

The Herald

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



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From The Pastor's Desk:

As many other people do, I enjoy reading a copy of "The Old Farmer's Almanac" in the beginning of the New Year.

Under the guiding hand of its first editor, Robert B. Thomas, the premiere issue of The Old Farmer's Almanac was published in 1792, during George Washington's first term as president.

Although many other almanacs were being published at that time, Thomas's upstart almanac became an immediate success. In fact, by the second year, circulation had tripled from 3,000 to 9,000. And at that time, the Almanac cost only six pence (about nine cents).

I enjoy reading the articles and features, the advice on gardening and, of course, the weather predictions. Although I do not expect the weather predictions to be accurate, I enjoy envisioning the possibility of snowfalls...which, sadly, there are less and less of every year.

It is fun to imagine what the New Year will bring, because it is always a year filled with so many possibilities. What new things will I do? Will I remain healthy? What will I do that will be new and fun? How many new friends will I make in the year; how many friends will I say a final 'good-bye' to?

The data in the Almanac changes every year so you never know what you will find. And that's what makes it fun.

But as I start the New Year, I also find comfort reading my Bible, which does not change year to year. There is a certain satisfaction in knowing about our ancestors in faith and how they lived their lives – the good things they had done and the ways that fell short of God's expectations of them. The recordings of Jesus' life and ministry always

remind me of how I want to live my life as I follow Him.

So, as you begin the New Year, I would encourage you also to read something new – perhaps The Old Farmer's Almanac.

And I would also encourage you to keep your Bible by your side and read it often. Let God guide you as you begin a New Year, and I pray it will be a happy one for you.

Pastor Fran

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 2025

January 05 - 2nd Sunday after Christmas - Holy Communion - Installation of elected officials - *Rev. Susan Fox*

January 12 - Baptism of our Lord - Worship Service - *Rev. David Rowe*

January 19 - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany - Worship Service - *Rev. David Rowe*

January 26 - 3rd Sunday after Epiphany - Holy Communion - *Rev. Susan Fox*

February 02- Presentation of Our Lord - Holy Communion - *Rev. Susan Fox*

February 09 - 5th Sunday after Epiphany

February 16 - 6th Sunday after Epiphany

February 23 - 7th Sunday after Epiphany

Worship Attendance



ATTENDANCE

11/5	26
11/12	25
11/19	31
11/26	34
12/3	23
12/10	36
12/15	33
12/22	28
12/24	63
12/29	18

Other Notes:

*Decorations will be taken down in the sanctuary on Saturday, January 6 at 9:00 a.m.

*Sunday, February 9 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!

*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.
- * Audrey Delong at her home in Leesport.
- * Richard Reiber at Berkshire Commons.
- * Betty Strause at Berks Heim.
- * Glenn Miller at The Highlands.

CONDOLENCES:

The Daryl Savage Family



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
- 11 - Bradley Buchalter
- Elaine Lombardo
- 13 - Paul Clery
- 14 - Janet Kleffel
- 20 - Alyssa Potts
- 25 - Victoria Wagner
- 29 - Donna Degler



February Birthdays:

- 02 - Virginia Lash
- 03 - Donald Kauffman
- 09 - Lori Witinski
- 14 - Susan Hawkins,
- Rebecca Heffner
- 20 - John Leshner
- 22 - Barrett Lash
- 24 - Dwayne Kuhns
- 25 - Richard Hawkins Jr.
- 28 - Patricia Kibler
- 28 - Boris Pikhtovnikoff

Anniversaries:


- 02 - Richard & Sue Reiber
- 27 - Kenneth & Cynthia







January 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
COMMUNION SUNDAYS dependent upon availability of a supply pastor. Please check weekly Sunday bulletins for updates.			1 	2 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg.	3	4 9:00 AM Removal of Christmas Decorations 8:30 PM AA Meeting
5 <i>2nd Sunday after Christmas</i> 9:00 AM Worship /Holy Communion Installation of elected officials <i>The Rev. Susan Fox</i>	6 1:00 PM No WELCA meeting today 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	7	8 6:30 PM Council meets	9 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg. 8:00 PM Worship & Music Mtg.	10	11 8:30 PM AA Meeting
12 <i>Baptism of our Lord</i> 9:00 AM Worship <i>The Rev. David Rowe</i>	13 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	14	15	16 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg.	17 2:00 PM Food Pantry Delivery	18 9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution 8:30 PM AA Meeting
19 <i>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</i> 9:00 AM Worship/Holy Communion <i>The Rev. Susan Fox</i>	20 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	21	22	23 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg.	24	25 8:30 PM AA Meeting
26 <i>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9:00 AM Worship <i>The Rev. Thomas Lang</i>	27 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	28	29	30 7:30 PM NA Mtg.	31	


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




February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
COMMUNION SUNDAYS dependent upon availability of a supply pastor. Please check weekly Sunday bulletins for updates.						1 8:00 PM AA Meeting
2 <i>4th Sunday after Epiphany -</i> 9:00 AM Worship / Holy Communion Bell Choir plays The Rev. Susan Fox	3 1:00 WELCA 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal ANNUAL REPORTS DUE	4	5	6 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Group Mtg.	7	8 8:00 PM AA Meeting
9 <i>5th Sunday after Epiphany -</i> 9:00 AM Worship "Souper Bowl Sunday" The Rev. TBD	10 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	11	12 7:00 PM ASH Wednesday Newsletter Deadline 6:30 PM Council Meeting	13 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Group Mtg.	14 2:00 PM Food Pantry Delivery	15 9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution 8:00 PM AA Meeting
16 <i>6th Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9:00 AM Worship / Holy Communion The Rev. TBD	17 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	18	19	20 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Group Mtg.	21	22 8:00 PM AA Meeting
23 <i>7th Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9:00 AM Worship The Rev. TBD	24 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	25	26	27 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Group Mtg.	28	

JANUARY & FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

January

Alter Flowers
05--available
12--available
19--available
26--available

Bulletins

05--available
12--available
19--available
26--available

Ushers

05--Janice Care
12--Lori Lowery
19--Daren DeAntonio
26--Vicki Fetterman

Nursery will be open but
no attendant is available.

Thank
You

February

Alter Flowers
02--available
09--available
16--available
23--available

Bulletins

02--available
09--available
16--available
23--available

Ushers

02--Dan DeAntonio
19--Dennis Savage
16--Daren DeAntonio
23--Linda Roshong

***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.***

ROCKING HORSE PRESCHOOL

SUBMITTED BY MS. WOODS



December was a busy fun filled month.
We had a great time at our cookies and cocoa party.

We hope everyone had a great Christmas
break wonderful New Year!



During the months of January and February we will be learning about the letters N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, and U and the numbers 13-20.

We will be exploring the following themes as well: winter weather, snowman, mittens, polar animals, dinosaurs, feelings & emotions, hearts, kings & queens and community helpers.



We will exchange Valentines during our Valentine's party on Friday, February 14th.
We are hoping that the weather cooperates and that we don't have too many snow days.



At the end of January, we will have open enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year so if you know someone who is looking for a preschool program, please feel free to pass along our contact information. rhps@comcast.net or call at 610-926-7176 and listen to the prompts.

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 15, 2024**

The annual congregational meeting was held on Sunday, December 15th following morning worship. The budget for 2025 was reviewed and approved.

New council members for 2025 were elected. They are: Vicki Fetterman and Linda Roshong.

Council Members for 2025 are:

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

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 3. The office email address is lichtsecretary@comcast.net.



Thank you to all Angel Tree Participants

The angel tree program has ended for this year. We would like to let you know how much we appreciated everyone in the congregation and for their participation. We had 15 names from the Hamburg Salvation Army and all names were taken. On Dec. 9th 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 1, 2025. Order deadline is January 27, 2025. Sandwiches will be ready for pick up approximately 8:45 AM. Sign up is posted on the bulletin board.



Sale will benefit
Relay for Life.



GIFT CARD PROGRAM:

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the gift card program. In 2024 there were \$38,375.00 worth of cards purchased which in turn created a donation of \$1,918.75 from Redner's Market. Thanks again for supporting this worthwhile 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

There will not be a meeting on Monday, January 6.

Join us on Monday, February 3, at 1:00 p.m. for our next 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:



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.

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: Hedy Oldham
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

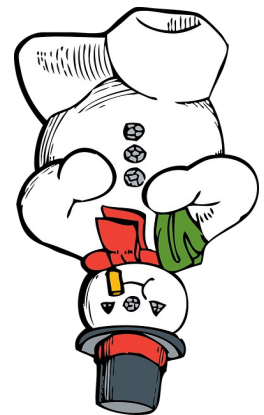
Rocking Horse Preschool Information:

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 2025



Return Service Requested

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