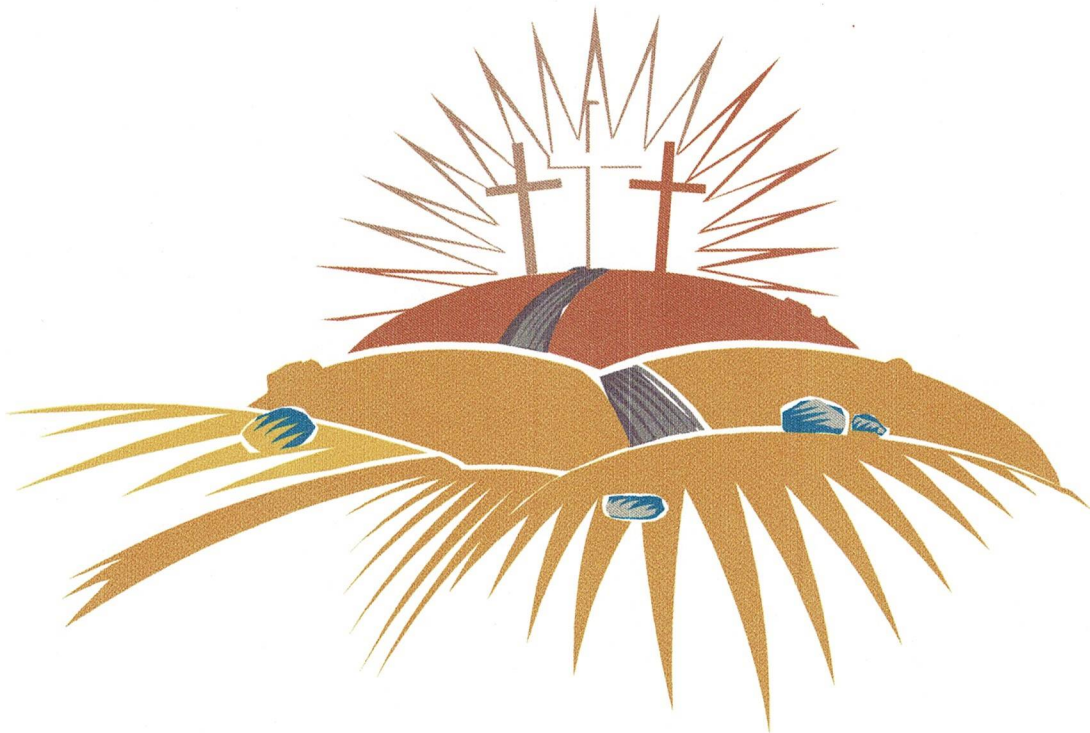


HOLY TRINITY NEWS

MARCH 2022

VOLUME 57 NO. 03



LENT

CHURCH SERVICE 10:15 AM

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH | 610-826-2524 |
| 502 LAFAYETTE AVE. PALMERTON, PA 18071 | |
| E-MAIL | htlcoppa@ptd.net |
| FACEBOOK | facebook.com/HolyTrinityPalmerton |
| REV. MICHAEL FROST | 570-620-8189 |
| PASTOR E-MAIL ADDRESS | htpastor@ptd.net |

First Holy Communion Preparation

Each year, during the Lenten season, we prepare our children to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion with a series of class sessions that they might have a beginning understanding of the background and meaning of our Lord's Supper, of how Jesus offers us his own body and blood in the bread and wine we share together in worship. This preparatory program is open to active church families whose children are in 2nd grade and older – based on your sense of your child's readiness to participate and receive the Sacrament.

This spring we will continue this tradition with class sessions on Saturday mornings, April 2nd and 9th, leading up to the participants receiving Holy Communion in worship on Palm Sunday, April 10th. These two classes are for our children in both congregations – class on April 2nd will be held at Holy Trinity in Palmerton from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, while class on April 9th will be held at St. Matthew's in North Weissport from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and will include baking Communion bread. All those being prepared should attend both classes. Letters will be going out to those families with children who we believe are of age to be prepared and included this year. If you do not receive a letter by Sunday, March 20th, and believe that your child is of age to receive, please contact the church office.

From the Pastor's Desk – March 2022

The Storyteller

"What do you believe about the Bible?"

The question was asked of me, once upon a time, by a member of a call committee as I began the call process at a church that I did wind up serving as pastor many years ago. I've been asked any number of things by call committee members over the years. I have served six different churches over my forty years of ministry, not counting short term stints as designated pastor at a few others. Immediately I wondered what this person was looking for as she asked the question. What did she want me to say? Was there something I might say that would be a deal breaker in her estimation? I answered that the Scriptures are the inspired Word of God, that they are the authority for us in the church for the way we believe, preach, and live our lives of faith in the world (well, something like that). She seemed to be okay with that. The interview went on and, over the course of the next weeks and months, I DID wind up getting that call.

What do you believe about the Bible? – Yes – YOU – What do YOU believe about the Bible? There's an old acrostic that says that BIBLE = Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth. While that might seem cute, I don't find it all that helpful. We tend to find in the Bible what we want to find. There's so much in the 66 books – 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament – that it can seem overwhelming and intimidating so we break it down, we simplify it, in order to come up with something we can manage. We pick one part, one aspect, and make that the whole. Does the Bible contain instruction? Of course it does. Does the Bible contain law and commandment? Yes, yes indeed. But is that the whole of what we find in the Bible? By no means. So much of what we find in

the Bible are stories – stories about Adam and Eve, about Noah and the great flood, about Abraham and Sarah and their descendants: Isaac, Jacob, & Joseph and his brothers and sisters, about Moses, about the leaders of Israel and on and on through the Old Testament and right on into the New Testament. Jesus was a storyteller. Was he a teacher? Of course, but so much of his teaching was done through the telling of stories that we often refer to as parables.

In Luke 15, a portion of which we will hear this Lenten season, Jesus tells a set of three stories about lost things and people – a lost sheep, a lost coin, and a lost son. That last parable we often call The Prodigal Son. Why did Jesus tell these stories? Who was he talking to, and why? Luke tells us at the beginning of the chapter – ***"Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So Jesus told them this parable . . ."***

Do you know the story? The younger of two sons makes some rather impulsive decisions, demands money from his father, and goes off into the world where he blows it all and winds up lower than lower. Seeing no other path forward, he decides to go home, hoping at best to be allowed to serve as a slave in his father's house. But as he comes near to the house his father sees him and runs – RUNS – to him, rejoicing that his son who had been lost was now found. So grateful to have him back safe, he throws a big party for him and grants him welcome and restoration to his position not as a slave or a servant, but with full honor as a son. At this, the older brother is furious, believing that his kid brother deserves none of it. Just as the father had gone out to meet the returning prodigal, he goes out to talk with his older son trying to reason with him.

It's ***just*** a story, right? It didn't really

happen. And yet, it is an incredibly powerful way of getting a point across – a message of undeserved grace, of forgiveness, mercy, and love. That's the power of story. Through the stories that fill the Bible, God reveals to us the powerful, transforming message of God's redeeming love for God's people – for all of us. If we focus on the laws and the commandments, we get so preoccupied with what we need to do to earn God's approval and we will always wonder if we've done enough – if we can ever do enough. If we pay attention to the stories, to what God has done through the ages in calling a people to himself, of calling and welcoming those the world has pushed to the margins, doing everything necessary to keep them in relationship with himself, we will be overwhelmed with a sense of God's saving love that leads to peace – not fear, of comfort – not anxiety.

This month we begin another Lenten season – another journey with Jesus to Judea, to Jerusalem, and to the cross. Pay attention to the stories. Don't look for what you need to do. Look instead at all that God has done for you in Jesus. You are loved. You have been redeemed. Rejoice in the grace and mercy of God for sinners just like you and me.

Thanks be to God!

ASH WEDNESDAY – Wed., March 2, 7:00pm, St. Matthew's

The season of Lent begins this year on March 2nd and we gather in worship at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthew's, North Weissport, for our service of Confession, the Imposition of Ashes, and the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

In the season of Lent we play a bit of "let's pretend". The overarching truth is that we know that Jesus was crucified and, then, on the third day was raised gloriously to life never to die again. The good news is that our sins, that are many, are forgiven for Christ's sake and we bear them no more. In this Lenten season, though, we consider the seriousness

of our sin, how far short we fall of the holiness to which God calls us, and the severity of the punishment we so justly deserve. In humility, we meditate on God's righteousness, on our brokenness, on what true justice would be, and on our plea for mercy to a holy God. Were it not for God's revelation of love and grace in Jesus we would have no hope whatsoever. We are justly under God's judgment and deserve condemnation. But in Jesus we are forgiven and declared righteous.

Join us for worship on Ash Wednesday. Receive this sign of your mortality on your forehead in a cross-shaped smudge of ash. Then, gratefully receive Christ's own Body and Blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, and know that we have redemption, the forgiveness of our sins.

We hope you will join us.

Lent 2022 – Midweek Worship – CONVICTED

This Lenten Season our Midweek Worship series will be entitled "Convicted". These services will enable our congregations to step into a courtroom situation. Each Convicted service puts a different biblical person on trial, accused of an actual crime. An overall guiding question leads the arguments of each case while you, the members of the congregation serve as the jury. Over the weeks, we will have the disciples as a group as defendants, then Judas, Peter, Pontius Pilate, and finally Barabbas. The charges will vary from defamation of character, dereliction of duty, treason, perjury, obstruction of justice, and rebellion.

The Schedule – (all services at 7:00 p.m.)
 Wednesday – March 9th – Service at Holy Trinity, Palmerton
 Wednesday – March 16th – Service at St. Matthew's, North Weissport
 Wednesday – March 23rd – Service at Holy Trinity
 Wednesday – March 30th – Service at St. Matthew's
 Wednesday – April 6th – Service at Holy Trinity

WEATHER RELATED & SCHEDULING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Channel 13, Blue Ridge Cable, is Holy Trinity's place to look for weather related announcements. We will have the announcements on the air as soon as possible after they are made. In addition a message will be left on phone system so if you call the office you will know if there is church.

HOLY TRINITY ACTION MINISTRIES

Tues. 9AM- 12:30 PM Thrift Shop



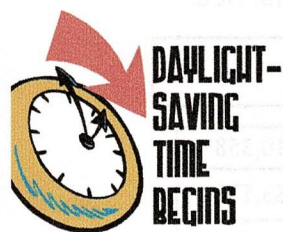
HOME VISITS

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

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, and **Altar Guild**.

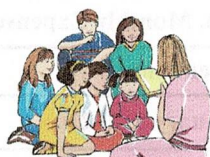


DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

Don't forget to set your clocks one hour AHEAD on Saturday Night, March 12, 2022 because daylight saving time begins at 2:00 am on March 13, 2022.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Children's special involvement will begin again when it is safe to do so.



Children's Sermon



WORSHIP SCHEDULE



9 am – Noon

March 2, 2022 ASH WEDNESDAY
at St. Matthew's
Worship Service 7:00 PM

March 6, 2022 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Rich Hyer
Ushers: Scott & Kelly Heinrich
Altar Guild: The Keblish Family
Flowers: Carol Heffelfinger
Bulletins: The Keblish Family
Communion Bread: SPONSOR NEEDED
Times News Ad: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer
Worship Service 10:15 AM

March 9, 2022 LENTEN SERVICE
at Holy Trinity Worship Service 7:00 PM

March 13, 2022 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Krissy Keblish
Ushers: Ron Keblish w/Taylor, Terry Holland
Altar Guild: The Keblish Family
Flowers: The Keblish Family
Bulletins: The Keblish Family
Communion Bread: SPONSOR NEEDED
Times News Ad: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer
Worship Service 10:15 AM

March 16, 2022 LENTEN SERVICE
at St. Matthew's Worship Service 7:00 PM

March 22, 2022 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Larry Arner
Ushers: Carol Heffelfinger & Loren LaRose
Altar Guild: The Keblish Family
Flowers: Vicky Holland & Jim Meldrum
Bulletins: The Keblish Family
Communion Bread: SPONSOR NEEDED
Times News Ad: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer
Worship Service 10:15 AM

March 23, 2022 LENTEN SERVICE
at Holy Trinity Worship Service 7:00 PM

March 27, 2022 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Lynn Perone
Ushers: Rich & Jeanette Hyer
Altar Guild: The Keblish Family
Flowers: SPONSOR NEEDED
Bulletins: The Keblish Family
Communion Bread: SPONSOR NEEDED
Times News Ad: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer
Worship Service 10:15 AM

March 30, 2022 LENTEN SERVICE
at St. Matthew's Worship Service 7:00 PM



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

March 17 Jim Meldrum & Vicky Holland 4 years
 March 20 Gary & Deeann Bonser 29 years

WE WISH YOU A HAPPY BIRTHDAY



March 02 Zachary Conarty
 March 02 Carol Heffelfinger
 March 03 Amy Berger
 March 04 Kelly Warmer
 March 05 Steven Hoffert
 March 05 Frankie Raub
 March 08 Marlene Greenwood
 March 09 Ronald Keblish
 March 10 Patrick Danielson
 March 11 James Engle
 March 12 Nico Soriano
 March 14 Garrett James
 March 14 Amy Mertz
 March 15 George Husack III
 March 16 Patrick Leight
 March 19 Robin Suarez
 March 22 Jennifer Kane
 March 23 Janice Brown
 March 25 Joseph Solt II
 March 26 Payton Pryce
 March 29 Abigail Fredericks
 March 31 Jason Pryce, Jr.
 March 31 Gage Zuberka

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

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mar 02 4:35 p.m. Worship & Music
 Mar 22 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting (3rd Sunday)

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Mondays - 1:30—3:00 pm at St. Matthew's
 Thursdays -10:30am-Noon – Adult Education Room



SNAPPLE FACTS



A hummingbird weighs less than a penny.
 The hummingbird is the only bird that can fly backwards.

Sip on some knowledge. Most of these are the Real Facts

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Rich Hyer President
 Don Delich Vice-President
 Karen Talamantes Secretary
 Marlene Bollinger
 Teri Delich
 Scott Heinrich
 Jim Miller
 Eric Reif
 Ray Talamantes
 Gordon Walls
 Mary Walls

FINANCIAL PERSONNEL

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

FINANCE

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Jan. Monthly Envelope Offering: | \$10,358 |
| Jan. St. Matthews Pastoral Service | \$3,173 |
| Jan. Additional Income | \$7,430 |
| Jan. Monthly Expenses: | \$30,971 |
| Attendance: | |
| January 2, 2022 | 31 & 6 |
| January 9, 2022 | 0 icy |
| January 16, 2022 | 28 & 9 |
| January 23, 2022 | 48 & 13 |
| January 30, 2022 | 31 & 8 |

KEEPING UP TO DATE

Since we are getting our offering envelopes mailed quarterly it is **extremely important** to let us know if you have changed your address. We want to make sure you get your envelopes in a timely manner. If you have a change of address please contact the office 610-826-2425, by e-mail htlcoppa@ptd.net or snail mail 502 Lafayette Ave. Palmerton, PA 18071
 Thank You

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

When making donations to the church in Memory please be sure to put it on a check separate from your weekly contribution check. The money gets deposited into 2 separate accounts and cannot be split between the two accounts.
 Thank You

If you can't be in church zoom in.

St. Matthew's Zoom Worship
 Time: Jan 23, 2022 08:30 AM Eastern Time
 Holy Trinity Zoom Worship – Epiphany +3
 Time: Jan 23, 2022 10:15 AM Eastern Time



Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9636129008?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9636129008?pwd=YzhTQ1M0OCtnV285RWhJeXdsMmJHZz09)

[pwd=YzhTQ1M0OCtnV285RWhJeXdsMmJHZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9636129008?pwd=YzhTQ1M0OCtnV285RWhJeXdsMmJHZz09)

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Meeting ID: 963 612 9008
 Passcode: 119675
 One tap mobile
 +13126266799,,9636129008#,,,,*119675# US
 (Chicago)
 +16465588656,,9636129008#,,,,*119675# US (New
 York)

| | | |
|----------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| March 2 | 7:00 PM | at St. Matthews |
| March 9 | 7:00 PM | at Holy Trinity |
| March 16 | 7:00 PM | at St. Matthew's |
| March 23 | 7:00 PM | at Holy Trinity |
| March 30 | 7:00 PM | at St. Matthew's |
| April 6 | 7:00 PM | at Holy Trinity |
| April 14 | 7:00 PM | Maundy Thursday at St. Matthew's |
| April 15 | 7:00 PM | Good Friday at Holy Trinity |

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/kbX5uWGE>

FLOWERS 2022



| Flower & Color | Cost | How Many | Total Cost | Pick up after 10:15 Service or Plant at church | Donate to shut in |
|-----------------|------|----------|------------|--|-------------------|
| LILIES | \$9 | | | | |
| HYACINTHS | \$7 | | | | |
| Pink | | | | | |
| Blue | | | | | |
| White | | | | | |
| Lavender | | | | | |
| Yellow | | | | | |
| TULIPS* | \$7 | | | | |
| Red | | | | | |
| Yellow | | | | | |
| White | | | | | |
| Pink | | | | | |
| Levender | | | | | |
| Orange | | | | | |
| Bi-Color | | | | | |
| BEGONIAS | \$10 | | | | |
| Assorted Colors | | | | | |
| HYDRANGEA | \$20 | | | | |
| Total | | | | | |

In Honor Of _____

In Memory of _____

Ordered by _____

ALL ORDERS MUST BE IN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY
 MARCH 20, 2022 WITH FULL PAYMENT ATTACHED

* Color choice cannot be guaranteed
 it depends on bulb blooming in Holland

March 2022

| March 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 | | |

| April 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 | | | | | |

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--------|-----------------------------|---|---|--------|----------|
| Feb 27 | 28 | Mar 1 9:00am Thrift Shop | 2 Ash Wednesday Service at St. Matthew's 7:00 PM | 3 10:30am Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) | 4 | 5 |
| 6 10:15am Worship Service in Church and Zoom | 7 | 8 9:00am Thrift Shop | 9 Lenten Service at Holy Trinity 7:00 PM | 10 10:30am Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) | 11 | 12 |
| 13 10:15am Worship Service in Church and Zoom | 14 | 15 9:00am Thrift Shop | 16 Lenten Service at St. Matthew's 7:00 PM | 17 10:30am Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) | 18 | 19 |
| 20 10:15am Worship Service in Church and Zoom | 21 | 22 9:00am Thrift Shop | 23 Lenten Service at Holy Trinity 7:00 PM | 24 10:30am Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) | 25 | 26 |
| 27 10:15am Worship Service in Church and Zoom | 28 | 29 9:00am Thrift Shop | 30 Lenten Service at St. Matthew's 7:00 PM | 31 10:30am Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) | Apr 1 | 2 |



SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

MARCH 2022 • ISSUE 3 • VOLUME 30

Beloved Members of our Synod,

At its January meeting, the Synod Council made the difficult decision to once again hold the Synod Assembly online instead of gathering in person. We know this decision may come as a disappointment to you, and I'd like to explain how the Council came to its decision.

First, please know the decision wasn't easy, nor was it unanimous; however, the decision to move online did pass with an overwhelming majority voting in favor. Initially, many council members, like you, very much wanted to hold the assembly in person and gather as planned in Reading. But in discussion, a few realities just could not be overcome: vaccines were still not available for our youngest children (ages 0-4), a new variant was ushering in extremely high transmission numbers, and our local hospitals were struggling to keep abreast of testing and available beds. Given the swift onset and spread of the Omicron variant, the council wondered at the possibility of a new variant emerging at the time of the Synod Assembly. Like you, we just simply can't see into the future.

The gravity of these unknowns increased when coupled with the fact that there was a significant down payment cost for the facility – a cost we could not recoup even if, for whatever reason, we needed to cancel or downsize the Assembly. Use it, or lose it. As long as I have been chairing Synod Council meetings, I have never witnessed the Council making spendthrift decisions. Each financial decision is taken on deliberately and with care, the council focusing on being good stewards always and in every way. It was, in the end, a financial risk too great to take.

So, once again, we will see you online on June 10th and 11th. But we hope you will find a way to see each other in person, gathering safely in smaller numbers as the situation allows, and enjoying each other's company as we get the business done and see what's happening around our Synod and throughout the ELCA.

Yours in Christ,

Kristen Edelman-Weiner

Vice-President, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod



50TH ANNIVERSARY PARAMENTS

Brenda Stauffer was the catalyst for the new altar and pulpit paraments that were dedicated for our 50th Anniversary. Brenda brought up the idea of creating quilted paraments at the brainstorming session that was held at Prince of Peace in January of 2021. A suggestion was made that the paraments be green so that they would be able to be used during the season after Pentecost, also known as Ordinary Time. This is the longest season of the church year and is represented by the color green.

The 50th Anniversary Task Force approved the designs for the paraments, Kim drew the designs out to scale and delivered them to Pam. Pam chose the fabrics and used an appliqué technique to create them. Brenda kept communicating with everyone to make sure the new paraments were completed on time for their dedication on January 16, 2022.

[VIEW FULL STORY HERE](#)

BOOK STUDY: WAKING UP WHITE

The Racial Justice Team (a part of the Witness & Service Ministry Team) invites you to participate in a 5-part online Lenten book study, beginning Monday, March 7 at 7:00 pm and continuing the next 4 Monday nights at 7 on Zoom. Contact Samantha Drennan for more information!

STEWARDSHIP EXTRAVAGANZA

JUNE 18, 2022
**TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH, LANSDALE**
AN EVENT ORGANIZED BY THE
SEPA AND NEPA SYNODS
(REGISTRATION FORTHCOMING)



Save
the
date

SYNOD
ASSEMBLY
2022

June 10-11
Virtual