information:

Teachers: Ms. Aliesha Woods
Ms. 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 St
Leesport, PA 19533

Website: www.lcht.org

January/February 2024



Return Service Requested

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