



The Herald

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

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From The Pastor's Desk:***Thanksgiving and Christmas: Seasons of Gratitude and Giving***

As the year draws to a close, two of the most cherished holidays in North America—Thanksgiving and Christmas—bring families together in celebration, reflection and joy. Although distinct in their origins and traditions, both of these holidays share a common spirit...that of gratitude, love and togetherness.

Thanksgiving, celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November, is a time to pause and give thanks for our blessings. Historically, this holiday traces its roots to the 1621 harvest feast shared between the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag people in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Thanksgiving has evolved in the United States from a harvest festival into a national day of gratitude.

Today, Thanksgiving often centers around a grand meal featuring roast turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes (or in PA Dutch country – potato filling), cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie. It is also a time for family reunions, watching parades or football games, and hopefully, reflecting on the blessings that truly matter. Many people also take this opportunity to volunteer, donate to charities, or share meals with those in need—honoring the holiday's spirit of generosity.

A month after Thanksgiving, Christmas arrives on December 25th, and is celebrated by millions around the world to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ. While its religious roots are central for Christians, Christmas has also become a cultural celebration marked by joy, hope and goodwill.

Traditions for Christmas vary widely...from decorating evergreen trees and exchanging gifts, to singing carols and attending church services. The season's symbols—a baby in a manger, Santa Claus, stockings, ornaments and twinkling lights—create a sense of magic and wonder, especially for children. At its heart, Christmas emphasizes love, compassion and giving—values that reflect back to God's original gift to us.

Thanksgiving and Christmas beautifully complement one another. Thanksgiving teaches us to recognize God's blessings, while Christmas reminds us of His greatest blessing—Jesus Christ. Gratitude prepares our hearts for the worship and joy that Christmas brings.

While these holidays come once a year, their message is eternal. Gratitude and worship should not be confined to November and December, but lived out daily. When we thank God in all circumstances and celebrate His love in every season, we draw closer to Him and reflect His light in the world.

May this Thanksgiving and Christmas season renew our faith, strengthen our families, and fill our hearts with the joy of knowing Christ. Let us remember that every season is a gift—and every gift points back to the Giver.

Pastor Fran

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL BE DECEMBER 7, 2025
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE.
PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THIS VERY IMPORTANT MEETING.**

WORSHIP AND MUSIC NOTES

Worship & Music meeting was held on Thursday November 20 at 8:00 PM.

Worship services for November and December:

November 2 - All Saints Sunday - Worship/Holy Communion

Rev. David Rowe

November 9 - 22nd Sunday after Pentecost - Worship - Recognition of Veterans

April Mulvey

November 16 - 23rd Sunday after Pentecost - Worship/Holy Communion

Rev. Steven Shussett

November 23 - Christ the King Sunday - Worship - **WELCA Thank Offering**

April Mulvey

November 30 - 1st Sunday of Advent - Worship - Bell Choir Playing

Rev. MaryAnn Hamm

December 7 - 2nd Sunday of Advent - Worship/Holy Communion

Rev. Fran Merkel - **Congregational meeting following worship service**

December 14 - 3rd Sunday of Advent - Worship

April Mulvey

December 21 - 4th Sunday of Advent - Worship

The Rev. - Steven Shussett

December 24 - Christmas Eve - Bell Choir @ 6:45 PM - Candlelight Worship/Holy Communion 7 PM

April Mulvey

December 28 - 1st Sunday after Christmas - Worship

The Rev. Paul Schoffstall

Other Notes:

Sanctuary will be decorated for the Christmas season on Saturday, December 6th, 9:00 AM.



Worship Attendance

September & October



ATTENDANCE

9/7	23
9/14	28
9/21	21
9/28	32
10/5	39
10/12	31
10/19	23
10/26	28



ROCKING HORSE PRESCHOOL

Submitted by Ms. Staus

We've had a fantastic start to the preschool year! The children have been busy with their letter and number books, and we've explored fun themes like apples, fall, farms, fire safety, pets, community helpers, fairy tales, and Halloween.

On October 1st, the Leesport Fire

Company visited both classes. Firefighters came into each classroom to show their gear and talk with the children about emergency safety. Everyone—kids and parents—also had the exciting chance to climb in and on two firetrucks and two ambulances. We thank our generous donor for providing soft pretzels for everyone, including the firefighters and EMTs!

On October 8th, we enjoyed a field trip to Brecknock Orchards, where each child picked apples and pumpkins and took a wagon ride. We're looking forward to our Halloween party and parade, as well as upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations.

We've also begun classroom science experiments! Our first was making a volcano erupt from an apple, and next, our PM group will make slime. Soon, each child will create their own mini lava lamp in a bottle. We're excited for a year full of learning and fun!






WISH LIST:

- * Oatmeal
- * Sprinkles
- * Vegetable Oil
- * Alka-Seltzer tablets
- * Dry Erase Markers - Thin Tip
- * Large, Self-adhesive Googly eyes

November 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8:00 PM AA Meeting
2 <i>All Saints Sunday</i> 9:00AM Worship/ Holy Communion <i>The Rev. David Rowe</i> Bell Choir Playing <i>Deadline for submitting veteran names</i>	3 1:00PM WELCA 7:00PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	4 	5	6 7:00PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM NA Mtg.	7	8 8:00 PM AA Meeting
9 <i>22nd Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00AM Worship <i>April Mulvey</i> <i>Recognition of Veterans</i>	10  7:00PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	11	12 6:30 PM Council meeting	13 7:00PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM NA Mtg.	14 2:00PM Food Pantry Delivery	15 9:00AM Food Pantry Distribution 8:00 PM AA Meeting
16 <i>23rd Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00AM Worship/ Holy Communion <i>The Rev. Steven Shussett</i> 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl meets	17 7:00PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	18	19 6:30 PM Berks County Softball Mtg.	20 7:00PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM NA Mtg. 8:00PM Music & Worship Mtg.	21	22 8:00 PM AA Meeting
23 <i>Christ the King Sunday</i> 9:00AM Worship <i>April Mulvey</i> <i>WELCA Thank offering</i> 6:00 PM SVYS meeting	24 7:00PM Bell Choir	25	26	27  7:30PM NA Mtg.	28	29 8:00 PM AA Meeting
30 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00AM Worship <i>The Rev. MaryAnn Hamm</i> Bell Choir Playing						



December 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
COMMUNION SUNDAYS are dependent upon the availability of a supply pastor. Please check weekly Sunday bulletins for updates.	1 1:00 PM WELCA 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	2	3	4 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg	5 3:00 - 6:00PM Sandwich prep	6 7:30AM-12:00 Sandwich Sale 9:00 AM Decorating of the Church for Christmas 8:00 PM AA Meeting
7 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00 AM Worship / Holy Communion <i>The Rev. Fran Merkel</i> <i>Congregational meeting following worship</i>	8 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	9	10 6:30 PM Council Meeting	11 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg	12	13 8:00 PM AA Meeting
14 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00 AM Worship <i>Vicar April Mulvey</i> <i>Deadline for Poinsettia orders.</i>	15 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	16	17	18 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg	19 2:00 PM Food Pantry Delivery	20 9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution 8:00 PM AA Meeting
21 <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00 AM Worship / Holy Communion <i>The Rev. Steven Shussett</i> 6:00 PM SVYS Meeting	22 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve Service</i> 6:45 PM Bell Choir Prelude 7:00 PM Candlelight Worship/Holy Communion <i>Vicar: April Mulvey</i>	25  7:30 PM NA Mtg	26	27 8:00 PM AA Meeting
28 <i>1st Sunday after Christmas</i> 9:00 AM Worship / Lessons & Carols	29 No Bell Choir Rehearsal	30	31 New Year's Eve	<i>January 1</i>  NA Spiritual Breakfast 8 AM - 12 Noon No Choir Rehearsal		

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

November Birthdays:

06-Irvin Kauffman
08-Rosemary Mowery
10-Ronald Kessler
11-Joshua Buchalter
13-Brendan Lenning
17-Ron Davidheiser
18-Melissa Strause, Sarah Yeager,
Renee Lenning
19-Amy Manwiller
21-Deb Yeager
24-Helen Stoudt
25-Tom Heffner
26-Mason Clery



29-Donna Kessler
30-Patricia Miller, Gail Putt

November Anniversaries:

December Birthdays:

02-Nettie Kauffman
03-Sandra Buchalter, Leanne Lash,
Suzanne Reiber,
05-Sharon Mengle
06-Yvonne Graeff
08-Rebecca Ann Noll, Phyllis Weaver,
13-Tara Lombardo
16-David Easterbrook
20-Larry Mengle

22-Jenna Stoudt
27- Scott Trievel
31-June Gilmer



December Anniversaries:

04-Ronald & Melissa Strause
06-Kevin & Renee Lenning
07-Dwayne & Lisa Kuhns
11-Chuck & Rosemary Mowery

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: lchtsecretary@comcast.net. Thank you.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

November Altar Flowers

02- Nettie Kauffman
09- Ron Davidheiser
16- Dennis & Darlene Savage
23- Vicki Fetterman
30- available

November Bulletins

02- Nettie Kauffman
09- available
16- Dennis & Darlene Savage
23- Vicki Fetterman
30- Donald Kauffman

November Ushers

02- Dan DeAntonio
09- Vicki Fetterman
16- Daren DeAntonio
23- Linda Roshong
30- Janice Care

*See the bulletin board
to sign up to sponsor the
weekly bulletins, and the
altar flowers.*

December Alter Flowers

07- Nettie & Irvin Kauffman
14- Ron Davidheiser
21- Janice Care
24- Poinsettias will decorate the church
28- available

December Bulletins

07- Ron Davidheiser
14- Irvin & Nettie Kauffman
21- Janice Care
24- available
28- available

December Ushers

07- Dan DeAntonio
14- Vicki Fetterman
21- Dennis Savage
24- Dan DeAntonio



Poinsettias: Christmas is right around the corner. We will use poinsettia plants to decorate the sanctuary December 21st and Christmas Eve. Watch the weekly bulletin for further information and order form. Order deadline will be Sunday, December 14, 2025. Cost is \$6.50. Colors Red and White

NOTES ABOUT OUR FOLKS

PRAYERS FOR:

- * Audrey Delong at home
- * Glenn Miller at the Highlands
- * Shirley Weist at Columbia Cottage.
- * All our servicemen and servicewomen at home & abroad.
- * All the leaders of our church, the nation and the world.



THANKS TO:

- * Our mowers, Dennis Biehl, Ken Frankhouser and Dan DeAntonio.
- * All our volunteers who help with the Food
- * Pantry.
- * Those who have and continue to support the Gift Card Program and those who save Redner's tapes.
- * All the leaders of our congregation, the nation and the world.
- * 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 and our community.

LCHT NEWS



ANGEL TREE

LOOKING FOR ANGELS

The Salvation Army Angel tree Program will again be arriving here at LCHT in November. We will keep you posted in the bulletins with more specific information as we receive it.

We will have name tags to buy Christmas gifts for those in need in our local community. After selecting your name tag please locate the numbers and letters on your tag. Find those numbers on the sign up sheet & sign your name to the right of the

number along with your phone numbers. This helps us to keep track of who has which names.

If for some reason you pick a name & are unable to bring a gift in, please contact Renee Lenning 610-858-2428 or Phyllis Heffner 610-926-1004.

BELOW ARE THE ANGEL TREE GIFT GIVING GUIDELINES FROM LAST YEAR. We have not yet received this years guidelines. We will give you any changes to the guidelines as we receive them. Any changes from last year will be added to the announcements in the weekly Sunday bulletin. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

ANGEL TREE GIFT GIVING GUIDELINES

- The Salvation Army has selected the Angel from the neediest in our communities.
- The items your Angel needs are listed on the tag. You may buy anything listed or you may choose to substitute other age-appropriate gifts. You may purchase more than 1 gift.
- Gifts must be new – NO used clothing or toys. ***Please do not wrap your gifts.*** The Salvation Army will un-wrap all wrapped gifts to make sure that gifts are suitable. No toy guns please.
- All gifts are given anonymously. If using a gift bag for gifts, please secure/attach the Angel Tag to the inside of the bag either with tape or a staple. Please secure/attach Angel Tree card to the gift if not using a gift bag.

The date gifts need to be returned to the church will be added to the bulletin when we receive that.

HONORING OUR VETERANS



On Sunday, November 9th we will be honoring those members who so graciously served our country.

If you served in the Military please provide your name and the branch of service in which you served to the office by Monday, November 3rd.

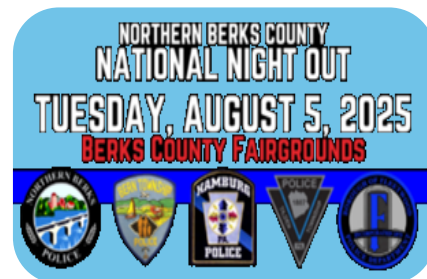
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

On Tuesday, August 5, we took part in **National Night Out** at the Reading Fairgrounds. The event had a wonderful turnout from the communities of Leesport, Ontelaunee, Fleetwood and Hamburg.

We interacted with many youth who participated in a bean bag toss with their choice of prizes.

In addition, we had candy and note pads for anyone to take. This was a great community event to be a part of and we look forward to taking part again in 2026!

Thank you to each volunteer that helped to make it possible for us to attend.



LCHT MINISTRIES

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 call 717-673-8789 for further information.

Distribution continues as a drive through service. Pre packaged boxes come from Helping Harvest. We also pack other donated items into boxes to supplement the Helping Harvest box.

We continue to have the opportunity to pick up food items weekly from Sheetz in Leesport, and from Wawa in Hamburg. We could use one or two additional people who might be able to substitute for the pickup when the weekly volunteers are unavailable.

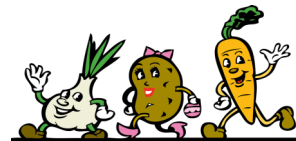
Distribution of food continues each month on the third Saturday of the month. Distribution is supported by individual churches, each taking two specific months of the year.

We are fortunate that schools, businesses, senior citizen groups and other organizations continue to support the pantry with collections of food items.

Helping Harvest continues to support the pantry, however we have seen changes in the items available for distribution, and sometimes in the amounts available.

The SV Food Pantry is grateful for the support of LCHT, as well as the support of all the churches in the Leesport area.

Donations are appreciated.



WELCA

WELCA meets the first Monday of the month at 1:00. Pastor Fran holds a bible study. All are invited to attend. Our next two meetings are November 3 and December 8. We hope to see you there!

WELCA continues to collect REDNER REGISTER TAPES. Remember to use your "save-a-tape" card. 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! Redner's Markets gives 1% of purchases back to the Women of the ELCA. This one percent can really add up. Your help is so appreciated. If you have any questions, please see Donna Kessler, or call her at 610-926-2083 if you need your tapes picked up. THANKS to everyone who supports our worthwhile program in helping others through the Redner's Tape program.

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. Suggestions for items are as follows: Toothpaste (preferably Crest), toothbrushes, mouthwash, deodorant (preferably Old Spice), shampoo, sleep pants (L, XL, XXL), toilet paper, paper towels, laundry detergent, liquid body soap and dish soap.



FELLOWSHIP:

Submitted by Daren DeAntonio

Many thanks to all those volunteers who helped sell and make apple dumplings on October 1 & 2.

We broke our record from last year and made **586 apple dumplings!!**



TRUNK OR TREAT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20TH FROM 6-8PM.

LCHT participated in this year and it was a huge success! Thank you to Lori & Mike Lowery, Darlene & Dennis Savage and Janice Care who were there handing out goodies. Lots of people with interesting costumes came out for the fun night. The last piece of candy was handed out to the last child in line.

Thanks to all who donated candy for this wonderful fun event.

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 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

E-mail: LCHTpastor@outlook.com

Secretary: Hedy Oldham

Office : 610-926-7176 ext. 1

E-mail: lchtsecretary@comcast.net

Office hrs.: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday from 9:00-1:00

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 Street
Leesport, PA 19533

Church Fax Number:

610-926-7273

Rocking Horse Preschool Information:

Teacher: Ms. Susan Staus

Mrs. Stacey Myers, Teacher's Aide

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

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025



Return Service Requested

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity
102 Apple St
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