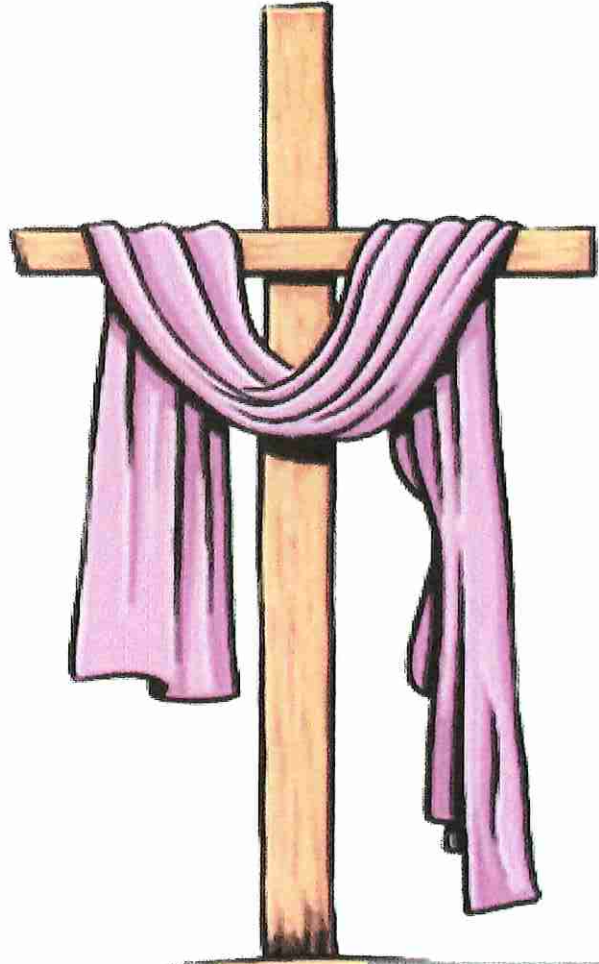


HOLY TRINITY NEWS

FEBRUARY 2024

VOLUME 59 NO. 02

The Season of Lent



CHURCH SERVICE : 10:15 AM

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
502 LAFAYETTE AVE. PALMERTON, PA 18071
E-MAIL
FACEBOOK
REV. MICHAEL FROST
PASTOR E-MAIL ADDRESS

610-826-2524

htlcoppa@ptd.net

[facebook.com/HolyTrinityPalmerton](https://www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityPalmerton)

570-620-8189

htpastor@ptd.net

February 2024

February 2024							March 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3						1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
25	26	27	28	29			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 28	29	30	31	Feb 1 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room) 5:30pm Girl Scouts	2 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	3
4 10:15am Worship Service in Church and 3:15pm Girl Scouts (Small room attached to)	5 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts	6 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	7 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	8 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room)	9 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	10
11 10:15am Worship Service in 3:15pm Girl Scouts (Small room) 5:30pm Girl Scouts Troop	12 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts	13 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	14 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	15 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room) 5:30pm Girl Scouts	16 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	17
18 10:15am Worship Service in Church and 3:15pm Girl Scouts (Small room attached to)	19 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts	20 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	21 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	22 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room) 7:00pm Camera Club	23 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	24
25 10:15am Worship Service in 3:15pm Girl Scouts (Small room) 5:30pm Girl Scouts Troop	26 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts	27 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	28 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	29 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room) 5:30pm Girl Scouts	Mar 1	2

From the Pastor's Desk – February 2024

“Ashes in the Shape of a Heart?”

¹⁷ *To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’*

“Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.

¹⁸ *It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.*

¹⁹ *By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”*

(Genesis 3:17-19 NIV)

Ashes are a powerful symbol throughout the Scriptures. They speak of grief. They speak of loss. They speak of penitence. In the Book of Job we find them first as a sign of everything Job had lost. In all that he had suffered . . . “Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes.” At the end of the book, after Job has been confronted by God and humbled in the encounter, he says, “Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.”

It is out of this tradition that the Church has come to use the language of ashes in our funeral liturgies: ***“In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God our brother/sister _____, and we commit his/her body to its resting place; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.”***

We are finite creatures before the infinite God. We are mortal beings before the immortal God. As with Adam, so with us. We will die and return to the ground . . . for dust we are and to dust we will return.

So . . . Ash Wednesday. We begin the season of Lent with this ancient tradition that our foreheads are marked with ash in the sign of the cross as we hear the words, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” In this liturgy, in this smudge of ash, we are reminded of our mortality. In this liturgy, in this smudge of ash, we are reminded of the cost of Adam’s sin and of our own sin. We will surely die.

By a curious coincidence of the calendar here in 2024, Ash Wednesday falls on February 14th, the date on which we celebrate Valentine’s Day. How do we put these two commemorations together? Should the smudge of ash on our foreheads be in the shape of a heart this year? (Please understand that I’m kidding. Please.) The truth is, of course, that the shape of a cross is itself all about love and the lengths to which God’s love for sinners has gone.

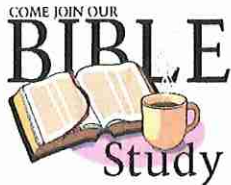
St. Valentine was, according to tradition, a 3rd Century priest (or bishop) who, against the decree of the emperor, ministered to persecuted Christians serving in the military of the Roman Empire and was martyred and buried on the 14th of February. It is said that, in his correspondence, he signed letters simply, Your Valentine. The Church has observed The Feast of St. Valentine since at least the eighth century.

So . . . Ash Wednesday and the beginning of yet another Lenten season is before us. Remember your mortality. Remember your sin. But all the more remember the love of God for you and for all sinners. For you Jesus gave up life and all things so that you might be reconciled in love to the Father.

Blessings to you and peace,
Pastor Mike

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

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



HOLY TRINITY ACTION MINISTRIES

Tuesday 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 18 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting

2024 SPONSOR SHEETS

Please sign up!

2024 sponsor sheets are on the bulletin board outside the office: **Flowers \$25, Weekly Bulletin \$10, Communion Bread \$2.50, and Altar Guild.**

SPONSORS

- Flowers
 - 2/04/24 Ann Eckhart
 - 2/11/24 Valerie Kleppinger (14th Birthday)
 - 2/18/24 Sponsor Needed
 - 2/25/24 Ann Eckhart
- Communion Bread
 - Sponsors Needed for February
- Bulletins
 - 2/04/23 The Reif's 24th Anniversary
 - 2/11/24 Sponsor Needed
 - 2/18/24 Sponsor Needed
 - 2/25/24 Sponsor Needed
- Altar Guild
 - Sponsors Needed for February



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

February 05 Eric & Lizzie Reif 24 years
February 14 Andrew & Stacy Hollywood 10 years



WE WISH YOU A HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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 14	Valerie Kleppinger
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

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



9am-1pm

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 4, 2024 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Scouts/Larry Arner

Ushers: Scott & Kelly Heinrich

Altar Guild:

Worship Service 10:15 AM

**February 11, 2024 COMMUNION
CHILDREN'S SERVICE**

Assisting Minister: Krissy Keblish

Ushers: Ron Keblish w/Taylor, Terry Holland

Altar Guild:

Worship Service 10:15 AM

**February 14, 2024 Ash Wednesday
Service @ St. Matthews**

Worship Service 7:00 PM

February 18, 2024 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Vicky Holland

Ushers: Loren LaRose, Carol Heffelfinger

Altar Guild:

Worship Service 10:15 AM

**February 21, 2024 Midweek Lenten Service
@ Holy Trinity**

Worship Service 7:00 PM

February 25, 2024 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Lynn Perone

Ushers: Rich & Jeanette Hyer

Altar Guild:

Worship Service 10:15 AM

**February 28, 2024 Midweek Lenten Service
@ St. Matthews**

Worship Service 7:00 PM



**LENTEN SERVICES - ALL SERVICES ARE AT
7:00 PM**

Feb 14 Ash Wednesday at St. Matthew's

Feb 21 Lenten Service at Holy Trinity

Feb 28 Lenten Service at St. Matthew's

Mar 06 Lenten Service at Holy Trinity

Mar 13 Lenten Service at St. Matthew's

Mar 20 Lenten Service at Holy Trinity

Mar 28 Maundy Thursday at St. Matthew's

Mar 29 Good Friday at Holy Trinity



COUNCIL MEMBERS

Terry Holland

Jon Kistler

Karen Talamantes

Larry Arner

Steve Berger

Gerry Dorshimer

Scott Heinrich

Krissy Keblish

Ron Keblish

Jim Miller

Eric Reif

Ray Talamantes

President

Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

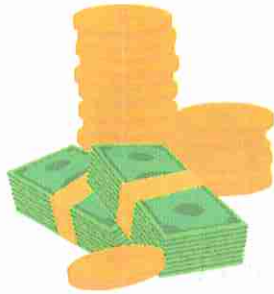
FINANCIAL PERSONNEL

Larry Arner

Carol Heffelfinger

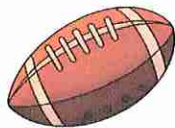
Treasurer

Financial Sec.



FINANCE

Dec. Monthly Envelope Offering:	\$ 14,055
Dec. St. Matthews Pastoral Service	\$ 6,617
Dec. Additional Income	\$ 1,388
Dec. Monthly Expenses:	\$ 11,822
Attendance:	
Dec. 03, 2023	43
Dec. 10, 2023	37
Dec. 17, 2023	N/A
Dec. 24, 2023 & 7PM Candlelight	42 & 72
Dec. 31, 2023	42



5th ANNUAL SUPERBOWL PARTY

February 11 at 5:00 PM

Pizza and snacks will be offered. Please feel free to bring a dish to share and a comfy chair if you like. Come cheer on your favorite team! And for the non-football folks there are always plenty of games to play at the party.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—Thank You Note

The ELCA sent a note of thanks to the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Congregation for their generous monetary gift of \$400 for World Hunger.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Bus Trip

SIGHT AND SOUND THEATRE “DANIEL” BUS TRIP

Thursday, April 11, 2024 _Bus departs at 8am from Trinity.

Cost per person: \$150 (Age 13+); \$90 (Age 4-12); \$75 (Age 3)

(Price includes transportation, theatre ticket and meal at Miller's Smorgasbord)

The seats are in the first raised section near the middle of the theatre.

****Seating is limited to 32 passengers****

Payment due by Friday, February 22nd

Call the church office at 610-377-4303 to reserve your seat or for more information.

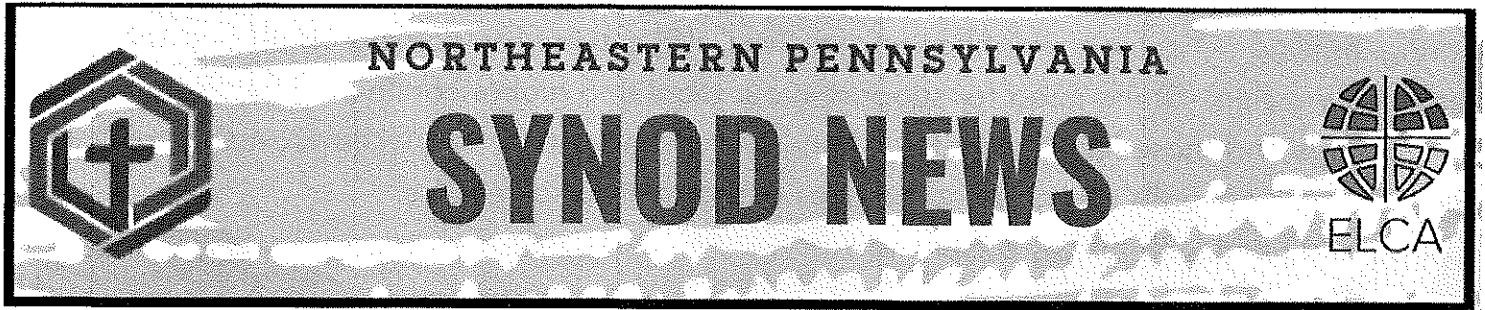
Checks are made payable to TELC

Trinity's Mission Statement: "Living the excitement found in Christ through service and love."

Beverly Mills - Office Secretary

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

175 S. Third Street, Lehighton, PA 18235-2029. Office: 610-377-4303 Cell: 484-695-9242



Advent Shares: Hope Out Loud

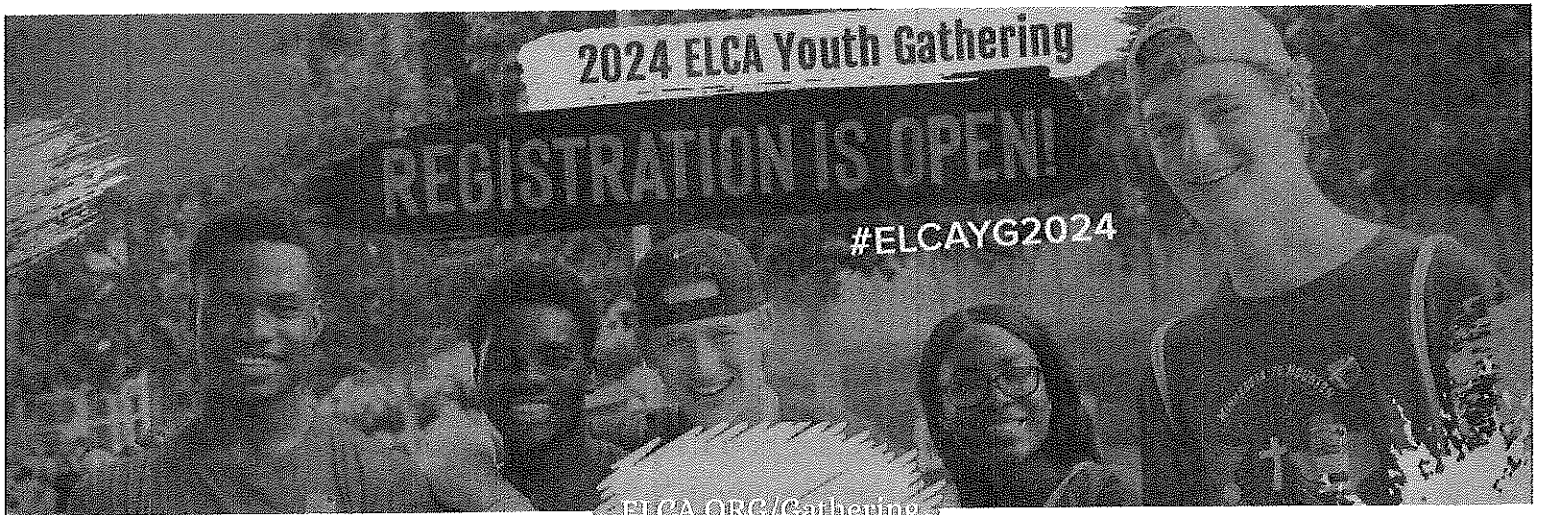
Support from the HOL! (Hope Out Loud!) Capital Campaign saw Advent members participate in dozens of projects - some new, some one-time; some existing ministries were expanded or refreshed. The dedicated members of Advent who truly care about people in need were very active and supportive. One member shared: "When I had some tough years, my church came through for me! That experience changed me in big ways. I vowed that I would get involved more and & pay it forward". Helping others has made me a happier Christian." There are so many completed (and ongoing!) projects. These ministries are wide-ranging and varied - food, clothing, shelter, blankets, books, and prayers. Cookies at Christmastime.

Advent members help men, women, babies, children, people in prison, people in recovery from addictions, hungry people - in our community, our country, and around the world. Members have said that they feel joy in providing the services and the looks on the faces of the recipients reinforce joy there too. Some of the projects receive seed money from Thrivent Action Teams. Some of our favorite ministries and activities are Bombas Socks donations, books and Bibles for Berks County Prison, Christmas Cookies for Common Ground, the Hungry Yard Sale, Family Promise, our Little Free Library and Little Free Pantry, the (new in 2020) Prayer Team, and the many clothing drives.

As one example of the positive impact in the community: The Little Free Pantry was filled and emptied on the same day. We cannot keep it filled fast enough. Through our \$250.00 Thrivent Action Team sponsorship by members of different committees, we can grocery shop and fill our shelves in Advent's grocery shelves. We fill up my grocery cart three times a week and go outside to our Little Free Pantry. Within hours it had been emptied. Praise God for Thrivent and Advent's church members in helping fill our community's bellies with happiness through our wonderful blessed giving! Another goal of the HOL! The campaign was to increase the use of technology in our church life. In the middle of the pandemic, we premiered a fresh, beautiful, new website to tell people about Advent - reaching out in a modern way to share God's word and work with our neighbors, friends, and people who want to learn about God. This new website increases our visibility in the community and provides valuable information for members and visitors alike. Seeing new people attend and join our church brings



joy, creating more of a sense of “community”. We continue to be inspired by: 1) Jesus’ examples of sharing, healing – “love our neighbor as ourselves”, (2) a thirst for learning about our faith through study and worship, (3) the need for support in our local and global community, (4) Reflection on our blessings and those less fortunate, (5) and, socializing with others while providing service. Members think Advent’s sermons and services explicitly help to keep us inspired and filled with the joy of serving.



Reconsiderations Task Force for Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust

The 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly authorized two reconsiderations of the social statement Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust. A task force will begin working in 2024 to lead this five-year process of discernment. Information is available about the reconsiderations and task force expectations. Apply or nominate

