

# The Herald

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

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*Do not be afraid; for behold – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.*

I believe that these words, spoken by a heavenly messenger to lowly sheep herders can have new meaning for you and me in this fast paced and ever changing world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. A brief perusal of the daily news can be enough to make many of us anxious and uncertain about what the future might hold for us and those we love. It is easy to become fearful and to wonder what God is doing or if God even cares.

These words serve to remind us that God has not abandoned us, for we, like those shepherds, are people to whom God has sent a savior. This doesn't mean that life will suddenly be rosy and complication free, but it does mean that whatever you and I may encounter, God is with us – loving us and redeeming us daily.

I don't know about you, but this promise of good news makes me more bold and hopeful even in these uncertain times. I urge you to give time out of the busy-ness of your life during this Advent and Christmas season to celebrate with your sisters and brothers the wonderful news that God is with us still and to ponder what God's presence means for you.

Who knows, making time to be a part of the body of Christ at the Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity could be the best Christmas gift you will receive this year.

See you at worship!

Yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Ritter*

## Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 10  
will be held at the conclusion of  
9 a.m. Worship Service

## 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.

## 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!

## Year End Contributions

Please make sure that any year-end financial contributions reach the church by Sunday, December 31, 2017.



# WORSHIP AND MUSIC NOTES

Submitted by Renee Lenning, Chairperson

The Worship and Music committee met on November 2, 2017 with six members present.

Future services were planned as follows:

- November 26 – Christ the King Sunday, Bell choir to play,
- December 3 - 1st Sunday in Advent, Communion service, lighting of Advent wreath begins using verses of "Light One Candle"
- December 10 – 2nd Sunday in Advent, annual meeting immediately following worship
- December 17 - 3rd Sunday in Advent, Communion service
- December 24 - 4th Sunday in Advent, regular Sunday service
- Christmas Eve – 6:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. communion and candlelight at both services, Bell choir will play at 6:30 service and choir will sing at 9:00. Pastor will do a children's sermon and we will have a small gift for each child.
- December 31 – Carol service led by members.

## Other Notes:

- \* Christmas decorating will take place on Saturday, December 2 at 9:00 a.m.
- \* Un-decorating on January 6.
- \* Next meeting is Thursday, January 4, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

## Worship Attendance



10/29	58
11/05	46
11/12	45
11/19	



# NOTES ABOUT OUR FOLKS

## PRAYERS:

- \* Mary Billig, who is at home.
- \* Pauline Bond, who is at home.
- \* Jim DeLong, who is at home.
- \* Jerry Leutze, who is at Masonic Home in Elizabethtown.
- \* Ralph and Delores Seaman, who have moved to Rittenhouse Senior Living, Reading.
- \* Deanna Miller, who is at Berks Heim.
- \* Anna Mae Beitler, who is at home.
- \* Warnen Seip, who is at Keystone Villas
- \* Gerri Kauffman, who is recovering from a stroke.
- \* To all our shut-in members and all those who are on our prayer list.

## THANKS TO:

- \* Sue Biehl for taking care of our flower beds.
- \* Our mowers, Ken Frankhouser, Scott Care and Dan DeAntonio.
- \* Ron & Judy Corl and all our other volunteers who help with the SV Food Pantry.
- \* Everyone who helped with Trunk or Treat and the Chicken Pot Pie Dinner.
- \* Everyone who has, and continues to, support the Gift Card program.
- \* Those who save soup labels.
- \* 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:

- \* Family of Ruth Seip
- \* Family of Polly Lenning
- \* Family of Carlene Kessler
- \* Family of Deanna Miller



# December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:00 PM Youth Group	2 9:00 AM Decorating of the Church for Christmas
3 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00 AM Worship/ Holy Communion	4 1:00 PM WELCA 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	5	6	7 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	8	9 6:30 PM LCHT Movie Night
10 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Annual congregational meeting following worship 4:30 PM Pack 160 Com- mittee Meeting 6:00 PM Troop 160 meeting	11 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	12 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Preschool Christmas Shop 6:00 PM Girl Scouts 9:30 AM Pastoral Care Team Meeting	13 9:00 - 3:00 PM Preschool Christmas Shop 7:00 PM Council meets	14 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	15 2:00 PM Food Pantry Delivery	16 9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution
17 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00 AM Worship/ Holy Communion 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry	18 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	19	20	21 9:00 - 3:00 PM Preschool Christmas 5:30 PM Soul Supper 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 9:00 AM Worship/Holy Com- munion 6:30 PM Family Worship Service 9:00 PM Candlelight Worship Service	25 <b>Christmas</b> (office closed)	26 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	27	28	29	30
31 <i>New Years Eve</i> <i>1st Sunday after Christmas</i> 9:00 AM Worship/Holy Com- munion						

# DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Altar Flowers

3-Amanda Schwendeman  
 10-Chuck and Rosemary Mowery  
 17-Women of the ELCA  
 24- no flowers  
 31- no flowers

Bulletins

3-Amanda Schwendeman  
 10-Chuck & Rosemary Mowery  
 17-available  
 24- available  
 24-6:30 p.m. - Vicki Fetterman  
 24-9:00 p.m.- Leon & Donna  
 31- available

Nursery

no attendant but room will be open

Acolytes

3-Mason Clery  
 10-Evan Lash  
 17-Makayla Lowery  
 24 (9 am)-Evan Lash  
 24 (6:30 pm) -Makayla Lowery  
 24 (9 pm)-available  
 31 - Makayla Lowery

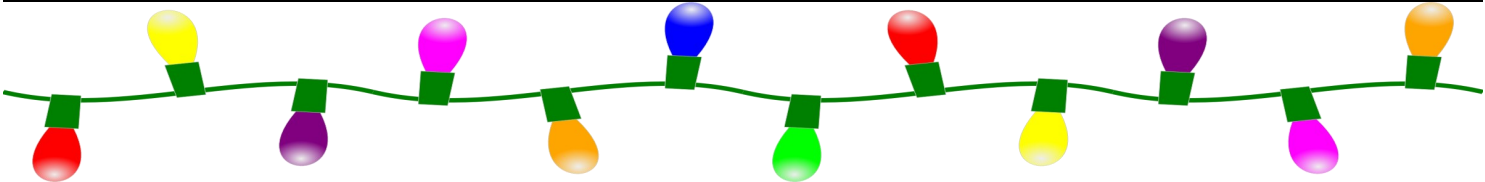
Greeter:

Linda Roshong

Ushers

3-DeAntonio, Biehl, Lenning  
 10-Lowery, Corl, Davidheiser  
 17-DeAntonio, Biehl, Lenning  
 24-Lowery, Corl, Davidheiser  
 24-DeAntonio, Biehl, Lenning  
 24- Lowery, Corl, Davidheiser  
 31-DeAntonio, Biehl, Lenning

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



## CALLING ALL YOUTH GRADES 1 TO 8

Come on out for our next youth group meeting on Friday, December 1 from 7:00 p.m. to 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!



## MOVIE NIGHT IN THE HALL

December 9 @ 6:30 PM

### THE CASE FOR CHRIST

Bring your blankets, snacks or even picnic dinner to enjoy while watching this months movie about an investigative journalist and self-proclaimed atheist who sets out to disprove the existence of God after his wife becomes a Christian.



## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Submitted by Adrienne Leshner

Cub Scout Pack 160 has been very busy the last few months. In between our regular den meetings, we participated in Leesport Community Days and raced our cub-mobile cars down the church driveway. In October, we celebrated Halloween with a fun costume party. The first weekend of November found us making scout sandwiches (our next sale will be in February). Next our boys participated in Scouting for Food. We went into the community and collected bags of non-perishable items. All across Berks County scouts collected food for the Greater Berks Food Bank. As we get ready to celebrate the upcoming holidays, we are looking forward to celebrating Thanksgiving with our scouting family with a spaghetti dinner and Christmas with caroling at Berks Heim and a get together afterwards.

December 17, Pack 160 will be hosting a Cash Cow day at Hoss's in Leesport. We would like to invite everyone to participate in this fundraiser. Cash Cow cards are available on the table outside of the church secretary's office. We thank you in advance!

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 Cubmaster 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).



# ROCKING HORSE PRESCHOOL

Submitted by Mrs. Woods and Mrs. Leshner

true meaning of Christmas and we get a chance to "shop" and wrap presents for our family. The students always enjoy taking part in this!

In November we had lots of fun! We were busy making fun crafts as we learned about using our 5 senses, healthy food and of course Thanksgiving. We held our Thanksgiving Feast where we invited loved ones to come enjoy a feast of chicken nuggets, smiley face fries, apples, grapes and carrots and don't forget about our handmade turkey cupcakes and pumpkin pie!! The students and their families had fun playing Thanksgiving themed games and making crafts together.

We want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and as always thank you for kind donations, support and prayers they do not go unnoticed.



This year we again were able to help children who may not have otherwise had a happy holiday. Our students along with their families generously helped 10 children to receive gifts through the Salvation Army's Angel program.

### Current Wish list:

- White Icing (cans)
- Sprinkles (for cookie decorating)
- Gallon Ziploc Bags
- Quart Ziploc Bag
- Google Eyes (medium/large size)
- Glue Dots (small)

With Thanksgiving in the past we now turn our attention to the Christmas holiday. This is such a fun and exciting month for our students. We take time to talk about the

## LCHT YEAR TO DATE FINANCIALS

	<u>Jan1 -Oct 31, 17</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over/Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
Envelopes	81,156.35	91,562.50	-10,406.15	88.64%
Rocking Horse Preschool	32,799.00	33,099.00	-300.00	99.09%
Other Income	12,871.84	9,831.50	3,040.34	130.92%
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>126,827.19</u>	<u>134,493.00</u>	<u>-7,665.81</u>	<u>94.3%</u>
<b>Expense</b>				
CARE OF PROPERTY	19,684.98	21,278.00	-1,593.02	92.51%
CARE/SUPPORT-STAFF	116,587.65	132,864.84	-16,277.19	87.75%
CHURCH COMMITTEES	2,405.72	2,322.00	83.72	103.61%
NURTURE/CARE CONGRTN	15,113.34	16,125.00	-1,011.66	93.73%
ROCKING HORSE PRESCHOOL	3,947.09	4,022.00	-74.91	98.14%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>157,738.78</u>	<u>176,611.84</u>	<u>-18,873.06</u>	<u>89.31%</u>
<b>Expenses Exceed Income</b>	<u>-30,911.59</u>	<u>-42,118.84</u>	<u>11,207.25</u>	<u>73.39%</u>





## Pot Pie Success!

**Submitted by: Diana Biehl**

If not for a well-organized team, the pot pie event wouldn't go as smoothly as it does. First things start weeks and weeks before with the tickets being sponsored by the Heffner's. Along with the behind the scene work that no one realizes for the prepping of the corn from their farm. Other pre-game prepping is done by Darlene Savage who is busy pounding away at apples turning them into delicious applesauce to be served on the tables and in the to-go packs. Tickets are sold thanks to Dennis Biehl and Mike Lowery who split the task to distribute them to people to sell. They also made sure advertisement was set up to spread the word of the big day that soon would come.

Tom and Phyllis Heffner were the captains of the pot pie making ship starting Friday when they set sail coming to the church early in the morning to cook the chicken. Later other members of the church came on board to help debone the chicken and do other prep work, getting a jump start on the rough waters ahead, trying to keep the boat calm with the Lord giving his helping hand for the Saturday to come.

The great day did come starting early Saturday morning with the dough to be made. A new machine was brought to help things along and boy did it help. It moved the dough rolling process along saving at least 30 mins, things were looking good. But that wasn't all. While everyone helped to cut the rolled dough and set it out on the table to dry. Other jobs were being done, like pulling all the supplies out, making sure that there was enough serving spoons, sugar and bowls to go around to all the tables.

During Saturday morning everyone's favorite thing, DESSERT was making its way into the church. Thanks to Sally Miller who weeks in advance sends out half paper plates to let all know that their baking help is needed for the big day. As the many different desserts rolled in Sally, and her team of cake and pie cutters got to work, knowing just what size to cut and just how many to cut to make sure everyone had a great variety to pick from, and wow, there was a lot to pick from. You know you have a good variety when the hardest part of the night is what dessert to pick from. By afternoon a moment to take a break and grab a bite to eat was had by all, some going home to get a few last minute things done or get that last 30 minute nap, knowing a long night is still ahead of them. By 1pm the workers got back to work, time to cook the dough; at the same time the tables were being cleared and prepared for the dinner. Tables were cleaned off, placemats down, cups, bowls packs of forks, knives and spoons rolled in a napkin placed nicely at every place setting.

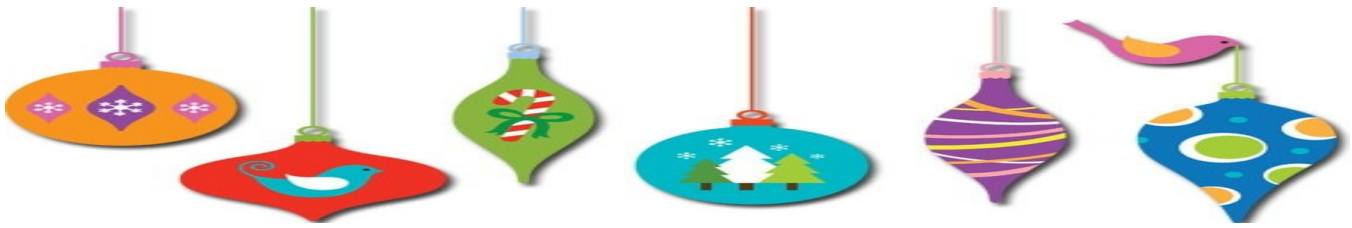
As the time got closer more people came in to take on other jobs to help the process. Tables filled up with bowls of pepper cabbage, applesauce, and pitchers of water waiting to serve the masses. More and more showed up to help, like Ken Stoudt who came with change box in hand ready to set up to sell more tickets as people came in. Jean Stoudt took to her post in the lobby of the church with walkie talkie in hand. She communicated with Dennis Biehl down below. Jean grouped parties together and sent them down at the request of Dennis. As they came down he directed them, dressed in his tuxedo t-shirt, to the table at which they would be seated. Servers that included church members as well as individuals from the boy scouts and youth group stood by their assigned tables ready to serve those that came to enjoy all the hard work that has been taking place for many weeks.

As people left they complimented everyone on the great meal, many never having bacon dressing before but thanks to Donna Kessler for making it to include into the meal already full of other items. It seemed to be a big success. Thanks to everyone who helped!!

*Thank you to the people who gave Memorial Contributions:*

*In Loving Memory of Ruth Seip:  
L.C.H.T. - WELCA Group  
Victor K. Biebighauser  
Irvin & Nettie Kauffman  
W. Marshall Simons  
Robert & Shirley Reber*





## LCHT NEWS cont.



### Mission Team Activities

Five members of prior mission teams worked to repair a leaking roof at the home of a church member last month. We are looking to expand local activities and help church members and others in the Leesport community that need assistance. This may allow us to get other members involved in this outreach ministry that have not been able to commit to the week long mission trips that we do in the spring. If you are aware of anyone that needs assistance please contact Dan DeAntonio and we can evaluate the situation and determine if we have the resources to help out.



What better way to get in the Christmas spirit than to join us on Saturday, December 2nd @ 9 am to help decorate the church for the holidays!

### A VERY special thanks to:

**Darlene Savage** – applesauce

**Tom & Phyllis Heffner** – corn, sponsor tickets, organized cooking of pepper cabbage, chicken and making dough

**Daren and Dan DeAntonio** - helping with organizing who got what

**Donna Kessler** – Bacon Dressing

**Sally Miller** – organized baked goods for desserts

**Ken Stoudt** – ticket table at entrance

**Jean Stoudt** – grouped people together to send down for seating

**Dennis Biehl & Mike Lowery** – distributed tickets to people to sell, Dennis got tickets printed and posters also assigned seating

**Youth Group and Boy Scouts** help serving at tables

**Dan DeAntonio** – in charge of take out and quart sales

Because of everyone's help, the Pot Pie Dinner was a huge success!! THANK YOU!

## DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

### Birthdays:

02-Nettie Kauffman

03-Suzanne Reiber

Sandra Buchalter

05-Sharon Mengle

06-Yvonne Graeff

08-Phyllis Weaver

Jim Beissel

10-Richard Stump

12-Warren Seip

13-Tara Lombardo

Jason Stump

17-Dante DeAntonio

18-Arthur Scott Care

20-Gerri Kauffman

Larry Mengel

21-Tanner Mengle

22-Jenna Stoudt

Lowell Bittner

25 - Jerry Leutze

27- Scott Trievel

28-Ian Storch

30-Peter Greely

31-June Gilmer

### Anniversaries

04-Ronald & Melissa Strause

06-Kevin & Renee Lenning

11-Chuck & Rosemary Mowery

28-Rodney & Judy Geisinger

# 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 St.  
Leesport, PA 19533

**Website:** www.lcht.org

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

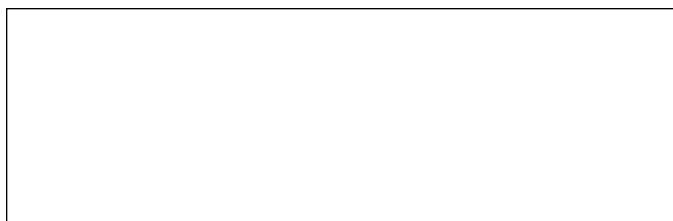
## Rocking Horse Preschool Information:

**Teachers:** Mrs. Aliesha Woods  
Mrs. Adrienne Leshner  
Office: 610-926-7176 ext. 3  
Email: rhps@comcast.net

**Mailing Address:**  
Rocking Horse Preschool  
102 Apple St.  
Leesport, PA 19533

**Website:** www.lcht.org

December 2017



*Return Service Requested*