

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

FEBRUARY 2023

VOLUME 58 NO. 02



CHURCH SERVICE : 10:15 AM

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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February 2023

February 2023

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				

March 2023

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
Jan 29	30	31	Feb 1 Office Hours 8:30-12:30	2 Office Hours 8:30-12:30 10:30am Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	3	4
5 Boy Scout Sunday 10:15am Worship Service in Church and Zoom	6	7 Office Hours 8:30-12:30 9:00am Thrift Shop	8 Office Hours 8:30-12:30	9 Office Hours 8:30-12:30 10:30am Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	10	11
12 10:15am Worship Service in Church and Zoom 5:00pm Super Bowl Party	13	14 Office Hours 8:30-12:30 9:00am Thrift Shop	15 Office Hours 8:30-12:30	16 Office Hours 8:30-12:30 10:30am Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	17	18
19 10:15am Worship Service in Church and Zoom	20	21 Office Hours 8:30-12:30 9:00am Thrift Shop	22 Office Hours 8:30-12:30	23 Office Hours 8:30-12:30 10:30am Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	24	25
26 10:15am Worship Service in Church and Zoom	27	28 Office Hours 8:30-12:30 9:00am Thrift Shop	Mar 1	2	3	4

From the Pastor's Desk - February 2023

"I Can't Help Myself!"

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!
Romans 7:15-25

I've been there, haven't you? Ginny taught 1st grade for many, many years. I had the opportunity to watch her teach, to see her interact with her students. It was through her that I first caught on to the idea of "good choices" and choices that weren't all that good. She has remarkable patience. She had it in her teaching days and she has it at home with every member of our family. Honestly, I'm not as patient as I could be, as I should be. How often do we catch ourselves, in that split second after we've done or said something, realizing that we'd made a rather poor choice? We could have made a better choice, reacted in a different way, not responded in anger or frustration, not said what we allowed to blurt out of our mouth unchecked.

We know better, of course. We're better people than that, aren't we? Sure we are, but it still happens. Paul says, ***"I don't understand my own actions."*** He knows what he should do, what he should say, but time and time again he does or says the wrong thing. He knows God's holy law, knows how he should live as a child of God but, where the rubber meets the road, he

fails – the desire to do good is there, but not the ability. How is that even possible? What is it? ***"The law of sin that dwells in my members"*** Paul says.

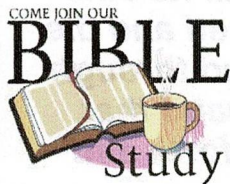
We're sinners. We were sinners before we came to faith and, even now, we are still sinners – redeemed sinners to be sure – but sinners just the same. That struggle is ever present in us. Thinking we are good enough, faithful enough, smart enough on our own is believing the Devil's own lie.

Martin Luther, in his Small Catechism, explains the significance of Holy Baptism in our daily lives this way: ***"(Baptism) signifies that the old person in us with all its sins and evil desires is to be drowned and die through daily sorrow for sin and through repentance, and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever."***

This month we move from the Epiphany season, having experienced the revelation of who Jesus is as the Incarnate Son of God, into the season of Lent (Ash Wednesday coming on February 22). It is the theme, the purpose of Lent, that we look at who we are as we stand before God. We allow God's holy Word, the law, to function as a mirror in which we see the truth of ourselves – warts and all. The more we allow this truth in to our mind and heart, the more we are driven to our knees before God, asking for his grace and mercy which is the forgiveness of our sins. That gift of forgiveness came to us first, we must remember, in our baptism but we need to receive it again and again in the words of absolution and in our reception of Christ's Body and Blood in Holy Communion. It is never my possession. The more I think I've got it, that I understand it and can move on by my own strength, the more I show just how lost I am apart from the daily gift of life and grace in Christ. It always comes from outside myself – I must hear it, I must

receive it and trust in God's grace rather than anything in me.

I make choices each and every day that are less than the best. I speak before I think. I act out of selfishness, out of anger, out of frustration. I tell you this as your pastor. It is only by God's daily gifts of grace in Word and Sacrament that I am able to live as a beloved and forgiven child of God in Jesus Christ – no different from you. Thanks be to God that these abundant blessings are always poured out for us as we pray, as we dig into the Scriptures, and as we gather together for worship.



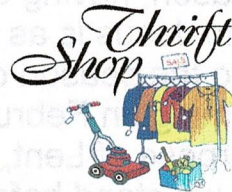
See you in church,
Pastor Mike

**COME JOIN OUR
BIBLE
Study**
BIBLE STUDY
OPPORTUNITIES

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

HOLY TRINITY
ACTION
MINISTRIES

Tues. 9AM- 12:30 PM Thrift Shop



HOME VISITS

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

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Feb 01 4:15 p.m. Worship & Music
Feb 19 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting

2023 SPONSOR SHEETS

Please sign up!

2023 sponsor sheets are on the bulletin board outside the office: **Flowers \$25, Weekly Bulletin \$10, Communion Bread \$2.50, and Altar Guild.**

SPONSORS

Flowers
2/5/23 Eric & Lizzie Reif
2/12/23 Valerie Kleppinger
2/19/23 Debbie Hansut
2/26/23 Kay Elyse Gerhart
Communion Bread
2/5/23 Kay Elyse Gerhart
2/12/23 Kay Elyse Gerhart
2/19/23 Kay Elyse Gerhart
2/26/23 Kay Elyse Gerhart
Bulletins
2/5/23 **Volunteer Needed**
2/12/23 Charlotte Beers Koenig
2/19/23 **Volunteer Needed**
2/26/23 Barb & Joe Herman

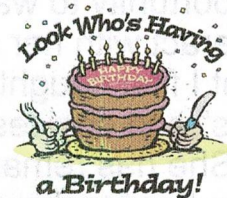


**FEBRUARY
ANNIVERSARIES**

February 05 Eric & Lizzie Reif 23 years
February 14 Andrew & Stacy Hollywood 9 years

**WE WISH YOU A
HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

February 02 Ann Feller
February 03 Warner Benson
February 04 Ronald Reitz
February 07 Richard Hyer
February 08 Austin Miller
February 09 Tara Berger
February 09 Jacoby Soriano
February 14 Madelyn Hoffert
February 18 Caytlin Bloss
February 18 Jessyca Fredericks
February 18 Lyndsey Heinrich
February 18 Mary Walls
February 18 Tanya Yesik
February 19 Ann Marie Raub
February 20 Thomas Ring
February 23 Johnathan Barkanic
February 26 Calvin Craig
February 28 Bernice Kleintop
February 28 Richard Moyer



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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Children's special involvement in worship will resume when it is safe to do so.



Children's Sermon



HOURS

8:30am-12:30pm

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 5, 2023 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Scouts/Larry Arner

Ushers: Scott & Kelly Heinrich

Altar Guild: Lynn Perone

Worship Service 10:15 AM

February 12, 2023 COMMUNION

CHILDREN'S SERVICE

Assisting Minister: Krissy Keblish

Ushers: Ron Keblish w/Taylor, Terry Holland

Altar Guild: Lynn Perone

Worship Service 10:15 AM

February 19 2023 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Rich Hyer

Ushers: Loren LaRose, Carol Heffelfinger

Altar Guild: Lynn Perone

Worship Service 10:15 AM

**February 22 2023 Ash Wednesday
COMMUNION**

Assisting Minister:

Altar Guild: Lynn Perone

Worship Service 7:00 PM

February 26, 2023 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Lynn Perone

Ushers: Rich & Jeanette Hyer

Altar Guild: Lynn Perone

Worship Service 10:15 AM

**Office hours on Tuesdays until further notice
are 3:15 pm—7:15 pm**

FINANCE

Dec. Monthly Envelope Offering:	\$ 6,451
Dec. St. Matthews Pastoral Service	\$ 3,308
Dec. Additional Income	\$ 6,039
Dec.. Monthly Expenses:	\$ 13,576
Attendance:	
Dec. 04, 2022	33 + 6
Dec. 11, 2022	30 + 5
Dec. 18, 2022	48 + 3
Dec. 24, 2022 10PM Candlelight	43 + 5
Dec. 25, 2022	17 + 3

FINANCIAL PERSONNEL

Larry Arner Treasurer
Carol Heffelfinger Financial Sec.
No Assistant Treasurer

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Rich Hyer President
Don Delich Vice-President
Karen Talamantes Secretary
Larry Arner Treasurer
Teri Delich
Scott Heinrich
Terry Holland
Krissy Keblish
Ron Keblish
Jim Miller
Eric Reif
Ray Talamantes



ALL SERVICES ARE AT 7:00 PM

Feb 22 Ash Wednesday at Holy Trinity
Mar 1 Lenten Service at St. Matthew's
Mar 8 Lenten Service at Holy Trinity
Mar 15 Lenten Service at St. Matthew's
Mar 22 Lenten Service at Holy Trinity
Mar 29 Lenten Service at St. Matthew's
Apr 6 Maundy Thursday at Holy Trinity
Apr 7 Good Friday at St. Matthew's

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

When making a donation for a memorial it must be put on a separate check from your offering. These funds go to separate accounts and a check cannot be divided to put in two different accounts

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?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>

SUPER BOWL PARTY

Please join us for an evening of fun, refreshments and football. Our annual super bowl party is February 12, 2023. The doors open at 5PM bring your comfy chair and be ready too cheer on your favorite team. Hopefully this year it will be the EAGLES.



SYNOD NEWS



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

FriEDEN'S: An Amazing Garden Story

A few weeks after the lockdown in the spring of 2020, I called a neighbor in town who had a garden in her front yard. It's Shartlesville, and the PA Dutch are used to their yards looking *just so,* so I knew this was a brave woman who loved gardening vegetables more than public opinion. I also knew she didn't have room for pumpkins in her small yard, so I called and proposed we plant some viney crops up on our church property. She agreed and even had the seeds, gardening skills, and ideas, so after consultation with council, the garden was born. We sent our crop to the neighboring UCC congregation's food pantry, and with the excess had physically- distant free produce giveaways.

In 2021, we expanded the garden by half, to about 50 by 75 feet. We watered each plant via a recycled gallon milk jug with a pinprick in the bottom. The plants were happy, but our backs were not. It took 45 minutes to an hour to water all the jugs, which we did nearly every day because the garden is in full sun. The black plastic we used for weed suppression became a slip-and-slide while we irrigated.

In 2022, we were able to install a drip irrigation system that did not require filling milk jugs and weed suppression fabric that was not slippery. The fabric required using a blow torch to make holes for planting but will be able to be used for multiple years. The irrigation only required turning on the spigot and letting it run for several hours, which was a true God-send because we had some unexpected health issues on the garden team that limited our volunteer force! It was an extraordinarily dry summer, so the grant came just in time.

This past summer we had 21 people volunteer in the garden, took produce to 5 food pantries or senior centers, including Cafe Esperanza in Reading, and welcomed 29 people into the garden at a joint VBS. Not only are we feeding our neighbors with free, fresh, pesticide-free produce, but we are also getting to know our neighbors, developing new connections in the congregation among volunteers, teaching children about food insecurity and the joy of gardening, and passing on agricultural wisdom.

Submitted by Pastor Inge Williams

SYNOD
ASSEMBLY



2023

GOING
BEYOND
DEATH
TO LIFE

JUNE
1-3

What's happening at Kalahari?

- Plenaries full of important decisions like the next Vice President of the Synod and the next Secretary.
- Small group breakouts with important and timely topics like small rural ministry, growing young, anti-racism, innovative worship, and more...
- Vibrant worship featuring Agape (David Scherer) and spoken word poet, Joe Davis.
- Free time activities and gatherings.
- And an incredible guest preacher for our festival worship (announcement coming soon.)

*We're hard at work planning
this incredible event!*

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SO LET'S GET BACK TOGETHER,
RECHARGE, WORSHIP, AND ENGAGE IN
THE BUSINESS OF CHRIST'S CHURCH.