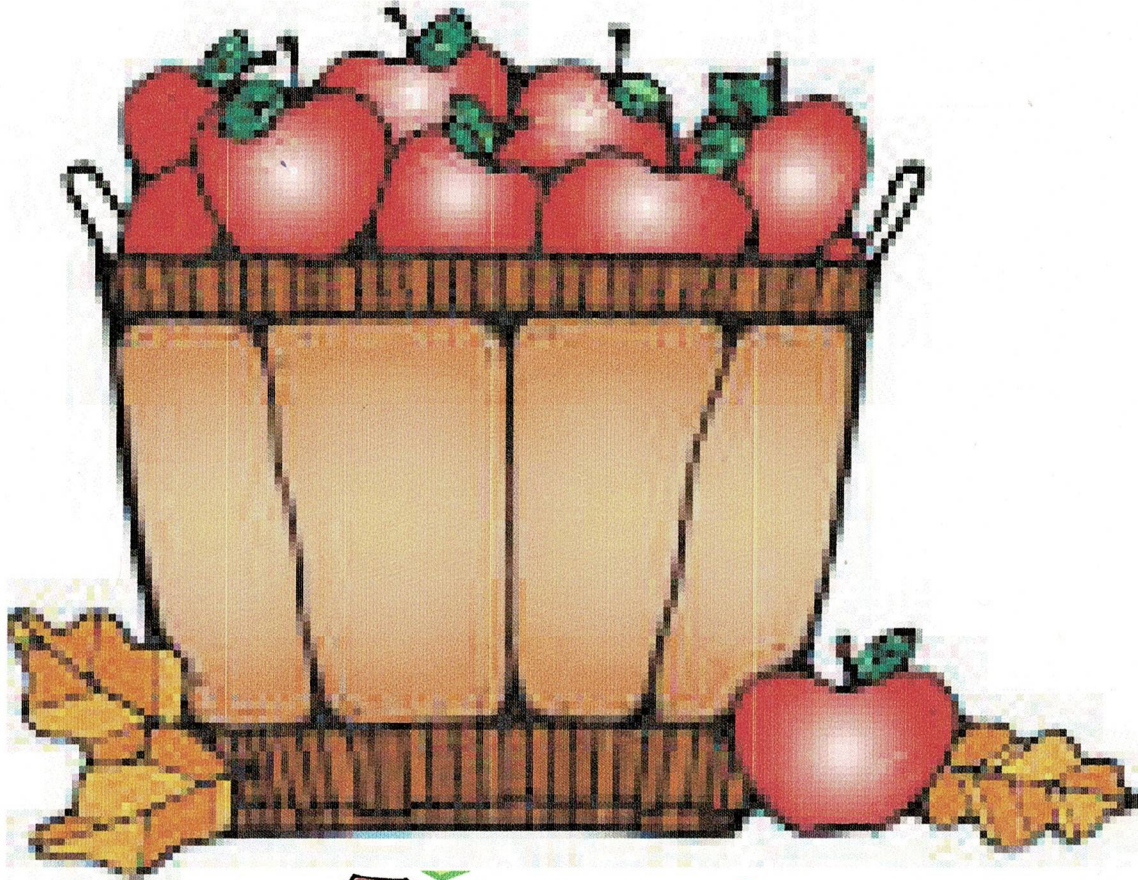


# HOLY TRINITY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2023

VOLUME 58 NO. 09



# September

**CHURCH SERVICE 10:15 AM**

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH      610-826-2524  
502 LAFAYETTE AVE.    PALMERTON, PA 18071

E-MAIL

[htlcoppa@ptd.net](mailto:htlcoppa@ptd.net)

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REV. MICHAEL FROST

570-620-8189

PASTOR E-MAIL ADDRESS

[htpastor@ptd.net](mailto:htpastor@ptd.net)

# September 2023

September 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

October 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
Aug 27	28	29	30	31	Sep 1 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	2
3 10:15am Worship Service in Church and Facebook Live	4 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts	5 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	6 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	7 10:30am Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 5:30pm Girl Scouts	8 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	9
10 10:15am Worship Service in Church and Facebook Live	11 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts	12 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	13 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	14 10:30am Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	15 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	16
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24 10:15am Worship Service in Church and Facebook Live	25 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts	26 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	27 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	28 10:30am Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 7:00pm Camera Club	29 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	30



## From the Pastor's Desk –



### September 2023 "You're Setting Your Mind on Human Things"

***<sup>21</sup>From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."***

***<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"***

**Matthew 16:21-26 (NRSVUE)**

On August 27 and September 3, we have the two parts of the story of Peter's bold confession of faith and, then, how he shows that he really doesn't get it as much as he thinks he does. As I say so often, Peter is a model for us all. He reflects the best of trusting faith in Jesus and, in a flash, in the next moment, he walks it back and seems for all the world like a thick-headed Dutchman without a clue.

Peter truly does believe. He is convinced that Jesus is Messiah, the long awaited Redeemer that God promised for Israel. He has seen it in what Jesus has done and he has heard it in what Jesus has said. In response to his declaration, Jesus said that this realization was not something Peter

figured out on his own. Rather, it was revealed to him by the Holy Spirit.

Next Jesus begins to break the news to the disciples that, in Jerusalem, he will suffer at the hands of Israel's religious leaders, that he will be put to death and then be raised on the third day. Understandably, if you think about it, this is more than Peter can wrap his head around. Jesus is Messiah. How could Israel's spiritual leaders fail to see the truth? Jesus is Messiah. Surely, he can't die. It was too much and Peter had to say something. Matthew tells us that Peter takes Jesus aside and rebukes him, **"God forbid it, Lord!"** Bad move, Pete.

Jesus turns on Peter, **"Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."**

Satan! Really, Jesus? A bit harsh, don't you think?

What we know as the name of the Devil, "Satan", is a Hebrew word, which means "adversary." Isn't that precisely what Peter has done here? He set himself on the other side from what Jesus declared was going to happen. He wasn't content with what the will of the Lord was and stood against it. He was exactly what Jesus said – an adversary set against Jesus.

How often do we do the same? We believe. Of course, we do. But there is so much that is beyond our comprehension. We can't help but see things through human eyes. It's all we've got.

Then Jesus teaches the disciples about what true discipleship is all about – **deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me.** Self-denial is difficult, if not impossible. But that's what Jesus asks for. Taking up our cross, quite literally, means a willingness to die. That's what the cross is. It was the Roman method of execution, and perhaps the most brutal one ever devised. Accept the end of your life for Jesus' sake and for the sake of your neighbor. Stop thinking the way



you've always thought. Stop being concerned with how things might adversely affect you and commit yourself to the will of God and the good of your neighbor, even the neighbor you've never liked, never gotten along with – you know . . .that guy.

Truth is . . . It is impossible. I cannot do it. Peter couldn't get beyond his sense of what and who Messiah was supposed to be. Peter was stuck but over time, even after he denied Jesus to save his own skin, the Holy Spirit did the work God always does for us and God's forgiving grace moved Peter forward in faith and in ministry. God has already done that work in you and in me. In the middle of our human thinking, in our stuck-ness, the Spirit HAS worked, and God's forgiving grace has been poured out for us. In Holy Baptism you were drowned – your sinful human nature put to death in the waters of baptism – and you were raised to new life in the power of Jesus' resurrection.

So . . . we follow Jesus the best we can. We love God and we love our neighbors in the power of the Holy Spirit, ever grateful for all that God has done for us in the death and resurrection of Jesus. We put God first, others second, and ourselves third/last. We do it badly because we are still stuck but we are forgiven again and again for Jesus' sake. Jesus is Messiah. He is our Redeemer. Our life is in Him.

Blessings and Peace,  
Pastor Mike

**HOME VISITS**

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



Happy Anniversary!

**SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

September 11	James & Lisa Engle	41 years
September 13	Nicole & Christopher Jahelka	15 years
September 15	Larry & Susan Arner	44 years
September 24	Gale & George Husack	18 years
September 24	Tricia & Jason Pryce	12 years
September 25	Eugene & Lynn Perone	13 years
September 29	Gordon & Mary Walls	39 years

**WE WISH YOU A HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

September 02	Amy Broadfield
September 06	Lee Arner
September 06	Terry Holland
September 09	Aliyah Snyder
September 15	David Blocker
September 16	Damon Mertz
September 16	Larry Mertz, Jr.
September 18	Joseph Herman
September 18	Jesse Ruch
September 19	Alex Kuneck
September 19	Dr. Robert Reinhart
September 19	Jan Sosik
September 19	Jason Weimert
September 20	Aaron Pryce
September 24	Julianna Snyder
September 25	Amy Steigerwalt
September 26	Robert Treskot
September 28	Jereme Barkanic
September 29	Frederick Young, Jr.



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



**HOLY TRINITY ACTION MINISTRIES**

Tues. 9AM- 12:30 PM Thrift Shop

**REDNER'S SAVE A TAPE**

**This is a reminder that we do collect Redner's register tapes.**

There is a box in the Narthex for the Redner's register tapes. Redner's Markets provides us with a **1% rebate** for all register tapes turned in. Ask for a save a tape card at the desk at Redner's. This is required to participate.





**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**HOURS**  
9am-1pm

**September 3, 2023 COMMUNION**

**Assisting Minister:** Rich Hyer  
**Ushers:** Scott & Kelly Heinrich  
**Altar Guild:** The Keblish Family  
**Flowers:**  
**Bulletins:**  
**Communion Bread:**  
**Website:** Anonymous Donor  
**Times News Ad:** Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

**Worship Service 10:15 AM**

**September 10, 2023 COMMUNION**

**Assisting Minister:** Krissy Keblish  
**Ushers:** Ron Keblish w/Taylor, Terry Holland  
**Altar Guild:** The Keblish Family  
**Bulletins:** Betsy & Dale Hart  
**Communion Bread:** Betsy & Dale Hart  
**Website:** Anonymous Donor  
**Times News Ad:** Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

**Worship Service 10:15 AM**

**September 17, 2023 COMMUNION**

**Assisting Minister:** Debbie Hansut  
**Ushers:** Carol Heffelfinger & Loren LaRose  
**Altar Guild:** The Keblish Family  
**Flowers:** Larry & Sue Arner  
**Bulletins:** Barb Herman  
**Communion Bread:**  
**Website:** Anonymous Donor  
**Times News Ad:** Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

**Worship Service 10:15 AM**

**September 24, 2023 COMMUNION**

**Assisting Minister:** Larry Arner  
**Ushers:** Richard & Jeanette Hyer  
**Altar Guild:** The Keblish Family  
**Flowers:** The Sosik Family  
**Bulletins:** Barb & Joe Herman  
**Communion Bread:**  
**Website:** Anonymous donor  
**Times News Ad:** Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

**Worship Service 10:15 AM**

**You can also join us on Facebook live for Sunday worship**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

Children's special involvement in worship is postponed until the children can participate safely.



**Children's Sermon**

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

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

**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	

**FINANCIAL PERSONNEL**

Larry Arner	Treasurer
Carol Heffelfinger	Financial Sec.

**FINANCE**

<b>Jul. Monthly Envelope Offering:</b>	\$ 12,671
<b>Jul. St. Matthews Pastoral Service</b>	\$ 3,308
<b>Jul. Additional Income</b>	\$ 1,328
<b>Jul. Monthly Expenses:</b>	\$ 11,741
<b>Attendance:</b>	
<b>July 2, 2023</b>	30
<b>July 9, 2023</b>	35
<b>July 16, 2023</b>	32
<b>July 23, 2023</b>	36
<b>July 30, 2023</b>	39





**CHOIR NEWS**

Choir rehearsals begin on September 3rd at 11:30 am. following the service. Please consider joining us. There are robes just your size waiting in the choir room.  
Bells will rehearse Wednesdays at 7PM-7:45PM, beginning on September 13th.



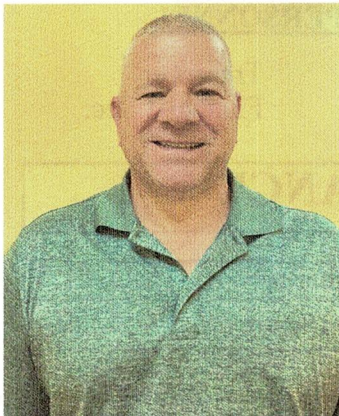
**SNAPPLE FACTS**



No two lip impressions are the same.  
It took Leonardo da Vinci 12 years to paint the lips of the Mona Lisa.

Sip on some knowledge. Most of these are the Real Facts1

**MEET THE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**



Say hello to Ted LaRizzio. He will be in the office Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9AM-1PM. Feel free to stop in and say hello.


# Palmerton Festival



The Festival is September 8-10. There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex for baking and working the stand. You can also email [htlcoppa@ptd.net](mailto:htlcoppa@ptd.net) or call the office at 610-826-2524 to volunteer.



We received this thank you from the United Way of Berks County for our donation to the R.M. Palmer Candy Co.

25 North 2nd Street  
Suite 101  
Reading, PA 19601  
610-685-4550

www.uwberks.org



United Way of Berks County

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
Pastor Michael Frost  
502 Lafayette Avenue  
Palmerton, PA 18071



August 16, 2023

Dear Pastor Frost,

Berks County is a special community in many ways; this was especially evident in the wake of the tragedy that struck R.M. Palmer and the West Reading area earlier this year. You, along with more than 1,900 individuals, families and organizations across the county, and country, shared your concern and generosity with those impacted by the tragedy. We are grateful for your donation to the West Reading Disaster Relief Fund.

Just over \$1,000,000 was donated to the fund since it was established on March 25, 2023 by the Berks County Community Foundation and United Way of Berks County. Thanks to the incredible support you and others shared, \$990,000 has been distributed to the families of those who died and to those displaced from their home. In addition, a small portion of the fund will be used by West Reading Borough to create a tribute honoring both the memory of those impacted and the heroic efforts of first responders.

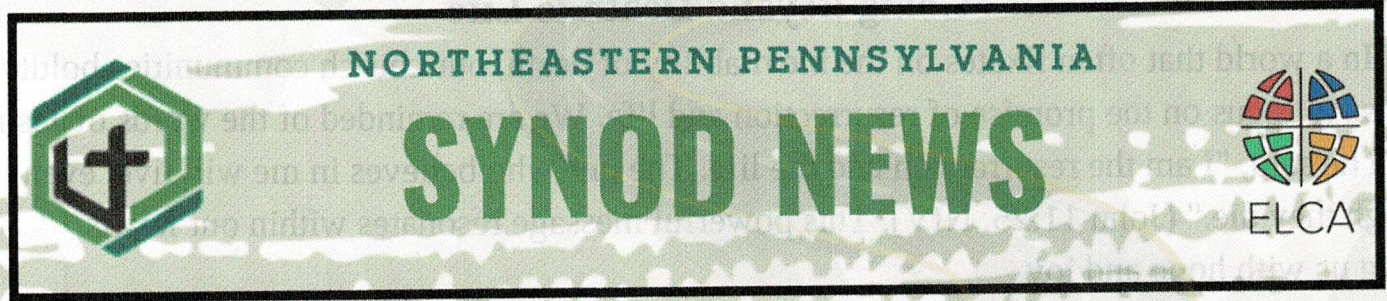
As we reached out to the families of the deceased and those who were displaced from their homes, they expressed their sincere gratitude for the kind-heartedness of strangers as they coped with the unthinkable. We were also asked to share the following: "The Palmer family personally thanks you for the support you have shown for all the Palmer associates and the West Reading community. We are overwhelmed by everybody's generosity." Your compassion has helped individuals and families during their greatest time of need. Our hope is the funding has eased some of the burden during this difficult time as they cope with their loss. On behalf of those individuals receiving your support, thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Sincerely,

Tammy White  
President

*We are grateful for your kind support. Thank you*





## THE THREE ROADS TO VITALITY

As we gather together in the embrace of faith and fellowship throughout the synod (from assemblies, worship, ordinations, anniversaries, and to other synod-wide events) we are reminded of the powerful journey we are on as a Church with a capital C. Our commitment to Christ's teachings has allowed us to evolve beyond mere existence and instead embrace life abundantly. Throughout our synod over the past few years, we've been celebrating three key phrases that define our thriving communities: Growing Young, Stronger Together, and Going Beyond Death to Life.

### **Growing Young**

Embracing life is not limited to any particular age group; it is a concept that transcends generations. We are proud to be a church that nurtures an intergenerational atmosphere, where the wisdom of our elders and the enthusiasm of our youth combine to create a vibrant and dynamic community.

In the teachings of Jesus, we find the encouragement to become like children, embracing a childlike faith that is open, eager, and receptive to God's grace. Our thriving churches have taken this message to heart, fostering an environment that allows every member, regardless of age, to experience spiritual growth and development, to participate in leadership roles, and exude the various elements of the growing young wheel. In doing so, we not only remain young at heart but also enrich each other's lives by sharing diverse perspectives and experiences.

### **Stronger Together**

In unity, we discover strength. Our churches embody the spirit of togetherness, recognizing that we are bound by a shared faith and a common purpose. When we face challenges or trials, we do so as a united body, drawing support from one another, and standing firmly rooted in God's love.

As the Apostle Paul once wrote, "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ, we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." (Romans 12:4-5, NIV). This unity allows us to overcome obstacles, reach out to those in need, and fulfill our mission to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.



## Going Beyond Death to Life

In a world that often fixates on the inevitability of death, our church communities boldly choose to focus on the promise of resurrection and life. We are reminded of the words of Jesus when he said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die." (John 11:25, NIV). This powerful message resonates within our hearts, filling us with hope and joy.

As a Church and as individual churches, we understand that life is not confined to this earthly existence alone. Our spiritual journey extends beyond the boundaries of mortality, and we find solace in knowing that a greater, eternal life awaits us. By embracing this profound truth, we are empowered to live with purpose, spreading love, compassion, and the Gospel to all corners of the world.

As we continue to journey together as a church that goes beyond death to life, grows young, and stands stronger together, let us celebrate the joy of living in God's grace. We invite you to participate actively and fully in our synod's diverse ministries, outreach programs, and spiritual growth opportunities, as they allow us to deepen our understanding of God's love and make a lasting impact in the lives of others. Remember, the limitations of this world do not define us but rather by the boundless life that Christ offers us. Let us carry this message of hope and transformation into our communities, touching lives, and inspiring others to embrace the abundant life that comes through knowing and following Jesus.

May God bless each one of you abundantly, and may our churches continue to be a beacon of light, love, and life in a world that desperately needs it.

The Reverend Lauren Wolfe Blatt  
Director of Communication and Events, NEPS  
Pastor at Calvary Lutheran Church, Laureldale  
Pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Reading



GROWING YOUNG



GAINING STRENGTH



BEYOND DEATH TO LIFE