



# The Herald

Inside this Issue		102 Apple Street ▪ Leesport, PA 19533 ▪ 610-926-7176 ▪ www.lcht.org
Worship & Music	2	<p><b>From The Pastor's Desk:</b></p> <p><i>Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,</i></p> <p><i>These first weeks of this new Shared Ministry among Trinity (Gouglersville), Bern (Leesport), and Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity (Leesport) have been a whirlwind of Sunday visiting to introduce myself, getting to know staff and facilities, beginning to do some scheduling, and planning the joint Ash Wednesday worship. You all have welcomed me and helped me to begin serving as Transition Pastor. Thank you!</i></p> <p><i>The process for your three congregations began over a year ago and gradually progressed to a vision for the first year. I entered the process in late fall and came officially on board in January.</i></p> <p><i>My role in this first year is to develop a plan to meet pastoral and administrative needs among the three congregations. This will lead to the congregations being able to interview and call a pastor with confidence, adequately reflecting the needs of the Shared Ministry.</i></p> <p><i>As I am available for Sunday preaching two Sundays a month, a plan has been established by congregation leaders for one Sunday a month at Trinity (Gouglersville) and one joint monthly service between Bern and LCHT. In addition, there is an average of 20 non-worship hours per week for administration and pastoral ministry for the three congregations. As you can imagine, I'm having to pay close attention to time management, working both from home and on-site.</i></p> <p><i>As I said when I introduced myself in each congregation of February 1<sup>st</sup>, I had the blessing of walking through the development of a shared ministry in my first transition position after retirement. I will use what I experienced in that process as I get to know everyone and discern what can benefit our unique situation. In addition, what I experienced in transition positions I have held since retirement has given me a good idea of what can reasonably be accomplished in an average 20-hour week, plus two Sundays. Will it be a balancing act? Most certainly! But with God's guidance and the support of leaders, members, and staff, it will happen!</i></p> <p><i>My husband Doug and our children Jon and Amanda moved to Berks County 40 years ago. I had taught French and English on the secondary level in West Virginia, where we lived for 16 years. I studied at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and was ordained in 1993. I was Assoc. Pastor at St. John's, Kutztown, until serving as Pastor at Faith, Mount Penn, until retirement at the end of September 2015.</i></p> <p><i>Both our children are now married with their own families. Our son and his wife have two boys, ages 6 and 3, and our daughter and her husband live in New Hampshire with their 9-year-old son. Doug and I love every minute we have with family and can't get enough time with our absolutely adorable grandsons (I always love to show their pictures!). Doug and I live in Exeter Township near the Daniel Boone Homestead and are members at Friedens Lutheran, Oley, where Doug often serves as worship assistant.</i></p> <p><i>My contact information is provided in bulletins and newsletters, and I return calls as soon as possible, if your call goes to voicemail. I will visit folks in hospitals, and I plan to make periodic home-communion visits. If you are aware of someone in the hospital or would like the Pastor to visit, please let me know! I look forward to serving Christ with you!</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Pastor Diane</i></p>
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		<i>Pastor Diane</i>
		<p><b><u>ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING</u></b></p> <p>The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, March 15 following worship service. Please plan to attend this important meeting.</p>
LCHT Contact Information	8	<p><b><u>BAD WEATHER INFORMATION</u></b></p> <p>In the event of bad weather, please refer to the following for cancellation notification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* On radio WEEU 850AM</li> <li>• On the internet: www.wfmz.com</li> <li>• On television: channel 69 news</li> <li>• By telephone: 610-926-7176 option 5 for special announcements</li> </ul>

# WORSHIP AND MUSIC NOTES

## **Worship services for March/April 2026**

March 01 - 2nd Sunday in Lent, Communion service, *The Rev. Burlington Latshaw*  
 March 8 - 3rd Sunday in Lent, Regular service, *The Rev. Burlington Latshaw*  
 March 15 - 4th Sunday in Lent, Regular service, *Pastor Larry Bentz*  
 March 22 - 5th Sunday, Regular service, *The Rev. David Kistler*  
 March 29 - Palm Sunday, Communion service, *The Rev. Mary Ann Hamm*  
 April 5 - Easter Sunday, Communion service, *The Rev. Kenneth Gould*  
 April 12-1st Sunday of Easter \* Regular service, *The Rev. TBD.*  
 April 19-2nd Sunday of Easter, Communion service, *The Rev. TBD.*  
 April 26-3rd Sunday of Easter \* Regular service, *TBD*

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

## Worship Attendance



## ATTENDANCE

1/4	29
1/11	21
1/18	No C./Snow
1/25	No C./Snow
2/1	32
2/8	25
2/15	25
2/22	26

### **LENTEN SCHEDULE:**

***Lenten services began February 18, Ash Wednesday at Bern Lutheran at 7:00PM.***

***Mid-Week Lenten Services will begin on March 4 @ 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 4 - 1st Mid-week Lenten Service at St. John's Gernant's at noon.

March 11 - 2nd Mid-week Lenten Service at Bern Lutheran at noon.

March 18 - 3rd Mid-week Lenten Service at Bern UCC at noon.

March 25 - 4th Mid-week Lenten Service at LCHT at noon.

April 2 - Maundy Thursday Service at 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM at Bethany Evangelical Church at noon.

April 3 - Good Friday Service at 7:00 PM at Salem Belleman's.

### ***Trinity Lutheran Church ~ Gouglersville / Sinking Spring***

will have a community viewing of "THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST" after Service on Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

*Reflect on the profound sacrifice and love.*

Everyone and anyone is welcome to join together as a community.

## **MEMORIAL FUND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2025**

*Donna Kessler*

Thank you to everyone who made a memorial contribution.

Total contribution made in 2025 was **\$575.**

## NOTES ABOUT OUR FOLKS

### **PRAYERS:**

- \* Audrey Delong at her home in Leesport.
- \* Suzanne Reiber at home in Wyomissing.
- \* Shirley Weist, at Columbia Cottage.



### **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 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>COMMUNION SUNDAYS</b> are dependent upon the availability of a supply pastor. Please check weekly Sunday bulletins for updates.						
<b>1</b> 2nd Sunday in Lent <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship/Holy Communion Bell Choir Plays <i>The Rev. Burlington Latshaw</i>	<b>2</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> WELCA  <b>7:00 PM</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Lenten Noon Services @ St. John's Gernant</b>	<b>5</b> <b>No Choir Rehearsal</b>  <b>7:30 PM</b> NA Mtg.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Hall Rented 11 - 6</b>  <b>8:30 PM</b> AA Meeting
<b>8</b> 3rd Sunday in Lent <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship <i>The Rev. Burlington Latshaw</i>  Daylight Saving Time! 	<b>9</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Lenten Noon Services @ Bern Lutheran</b>  <b>6:30 PM</b> Council Mtg.	<b>12</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal  <b>7:30 PM</b> NA Mtg.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  <b>8:30 PM</b> AA Meeting
<b>15</b> 4th Sunday in Lent <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship <i>Pastor Larry Bentz</i>  <b>10:00 AM Congregational Meeting</b>  <b>2:00 PM</b> Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting	<b>16</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b> 	<b>18</b> <b>Lenten Noon Services @ Bern UCC</b>	<b>19</b> <b>No Choir Rehearsal</b>  <b>7:30 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>8:30 PM</b> AA Meeting
<b>22</b> 5th Sunday in Lent <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship/Holy Communion <i>The Rev. Mary Ann Hamm</i>	<b>23</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Lenten Noon Services @ LCHT</b>	<b>26</b> <b>No Choir Rehearsal</b>  <b>7:30 PM</b> NA Mtg.	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  <b>8:30 PM</b> AA Meeting
<b>29</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship <b>Joint Service @ Bern Lutheran</b> <i>The Rev. Diane LaFauci</i> 	<b>30</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>31</b>				


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



# April 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>COMMUNION SUNDAYS</b> are dependent upon the availability of a supply pastor. Please check weekly Sunday bulletins for updates.			<b>1</b> <b>April Fool's Day</b>	<b>2</b> 1:00 PM 7:00 PM <b>Maundy Thursday Services @ Bethany EC</b>  <i>No Choir Rehearsal</i>  7:30 PM NA Mtg.	<b>3</b> 7:00 PM <b>Good Friday Service @ Salem Belleman's Church</b>  	<b>4</b>           <b>8:30 PM</b> AA Meeting
<b>5</b> <b>Easter</b> 9:00 AM Worship / Holy Communion Bell Choir Plays <b>The Rev. Kenneth Gould</b>  	<b>6</b> 1:00 PM WELCA  7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:00 AM <b>Pot Pie Prep</b>     6:30 PM Council Mtg.	<b>9</b> <i>No Choir Rehearsal</i>  7:30 PM NA Mtg.  <b>Pot Pie Sale</b>	<b>10</b> 3:00 - 6:00 PM <b>Sandwich Sale Prep</b>	<b>11</b> 7:30 - 12 Noon <b>Sandwich Sale Pick-up</b>     <b>8:30 PM</b> AA Meeting
<b>12</b> <i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00 AM Worship <b>The Rev. TBD</b>	<b>13</b>   7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b> <b>Pastor's Bible Study</b> 10:30 AM <i>(Site to be TBD)</i> & 7:00 PM via ZOOM	<b>15</b> 6:00 PM <b>Ministry Mtg. @ LCHT</b>	<b>16</b> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal   7:30 PM NA Mtg.	<b>17</b> 2:00 PM Food Pantry Delivery	<b>18</b> 9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution     <b>8:30 PM</b> AA Meeting
<b>19</b> <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00 AM Worship / Holy Communion <b>The Rev. TBD</b>  2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting	<b>20</b> 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> <b>Pastor's Bible Study</b> 10:30 AM <i>(Site to be TBD)</i> & 7:00 PM via ZOOM	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>   <i>No Choir Rehearsal</i>  7:30 PM NA Mtg.	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>           <b>8:30 PM</b> AA Meeting
<b>26</b> <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00 AM Worship Bell Choir Plays Joint Service with Bern Lutheran @ LCHT <b>The Rev. Diane LaFauci</b>  <i>Deadline to sign up for Fightin Phils Game May 31, 2026</i>	<b>27</b> 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b> <b>Pastor's Bible Study</b> 10:30 AM <i>(Site to be TBD)</i> & 7:00 PM via ZOOM	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		


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

# MARCH & APRIL VOLUNTEERS

March Altar Flowers  
 01-*available*  
 08-Donald Kauffman  
 15-*available*  
 22-*available*  
 29-*available*  
March Bulletins  
 01-*available*  
 08-*available*  
 15-*available*

22-*available*  
 29-Palm Sunday  
March Ushers  
 01-Dennis Savage  
 08-Dan DeAntonio  
 15-Daren DeAntonio  
 22-Dennis Biehl  
 29-Janice Care

April Altar Flowers  
 05--*available*  
 12--*available*  
 19--*available*  
 26--Irvin & Nettie Kauffman  
April Bulletins  
 05--*available*  
 12--*available*  
 19--*available*  
 26--*available*

April Ushers  
 05--Lori Lowery  
 12--Sue Hawkins  
 19--Ron Davidheiser  
 26--Darlene Savage

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

# MARCH & APRIL CELEBRATIONS



## March Birthdays:

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



## March Anniversaries:

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

21 - Weston Hawkins  
 22 - Angel Zimmerman  
 27 - David Biehl

## April Birthdays:

02 - Bruce Buchalter  
 07 - Juliana Clery  
 07 - Vicki Fetterman  
 08 - Douglas Hiester  
 19 - Dennis Biehl  
 20 - Leanna Stoudt

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

# ROCKING HORSE PRESCHOOL

SUBMITTED BY MS. SUSAN STAUS

Despite the groundhog predicting six more weeks of winter, we're hoping he's wrong—though so far, it seems he may be right!

January was filled with fun and learning as we explored winter, superheroes, and polar animals. The afternoon class had some extra excitement with a special guest: a baby goat named Coffee! Each child took a turn feeding Coffee a bottle of milk solution, making it a truly memorable experience. They also enjoyed a science experiment called "The Exploding Snowman," where the kids drew snowman faces on ziplocked bags, wrapped baking soda in paper towels, added blue-dyed vinegar, and watched as their snowmen "grew" in size. The smaller bags eventually popped, much to everyone's delight!

In February, we explored dinosaurs, Valentine's Day, dental health, and transportation. The children loved making Valentine bags and receiving cards from their classmates. They all felt love and friendship as they opened their Valentine bags. We also tried the "Dancing Heart" science experiment, watching candy hearts dance in water mixed with baking soda and vinegar. Dental week brought creative crafts, including painting with toothbrushes and making a giant toothbrush to brush a mouthful of "teeth." The afternoon class held a coloring contest to encourage careful coloring within the lines and doing their best. Everyone was excited to participate and to vote, along with the adults at drop-off and pick-up.



**Congratulations to Rylee, our winner, for her rainbow-themed dinosaur!**

March and April are always exciting as we look forward to spring and warmer weather. We'll continue working on our alphabet books, finishing letters T through Z, and exploring themes such as Dr. Seuss, Spring, Easter, Weather, Flowers, Jungle, and Pirates! More science fun is on the way, including each student making a "Lava Lamp" to take home. We'll need vegetable oil and Alka-Seltzer tablets for this project.

Enrollment is now open for the 2026–2027 school year. We have several spots in our morning class for 3–4 year olds and a few in our afternoon class for 4–5 year olds. If you know anyone interested, please speak with one of the teachers, visit the church website for an application, or email us at [rhaps@comcast.net](mailto:rhaps@comcast.net).

### **Some upcoming dates are:**

- ◆ Picture Day – March 18th
- ◆ Easter Party - March 26th

### **Current Wish List:**

- ◆ Small white paper plates (no patterns or colors please)
- ◆ Vegetable oil
- ◆ Alker Seltzer Tablets

# LCHT NEWS

## Pastor's Bible Study The Holy Spirit

A 5-week Study of the Third Person of the Trinity

**Tuesdays 10:30am** (site to be determined) **7:00pm ZOOM**

**April 14, 21, 28 May 5, 12**

### **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.



### **SANDWICH SALE:**

The next sandwich sale will be held Saturday, April 11, 2026. Order deadline is April 6, 2026. Sandwiches will be ready for pick up approximately 8:45 AM. Sign up is posted on the bulletin board.



**Sale will benefit LCHT**

## WOMEN OF THE ELCA

### **WELCA MONTHLY MEETING**

*Submitted by Netti Kauffman*

Join us on **Monday, March 2** at 1:00 p.m. for our monthly meeting. We need to discuss financial contributions at this time. **NOTE:** This meeting will take place -- if there is no snow weather activity.

### **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 to come join us every first Monday of each month (unless a holiday falls on that day) at 1:00 pm. 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. We look forward to having more of our members join us. 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.

# LCHT MINISTRIES INFORMATION

## **FOOD PANTRY:**

The SV Middle School's donations in November exceeded the amount that they collected over last year. Because of the federal and state government budget impasses, several organizations stepped up with food and monetary donations. We thank Schuylkill Valley Bible Church and several other local organizations that stepped up in November to provide food and monetary donations during the federal and state government budget impasses. Each of these donors were sent a letter of appreciation for their generosity.

Here is the number of families helped during 2025:

January: 109 - Families	May: 128 - Families	September: 111 - Families
February: 104 - Families	June: 104 - Families	October: 109 - Families
March: 109 - Families	July: 110 - Families	November: 126 - Families
April: 102 - Families	August: 105 - Families	December: 122 - Families

Connie Werley – Inventory Control and Orderings: As you can see by the number of families served, the need for this mission continues to be necessary. The Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry, Inc. recognizes that our success is due to the dedication of our volunteers and the support received from the 6 churches within the Schuylkill Valley



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **It's Time To Order Your Easter Flowers:**

Order forms can be found on the small table outside of the office. Please be sure to complete **both sides** of the form and return it to Phyllis Heffner no later than Sunday March 29.

This year the following flowers are available:

- White Lilies \$8.75
- Hyacinths (3 bulbs in blue, pink or white) \$6.00
- Tulips (3 bulbs in red, yellow or pink)\$6.00
- Yellow daffodils in 6 1/2 inch pot \$6.50
- Miniature yellow daffodils in 4 inch pot \$3.75



### **Pot Pie Sale:**

A Pot Pie sale is being planned for **Thursday, April 9, 2026**. Check your weekly bulletins for more information and an order form closer to that date.

## 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, May 31 in the Penn State St. Joseph Club 67 picnic area.

The Phils will be playing the Harrisburg Senators.

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 April 26, 2026.**



Mary's Shelter send a lovely *Thank You Note* thanking everyone at LCHT who donated essential items to the residents and community families. They are grateful for your generosity and your kindness is deeply appreciated.



# 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 at the beginning of each month, except August. Articles can be submitted to the church office or e-mailed to the Secretary (preferred). Deadline for article submission is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

## LCHT Sunday Schedule:

Worship at 9 AM

## LCHT Staff Information:

### **Pastor:**

Office: 610-926-7176 ext. 1

### **Secretary:** Hedy Oldham

Office : 610-926-7176 ext. 2

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](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: 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](http://www.lcht.org)

*March/April 2026*



*Return Service Requested*

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