



The Herald



Inside this Issue

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Worship & Music	2
Notes About Our Folks	2
December Calendar	3
Volunteers	4
Veterans Making a Difference	4
Gift Card Program	4
LCHT Ministries	4
RHPS	5
LCHT News	5
In Our Community	6
Celebrations	7
Poinsettia order form	7
LCHT Contact Information	8

FROM THE PASTOR:

Dear Friends in Christ,

What is the most important holiday on the Christian calendar? Many would say Christmas. Certainly, from a secular standpoint, the Baby Jesus’ birth in a manger in Bethlehem has captured the imagination of those merchants who rely on the “ka-ching” of their cash registers this time of year to bolster their bottom lines. But even beyond the mercenary factor, there’s the romantic nostalgia for solitude and peacefulness, the angel’s proclamation: “Peace on earth, good will toward men.” And even from a theological point of view, scholars today tout the Incarnation, the Word (Christ) made manifest in the Man (Jesus): “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth” (Jn. 1:14).

There are others, though, who lobby for Pentecost as the premier Christian holiday, because it highlights the power of the Holy Spirit active in our lives today and in the life of the Church. Even Jesus could say to His disciples the night before He was crucified, “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do because I go to the Father” (Jn. 14:12). This will happen when the earthly Jesus, Who had been the focal point of His disciples’ attention, leaves the scene and opens up the possibility of His Spirit energizing these disciples to go out into all the world to spread the Good News of His resurrection. What could be more important for an evangelizing Church than the power of Pentecost bringing repentance of sins and the promise of New Life?

So, the case has been made for the prominence of both Christmas and Pentecost for pre-eminence as the most important Christian holiday. But what of that other great festival of the Church year? What of Good Friday/Easter? Because we do treat both as two sides of the same coin, the great Paschal Mystery of Jesus’ death and resurrection. St. Paul reminded the congregation he had founded in Corinth that he “. . . decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified” (1 Cor. 2:2). It’s at the cross that the enfleshed God-Man, Jesus Christ, penetrated to the very core of the sinful human condition by identifying with us in our mortality, the fact that one day all of us must die. God’s raising Jesus from the dead, then, put’s God’s final seal of approval on Jesus’ sacrifice of Himself for all our sakes. Because Jesus lives, we, too, shall live eternally in solidarity with the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

So, this Christmas, let us join Mary as she “. . . kept all these things, pondering them in her heart” (Lk. 2:19), and let us never forget the prophetic words of Simeon there in the temple eight days later when he spoke directly to her: “Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also)” (Lk. 2:34-35).

May the joy and solemnity of Christmas permeate your lives in these troubled times with the hope of better days ahead and the fullness of Christ’s life lived out within our own.

Carl W. Filer

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 12, 2021
will be held at the conclusion of
9 a.m. Worship Service



WORSHIP AND MUSIC NOTES

Submitted by Nettie Kauffman

Worship Attendance

Worship Services for November 28 & December, 2021:

- November 28 First Sunday of Advent. Bell choir will play. The Advent wreath will be in place. Members will participate with a Litany of readings and lighting the candles each week.
- December 05 Second Sunday of Advent, Holy Communion Service.
- December 12 Third Sunday of Advent, *annual business meeting held immediately following worship service.*
- December 19 Forth Sunday of Advent, Holy Communion service.
- December 24 *Christmas Eve services:* Holy Communion Service.
7:45 PM--Bell Choir recital- prelude to Christmas Eve Service.
8:00 PM--Traditional candlelight service with communion. Choir anthem.
- December 26 First Sunday after Christmas, *Service of Lessons and Carols.*



10/31	38
11/07	34
11/14	26
11/21	30

Other Notes :



- * Sanctuary will be decorated for the Christmas season on December 4th at 9:00 AM. Volunteers are needed for this joyful task!
- * See page 7 of this newsletter for the poinsettia order form. Order forms can also be found with your November 28 bulletin and on the small table outside of the office. Contact Phyllis Heffner at 610-926-1004 or 484-769-0886 with questions or to place an order.

NOTES ABOUT OUR FOLKS

PRAYERS:

- * Pauline Bond, who is at Maiden creek Place.
- * Shirley Weist, at Columbia Cottage.
- * Cynthia Leutze, at the Masonic Home in Elizabethtown.
- * Lollie Seaman, at Rittenhouse.
- * Dennis Stoudt in rehab.
- * Gordon Kistler at his home in Mohrsville.
- * Carole Imgrund at the Masonic Home in Elizabethtown.
- * Audrey Delong at her home in Leesport.
- * Richard Reiber at the Highlands in Wyomissing.
- * All of our servicemen and servicewomen, especially those who must spend the holidays away from family and friends.
- * All our frontline workers and scientists fighting COVID 19.



* THANKS TO:

- * Phyllis Heffner and the altar guild members for their faithful work in support of our worship.
- * Our Women of the ELCA for their care and outreach to the veterans of our nation's military.



December 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
			1	2 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg	3	4 9:00 AM Decorating of the Church for Christmas 8:30 PM AA Meeting
5 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00 AM Worship: Holy Communion	6 1:00 PM WELCA 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	7	8 7:00 PM Council Meeting	9 9:30 AM Pastoral Care Team meeting 7:30 PM NA Mtg	10	11 8:30 PM AA Meeting
12 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00 AM Worship Annual congregational meeting following Worship <i>Deadline for Poinsettia orders.</i>	13 9AM-3PM RHPS in Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	14 9AM-3PM RHPS in Fellowship Hall	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg 8:00 Worship & Music	17 2:00 PM Food Pantry Delivery	18 9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution 8:30 PM AA Meeting
19 <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00 AM Worship: Holy Communion.	20 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	21	22 9AM-3PM RHPS in Fellowship Hall	23 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 7:45 PM Bell Choir recital 8:00 PM Candlelight Worship: Holy Communion	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>  8:30 PM AA Meeting
26 <i>1st Sunday after Christmas</i> 9:00 AM Worship Service of Lessons and Carols	27	28	29	30 7:30 PM NA Mtg	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>	

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

DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Altar Flowers

05--Ron Davidheiser
 12--available
 19--Janice Care
 24--no flowers--Poinsettias
 26--available

Bulletins

05--Ron Davidheiser
 12--
 19--Janice Care
 24--Donald Kauffman
 26--

Nursery

no attendant but room will be open



Ushers

05--Helen Stoudt, Linda Roshong, Diana Biehl
 12--Janet Kleffel, Dennis Biehl, Vicki Fetterman
 19--Dennis Biehl, Helen Stoudt, Linda Roshong
 24--Vicki Fetterman, Janet Kleffel, Diana Biehl
 26--Janet Kleffel, Linda Roshong, Dennis Biehl

VETERANS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

project through WELCA and Pastoral Care continues. **Thank you** to everyone who donated throughout the year.

Suggested items for donation are: Toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, deodorant, shampoo, sleep pants (size L,XL & XXL), toilet paper, paper towels, laundry detergent, liquid body soap and dish soap.

Please place your donated items in the large box in the vestibule.



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.



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 9:00 to 11:00 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.

All donations are greatly appreciated.



The Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry is in need of YOUR HELP! We have plenty of supplies and funds (thank you for your continued donations), but we are in the process of re-organizing and need volunteers to take some more leadership roles. With the changes of a new organization, **we are in need of leadership and board members.**

We are so grateful that many have stepped forward to be in charge of the distribution, but now we are specifically looking for individuals to represent their churches on the board that would oversee the organization. **This would be for a 2-3 year commitment (depending on the term limits that are established by this new group) beginning in about 18 months. The committee meets approximately four times per year (once a quarter)** and does not take too much of your time outside of those meetings.

If you would like to volunteer to represent your church on this committee, please speak with your pastor and have them contact Rev. Gary Rarick, administrator of the SV Food Pantry or if you have any questions.

His contact information is: pastorrarick@gmail.com or 610-401-1545.

Pastor Gary will be stepping down as the administrator once the new organization is up and running, but he is working diligently with the current committee to get the new organization established.



ROCKING HORSE PRESCHOOL

SUBMITTED BY ALIESHA WOODS

November has flown by and the Christmas holiday is right around the corner! Our Thanksgiving Feast was a great time! We played games, did crafts, and had a feast of chicken nuggets and smile fires! It's always nice to get to celebrate with our families. So, as you can maybe tell, our classroom has been a busy place the last few weeks and will continue to be busy with holiday happenings during the month of December.

During the month of December, we will be learning about the following themes: Leaves, Mittens, Nativity, and Ornaments and of course Christmas. Pastor Filer will also be sharing the message of Christmas with the students.



We also will be having our annual Santa Shoppe where students get to "shop" for gifts for their loved ones. This always such a fun time that the kiddos look forward to. We will also be hosting our Cookies and Cocoa day with our families on Wednesday December 22nd. Families get to decorate cookies and "Christmas trees" as well as do some crafts, play games, and enjoy a snack together.



A big **thank you** to everyone who participated in the Angel Tree program.

Wish List:

- Gallons of Spring Water
- Glue Dots
- Mini Sticky Note Pads
- Paper Plates (uncoated) Large and Small

LCHT NEWS

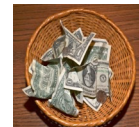
Volunteers needed

What better way to get in the Christmas spirit than to join us on Saturday, December 4th @ 9 am to help decorate the church for the holidays!



Year End Contributions

Please make sure that any year-end financial contributions reach the church by Monday, December 27, 2021.



Sandwich Sale and Thank You



Thank you to Karen Bausch, Leandra Karasack and Mark Stump for holding the sandwich sale on October 3. Their efforts sold 144 sandwiches which raised \$532 for the church! Thanks to everyone who made, bought and sold sandwiches.

AND they're doing it AGAIN!!

The next sandwich sale will be held at LCHT on Saturday, January 8, 2022.

Sandwich pick-up will be from 7:AM to 10:30 AM. Please see form on the bulletin board to place your order by January 2, 2022. Sale proceeds once again will benefit LCHT.



Apple Dumpling & Pot Pie Sale

Many thanks to the 22+ volunteers that helped with the recent Pot Pie, Apple Dumpling, Pepper Cabbage and Baked Goods sale.

We sold 262 quarts of Pot Pie, 302 Apple Dumplings, 62 pints of Pepper Cabbage and numerous baked goods for a profit of \$3,994.50.

Thank you to everyone that helped cook, sold items and baked!

Without your help this sale would not have been possible.

THANK YOU!

Phyllis and Daren

IN OUR COMMUNITY

THE DIRECTOR'S BIG BAND

*Christmas
Concert*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18 | 7:00 PM

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
45 READING AVENUE | BOYERTOWN

Free Admission & *Masks Required*



**Union Lutheran
Church**

5500 Rt 873
Schnecksville

Invites you to a great family event...

A Manger Scene Open House

Saturday, December 4, 2021 from 3-7:30pm

Sunday, December 5, 2021 from 10am -3pm

Please join us to see Manger Scenes from the families of
Union Lutheran Church on display.

A great way to start your Christmas celebration as
we wait for the Birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Free Will offering will be accepted or
you may bring Personal Care items or
Non-perishable food items

Monies will support local food pantries.

You do not need to R.S.V.P.

Following Covid recommendations.
Masks are greatly encouraged.

**We look forward to seeing
you and your family.**

December Celebrations

Birthdays:

- 02-Nettie Kauffman
- 03-Suzanne Reiber
 Sandra Buchalter
- 05-Sharon Mengle
- 06-Yvonne Graeff
- 08-Phyllis Weaver
 Jim Beissel
- 13-Tara Lombardo
- 17-Dante DeAntonio
- 20-Larry Mengle
- 21-Tanner Mengle
- 22-Jenna Stoudt
- 27- Scott Trievel
- 30-Peter Greely
- 31-June Gilmer



Anniversaries

- 04-Ronald & Melissa Strause
- 06-Kevin & Renee Lenning
- 11-Chuck & Rosemary Mowery



Order your

Poinsettias

Deadline is:

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

6½” pot in Red or White

<u>Number of Plants</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Red _____ X \$6.00 = _____	
White _____ X \$6.00 = _____	

Total Number of Plants:

Total Amount Paid: \$ _____

Name:

Fill out **EXACTLY** as you want it listed in the bulletin insert. Please **PRINT** all information. Use additional form if needed.

Plants Given to the Glory of God

By: _____

By: _____

Plants Given in Memory

Of: _

By: _____

Of: _

By: _____

Plants Given in Honor

Of: _

By: _____

Of: _

By: _____

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
E-mail: LCHTpastor@outlook.com

Secretary: Debra Berg
Office : 610-926-7176 ext. 1
E-mail: lchtsecretary@comcast.net
Office hrs: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9 to 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. Kimberly Wentzel
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 2021



Return Service Requested