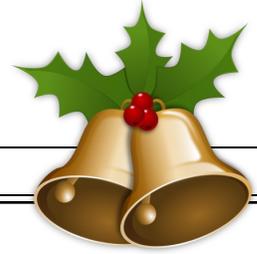


The Herald



Inside this Issue

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

Worship & Music	2	Dear Sisters and Brothers, Happy New Year!
Notes About Our Folks	2	No, I am not rushing things. December 2, the First Sunday of Advent this year, marks the beginning of the new year in the worship life of the church. In fact, “advent” means a coming, a beginning or an arrival. It is the season of the church year that includes the four Sundays prior to Christmas and is filled with anticipation around the coming of God’s Son, Jesus. It is a time for preparation for our celebration of that coming, not only as a baby born in a manger, but also Jesus’ coming to walk with us now and his coming at the end of time to make all things new, even this old and sinful world.
Thank you Pastor Ritter	2	
December Calendar	3	
Volunteers	4	You will experience changes in our worship. Watch for them! You are encouraged to take time even amidst of the added hustle and bustle of the secular expressions of this holiday season to reflect upon your relationship with God. Is it what you want it to be? If it isn’t, what can you do to give God a larger place in your life and in the life of your family?
Decorating the Church	4	Advent is one of my favorite seasons. For much of my adult life I have coordinated and participated in ringing or playing my trumpet at the Salvation Army’s Red Kettle in my community. It is one of the ways that I prepare for Jesus’ coming. Another way that some of my friends prepare is through participating in the Advent Conspiracy. If you want to learn more about this, you can go to the following website, adventconspiracy.org . Other friends of mine use an advent calendar, a homemade advent wreath as a focus for personal and/or family devotion times. Whatever you choose to do, make time in your schedule to prepare for the true reason for this season and the Christmas season to come. You won’t be sorry that you did.
LCHT Ministries	4	
Boy Scouts	4	
RHPS	5	Let me close with words from a 19 th century hymn: <i>God is working God’s purpose out As year succeeds to year God is working God’s purpose out And the time is drawing near Nearer and nearer draws the time The time that shall surely be When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God As the waters cover the sea.</i>
YTD Financials	5	
In Our Community	6	
Celebrations	6	Happy New Year and may Christ be born in your heart this Advent and Christmas seasons!
LCHT News	7	Yours in Christ, <i>Pastor Ritter</i>
Poinsettia order form	7	<u>Annual Congregational Meeting</u> Sunday, December 9 will be held at the conclusion of 9 a.m. Worship Service
Contact Information	8	



WORSHIP AND MUSIC NOTES

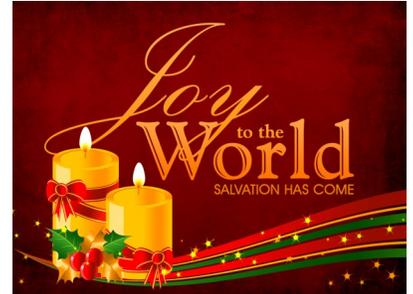
Submitted by Renee Lenning, Chairperson

Worship Services for December, 2018 :

- December 2 First Sunday of Advent, Communion Service, Advent wreath will be used with families to do readings.
- December 9 Second Sunday of Advent, annual business meeting held immediately following worship service.
- December 16 Third Sunday of Advent, communion service, poinsettias will be in place.
- December 23 Forth Sunday of Advent
- December 24 Christmas Eve services: 3:00 PM--abbreviated service with communion
8:00 PM--Traditional candlelight service with communion
- December 30 First Sunday after Christmas

Other Notes :

- * Sanctuary will be decorated for the Christmas season on December 8 at 9:00 AM.
- * Next meeting date is to be determined.



NOTES ABOUT OUR FOLKS

PRAYERS:

- * Pauline Bond, who is at Maiden creek Place.
- * Audrey and Jim DeLong, at home.
- * Shirley and John Weist, at Cambridge Cottage
- * Cynthia Leutze, at home and Jerry Leutze, who is at Masonic Home in Elizabethtown.
- * Ralph and Lollie Seaman, at Rittenhouse
- * Scott Biehl, at home
- * Lori Walborn, recovering from neck surgery
- * All of our servicemen and servicewomen, especially those who must spend the holidays away from family and friends

THANKS TO:

- * Phyllis Weaver & Donna Kessler for their shut-in communion visits
- * Ron Kessler for volunteering to shovel the sidewalks and entry areas at the church
- * Phyllis Heffner and the altar guild members for their faithful work in support of our worship
- * All who volunteered to make our recent Pot Pie Dinner a success
- * Our Women of the ELCA for their care and outreach to the veterans of our nation's military

CONDOLENCES TO:

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

Thank You Pastor Ritter

As Pastor Ritter nears the end of his time with us as our transitional pastor, on behalf of the Congregation Council and the congregation, I would like to thank him for his outstanding work with us. During the past eighteen months, he has worked tirelessly to minister to us, provide excellent leadership and to prepare us for the next chapter in our congregational life. We have been very fortunate to have him in our midst. Pastor Ritter's last Sunday service with us will be December 23, in addition to our Christmas Eve services. Please join us on December 23 for a time of fellowship with Pastor Ritter immediately following worship. We wish him all of God's blessings as he heads into retirement.

Renee Lenning

Congregation Council President



December 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:00 Hall Rented-Schuylkill Valley Fund Raiser
2 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00 AM Worship: Holy Communion 6:00 PM Venom Institute Mtg	3 8:30 AM NA Mtg. 1:00 PM WELCA 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	4	5 8:00-12:00 EBMD Ros-tered Leaders gathering	6 7:30 PM NA Mtg	7	8 9:00 AM Decorating of the Church for Christmas 6:30 PM LCHT Movie Night "Flight 93"
9 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00 AM Worship 6:00 PM Troop 160 meeting	10 8:30 AM NA Mtg. 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	11 9:00 -3:00 PM Preschool Christmas Shop	12 9:00 - 3:00 PM Preschool Christmas Shop 7:00 PM Troop 160 Roundtable Meeting	13 9:00-3:00PM Preschool Christmas Shop 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg	14 2:00 PM Food Pantry Delivery	15 9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
16 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00 AM Worship: Holy Communion 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00PM Troop 160 Mtg 6:00 PM Venom Institute Mtg	17 8:30 AM NA Mtg. 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Troop 160 Committee Mtg	18 9:30 AM Pastoral Care Team Meeting	19	20 9:00 - 3:00 PM Preschool Christmas 5:30 PM Soul Supper 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg	21	22
23 <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00 AM Worship 6:00 PM Troop 160 Mtg	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 8:30 AM NA Mtg. 3:00 PM Worship: Holy Communion 8:00 PM Candlelight Worship: Holy Communion	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 	26	27 7:30 PM NA Mtg	28	29
30 <i>1st Sunday after Christmas</i> 9:00 AM Worship 6:00 PM Venom Institute Mtg	31 8:30 AM NA Mtg. <i>New Years 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

- 02--Janet Kleffel
- 09--Scott and Janice Care
- 16--Ron Davidheiser
- 23--Vicki Fetterman Family
- 24--no flowers--Poinsettias
- 24--no flowers--Poinsettias
- 30--Irvin and Nettie Kauffman

Bulletins

- 02--Donna and Ron Kessler
- 09--Scott and Janice Care
- 16--Ron Davidheiser
- 23--Dennis and Sue Biehl
- 24--Vicki Fetterman
- 30--Irvin and Nettie Kauffman

Nursery

no attendant but room will be open

Acolytes

- 02-Mason Clery
- 09-Evan Lash
- 16-Jayce Gruber
- 23-Evan Lash
- 24-Mason Clery
- 30-Jayce Gruber



Greeter:

Phyllis Weaver

Ushers

- 02-Davidheiser, Lowery, Diana Biehl
- 09-Lowery, P. Heffner, Dennis Biehl
- 16-P. Heffner, Corl, Diana Biehl
- 23-Lowery, P. Heffner, Davidheiser
- 24-P. Heffner, Corl, Dennis Biehl
- 24-Dennis Biehl, Corl, Diana Biehl
- 30-Davidheiser, Lowery, P. Heffner

A Special **THANK YOU** for all of those who helped make this year's **Trunk or Treat** a success. Our volunteers helped in the kitchen, donated and handed out candy and stepped up to help out wherever they were needed to make the night an event to remember for 85 children and their families.



Veterans Making a Difference was thrilled with our donation of personal care items. **Thank you** to everyone who donated. Since it was such a big success we thought we could make it an ongoing project through WELCA and Pastoral Care. In addition to personal care items they are also in need of laundry detergent, large sizes of winter coats, boxer shorts, white socks, large sizes of flannel night pants, Crest toothpaste and Old Spice deodorant. We will keep a box in the narthex and deliver the items as they accumulate.

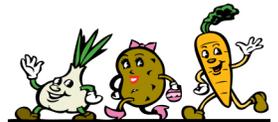


What better way to get in the Christmas spirit than to join us on Saturday, December 8th @ 9 am to help decorate the church for the holidays!

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.

We are currently very low on canned food items such as fruits and vegetables. Please see Judy Corl with any questions.



Boy Scouts of America

Submitted by Karen Bausch

Troop 160 is camping at the Olivet's Boys & Girls Club in Hamburg for our annual Christmas camping trip in the beginning of December. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:

Meets the third Sunday of the month, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. You do not have to come to the monthly get-togethers, you can work on projects anywhere. We will be making shawls for Tower Health with the yarn they provide. Chemo and premie hats will also be made for patients at Tower Health. Please contact **Darlene Savage** at 610-926-2461 or anyone on the Social Ministry Committee for more information.



ROCKING HORSE PRESCHOOL

Submitted by Mrs. Woods and Mrs. Leshner

we get a chance to “shop” and wrap presents for our family. The students always enjoy taking part in this!

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.

It’s hard to believe we are approaching the Christmas season already. During November we were busy making fun crafts as we learned about using our space, cooking 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.

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.

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 true meaning of Christmas and

Current Wish list:

- White Icing (cans)
- Sprinkles (for cookie decorating)



LCHT YEAR TO DATE FINANCIALS

	<u>Jan - Oct 18</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Envelopes	83,262.40	88,700.00	-5,437.60	93.9%
Rocking Horse	36,505.00	35,280.00	1,225.00	103.5%
Other Income	<u>10,919.92</u>	<u>10,084.00</u>	<u>835.92</u>	<u>108.3%</u>
Total Income	<u>130,687.32</u>	<u>134,064.00</u>	<u>-3,376.68</u>	<u>97.5%</u>
Gross Profit	130,687.32	134,064.00	-3,376.68	97.5%
Expense				
CARE OF PROPERTY	24,540.94	21,984.00	2,556.94	111.6%
CARE/SUPPORT-STAFF	99,901.74	108,229.00	-8,327.26	92.3%
CHURCH COMMITTEES	2,077.51	3,437.00	-1,359.49	60.4%
NURTURE/CARE CONGRTN	18,229.31	18,822.00	-592.69	96.9%
ROCKING HORSE PRESCHOOL	<u>3,968.06</u>	<u>4,296.00</u>	<u>-327.94</u>	<u>92.4%</u>
Total Expense	<u>148,717.56</u>	<u>156,768.00</u>	<u>-8,050.44</u>	<u>94.9%</u>
Expenses Exceed Income	-18,030.24	-22,704.00	4,673.76	79.41%

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Theology with a Twist

Free Event

Call 610-926-3907 with questions

Tuesday, December 11 at the Kutztown Tavern.
272 West main Street, Kutztown.

Dr. Greg Carey

The Politics of Christmas

Long before the media declared there was a War on Christmas, the authors of Matthew and Luke wove political messages into the stories of Jesus' birth. We'll explore how the Gospels' ancient audiences might have resonated with Herod, the magi, the census, the manger, and the shepherds as we prepare for our own Christmas celebrations.

Dr. Greg Carey is professor of New Testament at Lancaster Theological Seminary. He is author or co-editor of six books, including *The Gospel According to Luke: All Flesh Shall See God's Salvation*, *Soundings in Cultural Criticism*, and *Sinners: Jesus and His Earliest Followers*.

Greg blogs regularly for the Huffington Post religion section and is contributing editor to the Odyssey Networks' new lectionary resource, ON Scripture. Greg serves as co-chair of the Rhetoric and the New Testament Section of the Society of Biblical Literature, and he has appeared in documentaries on the BBC, Discovery Channel and National Geographic Channel, and most recently the 2011 BBC One documentary, "The Story of Jesus."

A One Day Christmas Camp

On Saturday, December 8, from 9 am until 3 pm, Epler's UCC (1151 W. Leesport Rd. Leesport, PA) will conduct a 1 day camp for children who are potty trained through 6th grade. You can call the church at 610-926-1006 or via email at epplers@epix.net to reserve a spot for your child/children.

Live Nativity

Bern Lutheran Church will present a live Nativity on Saturday, December 8, beginning at 7 pm. The church is located at 820 W. Leesport Rd., Leesport, PA.



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
13-Tara Lombardo
Jason Stump

17-Dante DeAntonio
18-Arthur Scott Care
20-Larry Mengel
21-Tanner Mengle
22-Jenna Stoudt
Lowell Bittner

25 - Jerry Leutze
27- Scott Triebel
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



Year End Contributions

Please make sure that any year-end financial contributions reach the church by Sunday, December 30, 2018.



New Members Wanted and Welcomed!

If you or anyone you know is looking for a church home, let the office know. New members will be received into membership at times appropriate for them. You can contact the church office at lchtsecretary.net or 610-926-9425.



MOVIE NIGHT IN THE HALL

December 8 @ 6:30 PM
FLIGHT 93



Save The Date

It's never too early to start thinking Baseball!
June 29, 2019
Reading Fightin Phils Club 67
Picnic Area
\$30.00 AYCE buffet
See Dennis Biehl for more information



Order your



Poinsettias

Deadline is:
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16TH
6½" pot in Red or White

<u>Number of Plants</u>		<u>Total</u>
<u>Cost</u>		
Red _____	X \$5.00 =	_____
White _____	X \$5.00 =	_____

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, 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 15th 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: 484-529-7801
E-mail: dsritter@ptd.net

Secretary: Debra Berg
Office : 610-926-7176 ext. 1
E-mail: lchtsecretary@comcast.net
Office hrs: Monday - Friday 9 to 1.
Hours vary, call to verify.

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

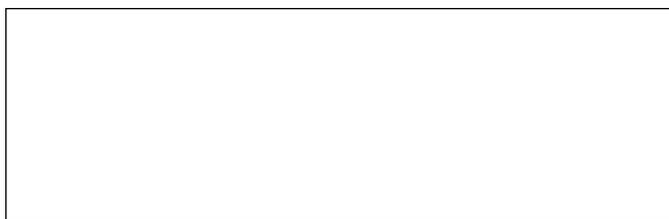
Rocking Horse Preschool Information:

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 2018



Return Service Requested