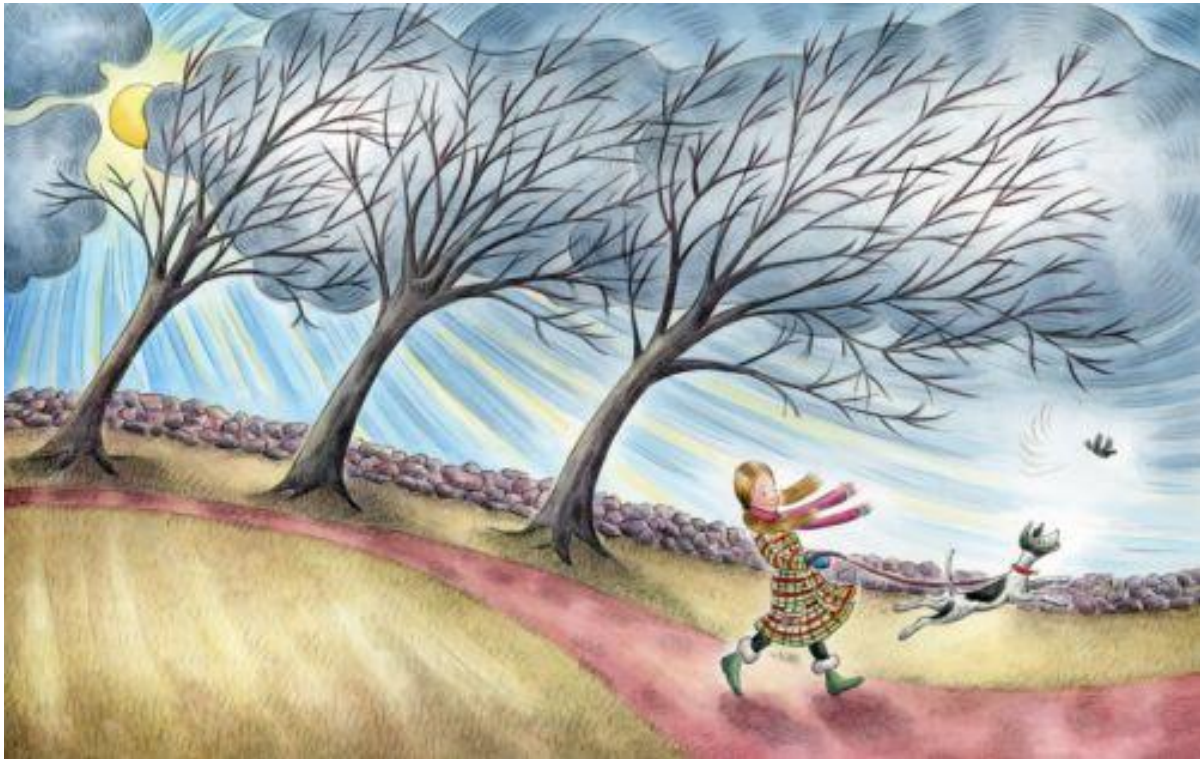


HOLY TRINITY NEWS

MARCH 2025

VOLUME 60 NO. 3



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From the Pastor's Desk – March 2025

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

- 22 The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
23 they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
24 “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”
25 The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.
26 It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.
27 It is good for one to bear
the yoke in youth,
28 to sit alone in silence
when the Lord has imposed it,
29 to put one's mouth to the dust
(there may yet be hope),
30 to give one's cheek to the smiter
and be filled with insults.
31 For the Lord will not
reject forever.
32 Although he causes grief, he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;
33 for he does not willingly afflict
or grieve anyone.***

Lamentations 3:22-33

This month begins with The Transfiguration of Our Lord, closing out the time after Epiphany, and then we move into the season of Lent. It is a stark contrast, the move from Peter, James, and John beholding the divine glory in the transfigured face of Jesus to the solemn penitence of the Lenten season. I invite you to consider what the experience of those three disciples must have meant to them. They had begun to believe that Jesus was Messiah, the One sent by God to redeem Israel from all that held them in bondage, but this went far beyond even those expectations. On the mountain they saw the very glory of God in Jesus and, as if they needed anything more, they saw Moses and Elijah, the greatest saints of Israel, appearing there with Jesus. Finally, as a cloud came over the entire scene, a voice boomed out from heaven, declaring, “This is my beloved Son, listen to him!”

How would you react to such an experience? I think we sometimes take Jesus for granted, seeing him so in his humanity that we forget his deity. Certainly the truth of

Jesus' identity is beyond our comprehension. How can we grasp that this man was, in truth, the Incarnate Son of the Father from before the foundation of the world? To stand before the human Jesus, even believing him to be Messiah, would be one thing. To know that this man is God is something else altogether. To stand before the Eternal One, seeing Jesus reflecting the very Glory of God, might just melt us away to nothing; certainly it would leave us understanding just how far short we fall of the holiness that God demands of us. Remember the reaction of the Prophet Isaiah to his experience of the Lord God in the Temple – “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips, yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

The book of Lamentations speaks to Israel's penitence and lament at the destruction of Jerusalem and of the Holy Temple at the hand of the armies of Babylon. Realizing the holiness of God and his righteous judgment on his people for their lack of faithfulness and obedience, they cry out to God for relief. Even in their sorrow, they know that the LORD is their God and that he will always keep his covenant with his chosen people. ***The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*** What strikes me is how the writer moves from that affirmation to what the proper response should be from God's people. ***It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. It is good for one to bear the yoke in youth, to sit alone in silence when the Lord has imposed it, to put one's mouth to the dust.*** This is the tone of the Lenten season. Before the holiness and glory of the LORD, we realize our sin and we wait quietly for the grace, the steadfast love of the LORD. It isn't that our repentance, that our confession, earns us anything from God. It is simply that we trust in God's covenant love. On this side of the death and resurrection of Jesus, we hold onto all that God has done for us in Christ, knowing that it is this gift, his faithfulness to us, that has reconciled us to the Father.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 5, with our Service of Holy Communion and Confession with the Imposition of Ashes at 7:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity, Palmerton. We come before the Lord confession our sins, receiving the mark of ash in the shape of the cross, and the body and blood of Christ in bread and wine. It is only because we know the depth of God's love for us and all that has been done for us and given to us in Christ that we can be so very honest about ourselves. No pretention, no disguises, just honesty. Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner. And in that prayer we receive what we so desperately need - forgiveness, life, and salvation. Thanks be to God!

Blessings to you and peace in Jesus

Your Partner in Ministry,

Pastor Mike

March 2025

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 23	24	25	26	27	28	Mar 1
2 10:15am Worship Service in 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 348 (New Girl)	3 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 41 (Parish Hall)	4 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	5 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Ash Wednesday - Holy Trinity	6 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room)	7 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	8
9 10:15am Worship 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 6:00pm Girl Scouts Troop	10 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 41 (Parish Hall)	11 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	12 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Lenten Service - St. Matthew's	13 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room) 5:45pm Girl Scouts Troop 301 (GS)	14 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	15
16 10:15am Worship Service in 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 348 (New Girl)	17 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 41 (Parish Hall)	18 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	19 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Lenten Service - Holy Trinity	20 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room)	21 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	22
23 10:15am Worship 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 6:00pm Girl Scouts Troop	24 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 41 (Parish Hall)	25 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	26 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Lenten Service - St. Matthew's	27 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room) 5:45pm Girl Scouts Troop 7:00pm Camera Club	28 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	29
30 10:15am Worship Service in 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 348 (New Girl)	31 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 41 (Parish Hall)	Apr 1	2	3	4	5

**HOLY TRINITY ACTION
MINISTRY**

THRIFT SHOP:

Tues. 9am-12:30pm



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

March 17 Jim Meldrum & Vicky Holland 7 years

BIRTHDAY WISHES!

March 02	Carol Heffelfinger
March 08	Marlene Greenwood
March 09	Ronald Keblish
March 11	James Engle
March 19	Robin Suarez
March 25	Joseph Solt II

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9AM-1PM

**MARCH SPONSORS ARE NEEDED
FOR FLOWERS & BULLETINS**



COUNCIL MEMBERS

Terry Holland	President
Jon Kistler	Vice-President
Rich Hyer	Secretary
Larry Arner	Treasurer
Jim Miller	Asst. Treasurer
Krissy Keblish	
Ron Keblish	
Steve Berger	
Gerry Dorshimer	
Scott Heinrich	
Eric Reif	
Gordon Walls	

FINANCIAL PERSONNEL

Larry Arner	Treasurer
Carol Heffelfinger	Financial Sec.

COUNCIL MEETING

March 16 6:30pm

FINANCE & ATTENDANCE

Jan. Monthly Envelope Offering:	\$ 5,460
Jan. St. Matthews Pastoral Service	\$ 3,483
Jan. Additional Income	\$ 14,413
Jan. Monthly Expenses:	\$ 12,763
Attendance:	
January 05, 2025	34
January 12, 2025	36
January 19, 2025	25
January 26, 2025	32



WORSHIP SCHEDULE
10:15 AM

MARCH 02, 2025 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Rich Hyer
Ushers: Kelly & Scott Heinrich
Altar Guild: Deb Hansut & Gerry Dorshimer
Flowers: Carol Heffelfinger
Communion Bread: Diane & Jim Miller
Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

MARCH 09, 2025 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Krissy Keblish
Ushers: Ron Keblish w/Taylor, Terry Holland
Altar Guild: Deb Hansut & Gerry Dorshimer
Flowers: Ron Keblish's Birthday
Communion Bread: Diane & Jim Miller
Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

MARCH 16, 2025 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Deb Hansut
Ushers: Carol Heffelfinger & Loren LaRose
Altar Guild: Deb Hansut & Gerry Dorshimer
Communion Bread: Diane & Jim Miller
Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

MARCH 23, 2025 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Lynn Perone
Ushers: Rich & Jeanette Hyer
Altar Guild: Deb Hansut & Gerry Dorshimer
Communion Bread: Diane & Jim Miller
Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

MARCH 30, 2025 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Vicky Holland
Ushers: Gordon & Mary Walls
Altar Guild: Deb Hansut & Gerry Dorshimer
Communion Bread: Diane & Jim Miller
Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

LENTEN SERVICES

ALL SERVICES ARE AT 7:00 PM

March 05 - Ash Wednesday at Holy Trinity
March 12 - Lenten Service at St. Matthew's
March 19 - Lenten Service at Holy Trinity
March 26 - Lenten Service at St. Matthew's
April 02 - Lenten Service at Holy Trinity
April 09 - Lenten Service at St. Matthew's
April 17 - Maundy Thursday at Holy Trinity
April 18 - Good Friday at St. Matthew's

ARK BANKS

Don't forget to pick up your Lenten Ark Banks for the Heifer Project. Fill them with your loose change during Lent and return them on Easter Sunday.

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.

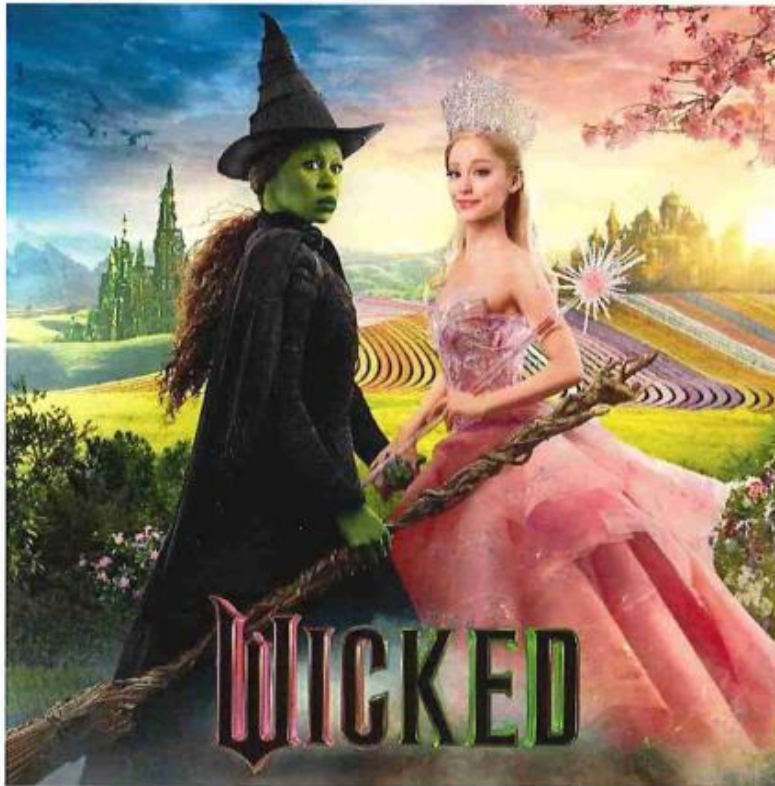


DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
BEGINS MARCH 9



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
175 S. Third Street - Lehigh PA 18235
610-377-4303 † www.tlclehighton.com

* FREE MOVIE NIGHT *



Saturday, March 15, 2025

7:00pm - Luther Hall

(Use Iron Street entrance)

Popcorn, snacks, and drinks will be available for purchase to benefit projects of Trinity's Youth Group.

Bring a comfy chair to view the movie if you wish!

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Building Connections, Strengthening Mission: The Impact of Staff Development

Since 2021, when I joined the synod staff, I have felt a deep passion and dedication for the work God is calling me to do. Over the past three years, the relationships I have built, both with synod staff and throughout the synod regions and beyond, have been some of the strongest of my career. I have been a Lutheran all my life, raised in a church and family of faith. So, when the job opened at the synod office, applying felt like a natural choice.



My time on synod staff has shaped my spiritual journey, revealing how God's presence is truly in everyone, including me, in both joyful and challenging times. I often find myself asking, "What is God calling us to do?" "What is God calling me to do?" It's funny how sometimes God's answers are loud and clear, while other times, there seems to be silence, much like a parent stepping back to let a child solve a puzzle or get dressed all on their own.

However, God is not silent in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. God is actively working through all of us to move mountains and embody the change Jesus modeled for us. The synod staff have been focusing more intentionally on communication and staff development. Over the past year, the full synod staff, including building staff and the Associates of the Bishop, have gathered for retreats to strengthen our communication. One of these retreats also included the Synod Council, the redesign team, and other key stakeholders around the synod, providing a space for collaboration. Pastor Doug Hill from Abiding Hope in Littleton, Colorado, has helped facilitate some of these retreats, incorporating insights from the Gaining Strength cohorts. Through this work, staff have explored their enneagram numbers, gaining a deeper understanding of how our personalities intertwine and complement one another.

Pastor Rachael Dietz, Associate to the Bishop, comments on the retreat by saying, "*Intentional investment*



in staff help us grow into the disciples God would have us be. We're not static blobs; we're human beings with hearts, hands, feet, and brains. When we practice and learn, we become more aligned and attuned to the Spirit's work in us and the synod. Your mission support then gets turned inside out as we support the mission of congregations: to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, to all."

This investment in staff development is not just about strengthening our internal team, it is about equipping us to better serve the entire synod. As we grow in communication, collaboration, and leadership, we become more responsive to the needs of the congregations, more effective in our ministries, and more connected as a community of faith. By modeling teamwork and intentional growth, we hope to inspire congregations and leaders to do the same in their own contexts. Ultimately, this work is about aligning ourselves more fully with God's call, ensuring that together, as one synod, we continue to move mountains and embody the change Christ has set before us.

We would like to extend our gratitude to Trinity Lutheran Church in Lehigh and St. John's Lutheran Church in Allentown for hosting staff retreats. Your hospitality is deeply appreciated and truly a blessing.

Submitted by: Stacey Burke (she/her) Communications & Growing Young Coordinator

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 lanes of Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life, along with the directions of loving like Jesus, healing like Jesus, and engaging like Jesus. To learn more, visit godslove.org/missionsupport.



Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church
Stroudsburg, PA

2025
**Connect
the Dots**
Northeastern PA Synod Assembly

godslove.org/assembly2025

May

30-31

Registration
opens April 1

