



# The Herald



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

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**From The Pastor's Desk:**

*Often when there are disasters in our country and around the world, donations that we make through Lutheran World Relief provide assistance to communities that need it.*

*Lutheran World Relief has established resources for aid, and the funds we donate are used entirely for the disaster itself. Funds are not allocated to administrative costs since both the disaster response team is able to continue these mission-driven aid responses with our steadfast support because administrative costs are covered by the organization itself.*

*Here are some places where our donations have had an impact: Hurricanes Helene and Milton; wildfires in California; severe weather across the South and Midwest; and flooding in Central Texas.*

*Through Lutheran World Relief, after fleeing violence that killed her husband in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Fela arrived in a displacement camp with nothing but heartbreak and her children tied to her to prevent separation. Because of donations to LWR, Fela received LWR quilts and kits, kitchen supplies, soap and a cookstove...simple tools that restored warmth, dignity...and a reminder that someone cares.*

*God has given us amazing blessings in our lives. When we support these disaster response teams, we are reaching out to love our neighbor as Jesus called us to do, and returning a portion of what God has given us to help our neighbors.*

*May we be able to continue in support of this ministry God sets before us.*

*A joyful Christmas and Blessed New Year to you all.*

*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](http://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 2026

January 04 - 2nd Sunday after Christmas - Holy Communion - Installation of elected officials - *Rev. David Werley*

January 11 - Baptism of our Lord - Worship Service - *Renee Lenning, Worship Leader*

January 18 - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany - Holy Communion - *Rev. David Rowe*

January 25 - 3rd Sunday after Epiphany - Worship Service - *Worship Leader - TBD*

February 01 - Presentation of Our Lord - Holy Communion - *Rev. Burt Latshaw*

February 08 - 5th Sunday after Epiphany - Worship Service - *Rev. David Rowe*

February 15 - 6th Sunday after Epiphany - Worship Service - *Worship Leader - TBD*

February 22 - 7th Sunday after Epiphany - Worship Service - *Worship Leader - TBD*

## Worship Attendance



## ATTENDANCE

11/2	30
11/9	22
11/16	26
11/23	25
12/30	30
12/7	29
12/14	No C./Snow
12/21	34
12/24	51
12/28	16

### Other Notes:

\*Sunday, February 8 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!

### 2026 Lenten Services

Feb. 18 Ash Wednesday	1:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.	Salem Belleman's
Feb. 25: 1st Wk. of Lent	12:00 noon Luncheon & Worship	Epler's UCC
Mar. 4: 2nd Wk. of Lent	12:00 noon Luncheon & Worship	Gernant's
Mar. 11: 3rd Wk. of Lent	12:00 noon Luncheon & Worship	Bern Lutheran
Mar. 18: 4th Wk. of Lent	12:00 noon Luncheon & Worship	Bern UCC
Mar. 25: 5th Wk. of Lent	12:00 Noon Luncheon & Worship	LCHT
Apr. 2: Maundy Thursday	1:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.	Bethany EC
Apr. 3: Good Friday	7:00 p.m.	Salem Belleman's

# NOTES ABOUT OUR FOLKS

### PRAYERS:

- \* Audrey Delong at her home in Leesport
- \* Glenn Miller at The Highlands
- \* Suzanne Reiber at her home in Wyomissing
- \* Shirley Weist, Columbia Cottage, Wyomissing

### CONDOLENCES:

The Gordon Kistler 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.

*Thank You*

# JANUARY and FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

### January Birthdays:

- 01-Lisa Kuhns
- 02-Joseph Lowery
- 09-Linda Greely
- 11-Bradley Buchalter  
Elaine Lombardo
- 13-Paul Clery
- 20-Alyssa Potts
- 29-Donna Degler
- 19-Amy Manwiller



### 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

### February Anniversaries:

- 27 - Kenneth & Cynthia Frankhouser





# January 2026



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

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



# February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>COMMUNION SUNDAYS dependent upon availability of a supply pastor. Please check weekly Sunday bulletins for updates.</b>						
<b>1</b> <i>4th Sunday after Epiphany</i> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship/ Holy Communion Bell Choir plays <b>The Rev. Burlington Latshaw</b>	<b>2</b> <b>1:00</b> WELCA  <b>7:00 PM</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal  <b>ANNUAL REPORTS DUE</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal  <b>8:00 PM</b> NA Group Mtg.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>   <b>8:00 PM</b> AA Meeting
<b>8</b> <i>5th Sunday after Epiphany</i> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship <i>"Souper Bowl Sunday"</i> <b>The Rev. David Werley</b>	<b>9</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Mar / Apr Newsletter Articles Deadline</b>  <b>6:30 PM</b> Council Meeting	<b>12</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal  <b>8:00 PM</b> NA Mtg.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>   <b>8:00 PM</b> AA Meeting
<b>15</b> <i>6th Sunday after Epiphany</i> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship <b>Worship Leader TBD</b>	<b>16</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b>  <b>1:00 PM</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> @ <b>Salem Belleman's Church</b>	<b>19</b> <b>NO</b> <i>Choir Rehearsal</i>  <b>8:00 PM</b> NA Mtg.	<b>20</b> <b>2:00 PM</b> Food Pantry Delivery	<b>21</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Food Pantry Distribution  <b>8:00 PM</b> AA Meeting
<b>22</b> <i>7th Sunday after Epiphany</i> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship <b>Worship Leader TBD</b>	<b>23</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <i>1st Week Of Lent</i>  <b>12:00 Noon</b> <b>Luncheon and Worship @ Epler's UCC</b>	<b>26</b> <b>NO</b> <i>Choir Rehearsal</i>  <b>8:00 PM</b> NA Mtg.	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>   <b>8:00 PM</b> AA Meeting

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

# JANUARY & FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

## January

Alter Flowers  
04--available  
11--available  
18--available  
25--available

## Bulletins

04--available  
11--available  
18--available  
25--available

## Ushers

04--Dan DeAntonio  
11--Daren DeAntonio  
18--Dennis Biehl  
25--Janice Care

Thank  
You

## February

Alter Flowers  
01--available  
08--available  
15--available  
22--available

## Bulletins

01--available  
08--available  
15--available  
22--available

## Ushers

01--Lori Lowery  
08--Sue Hawkins  
15--Ron Davidheiser  
22--Darlene Savage

**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 S. STAUS

We're having a wonderful preschool year! On November 12th, our classes enjoyed a fun field trip to Island Pizza, where each child assembled and tasted their own pizza creation.



Our Thanksgiving Feast was a joyful gathering with students and their families, featuring turkey-shaped chicken nuggets, smiley fries, veggies, fruit, pies, and other delicious treats. We also enjoyed games and crafts together.

Our annual Santa Shop was a hit, giving preschoolers the chance to pick out special gifts for their loved ones from a delightful selection.

We were so excited at our Cookies and Cocoa Christmas party—a certain North Pole visitor came to join the festivities!



We will exchange Valentines during our Valentine's party on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.

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 2026-2027 school year so if you know someone who is looking for a preschool program, please feel free to pass along our contact information. [rhaps@comcast.net](mailto:rhaps@comcast.net) or call at 610-926-7176 and listen to the prompts.

## IN OUR COMMUNITY

### **BREAKFAST AT ONTELAUNEE GRANGE:**

**The first Sunday of February, March, and May.**

Breakfast will be served from 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM.

***PLEASE NOTE: Breakfast will not served on April 5th, Easter Sunday.***

# LCHT NEWS

## Annual congregational meeting December 7, 2025

The annual congregational meeting was held on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> following morning worship. The budget for 2026 was reviewed and approved.

New council members for 2026 were elected. They are: Sue Hawkins and Dennis Biehl.

### **Council Members for 2026 are:**

<b>Sue Hawkins</b>	<b>Dennis Biehl</b>
<b>Daniel DeAntonio</b>	<b>Daren DeAntonio</b>
<b>Ron Davidheiser</b>	<b>Darlene Savage</b>
<b>Janice Care</b>	<b>Dennis Savage</b>
<b>Lori Lowery</b>	



## **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 [lchtsecretary@comcast.net](mailto:lchtsecretary@comcast.net).

## **SANDWICH SALE:**

The next sandwich sale will be held **Saturday, February 7, 2026.**

**Order deadline is February 2, 2026**

Sandwiches will be ready for pick up approximately 8:45 AM. **Sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.**



*This sale will benefit Relay for Life.*



**Trinity Lutheran Church, Gouglersville is collecting items for Mary's Shelter.**

**We are joining with Trinity Gouglersville and Bern Lutheran Churches in this outreach project. Please place any donated items from the included Wishlist in the container in the Narthex.**

**We will collect items through January 31, 2026.**

## **GIFT CARD PROGRAM:**

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the gift card program. In 2025 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 was a short business meeting held on Monday, January 5, 2026 prior to Bible Study. The next meeting will be Monday, February 2, at 1:00 p.m.

## REDNER'S REGISTER TAPES

*Submitted by Donna Kessler*

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 Donna Kessler.

## W.E.L.C.A. EXTENDS AN INVITATION

We extend an invitation to all church members (male and female) to come join us every first Monday of each month (unless a holiday falls on that day) at 1:00 pm. There is a short business meeting prior to a Bible Study led by Pastor Fran Merkel. 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. 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. Thank you.

Donna Kessler,  
President of W.E.L.C.A.  
610-750-3871

## Veterans Making a Difference

**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.



**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 every other month. Articles are to be submitted to the church office or e-mailed (*preferred*) to the Secretary.

Deadline for article submission is the second Wednesday of every other month.

*(For example. Dec. for Jan, Feb for Mar, etc.)*

## 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 484-793-3521.

Office: 610-926-7176 ext. 2

Email: [LCHTpastor@outlook.com](mailto:LCHTpastor@outlook.com)

**Secretary:** Hedy Oldham

Office : 610-926-7176 ext. 1

E-mail: [lchtsecretary@comcast.net](mailto:lchtsecretary@comcast.net)

Office hrs.: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9-1

**Sexton:** Ana Calencea

**Treasurer:**

E-mail: [lchttreasurer@comcast.net](mailto:lchttreasurer@comcast.net)

**Music Director:** Virginia Lash

Home: 610-916-1316

E-mail: [vlash224@comcast.net](mailto:vlash224@comcast.net)

**Mailing Address:**

102 Apple St.

Leesport, PA 19533

**Website:** [www.lcht.org](http://www.lcht.org)

**Church Fax Number:**

610-926-7273

Rocking Horse Preschool Information:

**Teachers:** Ms. Susan Staus

Mrs. Stacey Myers

Office: 610-926-7176 ext. 3

Email: [rhaps@comcast.net](mailto:rhaps@comcast.net)

**Mailing Address:**

Rocking Horse Preschool

The Lutheran Church

of the Holy Trinity

102 Apple St

Leesport, PA 19533

**Website:** [www.lcht.org](http://www.lcht.org)

January/February 2026



*Return Service Requested*

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