

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

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CHURCH SERVICE: 10:15 AM

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 610-826-2524

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From the Pastor's Desk – January 2024

“What Can I Give Him?”

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.”

¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

(Matthew 2:1-2, 10-12 NRSVUE)

***What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wiseman I would do my part'
Yet what can I give him? Give him my
heart.***

Christina G Rossetti, 1905

We've just come through the biggest season of gift-giving in the year. Most of us, I dare say, struggled to come up with ideas for a number of people among our family and friends. We feel the need to give everyone something, even when they don't really need anything and we can't come up with “the right thing” to give them. It's what we do. We have to give them something, right?

I've been working from that notion as I consider how to get more of our members involved in our church's life and ministry. It's about gifts – not the gifts we give but the gifts God has given us. The Apostle Paul writes quite a lot about spiritual gifts that God gives us as we work together to carry out the ministry of witness and service in our church and out into the community.

So often I hear folks tell me that they don't feel that they have gifts of any kind for service in the church. I beg to differ. Not all are called to be pastors or teachers. Not all have gifts for music, either singing or playing an instrument. In a former congregation, I had an active member, a church council member who was a middle school teacher. Clearly she had gifts for her calling in life but, as much as she taught a class of students every day, she could not/would not serve as a lector in church. She did many other things to benefit the life of that church but reading Scripture in the worship service was something she could not do.

What CAN you do? We need so many different tasks taken care of – things in our worship services and things during the week outside of worship. We need gifted leaders serving on church council and those with interests and abilities on our many committees (Worship & Music, Finance, Property, and others). We need new Worship Assistants to read the lessons and help with the distribution of the Sacrament. We need folks who love to sing to be a part of our choir.

In her beloved Christmas carol, Christina Rossetti asks the question: “What can I give him, poor as I am? That, so often, is our mindset. I'm poor. I don't have much. I can't do much. But you CAN. When our minds and hearts are set on offering God what we DO have and what we CAN do . . . there is so much we can offer to God in the life and ministry of our church.

It really is the truth of stewardship. So often we limit that word to money, to what we put in our envelopes each Sunday, but it's so much more than that – to time, talent, and treasure – as we used to say.

Here it is in the simplest, most basic terms – I need you – we need you – your church family needs you to do what you can. We need more Worship Assistants. We need committee members as we move into and

through this new year 2024. This is vitally important ministry for the good of your church.

Ask God in your daily prayers to show you how you can help your church. Please, ask me how you can help. You don't need to do everything, just that which you CAN do. Thank you for what you are doing and for letting me poke and prod just a little to bring about the growth in life and ministry we need.

Blessings to you and peace,
Pastor Mike

ANNIVERSARIES

January 18
Robert & Connie Reinhart
60 years—Congratulations!!!

**WE WISH YOU A
HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**

- | | |
|------------|------------------|
| 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 27 | Mia Samok |
| January 28 | Barbara Herman |
| January 28 | Jeanette Hyer |
| January 30 | Lori Zellers |

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



Bible Study



BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Mondays at St. Matthew's from 1:30—3:00 PM
Here at Holy Trinity on Thursdays from 10:30AM—
Noon in the Adult Ed. Room.
Please feel free to join either of these. No experience necessary.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January 7, 2024 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Rich Hyer
Ushers: Kelly & Scott Heinrich
Altar Guild: Deb Hansut & Gerry Dorshimer

Worship Service 10:15 AM

January 14, 2024 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Krissy Keblish
Ushers: Ron Keblish w/Taylor, Terry Holland
Altar Guild: Deb Hansut & Gerry Dorshimer

Worship Service 10:15 AM

January 21, 2024 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Larry Arner
Ushers: Loren LaRose, Carol Heffelfinger
Altar Guild: Deb Hansut & Gerry Dorshimer

Worship Service 10:15 AM

January 28, 2024 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Debbie Hansut
Ushers: Richard & Jeanette Hyer
Altar Guild: Deb Hansut & Gerry Dorshimer

Worship Service 10:15 AM

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Mike will have children's sermons on the second Sunday of each month.



ADMINISTRATION

**OFFICE
HOURS**

9am - 1pm

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, **January 28, 2024** 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 15, 2024.**

HOLY TRINITY ACTION MINISTRIES

Tues. 9AM- 12:30 PM Thrift Shop

Please pick up a copy of *“Word in Season”* for Jan through March 2024. They are in the Narthex.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Jan 21 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting

COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Larry Arner
- Steve Berger
- Gerry Dorshimer
- Terry Holland
- Scott Heinrich
- Jon Kistler
- Jim Miller
- Eric Reif
- Ray Talamantes
- Karen Talamantes
- Krissy Keblish
- Ron Keblish

FINANCIAL PERSONNEL

- Larry Arner Treasurer
- Carol Heffelfinger Financial Sec.

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.

FINANCE

Nov. Monthly Envelope Offering:	\$ 7,276
Nov. St. Matthews Pastoral Service	\$ 0
Nov. Additional Income	\$ 6,478
Nov. Monthly Expenses:	\$10,584
Attendance:	
November 5, 2023	47
November 12, 2023	42
November 19, 2023	42
November 26, 2023	30

2024 SPONSOR SHEETS

Please sign up!

2024 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.**

2023 OFFERING STATEMENTS

Year-end giving statements for 2023 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.



‘Thank You’

A special ‘THANK YOU’ to all those who donated their time at Church related functions, assisted with Sunday Services as volunteers & generously helping to offset costs as a sponsor throughout the year.

January 2024

January 2024

February 2024

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			

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			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 31	Jan 1, 24 Office Hours 9am-1pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts	2 Office Hours 9am-1pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	3 Office Hours 9am-1pm	4 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room) 5:30pm Girl Scouts	5 Office Hours 9am-1pm	6
7 10:15am Worship Service in 3:00pm Girl Scouts 5:30pm Girl Scouts Troop 3112 (The old)	8 Office Hours 9am-1pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts	9 Office Hours 9am-1pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	10 Office Hours 9am-1pm	11 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room)	12 Office Hours 9am-1pm	13
14 10:15am Worship Service in Church & Zoom 3:00pm Girl Scouts	15 Office Hours 9am-1pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts	16 Office Hours 9am-1pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	17 Office Hours 9am-1pm	18 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room) 5:30pm Girl Scouts	19 Office Hours 9am-1pm	20
21 10:15am Worship 3:00pm Girl Scouts 5:30pm Girl Scouts Troop 6:30pm Council Meeting	22 Office Hours 9am-1pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts	23 Office Hours 9am-1pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	24 Office Hours 9am-1pm	25 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room) 5:30pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Camera Club - maybe zoom	26 Office Hours 9am-1pm	27
28 10:15am Worship Service in Church & Zoom 3:00pm Girl Scouts	29 Office Hours 9am-1pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts	30 Office Hours 9am-1pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	31 Office Hours 9am-1pm	Feb 1	2	3

POINSETTIA FLOWERS ARE
PRESENTED IN MEMORY OF:

Loved Ones - Eleanor Scheiter

Loved Ones - Debbie & Steve Hansut

Russell & Ann Feller - The Treskot Family

Alex & Jane Treskot - The Treskot Family

Paul & Martha Berger (Father & Mother) - Stephen Berger

Gene & Virginia Crachy, Ed Rusin - Lynn Perone

Our Family Members - Larry Arner

Miriam & Sylvester Turnbach - Barbara Turnbach

Parents - Rich & Jeanette Hyer

Sonny - Carol Steffelfinger

Ida Lichtenwalner, Marvin & Mary Spadt, Roy Horn - Josslyn, Alec,

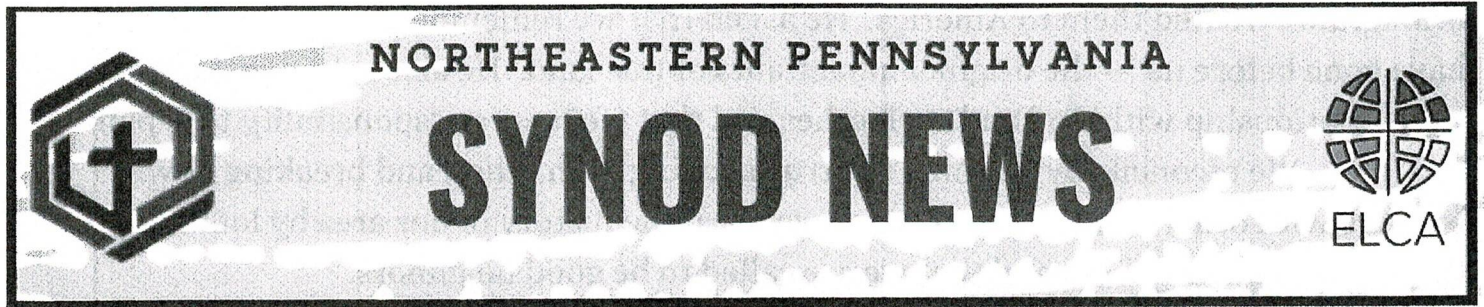
Sierra & Kira

POINSETTIA FLOWERS ARE
PRESENTED IN HONOR OF:

Glory to God - Charlotte Beers-Koenig

My Grandchildren - Lynn Perone

Private Intention - Gordon Walls



Worship in Collaboration with Oglala Sioux Nation

On November 12, 2023, St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Birdsboro, PA, held their annual Native American worship service in honor of November being Native American Heritage Month. I attended the worship service and wanted to share my experience with you.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church has a partnership with the Oglala Sioux Nation of Native Americans in Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota, one of the poorest communities in the United States, and has been supporting them in many ways with their giving and their prayers.

In the worship service, the English translations used for the liturgy were:

Creator as the name used for God

Creator-Sets-Free as the name used for Jesus

The Chosen One as the name used for Christ

The Great Spirit as the name used for the Holy Spirit

The music for the worship service had a Native American vibe, words, and theme involving the sacredness of nature and life.

Copal incense from Central and Southwestern North America was used during the service as Native Americans used for sacred services.



Pr. Jim Farnsworth's message was dedicated to Native Americans and how the new immigrants treated them to America. He asked that we remember and honor those who have gone before us -- the original inhabitants of this land. He also asked that we have a right relationship with God and each other and that we have a responsibility to repair relations. We reconcile by learning the truth, loving each other, and breaking down barriers with others. He suggested that we learn the history of our area by looking through the eyes of our neighbors and that we are called to be good neighbors.

- Charlotte Gross, Co-Coordinator,
Mission Interpretation Ministry

UPCOMING *events*

**FINDING HOLY FOCUS
IN HUNGERING TIMES**
BISHOP'S CONFERENCE 2024
FEBRUARY 6-7, 2024

PRESENTED BY:
NEPI SYNOD

2024

*FOR ALL ROSTERED LEADERS AND SYNOD AUTHORIZED LAY MINISTERS

**GENEROSITY
EXTRAVAGANZA
TOOLS FOR TODAY**

JANUARY 20, 2024

LEARNING MINISTRIES DAY 2024

Trusting God: +
Doing a New Thing

JANUARY 27, 2024 (SNOW DATE FEBRUARY 3)
ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH, WYONISSING, PA

this year