

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

April 2025

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HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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April 2025

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 30	31	Apr 1 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	2 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Lenten Service - Holy Trinity	3 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room)	4 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	5
6 10:15am Worship Service in 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 348 (New Girl) 6:00pm Girl Scouts Troop	7 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 41 (Parish Hall - Scout Room, Larry Arner)	8 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	9 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Lenten Service - St. Matthew's	10 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room) 5:45pm Girl Scouts Troop 301 (GS Room)	11 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	12
13 10:15am Palm Sunday 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 348 (New Girl Scout Room)	14 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 41 (Parish Hall - Scout Room, Larry Arner)	15 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	16 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	17 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room) 7:00pm Maundy Thursday - Holy Trinity	18 Office Closed 7:00pm Good Friday - St. Matthew's	19
20 10:15am Easter Sunday 6:00pm Girl Scouts Troop 3401 (Girl Scouts Room)	21 Office Closed 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 41 (Parish Hall - Scout Room, Larry Arner)	22 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	23 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	24 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room) 5:45pm Girl Scouts Troop 301 (GS) 7:00pm Camera Club	25 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	26
27 10:15am Worship Service in Church and 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 348 (New Girl Scout Room)	28 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 41 (Parish Hall - Scout Room, Larry Arner)	29 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	30 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	May 1	2	3

From the Pastor's Desk – April 2025

“Of First Importance”

15 Now I want you to understand, brothers and sisters, the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, 2 through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. 3 For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures 4 and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I but the grace of God that is with me. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you believed.

I Corinthians 15:1-11

As Paul gets to this point in his lengthy letter to the church in Corinth, he has discussed a long list of topics and issues that were of concern to the church and to Paul. The Corinthian church was a bit of a mess and Paul needed to instruct and to correct them on a host of issues of doctrine and practice. What is it we believe about God and Jesus, about ourselves as children of God in Christ, and about how we live the faith in our daily lives in the world? Here, in chapter 15, Paul will write about life on the other side of the grave – what we mean when we speak of resurrection, beginning with our understanding of the resurrection of Jesus. The issues dealt with earlier in the letter were important but THIS is ***“of first importance”*** – ***“that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.”***

As we enter the month of April, we have these “most important” things before us with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday just weeks away. This morning, I saw a post on Facebook that set Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount over against the Nicene Creed. The poster wanted to emphasize the teachings of Jesus on how we ought to live as God’s people in the world – what it means, in practice, to be a disciple of Jesus – and to suggest that the doctrinal confessions in the Nicene Creed are somehow less important.

Let me simply say that that’s a false dichotomy. These days there has been a lot of emphasis on how Scripture teaches us (especially Jesus’ teaching), as God’s

people, to live in the world. The Christian faith can never be limited to one's personal relationship with God in Jesus, as if my faith can be isolated from my life in the world and my relationship with my neighbors, with my enemies, with everyone. I cannot speak of my love for God if my life shows that I do not love the people around me. The Greatest Commandment, as Jesus taught it, was to love the Lord our God with heart, soul, mind, and strength AND to love our neighbor as ourselves.

But the practical application of our faith can only come after we understand who God is and what God has done for us, most powerfully in Jesus. If Jesus was merely another rabbi, another wise religious teacher, his instruction only takes us so far. He's no different from any other teacher we might find inspiring in the moment. When we hear the words of the Nicene Creed as the revealed truth confessed by the Church of Jesus Christ, which declare that Jesus is the Incarnate Son of the Father from before the foundation of the world – that he is ***“the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father: through him all things were made.”*** – then we come to know that what he has done for us is in truth the foundation of the life of faith that follows from our identity as the people of God.

We strive to love our neighbors, even our enemies, because we have been loved into life in Jesus. In love for us, Jesus died and was buried, was raised and appeared – that truth that Paul calls “most important.” It is in gratitude to God for the gifts of grace and new life that are ours in Jesus that we move into the world to love and care for those who are most in need – the very people that Jesus loved and cared for in his earthly ministry.

As we move into this most holy season of the year, as we relive these stories that are the very substance of our faith; let me encourage you again to immerse yourselves in these events. In our worship services we enter into the story and find ourselves involved in what went on so long ago. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus has loved us from death to life. We are lifted out of fear and despair and into peace and hope. THAT is what motivates our lives of loving service in the world.

Blessings to you and peace in Jesus
Your Partner in Ministry,
Pastor Mike

To my Sisters and Brothers in Christ

Since my ordination in the spring of 1982, I have had to bid farewell to four congregations over the years of my ordained ministry and it has never been easy. It has always come with deep emotion; my leave taking always coming with tears. These decisions have always come only after much prayer for the Holy Spirit's guidance. As it has been in the past, so it is today. As I have moved through my sixties the thoughts of my coming retirement became more and more real. Over the last four or five years, I've considered setting a date a number of times, some of them as early as a year or two ago. The decision to set the date now, at the end of June, has just seemed to be the best. I'm going to turn 70 in November, and I have begun realizing that I'm just not able to work at the same level as just a few years ago.

I understand that many of you are disappointed at my decision. We have developed strong bonds of Christian fellowship and friendship over these ten years that we have lived and ministered together. If my decision causes you pain, I apologize. Please know that was never my intention. I have deeply loved the years we have spent together in worship, in the study of God's Word, and in our ministry to the Palmerton community. Your deep love for God and God's people, your dedication to Holy Trinity, and the support and encouragement you have shown me are gifts that I will treasure for the rest of my life and ministry. These have been and will continue to be challenging times in which to be Christ's church. In so many ways, this most certainly is not your grandparents' church. Those who name Jesus as Lord and strive to live as disciples in our everyday lives in the world will not find it easy in the months and years to come. In my leave taking, please be assured that you will continue to be in my prayers, that our Lord will inspire you, empower you, and equip you for the work of the church as you move into the future that God has for you.

Most of you have heard of my plans going forward. I will be staying on as pastor at St. Matthew's under a half-time contract in my retirement. I have made that decision for the sake of my family. My grandchildren have become part of the Sunday School at St. Matthew's and my grandson will be starting catechetical classes there in the fall of this year. It is important to me and to my family that I stay involved in their Christian education. Continuing in ministry on a half-time basis will work for me in the years to come.

One more thing . . . I know there will be concerns for what comes next, or who comes next. We are living in a day of pastor shortages, but our Northeastern Penn. Synod Bishop Chris deForest has been in conversation with me and with Pastor Carl Shankweiler, Associate of the Bishop for our Hazleton/Lehighon Mission District and Holy Trinity will not be abandoned in this time of transition.

Possible new partnerships with other congregations have been and are being discussed, some real possibilities are being talked about. I pray that these discussions will bear fruit, and a new pastor will be found sooner than later.

In conclusion, while I understand that this reality will be hard to set aside, I am hopeful that we can keep a regular level of activity going in these four months. No, I'm not naïve, but I'm going to try hard not to be a lame duck pastor sliding into retirement between now and then. We have these last weeks of Lent, Holy Week, and seven weeks of a joyous celebration of our Savior's resurrection ahead of us. If that can't keep us focused and busy, I don't know what can. And, again this year, the Sunday after Easter is going to be another Holy Humor or Holy Hilarity Sunday. Get working on your plans to dress up for the occasion.

May God bless us all in these days with grace and love, joy and peace.

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Mike



HOLY TRINITY ACTION MINISTRY



THRIFT SHOP:
Tuesday 9am-12:30pm

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

April 20 James & Janice Brown 62 years
 April 29 Donald & Teri Delich 47 years
 April 20 Stephen & Deb Hansut 23 years



BIRTHDAY WISHES!

April 02 Linda Kraftician
 April 03 Heather Ring
 April 06 Izabelle Barkanic
 April 09 Joey Solt
 April 10 Jessica Suarez
 April 16 Christopher Jahelka
 April 17 Christopher Allen
 April 17 Eric Berger
 April 18 Scott Heinrich
 April 19 Kenneth Heinrich
 April 25 Taylor Pryce
 April 25 Zoe Salter
 April 26 Kira Reph
 April 27 Justin Kuneck

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



MEMBERS

Terry Holland
Jon Kistler
Rich Hyer
Larry Arner
Jim Miller
Krissy Keblish
Ron Keblish
Steve Berger
Gerry Dorshimer
Scott Heinrich
Eric Reif
Gordon Walls

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Asst. Treasurer

FINANCIAL PERSONNEL

Larry Arner *Treasurer*
Jessica Hansen *Financial Sec.*

COUNCIL MEETING

April 27 6:30pm

FINANCE & ATTENDANCE

Feb. Monthly Envelope Offering:	\$ 4,845
Feb. St. Matthews Pastoral Service	\$ 3,483
Feb. Additional Income	\$ 880
Feb. Monthly Expenses:	\$ 11,532
Attendance:	
February 02, 2025	35
February 09, 2025 (Weather Related)	11
February 16, 2025	24
February 23, 2025	37

FINANCIAL SECRETARY CHANGE

**WE HAVE A NEW FINANCIAL SECRETARY!
 CAROL HEFFELFINGER HAS BEEN GUIDING
 JESSICA HANSEN FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS.
 WE WELCOME JESSICA AS SHE ASSUMES
 THIS IMPORTANT ROLE!
 THANK YOU, CAROL, FOR YOUR TIME AND
 DEVOTION IN SERVING HOLY TRINITY!**





WORSHIP SCHEDULE 10:15 AM

APRIL 06, 2025 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Lynn Perone
Ushers: Kelly & Scott Heinrich
Altar Guild: Rich & Jeanette Hyer
Flowers: Nadine Schmidt –
IMO Husband Tom & Son Tommy
Communion Bread: Steve Berger
Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

APRIL 13, 2025 PALM SUNDAY

Assisting Minister: Krissy Keblish
Ushers: Ron Keblish, Taylor Keblish & Terry Holland
Altar Guild: Rich & Jeanette Hyer
Flowers: Rich & Jeanette Hyer
Communion Bread: Steve Berger
Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

APRIL 20, 2025 EASTER SUNDAY

Assisting Minister: Deb Hansut
Ushers: Carol Heffelfinger & Loren LaRose
Altar Guild: Rich & Jeanette Hyer
Flowers: Sosik Family – IHO Karen’s Birthday
Communion Bread: Steve Berger
Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

APRIL 27, 2025 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Larry Arner
Ushers: Rich & Jeanette Hyer
Altar Guild: Rich & Jeanette Hyer
Flowers: Deb & Steve Hansut – 23rd Anniversary
Communion Bread: Steve Berger
Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

LENTEN SERVICES

ALL SERVICES ARE AT 7:00 PM

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

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.

36TH ANNUAL FISH FRY
Friday, April 18, 2025
3:00 PM – 7:00 PM
SEE LARRY

Pre-sale Tickets Suggested
Tickets on the day of the event will only be available if not sold out

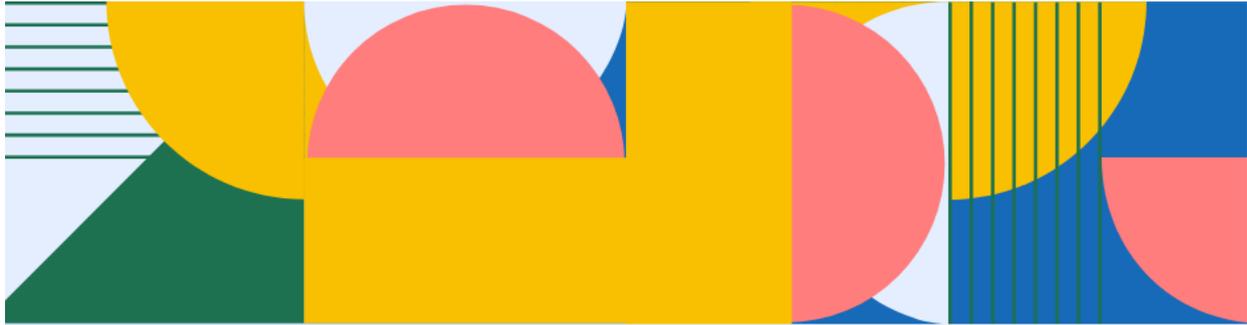
For Tickets:
-See any member of the organization
-George’s P&H 9:00-4:00 (Weekdays)
-At Fire Station Friday or Sat (10:00-2:00)
-At Fire Station Monday 6:30PM-9:00PM
For More Info Call:
610-826-2066 or 610-826-7515

PRICE!
\$12 per Meal
Each Meal includes -
2 pieces fish, fries, coleslaw,
applesauce, roll,
tartar & cocktail sauce

Location: Aquashicola Vol. Fire Co.
270 Little Gap Road

NO EAT IN - DRIVE THROUGH/PICKUP ONLY

HOLY HILARITY SUNDAY – April 27, 2025



HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

We are resurrecting an old tradition called *Risus paschalis*, the Easter laugh, that saw Christ's resurrection as God's joke on the devil. Dress in bright colorful clothes, silly hats and get ready to sing some transformed hymns, hear some jokes and share in the joyful surprise of Easter.

For the third year in a row, both St. Matthew's and Holy Trinity will celebrate The Second Sunday of Easter as Holy Hilarity or Holy Humor Sunday. If you have been with us for the first two times, you know what this is all about AND you know what to do. Holy Humor Sunday goes back in the history of the Christian Church for centuries as a time to laugh at Satan for the victory of Jesus over sin, death, and the devil in his resurrection from the dead. Just when Satan believed he had won the day in having Jesus crucified, on the third day he is put in his place by Jesus' glorious resurrection. It is a day for laughter, for singing joyous and even silly songs that lift up Jesus' victory which has been won for us. It is a day for coming to worship in funny or bizarre clothes, with outlandish hairdos – anything your mind can dream up for this special occasion. Folks have gotten into the spirit of the day these past two times we have done this and we hope that even more of you will come out and outdo yourselves this year.

EASTER FLOWERS

IN MEMORY OF:

ALEX & JANE TRESKOT, RUSS & ANN FELLER – BOB & NANCY TRESKOT

THOMAS SCHMIDT SR. & THOMAS SCHMIDT JR. – NADINE SCHMIDT

OUR LOVED ONES WHO HAVE PASSED – DEB & STEVE HANSUT

SONNY – CAROL HEFFELFINGER

OREOVEC FAMILY – ANN ECKHART

PARENTS – CAROL BORGER

GENE & VIRGINIA CRACHY & ED RUSIN – LYNN PERONE

LOVED ONES – VICKY HOLLAND

PARENTS – JEANETTE HYER

PAUL & MARTHA BERGER, MOM & DAD. GREAT MEMORIES – ALWAYS THERE! –

STEPHEN & MARY BERGER, CHILDREN

IN HONOR OF:

CHOIR & HANDBELL RINGERS – ERIC & LIZZIE REIF

GLORY TO GOD – CHARLOTTE BEERS-KOENIG

MY GRANDCHILDREN – LYNN PERONE

MY FAMILY – NADINE SCHMIDT

OUR CHILDREN (GEOFF, MIKE, HEIDI, HILLARY) – RAY & WREN TALAMANTES





6261:

Something New, Yet Something Old

Submitted by: Deacon Kat Tigerman, Director of Evangelical Mission



6261 : 6 congregations sharing 2 full-time pastors, 6 Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs), and 1 full-time deacon. A parish-type model first presented by Bishop Christopher deForest at the Synod Assembly of 2023. A flexible framework to help congregations collaborate and thrive, while remaining unique and true to their own God-given gifts. A model designed to vitalize each congregation as together, they expand their ministries within the

community. A focus on the Gospel by increasing opportunities for worship, Bible studies, service, music, and ministry into the community.

There are currently 15 different areas across the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod at various discernment and exploration points about 6261. There is at least one area in each of the Synod's 9 Mission Districts.

The Synod's first 6261 Ministry Community officially launched on February 1, 2025 in Reading, PA as the "Pretzel City." This partnership includes six congregations: Bethany Lutheran (West Reading), Christ Lutheran (Reading), Hope Lutheran (Reading), Nativity Lutheran (Reading), St. Paul Lutheran (Reading), and Zion Spies Lutheran (Reading) along with Hope's Table (a Synod-Authorized Worshipping Community).

On February 19th, the Pretzel City 6261 Ministry Community hosted a potluck dinner, hymn sing, and celebration worship, co-lead by Bishop deForest and Deacon Kat Tigerman. In addition to the six Pretzel City congregations and 2 of their LLM candidates, members of Synod Council and congregations from around the Synod and West Berks Mission District attended to mark this momentous occasion.

The celebration worship included a reflection on the primary ministry project of the Pretzel City 6261: a food web ministry. Pastor Rebecca Knox gave this reflection, drawing on Psalm 126 and how God brought these congregations to this joyful point and will be with them as they continue to plant seeds, both literally and spiritually. Bishop deForest led a participatory reflection on Isaiah 58 including loud shouts of praise and the kind of fasting God wants: for us to love, heal, and engage with our neighbors. Bishop deForest also lifted up the sacrifice each congregation made for the good of the whole 6261 Ministry Community so that it could more fully live into this “fasting” call of service. The 6261 Ministry Community Covenant was signed by each President of the 6



congregations, and each congregation received a Pretzel City plaque as a reminder of their partnership and commitment to pray for one another. A joint 30-person choir sang “Lord, We As One United,” a beautiful anthem for the offertory right after members from each congregation and Pastor Bruce Osterhout led the assembly in prayer. Worship concluded with Holy Communion and a special update from Pastor Drew Neidig celebrating some surprise gifts to the Pretzel City Bundle to help with their food web ministry. We are blessed to see such hope among us in such unprecedented times. We celebrate with Pretzel City, knowing that God goes before each of us on our ministry journeys so that we may have life abundantly (John 10:10).

To learn more about the 6261 Ministry Community, visit godslove.org/6261mc or email Deacon Kat Tigerman at kat@nepsynod.org. Keep an eye out for an upcoming NEPA Synod 6261 article from the ELCA!

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.

More DOT CONNECTING DETAILS AVAILABLE

godslove.org/assembly2025

Connect the Dots Apparel!

NOW AVAILABLE:

- Full Assembly Agenda
- Presenters
- Rates
- Pre-Assembly Information Dates
- Election Nomination Form
- Resolution & Memorials Forms

A portion of every sale goes to the 2025 Northeastern Pa Synod Assembly Offering

2025 Connect the Dots
Northeastern PA Synod Assembly

May 30-31
Christ Hamilton,
Stroudsburg