



The Herald



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

From The Pastor's Desk:

Although this year the time between the Christmas season and the Lenten season is longer than usual, Lent is rapidly approaching.

Here's something interesting about Lent that you might not know: Pretzels and Lent: Did you know that pretzels have a special connection to Lent? The pretzel is said to have originated in the early Christian era, and it was traditionally made with a simple recipe of flour, water, and salt—no dairy, eggs, or fats, which were forbidden during Lent. The shape of the pretzel, with its twisted form, was meant to resemble arms crossed in prayer. So, next time you enjoy a pretzel, remember its roots as a Lenten food!

Lent is a season of reflection and preparation in the Christian tradition, leading up to Easter. It lasts for 40 days (excluding Sundays), beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday. The 40 days symbolize the period Jesus spent fasting in the desert, enduring temptation from Satan.

The true meaning of Lent includes several key aspects:

- 1. Repentance: It's a time for Christians to repent for their sins and seek spiritual renewal.*
- 2. Fasting: Many Christians practice fasting or giving up certain luxuries as a form of self-discipline and spiritual focus.*
- 3. Prayer: Increased prayer and meditation are central to the Lenten journey.*
- 4. Almsgiving: Acts of charity and helping those in need are emphasized as a way to live out one's faith.*
- 5. Reflection: Lent is a period for deep personal reflection and seeking a closer relationship with God.*

It is a time to prepare one's heart and mind for the celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

As we move into the Lenten Season, I encourage you to participate in the mid-week Lenten luncheon services shared with our other Leesport churches. LCHT hosts the first Lenten luncheon on March 12 at noon. You will find the full schedule elsewhere in the bulletin.

I hope to see you there!

Pastor Fran

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, March 16 following worship service. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

BAD WEATHER INFORMATION

In the event of bad weather, please refer to the following for cancellation notification:

- * On radio WEEU 850AM
- 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 March/April 2023

March 02 - Transfiguration of Our Lord, Communion service, *The Rev. Susan Fox*
 March 09 - 1st Sunday in Lent, Regular service, *The Rev. David Werley*
 March 16 - 2nd Sunday in Lent, Communion service, *The Rev. Fran Merkel*
 Annual Congregational Mtg. following worship service.
 March 23 - 3rd Sunday in Lent, Regular service, *The Rev. Burlington Latshaw*
 March 30 - 4th Sunday in Lent, Regular service, *The Rev. Kenneth Gould*
 April 06 - 5th Sunday in Lent
 April 13 - Palm Sunday, Regular service, *The Rev.*
 April 20 - Easter Sunday, Communion service, *The Rev.*
 April 27 - 2nd Sunday of Easter, Regular service, *The Rev.*

Worship Attendance



ATTENDANCE

***Communion services in April will be announced in the Sunday bulletins.
 Dates are dependent upon pastor availability.**

Other Notes:

The next Worship & Music meeting will be held at 8:00 PM on Thursday, March 20.

1/5	26
1/12	32
1/19	CX
1/26	33
2/2	37
2/9	CX
2/16	21
2/23	20

LENTEN SCHEDULE:

Lenten services will begin March 5th, Ash Wednesday at Epler's Church at 7:00PM. No meal will be served.

Mid-Week Lenten Services will begin at noon with a light lunch, followed by a small worship service and conclude with dessert.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be held at 7:00PM. No meal will be served.



Below is the location schedule for the mid week services:

March 5 - Ash Wednesday Service at Epler's UCC at 7:00 PM.
 March 12 - Mid-week Lenten Service at LCHT at noon.
 March 19 - Mid-week Lenten Service at Bern Lutheran at noon.
 March 26 - Mid-week Lenten Service at Belleman's Church at noon.
 April 2 - Mid-week Lenten Service at Bern UCC at noon.
 April 2 - Mid-week Lenten Service at Bern Lutheran at noon.
 April 9 - Mid-week Lenten Service at Bethany E.C. Church at noon.
 April 17 - Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00PM at St. John's Gernant's Church
 April 18 - Good Friday Service at 7:00PM at Salem Belleman's Church
 March 29-Good Friday Service at 7:00PM at Belleman's.

NOTES ABOUT OUR FOLKS

PRAYERS:

- * Shirley Weist, at Columbia Cottage.
- * Audrey Delong at her home in Leesport.
- * Richard Reiber at Berkshire Commons.
- * Betty Strause at Berks Heim.
- * Glenn Miller at The highlands.

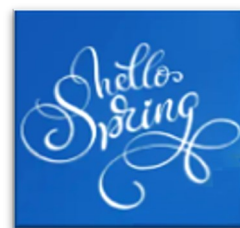


THANKS TO:

- * All our other volunteers who help with the SV Food Pantry.
- * Everyone who has and continues to support the Gift Card program.
- * Those who save Redner's tapes. (Remember to use your save-a-tape card.)



March 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.				7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg.		1 8:30 PM AA Meeting
2 <i>Transfiguration of our Lord</i> 9:00 AM Worship /Holy Communion The Rev. Susan Fox	3 1:00 PM WELCA 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	4	5 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Ash Wednesday Services Epler's UCC 7:00 PM	6 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg. Noon Lenten	7 Set up for Saturday's rental event	8 Hall Rented 12-6 8:30 PM AA Meeting
9 <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i> 9:00 AM Worship The Rev. David Werley 	10  7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	11	12 Lenten Noon Services @ LCHT 7:00 PM 6:30 PM Council Mtg.	13 No Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg.	14 2:00 PM Food Pantry Delivery	15 9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution 8:30 PM AA Meeting
16 <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i> 9:00 AM Worship/Holy Communion The Rev. Fran Merkel Bell Choir Plays Annual Congregational Meeting following worship service 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting upstairs Hall Rented - 2 PM - 6 PM	17 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	18	19 Lenten Noon Services @ Bern Lutheran 7:00 PM	20 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg. 8:00 PM Worship & Music meeting 	21	22 Hall Rented 10 am - 5 pm 8:30 PM AA Meeting
23 <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i> 9:00 AM Worship The Rev. Burlington Latshaw	24 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	25	26 Lenten Noon Services @ Salem Belleman's Church 7:00 PM	27 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal Pot Pie Prep 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM	28	29 Pot Pie Sale 8:30 PM AA Meeting
30 <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i> 9:00 AM Worship The Rev. Kenneth Gould Hall Rented Noon - 6 PM	31 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal			ht.org and clic		



April 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	2 Lenten Noon Services @ Bern UCC 7:00 PM	3 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg.	4	5 8:30 PM AA Meeting
6 9:00 AM Worship /Holy Communion The Rev. Burlington Latshaw	7 1:00 PM WELCA 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	8	9 Lenten Noon Services @ Bethany E.C. Church 6:30 PM Council meets	10 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg.	11 2:00 PM Food Pantry Delivery	12 9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution 8:30 PM AA Meeting
13 Palm Sunday 9:00 AM Worship The Rev. Robert Kramer 	14 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	15	16	17 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Services @ St. John's Gernant's Church No Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg.	18 7:00 PM Good Friday Services @ Salem Belleman's Church 	19 8:30 PM AA Meeting
20 Easter 9:00 AM Worship/Holy Communion The Rev. David Rowe Bell Choir Plays 	21 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	22	23	24 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM NA Mtg.	25	26 8:30 PM AA Meeting
27 9:00 AM Worship The Rev. Kenneth Gould	28 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	29	30			


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

MARCH & APRIL VOLUNTEERS

<u>March Altar Flowers</u>	23--available	<u>April Altar Flowers</u>	27--Irvin & Nettie Kauffman
02-Susan & David Fox	30-Donald Kauffman	06--available	<u>April Ushers</u>
09-Sue Reiber	<u>Nursery</u>	13--available	06--Dan DeAntonio
16-Ron Davidheiser	no attendant but room will be open	20--available	13--Daren DeAntonio
23--available	<u>March Ushers</u>	27--Irvin & Nettie Kauffman	20--Lori Lowery
30--available	02-Vicki Fetterman	<u>April Bulletins</u>	27--Dennis Savage
<u>March Bulletins</u>	09-Janice Care	06--available	
02--available	16-Lori Lowery	13--available	
09--available	23-Dennis Savage	20--available	
16-Ron Davidheiser	30-Linda Roshong		

See bulletin board to sign up to sponsor flowers for \$25 or bulletins for \$15. Thank you

MARCH & APRIL CELEBRATIONS

March Birthdays:

01 - Sally Miller
08 - JoAnn Gruber
16 - Kenneth Frankhouser
16 - Chun Hiester
19 - Darlene Savage
21- Judd Weber
27- Sarah Strause

March Anniversaries:

07 - David & Patricia Easterbrook
24 - Dave & Tracy Stoudt
24 - Shirley Weist

April Birthdays:

01 - Kenneth Stoudt
02 - Bruce Buchalter
07 - Vicki Fetterman
Juliana Clery
08 - Douglas Hiester
13 - Jason Gruber
16 - Patricia Easterbrook
19 - Dennis Biehl
20 - Leanna Stoudt
21 - Weston Hawkins
22 - Angel Zimmerman

24 - Mary Gruber
27 - David Biehl
28 - Glenn Miller

April Anniversaries:

11 - Ronald & Donna Kessler



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: lichtsecretary@comcast.net. Thank you.

ROCKING HORSE PRESCHOOL

SUBMITTED BY MS. ALIESHA WOODS



We are more than ready to move on from winter and welcome Spring into our classroom. We have had our fair share of the seasonal colds this year and are ready for some warm sun filled days to help air out some of these germs.

During the month of March we will be learning about Dr. Seuss, Pond Life, Bumble Bees & Butterflies. We are also learning the shapes star and heart and the colors pink and gray. Picture day is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26th with Martin Miller Photography.

During the month of April we will be learning about the following themes: Picnic, Easter, and Carnival. We will be holding our Easter parties and egg hunts on Thursday April 10th. We will be on Spring break from April 14th – 18th. We will also be doing our Spring fundraiser and hopefully be able to squeeze in a field trip this spring.

At this time, we are enrolling students for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year. Currently we still do have space available for both the AM and PM classes. So, if you know of anyone that is interested, please send them out way. They can either call 610-926-9428 or email the preschool at rhps@comcast.net

BREAKFAST AT ONTELAUNEE GRANGE:

Breakfast will be served at Ontelaunee Grange the first Sunday of the month from 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM from March through May 2025. Breakfasts will resume again October through December.



LCHT NEWS

COUNCIL OFFICERS for 2025

Council officers for 2025 are as follows:

President - Dan DeAntonio

Vice President - Linda Roshong

Secretary - Daren DeAntonio

Treasurer - Patricia Miller



A FRIENDLY REMINDER:

Please make sure to fill out a communion card at least once at the start of the year for our records of communing members. Cards are located in the pew racks and can be placed in the offering plate or left in the office.

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.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

There are copies of the updated directory on the table next to the office door. Please take one and review your information.

If there is anything that needs to be changed, please send an email to the church secretary at

lchtsecretary@comcast.net or call her at **610-926-7176**.

Thank you.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA

WELCA MONTHLY MEETING

Submitted by Nettie Kauffman

Join us on Monday, March 3 at 1:00 p.m. for our monthly meeting.

REDNER'S REGISTER TAPES

Did you know that 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 goes 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. How do you insure this? Well, you must 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

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. Requests include personal care items: toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, mouthwash, deodorant, sleep pants (size L, XL & XXL), toilet paper, white socks, laundry detergent, liquid body soap, paper towels, dish soap.

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

The WELCA group of the LCHT meets on the first Monday of each month at 1:00 pm (weather permitting in the Winter months and no Holiday falls on that date). We do not meet during the months of July, August and September; our June meeting is ended with a strawberry and ice cream social. Our meetings take place in the social hall of the church. Meetings are begun with special readings.

We used our funds gained from the collection of the Redner's Tapes to do outreach to various local organizations. We have contributed to Veteran's Making a Difference, Bear Creek Camp, Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry as well as providing special gifts within our church organization. We do support our Regional and National ELCA groups.

Our meetings begin with a special reading and then we take care of business and continue thru with a Bible Study lead by Pastor Fran Merkel. The group welcomes all members in the family of the LCHT congregation to join us in the regular meeting and then in Bible Study.



LCHT MINISTRIES INFORMATION

FOOD PANTRY:

LCHT continues to be in partnership with the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry Inc. by providing space at the church for their food products and supplies, along with the distribution on the third Saturday of each month from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.

Clients complete forms proving their names, county of residence, zip code, along with the number of family members in the household.



LCHT participates in this ministry with five other churches in the Schuylkill Valley Pastors Association:

✦ Salen Belleman's ✦ Bern UCC ✦ Bern Lutheran ✦ St. John's Gernant's ✦ Epler's UCC

**Please be aware that April's distribution will on Saturday, April 12th
due to Easter being on the third Saturday.**

For further information or assistance, please call the pantry phone # 717-673-8789

UPCOMING EVENTS

LCHT Easter Flower Sale:

Information and order forms will be available soon for the LCHT Easter Flower sale. Phyllis Heffner is the contact person if you have any questions.

Easter Flower Sale



LEESPORT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL SPRING FLOWER SALE

Location: Corner of Route 61 and Apple Street at Steve Moyer Subaru.

Dates and times:

Saturday, April 12 - 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Friday, April 18 - 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Saturday, April 19 - 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM



***Look for sign-up sheet to be posted soon on the
bulletin board to help at the sale.***

Proceeds support LCHT and Leesport Area Historical Society Programs.

Pot Pie Sale:

A Pot Pie sale is being planned for March 29, 2025. Check your weekly bulletins for more information and the order form is posted on the bulletin board.

FIGHTIN' PHILS NIGHT

Plans are being made for us to attend a Fightin Phils game as a group this June! We plan on attending a game on Sunday, June 1 in the Penn State St. Joseph Club 67 picnic area. The Phils will be playing the Erie Seawolves. Game time is 5:15. Gates open approximately 1 hour prior to game time. The \$41 price per person includes the buffet from 4:15 to 6:45. Children ages 5-18 who are members of LCHT will be paid for by the church. Children ages 0-4 are free but must be included in the count. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Deadline for sign-up is May 4.



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 bimonthly, except August. Articles can be submitted to the church office or e-mailed to the Secretary (preferred).

Deadline for article submission is the 15th of month.

LCHT Sunday Schedule:

Worship at 9 a.m.

LCHT Staff Information:

Pastor:

Office: 610-926-7176 ext. 2

Secretary: Hedy Oldham

Office : 610-926-7176 ext. 1

Email: lchtsecretary@comcast.net

Office hrs: Monday, Wednesday,
Thursday 9-1

Sexton: Ana Calencea

Treasurer: Pat Miller

Email: lchttreasurer@comcast.net

Music Director: Virginia Lash

Home: 610-916-1316

Email: vlash224@comcast.net

Mailing Address:

102 Apple Street
Leesport, PA 19533

Website: www.lcht.org

Church Fax Number: 610-926-7273

Rocking Horse Preschool

Information:

Teachers: Ms. Aliesha Woods

Mrs. 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 Street

Leesport, PA 19533

Website: www.lcht.org

March/April 2024



Return Service Requested

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