

# **HOLY TRINITY NEWS**

**MAY 2025**

**VOLUME 60 – NO.5**



***HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH***

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# May 2025

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Apr 27	28	29	30	May 1 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room)	2 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	3
4 Kelli Arner (Hall for Girl Scout) 10:15am Worship 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 6:00pm Girl Scouts Troop	5 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 41 (Parish Hall - Scout Room, Larry Arner)	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) 5:45pm Girl Scouts Troop 301 (GS Room)	9 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	10
11 10:15am Worship Service in Church and Facebook Live	12 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 41 (Parish Hall - Scout Room, Larry Arner)	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)	16 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	17
18 10:15am Worship Service in 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 348 (New Girl) 6:00pm Girl Scouts Troop	19 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 41 (Parish Hall - Scout Room, Larry Arner)	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 Church and 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 348 (New Girl Scout Room)	26 Office Closed for Memorial Day 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 41 (Parish Hall - Scout Room, Larry Arner)	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) 5:45pm Girl Scouts Troop 301 (GS Room)	30 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	31

# From the Pastor's Desk – May 2025

## ***“Our Good Shepherd”***

*<sup>22</sup> At that time the Festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup> and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. <sup>24</sup> So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.”*

*<sup>25</sup> Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me, <sup>26</sup> but you do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, in regard to what he has given me, is greater than all and no one can snatch them out of the Father’s hand. <sup>30</sup> The Father and I are one.”*

John 10:22-30 (NRSV-UE)

Shepherd Sunday is traditionally celebrated on The Fourth Sunday of Easter, this year on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Our Gospel is always a portion of the tenth chapter of John’s Gospel. In Year A of the lectionary we hear John 10:1-10, in Year B we hear John 10:11-18, and in Year C (which we are in this year) we hear John 10:22-30 (above). The shepherd theme carries throughout the chapter, but the images vary from passage to passage. In vv 1-10, Jesus describes himself as the door or the gate through which we enter into God’s flock and, therefore, into salvation. In vv 11-18, Jesus declares, “I am the Good Shepherd” who knows and cares for the sheep of his flock. This year, in vv. 22-30, Jesus tells us that those who are part of his flock hear his voice and follow him. Safely in our Lord’s flock we are assured of salvation and no one will ever be able to snatch us out of our Father’s hand.

Paired with the Gospel from John 10 we always have the beloved 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm – ***“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.”*** Other than John 3:16, I’m fairly certain that the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm is the most memorized portion of Scripture. Again, just as in John 10, the images and the language fill us with comfort at the assurance of God’s presence and his loving care. Even those who have no real understanding of the work of shepherds or the nature of sheep find a real sense of peace and rest in these words.

Even as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death . . . even in those dark and threatening experiences of life . . . we have the sure and certain knowledge that God is with us and will bring us through to life and peace on the other side.

There’s one line in Psalm 23 that I have come to understand differently in recent years: ***“You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies.”*** How have you heard that line? What does it mean for you? I used to think it meant

God would care for and provide for me, leaving my enemies to watch from the outside. I don't hear it that way anymore. I have come to believe that ***"in the presence of my enemies"*** means that those enemies won't be on the outside looking in but, rather, that they will be at the table with me. Remember, Jesus calls us to love our enemies even as he loves them. In John 10:15-16, Jesus tells us that he lays down his life for all the sheep and that he has sheep that are not part of what we might consider "our flock". He will lead them just as he leads us and, ultimately, there won't be different, separate flocks but just the one flock of all God's people under the loving care of our One Good Shepherd. The saving love of God will, finally, bind all of us together no matter how we might have seen us as different from each other.

In this Easter season, as we continue to celebrate our Lord's resurrection, may we set aside our narrow definitions of what qualifies us as children of God in Jesus as opposed to any other kinds of people. God so loves the world that Jesus came among us to teach us about the truth of God's kingdom, then to give his life for all people even in death on a cruel Roman cross. He died for all and was raised for all, even for those we might consider enemies. Let us invite and welcome all to our table that it might truly be the Table of the Lord.

Blessings to you and peace in Jesus

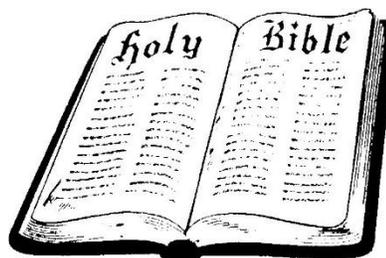
Your Partner in Ministry,

Pastor Mike

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### **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.



**HOLY TRINITY ACTION MINISTRY**<sup>NO</sup>

**THE BLESSING THRIFT SHOP:**



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

***HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!***

- |                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| May 10 Michael & Sharon Bowman   | 45 years |
| May 17 Ronald & Kristine Keblish | 28 years |
| May 24 Douglas & Lori Ruch       | 11 years |
| May 28 Barbara & Joseph Herman   | 19 years |



**BIRTHDAY WISHES!**

- |                     |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| Addie Ring          | May 02 |
| Ray Talamantes      | May 04 |
| Diane Williams      | May 04 |
| Kristine Keblish    | May 05 |
| Sharon Bonser       | May 09 |
| Nadine Schmidt      | May 09 |
| Brynn Merkel        | May 13 |
| Marian Roberts      | May 15 |
| Lisa Engle          | May 16 |
| Nicole Pryce        | May 17 |
| Seth Mertz          | May 18 |
| Joe Solt            | May 19 |
| Morris Bloomfield   | May 20 |
| Kara Matsco         | May 23 |
| Marlene Bollinger   | May 24 |
| Jennifer Engle      | May 24 |
| Lorene LaRose       | May 25 |
| Evan Tayntor        | May 26 |
| Carol Borger        | May 28 |
| Kay Elyse Gerhart   | May 28 |
| Frederick Young III | May 28 |
| Garrett Kunkle      | May 31 |
| Connie Reinhart     | May 31 |

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9AM-1PM**



**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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

**FINANCIAL PERSONNEL**

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Larry Arner</i>    | <i>Treasurer</i>      |
| <i>Jessica Hansen</i> | <i>Financial Sec.</i> |

**COUNCIL MEETING**

***MAY 18 6:30pm***

**FINANCE & ATTENDANCE**

March- Monthly Envelope Offering:	\$ 7,196
March- St. Matthews Pastoral Service	\$ 3,483
March- Additional Income	\$ 1,267
March- Monthly Expenses:	\$ 20,024
<b>Attendance:</b>	
March 02, 2025	42
March 09, 2025	34
March 16, 2025	36
March 23, 2025	39
March 30, 2025	47



**WORSHIP SCHEDULE 10:15 AM**

**MAY 04, 2025 COMMUNION**

**Assisting Minister:** Rich Hyer  
**Ushers:** Kelly & Scott Heinrich  
**Altar Guild:** Needed  
**Flowers:** Krissy Keblish – Birthday  
**Bulletins:** Joe & Barb Herman - IMO Mother Beatrice  
**Communion Bread:** Needed  
**Times News / Website:** Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

**MAY 11, 2025 COMMUNION**

**Assisting Minister:** Krissy Keblish  
**Ushers:** Ron Keblish, Taylor Keblish & Terry Holland  
**Altar Guild:** Needed  
**Flowers:** Carol Borger – IMO Mother  
**Bulletins:** Carol Borger  
**Communion Bread:** Needed  
**Times News / Website:** Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

**MAY 18, 2025 COMMUNION**

**Assisting Minister:** Deb Hansut  
**Ushers:** Carol Heffelfinger & Loren LaRose  
**Altar Guild:** Needed  
**Flowers:** Ron & Krissy Keblish – Anniversary  
**Bulletins:** Carol Borger  
**Communion Bread:** Needed  
**Times News / Website:** Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

**MAY 25, 2025 COMMUNION**

**Assisting Minister:** Lynn Perone  
**Ushers:** Rich & Jeanette Hyer  
**Altar Guild:** Needed  
**Flowers:** Charlotte Koenig – IMO Loved Ones  
**Bulletins:** Joe & Barb Herman – 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
**Communion Bread:** Joe & Barb Herman – 19<sup>th</sup> Anniv.  
**Times News / Website:** Fred & Betsy Masenheimer



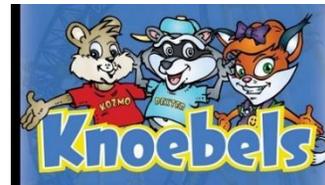
**FAITH NIGHT with the IRON PIGS at COCA-COLA PARK!**

**Join us for Faith Night with the Iron Pigs on Friday, June 13. Game time is 7:05 pm. Tickets are \$13 each. Tickets are limited. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.**



**ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2025  
KNOEBEL'S AMUSEMENT PARK**



There will be sign-up sheets in the Narthex for the picnic, carpooling, and food. Please join us for a day of fun food and fellowship.





## Saying Yes to God: A Personal Witness to Licensed Lay Ministry

*Written by: Michael Haspe, Licensed Lay Ministry Candidate*

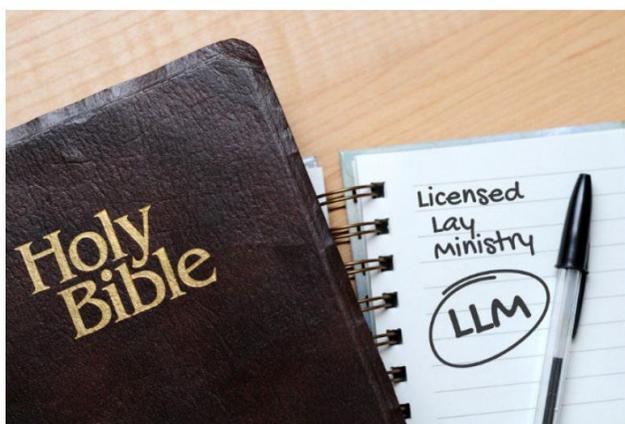
I am a lifelong member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tamaqua, PA, where I currently serve as the Christian Education Director. I felt my strongest pull to ministry during the pandemic. It was during the shutdown that God began to utilize me in new ways. I was one of four people—including the Pastor, camera operator, and organist—tasked to broadcast our services live. During this time, I learned to serve as a Cantor, Lector, and Communion Assistant, and I found I really enjoyed being a part of worship leadership. When the congregation came back, the anxiety I had previously experienced that kept me from serving (even though I really wanted to) was gone. I finally felt free to step into the roles God had been preparing me for all along.

Yet how did I get here? Near the end of 2020, I witnessed an unexplainable life-saving miracle. It was then I felt the urge to share my testimony and to preach. At the time, there was no Synodically Authorized Lay Minister (SALM) or Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) program in place, and I didn't feel called to rostered ministry. I wasn't sure what path was right for me, but the desire to be in deeper service was undeniable.

Then, in 2023, my partner of 19 years was diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer. My world collapsed. I had a good cry with my Pastor and told her that even though I trusted God, I was afraid. She encouraged me to go home and rest and assured me we would talk more the next day. The very next morning, she called me with news: the synod had approved the LLM program. I knew in that instant it was God commanding my attention.

It felt as though God was saying, "Michael, during this time of uncertainty and fear, YOU WILL FOCUS ON ME." I shared this with my Pastor, and no sooner did it come out of my mouth than my fear turned to calm. There aren't words to describe the sense of peace and clarity that followed.

So that's what I did. I enrolled in the LLM program and kept my eyes LASER focused on God. The anxiety didn't return. Late last year, my partner underwent major surgery to remove the cancer. The pathology report stunned the medical team—what had looked and behaved like Stage 4 cancer was downgraded to Stage 2. Today, my partner is cancer free. While doctors still can't explain it, I can. I had just witnessed a second miracle.





So that is why I am here, and that is why I am so passionate about the Licensed Lay Ministry program. It has given me a pathway to serve others and to share the good news of Jesus Christ, while I continue to discern whether rostered ministry might be the next step. For years, people in my church and community have said to me, “Michael, you are a Pastor.” And whether that becomes a career goal for me or not, this program enables me to explore ministry in meaningful ways. Through it, I can share the Gospel and lead others to Christ.

It’s no secret there is a shortage of Pastors. Being a Licensed Lay Minister allows me to serve in ways that are within my current gifts while also challenging me to grow in areas I may have once feared. LLMs can help address the pastoral shortage across our synod. No congregation is too large or too small to benefit from the presence of a lay minister. I believe the LLM program can be a catalyst to grow our churches, open new doors, and revitalize ministries.

The LLM retreats have been one of my favorite parts of this journey. The preaching retreat especially stands out. It provided me with practical tools to write and deliver sermons with confidence. I now feel my preaching is more focused and effective because of what I learned there. Pastor Peggy Wurtele has been a huge inspiration to me. Her motto—“Proclamation, Proclamation, Proclamation!”—encourages us to seize every opportunity to proclaim the Gospel and remind people that grace is FREE and abundant through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As a perfectionist, I hold onto her other phrase too: “...and Jesus loves us anyway.” It helps me focus less on small details and more on the heart of the message. That reminder has been freeing and empowering.

I want to leave you with a few questions. Ask yourself honestly: “Do you love Jesus Christ? Do you believe in the free gift and promise of grace and eternal salvation? Do you love telling others about Jesus? Do you love people?” If you answered yes to any—or all—of these questions, then the LLM journey might be right for you. Talk to your Pastor or the LLM Coordinator. Take time to pray and discern if this is your next faithful step.

One excuse I frequently hear is, “I would love to do this, but I’m too old.” Let me tell you—you are NEVER too old to proclaim the Good News! Your ministry could change someone’s life. If you’re even a little bit curious about LLM, talk about it. Ask questions. You might be surprised where God is leading you. The most surprising thing I’ve learned is the impact one message can have. I’ve preached dozens of sermons, and the most humbling moments come when someone quietly tells me that something I said encouraged them, gave them hope, or inspired them to try something new. That’s the greatest reward of all.

*Discover how Licensed Lay Ministry is equipping lay leaders for faithful service. Learn more at [godslove.org/LLM](https://godslove.org/LLM), or email Licensed Lay Ministers Coordinator, Pastor Jira Albers at [llm@nepsynod.org](mailto:llm@nepsynod.org)*

**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](https://godslove.org/missionsupport)