

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:

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!

In the midst of a perfect storm of coronavirus pandemic, election upheavals, economic dislocation, and the personal and family crises and challenges that grow out of them, I'm here to proclaim the "comfort and joy" of the coming Babe in the manger, Jesus Christ. The more I get into Scripture these days, the more I can see the parallels between our times and the times connected with Jesus' birth. Yes, we have suffered this year through the inconveniences of having to wear masks and chase around looking for toilet paper all the way across the spectrum to the societal and personal tragedy of a quarter million deaths from COVID-19. In the first century, the Jews of Palestine had to cope with the loss of their freedom under the dictatorial reign of the Roman emperor Tiberius who had ordered a census, not like the one we would take in our homes this past year, but one that necessitated Mary and Joseph travelling seventy miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem over rocky, robber-infested roads by donkey, all to get back to Joseph's home of origin in the city of David. And if that weren't enough, there was no transient housing available for this young, expectant mother.

I don't make these comparisons in any attempt to minimize what we've been going through this past year but only to offer some perspective from history that these things, too, shall pass. With creativity and goodwill, we shall work together to overcome our challenges and craft an Advent and Christmas season that will be unique in its poignancy, memory-making, and sensitivity to our customs and traditions. I look forward to celebrating with you our Sunday Advent worship beginning on November 29 at 9:00 a.m. as we progressively light the four candles on the Advent wreath, all culminating in a festive celebration of Jesus' birth on Christmas Eve at 8:00 p.m. in our sanctuary, with pre-service music beginning at 7:45 p.m. Candle-lighting and Holy Communion are central to this service; and, yes, there will be mask-wearing and social-distancing.

So, let's join in wishing one another a happy, safe, and Christ-filled Christmas along with the hope of a 2021 that returns us to some semblance of normalcy.

Yours in the incarnate Christ,
Carl W. Filer, Pastor

Christmas Eve Service

In order to gauge our seating requirements for the Christmas Eve service in this season of social distancing, would you give us an idea of you and your family's number of attendees?

Name _____

Total number of people in your party desiring to attend the Christmas Eve service _____

Please tear off your response and either place in the offering plate, give to an usher, or place in the church office. Thanks for your help.



Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 13
will be held at the conclusion of
9 a.m. Worship Service



WORSHIP AND MUSIC NOTES

Submitted by Renee Lenning, Chairperson

Worship Attendance



11/8	33
11/15	35
11/22	37

Worship Services for December, 2020:

- December 6 Second Sunday of Advent, Communion Service , confirmation class.
- December 13 Third Sunday of Advent, annual business meeting held immediately following worship service. Vincent Lee Heller baptism.
- December 20 Forth Sunday of Advent, communion service.
- December 24 Christmas Eve services:
8:00 PM--Traditional candlelight service with communion.
- December 27 First Sunday after Christmas, Service of Lessons and Carols.

Other Notes :

- * Sanctuary will be decorated for the Christmas season on December 5th at 9:00 AM.
- * There will be no Worship & Music committee meeting in December. The next meeting will be in January 2021 .



We will be using prefilled communion cups with wafers for communion. The cups will be in a basket next to the basket with the bulletins. Please take a cup when you pick up your bulletin upon entering the church. There is also an instruction sheet on how to open the cup in the basket. There are two cellophane covers on top of the cup. Remove the first cover to get the wafer and the second cover uncovers the wine. Please dispose of the cup and covers in the trash can that will be provided. Do not leave the empty container in the pew.

NOTES ABOUT OUR FOLKS

PRAYERS:

- * Pauline Bond, who is at Maiden creek Place.
- * Shirley Weist, at Columbia Cottage
- * Cynthia Leutze, at her daughter's home
- * Lollie Seaman, at Rittenhouse
- * Scott Biehl, at The Gardens for Memory Care in Easton
- * Carole Imgrund at the Masonic Home in Elizabethtown.
- * Audrey Delong at her home in Leesport.
- * Richard Reiber at the Highlands in Wyomissing.
- * All of our servicemen and servicewomen, especially those who must spend the days away from family and friends.
- * All our frontline workers fighting COVID 19.



holi-

* THANKS TO:

- * 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 of our nation's military
- * All our frontline workers and scientists fighting to bring COVID 19 under control.

December 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
		1	2	3 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg	4 5-7 PM Troop 160 sandwich prep	5 9:00 AM Decorating of the Church for Christmas 9:00 AM Troop 160 sandwich sale pick up 8:30 PM AA Meeting
6 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00 AM Worship: Holy Communion 10:15 confirmation class	7 1:00 PM WELCA 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	8 4:30- 9:00 PM Hall rented	9 7:00 PM Council Meeting	10 9:30 AM Pastoral Care Team meeting 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg	11	12 8:30 PM AA Meeting
13 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Annual congregational meeting following Worship 11:30 AM Baptism Deadline for Poinsettia orders.	14 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16	17 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg	18 2:00 PM Food Pantry Delivery	19 9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution 8:30 PM AA Meeting
20 <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00 AM Worship: Holy Communion.	21 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 8:00 PM Candlelight Worship: Holy Communion 7:30 PM NA Mtg	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 	26 8:30 PM AA Meeting
27 <i>1st Sunday after Christmas</i> 9:00 AM Worship <i>Service of Lessons and Carols</i>	28	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> 7:30 PM NA Mtg		

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

DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Altar Flowers

06--Ron Davidheiser
 13--Janice Care
 20--Sue Reiber
 24--no flowers--Poinsettias
 27--Irvin & Nettie Kauffman

Bulletins

06--
 13--Janice Care
 20--Sue Reiber
 24--Donald Kauffman
 27--

Nursery

no attendant but room will be open

Ushers

06-M.Lowery, Diana Biehl, H. Stoudt
 13-M.Lowery, Dennis Biehl,
 V. Fetterman
 20-R. Lenning, S. Reiber, L. Roshong
 24-V. Fetterman, M.Lowery, Diana Biehl
 24-Dennis Biehl, S. Reiber, L. Roshong

The Veterans Making a Difference

project through WELCA and Pastoral Care continues.

Thank you to everyone who donated throughout the year.

In addition to personal care items they are also in need of toilet paper, paper towels, laundry and dish detergent, large sizes of winter coats, boxer shorts, white socks, large sizes of flannel night pants, Crest toothpaste and Old Spice deodorant.

There is a large box in the narthex for your donations.



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.

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.
 Please see Judy Corl with any questions.



All donations are greatly appreciated.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:

There are currently no face to face meetings. However you can work on projects anywhere. We will be making shawls for Tower Health with the yarn they provide. Chemo and preemie 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.



BOY SCOUT TROOP 160

Submitted by Karen Bausch

Merry Christmas
 and
 Happy New Year
 from Troop 160!



For more information, call Scoutmaster Karen Bausch at 610-334-9739 for Boy Scouts (6th-12th grade).



ROCKING HORSE PRESCHOOL

Submitted by Mrs. Woods

We are so excited to be back to school (even if school looks a little different now)!



Through it all, we are trying to remain in good spirits and make the best of the situation. We are fighting hard to keep Rocking Horse Preschool still operating. We just want to thank everyone who has donated items from our helping hands wall. More than ever we are grateful for these donations as our budget has taken a hit since last March when we had to shut down.

We look forward to Thanksgiving and hopefully being able to gather with some of our loved ones. Let's hope December brings a little of that Christmas magic with it!

This school year has yet again proven to be a tricky one. With Covid still making its presence known we are still seeing low enrollment for this school year and with SV now switching back to all virtual until Jan 19th it has not helped our situation. Currently we have 6 students attending in person classes for our AM group and 1 student who is taking part in the take home packets. In the PM group we currently have 15 students attending in person classes and 1 student taking part in the take home packets. However, come December we will have 3 students doing the take home packets. Our normal class enrollment is usually AM-16 students and PM- 20 students.



LCHT NEWS

Year End Contributions

Please make sure that any year-end financial contributions reach the church by Monday, December 28, 2019.



What better way to get in the Christmas spirit than to join us on Saturday, December 5th @ 9 am to help decorate the church for the holidays!



AA Meetings

A local AA group has started renting the fellowship hall for their weekly meetings. They will meet every Saturday evening from 9:00PM to 10:30PM. The hall is reserved from 8:30PM until 11:00PM for meeting prep and clean up. The first meeting at LCHT was held on November 21, 2020. They will also be storing 3 cabinets in the basement storage area.

2020 SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Moving Forward as Church Together

A Farewell from Bishop Zeiser

I want to say thank you to all who served the assembly as voting members. Your patience, your willingness to accompany this synod in a new direction, and your faithful participation to the end of the assembly are important components of this synod's strength, and sure signs that "We Are Church Together". During Assembly 2020, it was especially encouraging to see such a gifted slate of nominees and candidates for the office of bishop. Thank you to all who were open to the stirring of the Holy Spirit by allowing their names to go forward in the balloting. I have known Bishop-elect deForest for ten years, and I have worked with him as he helped envision, plan, and produce our last six synod assemblies. Now, he and I have been, and will be, working together to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. I know that God has given Christopher substantial gifts to serve in this office and to work with the Rostered Ministers and congregations of the Northeastern PA Synod. Just as I look forward to my retirement, I also look forward to Christopher's leadership as Bishop of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.



A Greeting from Bishop Elect deForest



These are challenging times. I don't need to tell all of you what that means. But these are also times to give deep thanks. And to hold tight to the promise that Jesus is here, and Christ is coming. Advent. Christmas. Epiphany. Ash Wednesday. Lent. Holy Week. Easter. They are all coming. They will be here, soon. Not to bring us more anxiety and more things to do. But to bring us love, joy, peace, and hope. This is also a time of opportunity: to heal, to grow, to dream, and to act. Working alongside Bishop Zeiser, I hope to hear from many different voices to seek their wisdom, guidance, expertise and involvement going forward. I'll be hearing from our Synod staff. From congregational leaders. From other synods and their leaders. From other faith communities. And from the others who were nominated to this office of Bishop at last month's Online Assembly. And I can promise you that I will be praying, listening, and learning, in these days to come, to help us all discern how to be, and to act, and to remain: Christ-centered, SpiritLed, and God-Reliant. And so, I am here to commit to you that when I

take office on January 1st, 2021, I will begin my tenure as your Bishop by taking a sabbath rest. I will not come into the Synod offices or do any work until Monday, January 11. No email. No social media. Only time for rest, with my family, and with our God. I want to start my time working with you as the most sabbath-rested servant-leader I can possibly be. And then, after resting, let us return – refreshed, and ready to go where the Spirit is leading, centered in Christ, relying on God. We wish you blessings, love, joy, peace and hope, in this season and into this bright new year. God bless.

Bishop Elect deForest will be installed on December 5 by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. The service will be live streamed.

For information on how to view the service, and for links to videos of all of Assembly 2020, including shorter videos of the key events, please visit the synod website at godslove.org

December Celebrations

Birthdays:

- 02-Nettie Kauffman
- 03-Suzanne Reiber
 Sandra Buchalter
- 05-Sharon Mengle
- 06-Yvonne Graeff
- 08-Phyllis Weaver
 Jim Beissel
- 13-Tara Lombardo
 Jason Stump
- 17-Dante DeAntonio
- 20-Larry Mengle
- 21-Tanner Mengle
- 22-Jenna Stoudt
 Lowell Bittner
- 27- Scott Trievel
- 30-Peter Greely
- 31-June Gilmer



Anniversaries

- 04-Ronald & Melissa Strause
- 06-Kevin & Renee Lenning
- 11-Chuck & Rosemary Mowery
- 28-Rodney & Judy Geisinger

Order your



Poinsettias

Deadline is:
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13TH
6½” pot in Red or White

<u>Number of Plants</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Red _____ X \$5.50 = _____	
White _____ X \$5.50 = _____	

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 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. Carl W. Filer
Office: 610-926-7176 ext. 2
Home: 610-223-7318
E-mail: LCHTpastor@outlook.com

Secretary: Debra Berg
Office : 610-926-7176 ext. 1
E-mail: lchtsecretary@comcast.net
Office hrs: Monday, Wednesday,
Thursday 9 to 1.

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
Ms. Kimberly Wentzel
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 2020



Return Service Requested