



The Herald



Inside this Issue

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

Worship & Music	2
Memorial Contributions	2
Notes About Our Folks	2
March Calendar	3
Volunteers	4
Celebrations	4
Rocking Horse Preschool	4
LCHT NEWS	5
WELCA	5
LCHT Ministries	6
Upcoming Events	6
April Calendar	7
LCHT Contact Information	8

From The Pastor's Desk:

One of my favorite pastors, Rev. Barry Galley, taught me to approach the Lenten Season by doing something that was different from what is normally practiced by Christians.

Instead of looking for "something to give up" for Lent, Rev. Galley encouraged us to "add something" during the Lenten Season.

I was always baffled by folks giving up things like desserts, or chocolate, or food from fast-food restaurants, or the myriad of creative ideas that they could find. The idea behind this Lenten "sacrifice" was to help explore a deeper spirituality by bodily denying something that is important in your life. I'm not sure that I found a deeper spirituality in this season because of depriving myself of something I generally was accustomed to having.

There was even one time that I remember I gave up the use of salt on my food for the period of Lent. And I can definitely say that...first of all...I will never do that again. And second...a deeper spirituality was not what I was feeling as I ate food that was very bland to my taste without adding salt.

So, I was quite happy with Rev. Galley's suggestion that, instead of taking something away, try to **add something** during Lent. One year I added one phone call a day to people who could not get out and about to offer an opportunity for conversation. Another Lenten Season I purposely ate in the lunchroom each day at my place of employment, and started conversations with people who had no partners to share the lunch period. There was a year I volunteered to help people who were unable to drive and take them to the doctor or other appointments.

What wonderful experiences these turned out to be for me...and hopefully for the people I had come into contact with during these times. While purposely sharing time and conversations with others, I had the opportunity to learn many new things about them and their lives, and my life was enriched because of those experiences.

We are now in the Season of Lent as we move forward to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, Easter Sunday, March 31st. Elsewhere in our newsletter you will find the schedule of mid-week Lenten services, beginning at noon with soup and sandwiches, followed by Lenten worship, and then desserts to close the afternoon. The service on March 13th will be held at The Lutheran Church of The Holy Trinity so I hope we will see you there. Holy Week Services of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are listed on the schedule as well.

I hope you will enter into the Spirit of Lent, and that you will also find a way to "add something" to make your Lenten Season a time of spiritual renewal.

Pastor Fran

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday April 14 following worship service. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

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/April 2023

March 03 - 3rd Sunday in Lent, Communion service, *The Rev. Rolf Schmidt*
 March 10 - 4th Sunday in Lent, Regular service, *The Rev. Robert Kramer*
 March 17 - 5th Sunday in Lent, Communion service, *The Rev. Robert Kramer*
 March 24 - Palm Sunday, Regular service, *The Rev. David Kistler*
 March 31 - Easter Sunday, Communion service, *The Rev. Steven Shussett*
 April 7-2nd Sunday of Easter *
 April 14-3rd Sunday of Easter, Communion service, *The Rev. Fran Merkel*.

Annual Congregational mtg. following worship service.
 April 21-4th Sunday of Easter *
 April 28-5th Sunday of Easter, **joint service at Zion Lutheran. No service at LCHT.**

***Communion services in April will be announced in the Sunday bulletins.**
Dates are dependent upon pastor availability.

Other Notes:

The next Worship & Music meeting will be held at 8:00 PM on Thursday, March 14.

Worship Attendance



1/7	CX
1/14	32
1/21	30
1/28	32
2/4	31
2/11	37
2/18	28

LENTEN SCHEDULE:

Lenten services will begin February 14, Ash Wednesday at Gernant's Church at 7:00PM. No meal will be served.

Mid-Week Lenten Services will begin at noon with a light lunch, followed by a small worship service and conclude with dessert.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be held at 7:00PM. No meal will be served.

Below is the location schedule for the mid week services:



- February 14-Ash Wednesday Service at Gernant's at 7:00 PM.
- February 21-Mid-week Lenten Service at Epler's at noon.
- February 28-Mid-week Lenten Service at Bern UCC at noon.
- March 6-Mid-week Lenten Service at Belleman's at noon.
- March 13-Mid-week Lenten Service at LCHT at noon.
- March 20-Mid-week Lenten Service at Bern Lutheran at noon.
- March 28-Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00PM at Bethany Evangelical at noon.
- March 29-Good Friday Service at 7:00PM at Belleman's.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2023

Donna Kessler

There were no contributions made to the memorial fund in 2023.

NOTES ABOUT OUR FOLKS

PRAYERS:

- * Shirley Weist, at Columbia Cottage.
- * Pauline Bond, at Maiden creek Place.
- * Carol Imgrund in Elizabethtown.
- * Audrey Delong at her home in Leesport.
- * Richard Reiber at Berkshire Commons.
- * Dennis Stoudt at home in Leesport.
- * Betty Strause at Berks Heim.
- * Glenn Miller at The highlands.



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.)*



March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 8:00 PM AA Meeting
3 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:00 AM Worship/Holy Communion Bell Choir plays The Rev. Rolf Schmidt	4 1:00 PM WELCA meeting 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	5	6 Mid-week Service begins at noon at Belleman's with a light lunch.	7 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Group Mtg	8	9 8:00 PM AA Meeting
10 4th Sunday in Lent 9:00 AM Worship The Rev. Robert Kramer	11 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	12	13 Mid-week Service begins at noon at LCHT with a light lunch. 6:30 PM Council Meeting	14 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Group Mtg 8:00 PM Worship & Music meeting	15 2:00 PM Food Pantry Delivery	16 9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution 8:00 PM AA Meeting
17 5th Sunday in Lent 9:00 AM Worship/Holy Communion The Rev. Robert Kramer 2:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting	18 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	19 	20 Mid-week Service begins at noon at Bern Lutheran with a light lunch.	21 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Group Mtg	22 Ana approved to set up in evening	23 1:00-6:00 PM Hall rented-Ana 8:00 PM AA Meeting
24 Palm Sunday 9:00 AM Worship The Rev. David Kistler <i>Hallelujah!</i>  Easter flower orders due	25 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	26	27	28 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service at Bethany Evangelical 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Group Mtg	29 7:00 PM Good Friday Service at Belleman's	30 8:00 PM AA Meeting
31 Easter Sunday 9:00 AM Worship/Holy Communion The Rev. Steven Shussett 						

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

MARCH & APRIL VOLUNTEERS

<u>March Altar Flowers</u> 03--available 10--available 17-Ron Davidheiser 24--available 31-	24--available 31--available <u>Nursery</u> <i>no attendant but room will be open</i> <u>March Ushers</u> 03-Janice Care 10-Linda Roshong 17-Dennis Savage 24-Daren DeAntonio 31-Lori Lowery	<u>April Altar Flowers</u> 07--available 14--available 21--available 28--available <u>April Bulletins</u> 07--available 14--available 21--available 28--available	<u>April Ushers</u> 07--Dennis Savage 14--Janice Care 21--Linda Roshong 28--Daren DeAntonio
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See bulletin board to sign up to sponsor flowers for \$25 or bulletins for \$15.

MARCH & APRIL CELEBRATIONS

March Birthdays:

- 01 - Sally Miller
- 08 - JoAnn Gruber
- 11 - Kerry Miller
- 16 - Kenneth Frankhouser
- 18 - Macy Zimmerman
- 19 - Darlene Savage
- 21 - Judd Weber
- 27- Sarah Strause
- 31- Carole Imgrund



March Anniversaries:

- 07 - David & Patricia Easterbrook
- 24 - Dave & Tracy Stoudt

April Birthdays:

- 01 - Kenneth Stoudt
- 02 - Bruce Buchalter
- 07 - Vicki Fetterman
Juliana Clery
- 11 - Owen Manwiller
- 16 - Patricia Easterbrook
- 19 - Dennis Biehl

20 - Leanna Stoudt

- 21 - Weston Hawkins
- 22 - Angel Zimmerman
- 24 - Mary Gruber
- 27 - David Biehl
- 28 - Glenn Miller



April Anniversaries:

- 11 - Ronald & Donna Kessler

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: lichtsecretary@comcast.net. Thank you.

ROCKING HORSE PRESCHOOL

SUBMITTED BY MS. ALIESHA WOODS



We've enjoyed the snow but it's time for it to go! As we look forward to Spring, we will be having our annual Easter parties and egg hunts here at school.



New this year we started an **Amazon wish list**. Those who wish to contribute an item(s) can simply scan the QR below and it will take you directly to our Amazon list where you can look at the items we have selected and wish to have for our classroom.



At this time, we are enrolling students for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. Currently we still do have space available for both the AM and PM classes. So, if you know of anyone that is interested, please send them our way. They can either call 610-926-9428 or email the preschool at rhps@comcast.net

Our **R&K Fundraiser** will start on Thursday, March 21st and will run until Tuesday, April 9th Order forms can be found hanging in the church vestibule.



Some of the themes we will be exploring in March and April will be, the wild west, Easter, weather, pond life, bugs, flowers and everyone's favorite, Pirates! Luckily, we didn't have too many snow days so we will still have our spring break the week of March 25th- April 1st and return to school on April 2nd.

BREAKFAST AT ONTELAUNEE GRANGE:

Breakfast will be served at Ontelaunee Grange the first Sunday of the month from 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM beginning February and continuing through May 2023. Breakfasts will resume again October through December.



LCMT NEWS

COUNCIL OFFICERS for 2024

Council officers for 2024 are as follows:

President - Dan DeAntonio

Vice President - Linda Roshong

Secretary - Daren DeAntonio

Treasurer - Patricia Miller



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.

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR

BROOKE NOECKER:

Every Sunday in the month of March a special collection will be taken for Brooke to help her family with expenses. A table will be set up in the narthex. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA

WELCA MONTHLY MEETING

Submitted by Janet Kleffel

Join us on Monday, March 4 at 1:00 p.m. for our monthly meeting.

REDNER'S REGISTER TAPES

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.*

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.



LCHT MINISTRIES INFORMATION

FOOD PANTRY:

During 2023 the Food Pantry met the needs of families with food insecurity by continuing distributions every 3rd Saturday of each month. Drive thru continues to be the method of distribution. There was a tremendous response to the food pantry's request for nutritious snacks for children. These items were bagged and distributed one for every child within each family in the summer months. Turkeys and Holiday boxes were ordered through Helping Harvest and distributed during November. The Food Pantry purchased hams to be distributed to each family in December. Food donations in 2023 were also received from the Shoemakersville Senior Citizens (twice), SV Middle School and SV High School.



Here is the number of families helped during 2023:

January – 94 families February – 90 families March – 98 families April – 87 families May – 95 families
June – 95 families July – 86 families August – 98 families September – 91 families
October – 101 families November – 106 families December – 110 families

Connie Werley – Inventory Control and Ordering

UPCOMING EVENTS

It's Time To Order Your Easter Flowers:

Order forms can be found on the small table outside of the office. Please be sure to complete **both sides** of the form and return it to Phyllis Heffner no later than Sunday March 24.

This year the following flowers are available -
Lilies \$7.75

Hyacinths (3 bulbs in blue, pink or white) \$5.50

Tulips (6 bulbs in red, yellow or pink) \$5.50

Yellow daffodils in 8 inch pot \$6.50

Miniature yellow daffodils in 4 1/2 inch pot \$3.25



LEESPORT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL SPRING FLOWER SALE

Location: Corner of Route 61 and Apple Street at Steve Moyer Subaru.

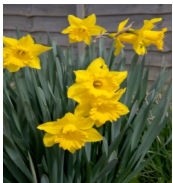
Dates and times:

Saturday, March 23 - time to be announced later

Sunday, March 24 - time to be announced later

Friday, March 29 - time to be announced later

Saturday, March 30 - time to be announced later



Look for sign-up sheet to be posted soon on the bulletin board to help at the sale.

Proceeds support LCHT and Leesport Area Historical Society Programs.

Pot Pie Sale:

A Pot Pie sale is being planned for May 11, 2024. Check your weekly bulletins for more information and an order form closer to that date.

FIGHTIN' PHILS NIGHT

Plans are being made for us to attend a Fightin Phils game as a group this June! We plan on attending a game on Sunday, June 9 in the Penn State St. Joseph Club 67 picnic area. The Phils will be playing the Harrisburg Senators. Game time is 5:15. Gates open approximately 1 hour prior to game time. The \$39 price per person includes the buffet from 4:15 to 6:45. Children ages 5-18 who are members of LCHT will be paid for by the church. Children ages 0-4 are free but must be included in the count. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Deadline for sign-up is May 5.



APRIL 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>COMMUNION SUNDAYS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE WEEKLY SUNDAY BULLETIN. COMMUNION IS DEPENDENT ON THE AVAILABILITY OF A PASTOR</p>	<p>1</p> <p>1:00 PM WELCA meets</p> <p>7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:00PM Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:30 PM NA Group Meeting</p>	<p>5</p> <p>3:30-6:00PM Sandwich prep</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00-11:00AM Sandwich sale-orders ready for pick-up at 8:45AM</p> <p>8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>
<p>7 <i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00 AM Worship</p> <p>Bell Choir plays</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30 PM Council Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:00PM Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:30 PM NA Group Meeting</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>
<p>14 <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00 AM Worship/Holy Communion <i>The Rev. Fran Merkel</i></p> <p>Annual Congregational Meeting following worship service</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:00PM Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:30 PM NA Group Meeting</p>	<p>19</p> <p>2:00 PM Food Pantry Delivery</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution</p> <p>8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>
<p>21 <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00 AM Worship</p> <p>2:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:30 PM NA Group Meeting</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>
<p>28 <i>5th Sunday of Easter</i> 10:30 AM Joint Worship service and confirmation at Zion Lutheran Church. No services at LCHT.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>30</p>				

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:

Office: 610-926-7176 ext. 2

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

Mrs. 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 Street

Leesport, PA 19533

Website: www.lcht.org

March/April 2024



Return Service Requested

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