

HOLY TRINITY

NEWS

JANUARY 2025

VOLUME 60 NO. 1



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

610-826-2524

502 LAFAYETTE AVENUE, PALMERTON, PA 18071

E-MAIL

htlcoppa@ptd.net

FACEBOOK

facebook.com/HolyTrinityPalmerton

WEB PAGE

www.HolyTrinityPalmerton.org

REV. MICHAEL FROST

570-620-8189

PASTOR E-MAIL ADDRESS

htpastor@ptd.net

January 2025

January 2025

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	

February 2025

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23	24	25	26	27	28	

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

From the Pastor's Desk – January 2025

“Hope in the Lord”

- ³ *You turn us back to dust
and say, “Turn back, you mortals.”*
- ⁴ *For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past
or like a watch in the night.*
- ⁵ *You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;*
- ⁶ *in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.*
- ⁷ *For we are consumed by your anger;
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.*
- ⁸ *You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.*
- ⁹ *For all our days pass away under your wrath;
our years come to an end like a sigh.*
- ¹⁰ *The days of our life are seventy years
or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;
even then their span is only toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.*

(Psalm 90:3-10 NRSV-UE)

“Three score years and ten” – That’s the way Psalm 90 described the span of human life way back in the day. Generously, the Psalmist allows that, if we are strong, we might live to four score. This comes to mind as we turn the calendar to 2025, since this is the year in which I will reach that three score years and ten. It’s silly to say this, of course, but this is the oldest I’ve ever been. Here’s the question – Is 70 years old really old? What is the “normal” span of human life in these present days? Ginny’s Aunt Myra is 101. My dad will celebrate his 97th birthday next month. Ginny’s mom is 90. By those standards, me moving toward my 70th birthday seems nothing to worry about, doesn’t it? I’ve been told for many years now that I’m still young by some of you in both congregations who are well into your 80s and 90s.

The Psalmist compares our lives to the eternity of God’s existence. “A thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past.” Set alongside the infinite nature of God, our lives are like the grass or a flower in the field which grows and withers in mere days. I’m ever more convinced that it is important for us to acknowledge and, if at all possible, understand the transcendent nature and glory of God. In truth, the LORD is beyond our ability to comprehend. God’s divine nature and existence is even further

beyond human life than our life is beyond that of ants. This transcendence makes the Incarnation all the more amazing. That this infinite, eternal God should, in love for us, choose to take on our humanity that we might come to realize just how loved we are is a vitally important part of the gospel.

No matter how old or young we are, our lives have infinite value and worth because of the love God has poured out on us in Jesus Christ. Each moment, each day, week, month, and year of our lives is a gift from God, an opportunity for us to honor God and share the love that has transformed us. These opportunities will differ for each one of us based on the circumstances of our lives, where we find ourselves in life. From childhood, to adolescence, to all of the stages of adulthood, you have been given gifts – interests and abilities – that enable you to bear witness and offer service to your neighbors in Jesus' name. What you can do at your age and in your situations will be vastly different from what I can do. What matters is that the love we have been given is reflected out into the world to the glory of God.

I pray that you know the richness and fullness of God's gracious love as we begin this new year, that you strive to bless others as you have been blessed out of the abundance that God has poured out upon you.

Blessings to you and peace in Jesus.

Your Partner in Ministry,

Pastor Mike

60TH YEAR

January 2025 marks the 60th year of our Newsletter!



**HOLY TRINITY ACTION
MINISTRY**

**THRIFT SHOP:
Tuesday 9am-12:30**



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

January 18 Robert & Connie Reinhart 61 Years!



BIRTHDAY WISHES!

- January 05 Eugene Perone
- January 06 Loren LaRose
- January 08 Lynann Everett
- January 09 Krystal Salter
- January 11 Karen Talamantes
- January 14 Don 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



HOURS 9AM-1PM



- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 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

JANUARY 19 - 6:30pm

FINANCE & ATTENDANCE

Nov. Monthly Envelope Offering:	\$ 7,019
Nov. St. Matthews Pastoral Service	\$ 0
Nov. Additional Income	\$ 11,164
Nov. Monthly Expenses:	\$ 19,725
Attendance:	
November 03, 2024	43
November 10, 2024	28
November 17, 2024	45
November 24, 2024	43



WORSHIP SCHEDULE 10:15 AM

JANUARY 05, 2025 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Rich Hyer
Ushers: Kelly & Scott Heinrich
Altar Guild: TBA
Flowers: TBA
Bulletins: TBA
Communion Bread: TBA
Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

JANUARY 12, 2025 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Krissy Keblish
Ushers: Ron Keblish w/Taylor, Terry Holland
Altar Guild: TBA
Flowers: TBA
Bulletins: TBA
Communion Bread: TBA
Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

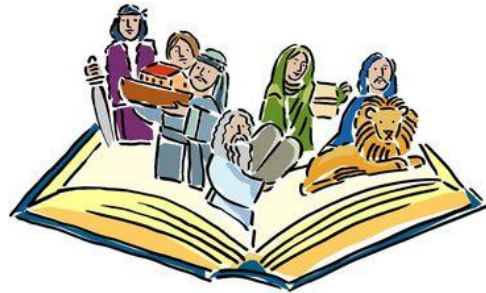
JANUARY 19, 2025 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Deb Hansut
Ushers: Carol Heffelfinger & Loren LaRose
Altar Guild: TBA
Flowers: TBA
Bulletins: TBA
Communion Bread: TBA
Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

JANUARY 26, 2025 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Lynn Perone
Ushers: Rich & Jeanette Hyer
Altar Guild: TBA
Flowers: TBA
Bulletins: TBA
Communion Bread: TBA
Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

We
baker



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.



ANNUAL REPORT MEETING

The Annual Report Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2025 after our 10:15 service. Your attendance is encouraged.

REPORTS FOR ANNUAL REPORT

All reports for the annual meeting need to be returned to the church office **no later** than January 19.



2024 OFFERING STATEMENTS

Year-end giving statements for 2024 will only be available as requested. If you want or need a giving statement for your records, please call (610-826-2524), or email (htlcoppa@ptd.net) the church office. Please let us know if you will be picking up the statement or want it mailed.



A special 'Thank You' to all those who donated their time at Church related functions, assisted with Sunday Services as volunteers & generously helped in offsetting costs as sponsors throughout the year.

SAVE THE DATE!

Super Bowl Party February 9, 2025

More info coming soon!



2024 Christmas Pageant

JANUARY FUN FACTS:

Many New Year's traditions involve food. Here are a few:

- In Spain, people attempt to eat 12 grapes during these 12 strokes of midnight! Tradition says that if they succeed before the chimes stop, they will have good luck for all 12 months of the coming year.
- In the southern US, black-eyed peas and pork foretell good fortune.
- Eating any ring-shaped treat (such as a [doughnut](#)) symbolizes "coming full circle" and leads to good fortune. In Dutch homes, fritters called *Olie Bollen* are served.
- The Irish enjoy pastries called Bannocks.
- Germans and Pennsylvania Dutch eat [Sauerkraut](#) on New Year's Day for good luck in the coming year.
- In India and Pakistan, rice promises prosperity.
- Apples dipped in honey are a [Rosh Hashanah](#) (Jewish New Year) tradition.
- In Swiss homes, dollops of whipped cream, symbolizing the richness of the year to come, are dropped on the floors—and allowed to remain there!

January Astronomy

- On January 4, 2025, Earth reaches **perihelion**, which is the point in the planet's orbit where it is closest to the Sun. At perihelion, Earth will be 91,405,993 miles from our bright star.
- January's Moon is called the Wolf Moon. This year, the full Moon reaches peak illumination on **Monday, January 13, at 5:27 P.M. EST.**

The Quadrantid Meteor Shower

- The Quadrantid meteors appear in the early January sky, producing up to 25 meteors per hour at their peak. They'll be at their best on the night of January 4 into January 5. For the best chance at spotting them, venture out between midnight and dawn.

Weather Folklore for January

- *Fog in January brings a wet spring.*
- *A favorable January brings us a good year.*
- *If grass grows in January, it will grow badly the whole year.*
- *A summerish January, a winterish spring.*

***POINSETTIA FLOWERS ARE PRESENTED
IN MEMORY OF:***

***DAVID S. ROBERTS & LARRY W. ROBERTS – LAROSE FAMILY**

***LYNN & GEORGE LAROSE – LAROSE FAMILY**

***MIRIAM HUGHES TURNBACH – BARBARA TURNBACH**

***SYLVESTER CHARLES TURNBACH – BARBARA TURNBACH**

***OUR LOVED ONES – DEB & STEVE HANSUT**

***SONNY – CAROL HEFFELFINGER**

***OUR PARENTS – RICH & JEANETTE HYER**

***RUSSELL & ANN FELLER – ROBERT & NANCY TRESKOT & FAMILY**

***ALEX & JANE TRESKOT – ROBERT & NANCY TRESKOT & FAMILY**

***FATHER & MOTHER, PAUL & MARTHA BERGER; IHO CHRISTMAS MEMORIES –
SON, STEPHEN BERGER**

***IDA LICHTENWALNER, ROY HORN, MARVIN & MARY SPADT –**

JOSSLYN, ALEC, SIERRA & KIRA





Gaining Strength Together: The Journey of NEPA Synod Cohorts

Following the Bishop's Conference in the fall of 2021 with Rev. Doug Hill (author of "Cultural Architecture"), the Synod launched its first Gaining Strength Cohort. This cohort, while initially similar to the cohorts happening across the country in the ELCA, turned out to be quite different. This cohort was comprised entirely of pastors from the NEPA Synod instead of pastors around the country. This gave the cohort the opportunity to develop deeper relationships that could continue to be supported and built up over time and in a mutual context.



While this 1st cohort was finishing in October 2023, a 2nd cohort was launched. The 2nd cohort was the first cohort to include Deacons as well as Pastors. A 3rd cohort was launched in April 2024. While each cohort has its own character based on the individual participants, there are some key similarities. Cohorts meet for a period of 18 months. They have 4 in-person retreats (fall and spring) with Zoom check-in meetings in between the retreats. Each cohort has about 10-14 Rostered Ministers in it.

They work through many of the key principles of "Cultural Architecture" with Pastor Doug facilitating the retreats. Additionally, they discuss the Enneagram, Clifton's Strength Finders, organizational intelligence, cultural transformation, and the state of the church at present. More than that, the retreats provide intentional time to connect with one another and with God. Each day centers on Scripture and provides time for contemplative action. How can we lead congregations if we are not taking the time to practice waiting on and listening to God ourselves?

A few of the current cohort members shared their gratefulness to have time to think about shared values, contemplative action, and their own God-given strengths. Pr. Inge Williams was "also grateful to do some deeper reflection on who I am, as a child of God, knowing that we glorify God by living into our individual gifts and strengths rather than spending energy trying to 'fix' ourselves."

Pr. Samantha Drennan shared three key take-aways she has experienced through the Gaining Strength cohort:

- 1) Seek to maximize strengths rather than focus on shortcomings - since I have begun to do this, I have experienced significant positive changes in my call as well as in my life in general.
- 2) Embrace contemplative action - as we make decisions for ourselves or for our faith communities, we must integrate contemplation and action. Before acting, make time to discern what the Spirit is already doing in, through, and around us.
- 3) Surrendering all outcomes to God - easier said than done sometimes! And, a vital component of the process.

The Synod is grateful that these Rostered Ministers have embraced this opportunity, are willing to be present with one another, and are being bold in leaning into the Spirit in their own lives and places of ministry.

There has been so much interest in participating in these Gaining Strength cohorts that the Synod anticipates launching another 1-2 cohorts in 2025. One of the hopes is that one of the cohorts will bring together congregations who have multiple Rostered Ministers on staff so that they can participate simultaneously. If you are interested in joining one of the upcoming Gaining Strength cohorts, please reach out to DEM Dcn. Kat Tigerman at kat@nepssynod.org.

Submitted by: Deacon Kat Tigerman, NEPA Synod Director of Evangelical Mission

DID YOU KNOW that your Mission Support helps fund areas of the synod like this one and many other important initiatives? Your contributions are making a significant impact and helping others grow in faith, supporting the synod's directions of Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life, along with the values of Loving, Healing, and Engaging like Jesus. To learn more, visit godsllove.org/missionsupport.

JAN 20, 2025

MARTIN

LUTHER KING JR.

DAY OF PRAYER AND
SERVICE

Starting at 10:00am with worship followed by opportunities to participate in various service projects, and conclude with lunch together.

2354 GROVE ROAD ALLENTOWN, PA

For more information, visit:
godsllove.org/MLKday



If you are off that day and would like to help at this event, please register to ensure we have an accurate headcount for lunch.