

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

DECEMBER 2024

VOLUME 59 NO. 12



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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December 2024

December 2024							January 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 1 10:15am Worship Service in 5:00pm Girl Scouts Troop 3112 (Girl) 6:00pm Girl Scouts Troop	2 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 41 (Parish Hall - Scout Room, Larry Arner)	3 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	4 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 5:45pm Girl Scouts Troop 301 (Fellowship Hall)	5 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room)	6 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	7 2:00pm Wedding in the Church (Church)
8 10:15am Worship Service in Church and 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 348 (New Girl Scout Room)	9 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 41 (Parish Hall - Scout Room, Larry Arner)	10 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	11 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	12 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room)	13 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 5:30pm Christmas Caroling	14 Thrift Shop Christmas Shopping
15 10:15am Worship 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 5:00pm Girl Scouts Troop 6:00pm Girl Scouts Troop	16 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 41 (Parish Hall - Scout Room, Larry Arner)	17 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	18 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	19 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room) 5:45pm Girl Scouts Troop 301 (GS) 7:00pm Camera Club	20 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	21
22 10:15am Worship Service - Christmas 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 348 (New Girl Scout Room)	23 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 41 (Parish Hall - Scout Room, Larry Arner)	24 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	25 Merry Christmas	26 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room)	27 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	28
29 10:15am Worship 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 5:00pm Girl Scouts Troop 6:00pm Girl Scouts Troop	30 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 41 (Parish Hall - Scout Room, Larry Arner)	31 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	Jan 1, 25	2	3	4

From the Pastor's Desk – December 2024

“Hope in the Lord”

¹³ When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, ¹⁴ saying, “I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.” ¹⁵ And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

¹⁶ People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. ¹⁷ Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. ¹⁸ God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. ¹⁹ We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, ²⁰ where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.
(Hebrews 6:13-20 NIV)

Welcome to Advent! If there is a single season in the church year that we just don't understand, surely it is Advent. This year the Advent season runs day for day with the month of December, the first Sunday being December 1st. As we all know all too well, the world has been in Christmas mode since (if not before) the Halloween candy and costumes were pulled off the shelves. Our daughter told us this past Saturday (Nov. 9) that Sirius XM Satellite Radio had already started running their Christmas music stations. NO! I have not and will not be listening to them for many weeks, well into December.

What is Advent? Advent is characterized by John the Baptizer, telling the people of God to prepare their hearts, their minds, and their lives for the coming of God's long promised Redeemer, the Messiah. We don't begin the celebration until we have gotten ourselves properly prepared for the One who is coming. We wait, but that waiting is far from passive.

The theme of Advent is HOPE. Because we know the nature of God and the love God has for us in the One who comes, the One whose Incarnation we will celebrate, we wait and we prepare with hope rather than fear in our hearts. As we read (above) from Hebrews 6: ***“. . . we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf.”*** Our hope is not in our own faith. Our hope is not in the things of this world. Our hope is surely NOT in the result of elections or in the earthly leaders that have been elected. Our hope is in the Lord and in what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. Our hope is in the love that God has for us and for the world. In I John 4 we read that perfect love cast out fear. So, we don't look at either the

present or the future in fear. We do not allow despair to rob us of the peace and the joy we have in Christ.

In these days following the election, there are some who are flying high, excited about what is to come in a new administration. At the same time, there are some who are filled with dread for their own situation or of what is to come for certain populations who have been spoken and acted against.

Just this afternoon I had a Facebook conversation with an old friend who is afraid of the coming political realities, shall we say. She is afraid of what is to come. I try very hard to caution against fear. Here's how I replied to her:

"All due respect, old friend, but if Christ is Lord, Trump isn't. Neither would Harris have been. We don't have reason for hope if our candidate wins and we don't give up that hope and fall into despair because the other candidate won.

I still wake up, say my prayers that God's will be done through me and through all God's people and by God's own sovereign power. Then I get about the business that God has given me to do in the world. I don't let my fear paralyze me or rob me of that peace and joy that is rooted in the love God has poured into me and into Christ's Church. I get busy loving my neighbor and even my enemies (as God empowers me, for I cannot do it in my own power). I care for those in need, striving to do more if that is called for as I have concerns that others in authority might abandon some of the most needy.

I am not blind to the concerns that so many are raising but I will not give up my peace and my joy out of fear."

I'm as political as the next person but my hope is not in the political process or in our elected leaders. Last Sunday we read from Psalm 146: **"Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help. When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish."** The first Christians, the early Church, lived out their faith in the middle of a pagan empire that in no way supported their faith or their moral values. They did so regardless of who was in charge in the world. As Jesus taught, they rendered "unto Caesar what was Caesar's and to God what was God's." As the apostles declared to the religious authorities who had arrested them, "We must obey God rather than any human authority."

It is Advent and our hope is in the Lord who comes to us, the One who gave everything, accepting his own death on the cross, that we might be reconciled to God. We live with hope. We live with peace and even joy that comes from within our hearts that have been transformed by the gracious saving love of God in Jesus Christ.

Blessings to you and peace in Jesus.

Your Partner in Ministry,

Pastor Mike

**HOLY TRINITY ACTION
MINISTRY**

**THRIFT SHOP:
Tues. 9am-12:30pm**



ANNIVERSARIES

Glenn & Sherry Bishop 32 Years

BIRTHDAYS

December 05 Debbie Solt
 December 11 Patty Kripper
 December 11 Kelly Sosik-Hamor
 December 12 Victor Jahelka
 December 16 Zacary Reif
 December 17 William Zeky
 December 19 Taylor Keblish
 December 19 Kirk LaRose
 December 20 Christopher Fredericks
 December 21 Jean M. Fritzing
 December 25 Ann Eckhart
 December 25 LaRae Fink
 December 28 Lynn Perone
 December 29 Lucy Brown

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9AM-1PM

**ANNUAL MEETING
DECEMBER 15th**

Following the service, we will hold our annual end of the year congregational meeting for the adoption of the church budget for 2025 and the election of members to the Church Council. Your attendance and participation in this important meeting are requested.



COUNCIL MEMBERS

Terry Holland	President
Jon Kistler	Vice-President
Karen Talamantes	Secretary
Larry Arner	Treasurer
Jim Miller	Asst. Treasurer
Steve Berger	
Gerry Dorshimer	
Scott Heinrich	
Krissy Keblish	
Ron Keblish	
Eric Reif	
Ray Talamantes	

FINANCIAL PERSONNEL

Larry Arner	Treasurer
Carol Heffelfinger	Financial Sec.

COUNCIL MEETING

December 15 6:30pm

FINANCE & ATTENDANCE

Oct. Monthly Envelope Offering:	\$ 5,334
Oct. St. Matthews Pastoral Service	\$ 3,300
Oct. Additional Income	\$ 6,105
Oct. Monthly Expenses:	\$ 11,697
Attendance:	
October 06, 2024	36
October 13, 2024	25
October 20, 2024	37
October 27, 2024	43



WORSHIP SCHEDULE 10-15 AM

DECEMBER 01, 2024 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Rich Hyer
Ushers: Kelly & Scott Heinrich
Altar Guild: Deb Hansut & Gerry Dorshimer
Flowers: Vicky Holland – IHO Jim’s Birthday
Bulletins: In Honor of Taylor Keblish
Communion Bread: Morris & Suzanne Bloomfield
Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

DECEMBER 08, 2024 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Krissy Keblish
Ushers: Ron Keblish w/Taylor, Terry Holland
Altar Guild: Deb Hansut & Gerry Dorshimer
Flowers: The Sosik Family – Kelly’s Birthday
Bulletins: In Honor of Taylor Keblish
Communion Bread: Morris & Suzanne Bloomfield
Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

DECEMBER 15, 2024 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Deb Hansut
Ushers: Carol Heffelfinger & Loren LaRose
Altar Guild: Deb Hansut & Gerry Dorshimer
Flowers: In Honor of Taylor’s Birthday
Bulletins: In Honor of Taylor Keblish
Communion Bread: Morris & Suzanne Bloomfield
Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

DECEMBER 22, 2024 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Larry Arner
Ushers: Rich & Jeanette Hyer
Altar Guild: Deb Hansut & Gerry Dorshimer
Flowers: The Sosik Family – IMO Loved Ones
Bulletins: In Honor of Taylor Keblish
Communion Bread: Morris & Suzanne Bloomfield
Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer



DECEMBER 24, 2024 COMMUNION

Candlelight Service 10pm

Assisting Minister: Krissy Keblish
Ushers: Ron Keblish w/Taylor
Altar Guild: Deb Hansut & Gerry Dorshimer
Flowers: Poinsettia Sponsors
Bulletins: In Honor of Taylor Keblish
Communion Bread: Morris & Suzanne Bloomfield
Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

DECEMBER 29, 2024 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Deb Hansut
Ushers: Gordon & Mary Walls
Altar Guild: Deb Hansut & Gerry Dorshimer
Flowers: Larry & Susan Arner
Bulletins: In Honor of Taylor Keblish
Communion Bread: Morris & Suzanne Bloomfield
Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Pastor Mike will have a children’s sermon on the second Sunday of each month.

Bible Study

Mondays 1:30 PM - 3 PM at St. Matthew’s
Thursdays 10:30 AM - Noon at Holy Trinity

HOME VISITS

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





TRICK OR TREAT!

Trick or treat night was another success this year. We managed to hand out close to 1,000 bags filled with candy to many thankful super heroes, movie characters and traditional Halloweeners alike. Even 4-legged beasts (woof woof) enjoyed special treats handed out by Big John, Jess and Mary, Steve Berger's sister.

Mary Berger's friend, Mary, sold tickets for our bazaar at the stand, while her husband, John, transported hot chocolate from the kitchen. Steve and Mr Delich served those delicious hot beverages to adults and big kids. Val and Krissy busied themselves in the kitchen preparing large batches of potion (hot chocolate), LOL! Ron, Evan and Ray bravely directed traffic at the intersection, ensuring the safety of those crossing streets. Karen and Mrs Delich handed out treat bags and were met with many 😊😊😊. Halloween-themed music accompanied what you could only imagine a perfect scene for trick or treating.

Thank you sincerely, to everyone who helped to make the night a success by donating their time, offering monetary donations and candy baggers, including Sara and Mia, along with Taylor, her boyfriend Matthew and friend, Kylie.

SAVE THE DATE!

Super Bowl Party
February 9, 2025

More info
coming
soon!



CHILDREN'S SHOPPING 2024

The ever-popular Children's shopping will take place on Dec. 14, 2024. From 9:00 to noon. Families can register as they enter the Fellowship Hall. Each family will be given a number in order to keep the 'first come-first served' order. The gifts will still be offered for 25¢ each. Moms and Dads can wrap the gifts before taking them home. There will be refreshments. Hand sanitizer will be readily available in many locations. This shopping day gives children the opportunity to find nice gifts for their families and friends. This shopping day is one of our best community outreach programs. We have been doing this long enough that little trick-or-treaters from the early years are bringing their children to join in on the fun.

So. What can the congregation do to help with this project? We need gifts for men and teenage boys – think after shave, boxes of candy, small tools, earbuds, packs of batteries, etc. Sports memorabilia is always popular. Gifts for teenage girls might include cute purses, hair bands or barrettes, perfume, etc. Coloring books that are still not colored in are good. We have lots of stuffed animals. We do not need wrapping paper, bows, or cards this year. But gift bags will certainly help speed up the wrapping process. The most popular gifts are Christmas decorations and knick-knacks. We also need volunteers to register families, direct traffic, and help our young customers find what they are looking for. Volunteers should be at the Fellowship Hall at 8:30. Please call Connie at 610-509-9873 if you have questions.

Once again, shopping will be on Saturday, December 14 from 9:00 to noon. Children from 5-12 years old are welcome. As usual, they may buy one gift for each person on their list for only 25¢.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Falalalala. Lalalala! Come one come all. On Friday, December 13th, we will have an evening of caroling in the neighborhood. At 5:30 PM, we will enjoy pizza and snacks in the church parish hall, and then stroll the neighborhood for caroling. We will return to the parish hall for dessert. Please bring a sweet treat...and a friend or two or three, to be enjoyed by all!





A Call to Serve: Bishop deForest on Living Faithfully in Today's World

"I may be saved for all eternity, just like all of you [in worship this morning]. But I want my first moments in eternity to be surrounded more by people I helped than by people I hurt; by more celebration than condemnation; and by a Jesus more glad at me than mad at me."

This excerpt from Bishop Christopher deForest's sermon, preached during a service at Maiden creek in Blandon on November 10, captures the heart of his message.

The Gospel lectionary for November 10 was Mark 12:38-44, where Jesus observes people putting money into the temple treasury, noticing a poor widow contributing two small copper coins—all she had to live on. Jesus explains to his disciples that the widow has put in more than all the others, as she gave out of her poverty, while they gave out of their wealth.



Bishop Christopher deForest preaching and worshipping at Maiden creek, Blandon on Nov 10, 2024

Bishop deForest focused his sermon on Lutheranism, particularly since that Sunday was also Martin Luther's birthday. "Martin Luther himself would likely say that this story from the Gospel of Mark is a great example of the kind of things that got Luther all worked up in the first place," said Bishop deForest. He argued that Jesus would not want us just to "be like the widow" or celebrate "sacrificial giving" or "cheerful givers" as illustrated by the widow. Rather, he pointed out that Jesus was expressing strong anger at a system that ignored the plight of the poor and those harmed by economic inequalities and injustice. Bishop deForest compared Jesus' angry response in the Gospel of Mark to the time when Jesus overturned the tables in the temple.

He also paralleled the recent election with Jesus' reaction to the widow's offering. "Lots of people voted, in similar anger. They – or someone they love, care about, feel concern for – are being forgotten," he noted. He reminded us that regardless of political affiliations, Christ died and came to save all of us. Quoting John 3:16, he said, "God so loved the world, that God gave God's only son, that everyone who believes in him, may not perish but may have eternal life." He emphasized, "Eternal life. Forever. Which I will spend, with these same folks. On all sides." That includes the widows and the scribes. The elites and the forgotten. The celebrities and the nobodies.



Bishop deForest concluded his sermon with a call to action: "While we're still here, and we can still offer love like Jesus, healing like Jesus, and side-by-side engagement like Jesus – with our friends and enemies, strangers and neighbors – well then, Jesus calls us out, the same as all his disciples – to get to work, while we can."

To read Bishop Christopher deForest's full sermon in his recent "On The Way" blog visit godsllove.org/onthewaynov11

Submitted by: Stacey Burke, NEPA Synod Communications & Growing Young Coordinator

Learning Ministries' Day



January 25, 2025

8:30am-3:30pm

Sponsored by the NEPS Faith Formation Resource Ministry Team

Jordan Lutheran Church, Orefield

godsllove.org/LMD

"What does it mean to be a Christian in a culture that challenges our faith?"

Registration information available soon