

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

JANUARY 2022

VOLUME 57 NO. 01



CHURCH SERVICE: 10:15 AM

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH	610-826-2524
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FACEBOOK	facebook.com/HolyTrinityPalmerton
WEB PAGE	www.HolyTrinityPalmerton.org
REV. MICHAEL FROST	570-620-8189
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Zoom information:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9636129008?pwd=YzhTQ1M0OCtnV285RWhJeXdsMmJHZz09>

Meeting ID: 963 612 9008

Passcode: 119675

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,9636129008#,,, *119675# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,9636129008#,,, *119675# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 963 612 9008

Passcode: 119675

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9636129008?pwd=YzhTQ1M0OCtnV285RWhJeXdsMmJHZz09>

From the Pastor's Desk – January “God is Already There”

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Romans 8:28-31 (NIV)

Happy New Year! Funny thing . . . I wanted to put an exclamation point after Happy New Year, but somehow my fingers didn't cooperate and, all of a sudden, I saw a question mark there. Very quickly I deleted the question mark and put it right, put the exclamation mark that was my intention, but it made me think.

How do we know, right? What will 2022 be like for you, for me? What will this new year bring us in the way of opportunities and challenges? How long will COVID-19 linger and impact just about every one of our plans as individuals, as families, and as a church? What will the political & economic machinations of our leaders in Washington DC and in Harrisburg mean for our lives? Clearly, I could go on, but I'll leave it there.

In John 10, what we've come to know as the Good Shepherd chapter, Jesus tells us, ***“I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”*** It is God's good and gracious will for his people that we experience the abundant blessings of life from God in Jesus Christ. That does not

mean that, as long as we keep faith strong, nothing will go wrong, nothing will happen to harm us. Stuff happens, even to God's people in Christ. Life is struggle. Life can be hard because human nature is broken by sin and we suffer the consequences of our own poor choices as well as the poor choices of others. We will, almost inevitably, come face to face with death somewhere along the way in this new year. Don't we always? God's people are not immune. God's people are mortal. Death looms over us.

And yet . . . we have this promise from God's Word in the words of Paul in the 8th chapter of his letter to the church at Rome (Romans 8 might just be one of my favorite chapters in the whole of the Scriptures): ***“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”*** God's promise to you is consistent – abundant life – God is working for your good as a child of God in Jesus Christ. No matter what might happen, even the struggles, even the challenges, even your confrontations with death, you are God's beloved child and forgiveness, life and salvation are yours.

Paul talks about foreknowledge and about predestination. ***“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.”*** Foreknowledge speaks to the reality that God exists outside of time and, so, sees what is our future just as clearly as our past and our present. God knows what is yet future for us. God is as present to us in our “yet to be”, in our “not yet”, as he is present with us at this very moment as you read these words. From that future, God beckons us forward. God speaks words of confidence and hope to us. “Be not

afraid. Don't be anxious and fearful of what is to be. I am with you and I will always be with you." In the death and resurrection of Jesus, death has been conquered and the victory has been promised to those of us who trust in him, who find life in him. There is nothing for us to fear. Live confidently into 2022 and beyond. Trust in his presence and in his abundant blessings.

Happy New Year!
See you in Church,



ANNIVERSARIES

January 18 Robert & Connie Reinhart 58 years

WE WISH YOU A HAPPY BIRTHDAY

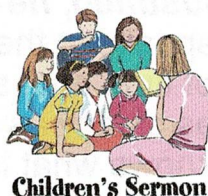
January 02	Wyatt DeDonato
January 02	Garrett Warner
January 04	Jason Carrelli
January 05	Eugene Perone
January 06	Loren LaRose
January 08	Lynann Everett
January 09	Krystal Salter
January 11	Karen Talamantes
January 14	Donald Delich
January 14	Tyler Sutton
January 17	David Kraftician
January 21	Charlotte Koenig
January 22	Amy Allen
January 26	Mike Yesik
January 27	Mia Samok
January 28	Barbara Herman
January 28	Jeanette Hyer
January 29	Gabriel Gross
January 30	Lori Zellers



[NOTE: If we have omitted your birthday or anniversary, please let us know.]

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Children's special involvement has been cancelled until it is safe to have the children gather together.



ADMINISTRATION



JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

HOURS
9 am – Noon

January 2, 2022 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Rich Hyer

Ushers: Kelly & Scott Heinrich

Altar Guild:

Worship Service 10:15 AM

January 9, 2022

COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Krissy Keblish

Ushers: Ron Keblish w/Taylor, Terry Holland

Altar Guild:

Worship Service 10:15 AM

January 16, 2022 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Larry Arner

Ushers: Loren LaRose, Carol Heffelfinger

Altar Guild:

Worship Service 10:15 AM

January 23, 2022 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Lynn Perone

Ushers: Richard & Jeanette Hyer

Altar Guild:

Worship Service 10:15 AM

January 30, 2022 HEALING SERVICE COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Vicky Holland

Ushers: Gordon & Mary Walls

Altar Guild:

Worship Service 10:15 AM

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, **January 23, 2022** after our 10:15 AM service. Please plan to attend either in person or on zoom.

Reports for Annual Meeting

All reports for the annual meeting need to be in the church office **no later** than **January 17, 2022**.

January Sponsors

Bulletins

Flowers

1/3
1/10
1/17
1/24
1/31

Communion Bread

Website

Marlene Bollinger

Time News Ad

Fred & Betsy Masenhiemer

2022 SPONSOR SHEETS

Please sign up!

2022 sponsor sheets are on the bulletin board outside the office: **Weekly Bulletin** \$10, **Altar Flowers** \$25, **Weekly Communion Bread** \$2.50, **Monthly Website** \$20, and **Altar Guild**.



HOLY TRINITY ACTION MINISTRIES

Tues. 9AM- 12:30 PM Thrift Shop

Please pick up a copy of "Word in Season" for Jan through March 2022. They are in the Narthex.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Jan 06 4:15 p.m. Worship & Music
Jan 17 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Terry Holland	President
Rich Hyer	Vice-President
Larry Arner	Treasurer
Joe Solt	Ass't. Treasurer
Marlene Bollinger	
Don Delich	
Teri Delich	
Scott Heinrich	
Jim Miller	
Ray Talamantes	
Gordon Walls	
Mary Walls	

FINANCIAL PERSONNEL

Larry Arner	Treasurer
Joe Solt	Ass't. Treasurer
Carol Heffelfinger	Financial Sec.

FINANCE

Nov. Monthly Envelope Offering:	\$5,806
Nov. St. Matthews Pastoral Service	\$3,173
Nov. Additional Income	\$3,083
Nov. Monthly Expenses:	\$11,152
Attendance:	
November 3, 2019	55
November 10, 2019	50
November 17, 2019	35
November 24, 2019	61

HOME VISITS

Home visits and shut-in visits are being planned for January. If anyone would like to receive communion from Pastor Mike, please call the office @ 610-826-2524.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

Thank You to everyone that served on the Altar Guild in 2022. It is a very important service in the church. It is not a difficult job and doesn't take a lot of time.

So thank you:

Krissy, Taylor, & Ron Keblish,
Lizzie, Eric, Zac & Eric Reif,
Carol Heffelfinger & Gerry
Dorshimer,

Jeanette & Rich Hyer,

Lynn Perone & Karen & Ray Talamantes

Without your dedicated service to the Lord the church would be lacking altar flowers, paraments, and communion. Also thanks for fill in help from Eric, Lizzie, Zacary & Josh Reif.



Thank You to all the Ushers:

Kelly & Scott Heinrich
 Carol Heffelfinger
 Loren LaRose
 Terry Holland
 Ron & Taylor Keblish
 Gordon & Mary Walls

Thank You to all the Assisting Ministers:

Larry Arner
 Don Delich
 Vicky Holland
 Rich Hyer
 Krissy Keblish
 Lynn Perone

Finally Thank You to our Sunday School Teachers:

Don & Teri Delich

THANK YOU SPONSORS

Thank you for the Flowers:

Don & Dorothy Berger
 Marlene Bollinger
 Carol Borger
 Don & Teri Delich
 Gerry Dorshimer
 Carol Heffelfinger
 Joe & Barb Herman
 Vicky Holland & Jim Meldrum
 Rich & Jeanette Hyer
 The Keblish Family
 Val Kleppinger
 Lynn Perone
 Nadine Schmidt
 The Sosik Family
 Jean Suarez
 Anonymous Donors

Thank You for the Bulletins:

Carol Borger
 Barbara & Joe Herman
 Rich & Jeanette Hyer
 The Keblish Family
 Charlotte Koenig
 Lynn Perone
 Jean Suarez

Thank You for the Communion Bread:

Barbara & Joe Herman
 Jean Suarez

Thank You for the Website:

Marlene Bollinger
 Barb & Joe Herman
 The Keblish Family

Thank You for the Times News Ad:

Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

A special Thank you to everyone for your help with stuffing all the Trick or Treat goodie bags and help on Halloween.

Children's Shopping Day **was a big success**

After last year's cancellation, we were wondering whether or not to open the Christmas Shop this year. But we decided that this community service would be really appreciated this year. So, with some changes to the usual routine, we once again had merry mayhem on December 11. This year we allowed an adult to accompany each family into the shop. Previously, no adults were allowed in the shop; the children had personal shoppers who helped them select their gifts. Only one or two families at a time were allowed in the shop. While breakable gifts were wrapped in newspaper, the gifts were not wrapped in pretty paper. No refreshments were served. All of these changes were implemented to reduce exposure to the virus. We helped 23 children make Christmas bright for their families – not bad for the little publicity we managed to get out. They all had long lists, too. Thank you to Terri, Barb, Sue, Jean, and Don, as well as all the people who donated gifts, for making this event a big success.

Connie Reinhart

2021 OFFERING STATEMENTS

Year-end giving statements for 2021 will only be available as requested. If you want or need a giving statement for your records, please call the church office 610-826-2524. We will not be printing a statement for every member, and statements will only be mailed by your request. If you prefer, your statement can also be picked up at the church office.



**POINSETTIA FLOWERS ARE
PRESENTED
IN MEMORY OF**



Lee Bollinger - Marlene Bollinger

Delly Strohl - Marlene Bollinger

Ida Lichtenwalner, Marvin & Mary Spadt - Josslyn, Alec, Sierra & Kira DeLong

Sonny - Carol Heffelfinger

Loved Ones - Vicky Holland & Jim Meldrum

John & Ellen Konsko Family - Mary Mahon

Paul & Mary Wertman - Mary Mahon

Gene & Virginia Crachy & Edward Rusin - Lynn Perone

Son, Thomas Schmidt, Jr - Nadine & Tom Schmidt

Passed Loved Family Members - Nadine & Tom Schmidt



**POINSETTIA FLOWERS ARE
PRESENTED
IN HONOR OF**



Dorothy's Birthday - Donald Berger

Glory to God - Charlotte Beers-Koenig

Donald & Dorothy Berger - Jon & Jess Kistler

Bernice Kleintop - Jon & Jess Kistler

My Ten Grandchildren - Lynn Perone

Parents - Sara & Mia Samok

Grand Parents - Sara & Mia Samok

Our Beautiful Family - Nadine & Tom Schmidt

January 2022

January 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 26	27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1, 22
2 10:15am Worship Service in Church and Zoom	3	4 9:00am Thrift Shop	5	6 10:30am Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	7	8
9 10:15am Worship Service in Church and Zoom	10	11 9:00am Thrift Shop	12	13 10:30am Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	14	15
16 10:15am Worship Service in Church and Zoom	17	18 9:00am Thrift Shop	19	20 10:30am Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	21	22
23 10:15am Worship Service in Church and Zoom	24	25 9:00am Thrift Shop	26	27 10:30am Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	28	29
30 10:15am Worship Service in Church and Zoom	31	Feb 1	2	3	4	5



SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

JANUARY 2022 • ISSUE 1 • VOLUME 30

Covid-19 Update & Guidelines

The Latest Situation: The Covid-19 pandemic continues to generate fear, concern, confusion and division across the country and within our own Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. The most recent developments – some troubling, some hopeful – include:

- The rise of new variants, especially “omicron”;
- The ongoing and in many cases, increasing numbers of new cases;
- The continued reluctance and refusal of some to get vaccinated, or to wear masks;
- On the good side: the increased opportunities for testing, for boosters, and for vaccines for all ages.

Here in our Synod, I now encourage us to use another trustworthy source of information to help guide our decisions concerning the pandemic: the “Covid Act Now Coalition.” This non-profit, web-based resource brings together non-partisan experts in medicine, law, and public policy, to provide objective data and analysis. Their website is being consulted as a reliable source by synods and congregations across the ELCA. From their site, we can see clearly that things are still very threatening here in NE Penn: all 14 of our counties have threat levels of “VERY HIGH” or “SEVERE” – Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, and Schuylkill all are in that worst category. Additionally, the vaccination rate is at or below 60% for 7 of those 14 counties. Most of these numbers are worse than the data for many of our neighboring synods, including the Southeastern Penn Synod, whose leaders have nonetheless chosen to put in place stricter guidelines than we have. I believe we can become safer and return to “normal” sooner if we follow their lead.

Dr. Luther Shows The Way:

Almost exactly 500 years ago – in November 1520 – Martin Luther published one of his most ground-breaking treatises: “On the Freedom of a Christian.” He begins the document with this famous declaration: “A Christian is the most free lord of all, subject to none. And a Christian is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to everyone.”

He goes on to describe how God, through Christ’s sacrificial love for us on the cross, has granted us the grace and the freedom to make our own decisions; but this freedom does not release us to disregard the truth, or our call to care and concern for our neighbor. Luther writes: “Therefore [Christians] should be guided in all [their] works by this thought and contemplate this one thing alone, that [they] may serve and benefit others in all that [they do], considering nothing except the need and the advantage of [the] neighbor.”

So “what does this mean?” The inconvenience of mask wearing; and even the threat of temporary cold-and-flu reactions to vaccinations – these are simply the sacrifices we are called to make, as “the dutiful servants of all, subject to everyone.” It is within this traditionally and theologically Lutheran framing that we maintain our vigilance; and update our guidelines here.

Covid-19 Continued...

Latest Synod Recommendations:

As we prepare for the larger crowds of Christmas Eve – and with Lent, Holy Week and Easter not far away – I am recommending the starting, the continuation, or the resumption, of any and all common-sense and good-neighbor precautions, including:

- Proof of vaccination or a negative test for all indoor events
 - Indoor masking
- Good air circulation, including open windows where feasible
- Social distancing, frequent washing and other effective protocols

Furthermore – at their January 15 meeting, I am encouraging our Synod Council to discuss and decide upon further appropriate actions, which may include mandates that all Synod-sponsored indoor events require masking, proof of vaccination, and/or proof of a negative test. As the duly elected governing body of this Synod, your Synod Council has the right and responsibility to make these decisions for Synod gatherings. When it comes to our individual worshipping communities, our authority is more limited; Synod Council (and myself) can only make clear and strong recommendations – based on the best science, on good conscience and on our common love for our neighbors, especially those who are most vulnerable. In other words, all congregations have the “freedom of a Christian” to decide for themselves how they will choose to act – or refuse to act. I invite us all to follow our baptismal call and Lutheran heritage, to follow God’s will and God’s love for all.

In God’s Love,
Bishop Christopher deForest

MISSION SUPPORT 2022



Send in your mission support commitments for 2022. You can find the form on the synod website, under the resources tab.

**boundless
god beyond measure**

**JULY 24-28, 2022
MINNEAPOLIS, MN
REGISTER NOW AT ELCA.ORG**

Save the date **SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2022**
June 10-11
Reading