



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,

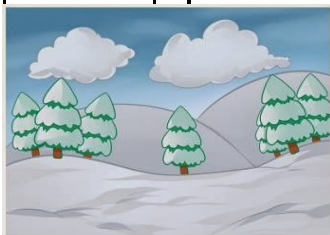
If a Hollywood scriptwriter of disaster movies had approached a studio with a plot such as the one we Americans have experienced this past year, he or she would have been laughed off the lot. The producers would have howled in incredulity: "What an imagination! Too unrealistic: too many horrific events happening at the same time. A pandemic with over 400,000 lives lost in the U.S. alone. Natural disasters: forest fires, a record number of tropical storms and tornadoes. Not to mention an economic collapse with record unemployment. And all topped off by a presidential election that the sitting president and his allies claim was fraudulent. Oh, and by the way, that president refuses to concede defeat, ramps up the rhetoric to incite a large crowd of his followers, and points them to the Capitol where they storm the halls of Congress just as the Electoral College results are being vetted. Mayhem, death and destruction ensue. In typical Hollywood fashion, however, the movie does end on a positive note with the inauguration of a decent, seasoned former vice president who inspires hope that unity can be restored and healing take place.

Who would ever believe such a fanciful, far-fetched premise? And yet, it's all happened, just like the fictional scriptwriter laid it out. We're just too numb, too close to it, to put it into some kind of perspective yet. Perhaps this year's forty days of Lent can provide the context within which we can begin to ponder the impact of this "perfect storm" of disastrous happenings. Perhaps within the peace of our practice of the Lenten disciplines of prayer, worship and Bible study we can discern God's purposes for us as individuals, as a congregation, and as a nation and part of the world community of nations.

So, my advice to you, my fellow Christians at the Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, is to be kind and gentle to yourselves and one another. Give the benefit of the doubt to the new administration in Washington, D. C. Be patient, draw strength from your resurrection faith, and believe in the One who has promised to "make all things new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

United in Christ,
Pastor Filer

Annual reports due by February 8: 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 8. The office email address is lchtsecretary@comcast.net.



BAD WEATHER INFORMATION

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

- * On the 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 February:

- February 7 5th Sunday of Epiphany, Communion service
- February 14 Transfiguration of Our Lord
- February 17 Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 PM.
- February 21 1st Sunday in Lent, Communion service
- February 28 2nd Sunday in Lent

Other Notes:

The next Worship & Music Meeting will be held on March 11 at 8:00PM following choir rehearsal.

LENTEN SCHEDULE:

There will be **no shared mid week services** with churches in our area this Lenten season due to COVID 19.

We will hold a worship service on :

- Ash Wednesday (2/17 @ 7PM)
- Holy Thursday (4/1 @ 7PM)
- Good Friday (4/2 @7PM).

Worship Attendance

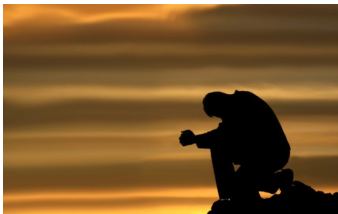


1/03	CX
1/10	30
1/17	37
1/24	41

NOTES ABOUT OUR FOLKS

PRAYERS:

- * Shirley Weist at Columbia Cottage, Wyomissing.
- * Lollie Seaman at Rittenhouse Village.
- * Pauline Bond at Maiden creek Place.
- * Cynthia Leutze at her daughter's home in Mohrsville. Hospitalized in January.
- * Carole Imgrund in Elizabethtown.
- * Audrey Delong at her home in Leesport.
- * Richard W. Reiber at The Highlands in Wyomissing.



THANKS TO:

- * All our other volunteers who help with the SV Food Pantry.
- * Everyone who helped de-decorate the church.
- * 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.
- * To all our service people and healthcare workers fighting COVID 19.



2020 Angel Tree Program

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 2020.

We were given the names of ten adults and twenty children this year and were asked to contribute a monetary gift for each person. This was different from previous years when we purchased gifts. We returned 21 checks to the Salvation Army to buy gift cards from Walmart for individuals in need. We also donated a check from WELCA along with another donation from our pot pie & apple dumpling fund raiser. All monetary gifts arrived on time and were picked up and delivered to the Hamburg center. The gift cards were to go to people in our local area.

It was through your generosity and kindness that Christmas was a little more special for some of our local families in need of assistance.

Your continued participation in this angel tree program is very much appreciated & we thank you.





February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 1:00 PM WELCA meets 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	2	3	4 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Group Mtg.	5	6 8:30 PM AA Meeting
7 <i>5th Sunday of Epiphany</i> 9:00 AM Worship/ Holy Communion 10:15 AM Confirmation	8 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal ANNUAL REPORTS DUE	9	10 7:00 PM Council Meeting	11 9:30AM Pastoral Care Team Meeting 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Group Mtg.	12	13 8:30 PM AA Meeting
14 <i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i> 9:00 AM Worship/ Marriage Affirmation 10:15 AM Confirmation	15 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	16	17 7:00 PM Ash <i>Wednesday</i> Worship/ Holy Communion 8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	18 7:30 PM NA Group Mtg.	19 2:00 PM Food Pantry Delivery	20 9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution 8:30 PM AA Meeting
21 <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> 9:00 AM Worship/ Holy Communion 10:15 AM Confirma- tion	22 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	23	24 7:00 PM Small Group Bible Study Into the Wilderness -	25 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Group Mtg.	26	27 8:30 PM AA Meeting
28 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i> 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Confirmation						

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

FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

Altar Flowers

07-Sue Reiber
14-available
21-Virginia Lash
28-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

7-Phyllis Heffner, Dennis Biehl,
Helen Stoudt
14-Vicki Fetterman, Diana Biehl,
Janet Kleffel
21-Helen Stoudt, Vicki Fetterman,
Phyllis Heffner
28- Helen Stoudt, Phyllis Heffner,
Dennis Biehl



Bulletins

07-Sue Reiber
14-Donald Kauffman
21-available
28-available

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.

There has been an increase in the number of families requesting assistance.

We are currently serving 110 families every month.

ALL DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:

The prayer shawl ministry group is not holding meetings, however, you can work on projects on your own. For more information please see Darlene Savage or anyone on the Social Ministry Committee.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Submitted by Janet Kleffel

Join us on Monday, February 1 at 1:00 p.m. for our monthly meeting.

REDNER'S REGISTER TAPES

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 check-out. 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. Last year we asked for donations during Advent and the LCHT congregation came through with flying colors. The extra large carton in the vestibule was filled to capacity. The folks at

Veterans Making a Difference were extremely grateful. Due to COVID, many of the churches that usually participate were closed to in person services and therefore did not make donations.

A huge thank you to all who donated to this worthy cause. We will continue to donate through out the year and deliver items as they accumulate.

Requests include personal care items, laundry detergent, large size winter coats, boxer shorts, white socks, large size flannel night pants, Crest toothpaste and Old Spice deodorant.





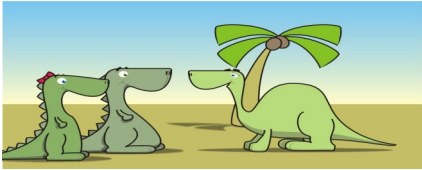
ROCKING HORSE PRESCHOOL

Submitted by Mrs. Woods and Ms. Wentzel

Can you believe it is 2021 already! This new year is moving right along. We are happy to be able to come to school each week.

We have been busy doing lots of fun winter things. Painting with ice cubes, making snow globes, learning about arctic animals, and continuing the letters in our alphabet book.

We are all the way up to the letter P and the number 15. During the last few weeks of January we will explore space and dinosaurs.



At the end of this month we will open enrollment to the public for the 2021-2022 school year. If you or someone you know has a child who will be 3 by September 1st (eligible for our AM group class) or 4 by September 1st (eligible for our PM group class) please feel free to get in touch with us to see if there are spaces available yet.

Our registration form can be found on the church website or you can email us at rhps@comcast.net and we can send you a copy.

As we look ahead to February we are excited to celebrate our loved ones on Valentines Day and exchange Valentines with our classmates.



We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and great start to the new year!

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.

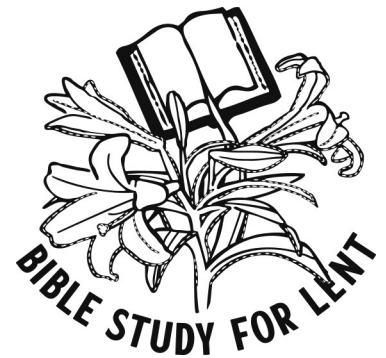
DAILY DISCIPLESHP

The Path of Discipleship

A Series of Special Services for Lent

The Lenten season at LCHT will begin on Wednesday, February 17, Ash Wednesday. The next five Wednesdays will feature small group Bible studies based on the preceding Sunday's Gospel lesson and held in the lower level classroom. Holy Week will commence with Palm/Passion Sunday worship and the distribution of palms. Then, Maundy Thursday begins the final three days of services with Holy Communion, the Tenebrae on Good Friday, and the celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

February 17	Ash Wednesday Service Holy Communion	7:00 PM
February 24	Into the Wilderness Small Group Bible Study	7:00 PM
March 3	Beyond Oneself Small Group Bible Study	7:00 PM
March 10	Through the Maze Small Group Bible Study	7:00 PM
March 17	Within the Light Small Group Bible Study	7:00 PM
March 24	In the Footsteps Small Group Bible Study	7:00 PM
March 28	Palm/Passion Sunday Distribution of Palms	9:00 AM
April 1	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion	7:00 PM
April 2	Good Friday Tenebrae	7:00 PM
April 4	Easter Sunday Holy Communion	9:00 AM





Boy Scout Troop 160

Submitted by Karen Bausch

Troop 160 is having their last sandwich sale on Saturday February 6th. The order form is hanging on the bulletin board if anyone is interested. Ham & cheese, turkey & cheese and Italian sandwiches made fresh that day. \$6.00 each.



As always, thank you for your support of Troop 160!

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS given in 2020

THANK YOU to the people who gave.

Submitted by Nettie A. Kauffman

In Memory of James DeLong:
Suzanne Reiber

In Memory of Ralph Seaman:
Suzanne Reiber

In Memory of John Weist:
Suzanne Reiber
Betty Naftzinger

In Memory of Loved Ones:
Phyllis I. Weaver

In Loving Memory of
Barry Weaver:
Phyllis I. Weaver

In Memory of
Mary Ellen Deitz:
Ryan & Ann Strause

In Memory of Scott Biehl:
Donald Kauffman
Phyllis I. Weaver
Tyson & Jill Frack



MARRIAGE AFFIRMATION

With Valentine's Day falling on a Sunday this year, Pastor Filer would like to perform a Marriage Affirmation ceremony during the 9:00 AM service of worship on that day. Couples who would enjoy affirming their wedding covenants are invited to fill out the form below and either place it in the offering plate or convey it to the office or to Pastor Filer directly. Attractively designed certificates will be given to each participating couple, and a socially distanced reception with wrapped treats will be held in the narthex following the service.

Bride: _____

Years Married: _____

Groom: _____



Email: _____

Contact Phone: _____

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays:

- 02 - Virginia Lash
- 03 - Donald Kauffman
Thad Kistler
- 09 - Lori Witinski
- 10- Pastor Carl Filer
- 14 - Susan Hawkins
- 16 - Aimee Hoke
- 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 Frank-
houser

SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA



ISSUE NO 2 | FEBRUARY 2021 | VOLUME 29

From Our Bishop: Vital Signs for Now

As I write this in January, I have no way of knowing what our situation – national, state, or local – will be like. But I have no doubt in two truths. First, God will be with us and for us. Second, the big challenges will still be upon us. As people who believe in and follow Jesus, we always have these promises: *Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again*. This means, wherever we are, and wherever we're headed, that nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:39).

In the midst of all we face, across this Synod – our congregations, leaders, members and ministries – are playing *vital roles* in God's work to bring life out of death, love out of hate, hope out of despair, and joy out of sorrow. The Holy Spirit is revealing *vital signs* in our midst because of what Christ has done for us on the cross. So, I ask you: as part of the Body of Christ, *what are our vital signs right now?* How are we doing these three things:

Healing the hurting? Loving the land? Engaging the stranger?

As a Synod going forward, I'm calling these three, our *Vital Signs for Now*. Ways we are called by our God to address this moment through which we are now living:

- **Heal the Hurting** can include helping all of us, suffering through this pandemic. Those who are facing economic struggle. Those who are also ill from other afflictions, including addiction, anxiety and depression. Those having a hard time finding health care and security. And those in pain and fear from our large divides over politics.
- **Love the Land** can include the realities of climate change. The need to make our communities more livable for everyone. And deciding what is best to do with our buildings and properties, to bring more life to our neighbors as well as ourselves.
- **Engage the Stranger** can include anyone who feels estranged, inside and outside our churches. It includes all the ways that have made us estranged from each other and our core Christian values: the lack of welcome for all people, especially foreigners and our LGBTQIA+ siblings; racial injustice and white supremacy; the disregard of facts and the lack of listening to the "other side".

In these first days and weeks of 2021, as a Synod, let us work on these three things. And let us share with each other, what is working and how the Spirit is moving and leading. Let's tell each other and ask your pastors and councils to share with our deans and Synod staff. We will then share with the whole Synod. Let's go and grow more alive and vital, together, as church, by the grace of our great God.

Bishop Christopher deForest

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

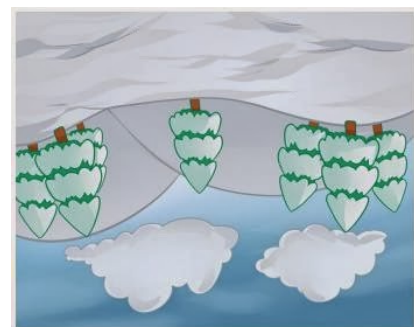
Rocking Horse Preschool Information:

Teachers: Mrs. Aliesha Woods
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

February 2021



Return Service Requested