

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

JULY 2025

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HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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REV. KENNETH T. MELBER, JR

484-629-2812

PASTOR E-MAIL ADDRESS

pastorken86@gmail.com

July 2025

July 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		

August 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					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jun 29	30	Jul 1 8:00am Office Hours 9:00am Thrift Shop	2 8:00am Office Hours	3	4	5
6 9:00am Worship Service in Church and Facebook Live 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 348 (New Girl Scout Room)	7 8:00am Office Hours	8 8:00am Office Hours 9:00am Thrift Shop	9 8:00am Office Hours	10	11	12
13 9:00am Worship Service in Church and Facebook Live 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 348 (New Girl Scout Room)	14 8:00am Office Hours	15 8:00am Office Hours 9:00am Thrift Shop	16 8:00am Office Hours	17	18	19
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HOLY TRINITY WELCOMES PASTOR KEN

Pastor Melber was born and raised locally in Jim Thorpe. He graduated from The Pennsylvania State University in 2007 with a Bachelor's Degree in Social and Behavioral Sciences and from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg in 2012 with a Master of Divinity degree. He also holds a Certificate in Accounting from Lehigh Carbon Community College and a Certificate in Rural Ministry from Wartburg Theological Seminary.

Pastor Melber was ordained in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod on July 28, 2013. He has often served multiple congregations at once, including: Friedens, New Ringgold (2013-2021); Advent, Tuscarora (2013-2018); Zion's, Orwigsburg (2018-2021); and Jerusalem, Trachsville (2022-2024). He is currently also the pastor of St. John's, Towamensing, where he has served since 2022. He has also served as the designated pastor to various congregations and as the treasurer of the Hazleton-Lehighon Mission District from 2016-2022. Since 2023, he also serves as an officer of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, serving as the elected Secretary of the Synod.



Pastor Melber now lives in the home of his childhood in Jim Thorpe, along with his wife Amanda (married in 2007) and daughter Yuna (born in 2014). Amanda is currently an elementary special education teacher. They currently share their space with three cats named Chicken, Nugget, and Kit.

In public ministry, Pastor Melber finds his greatest joy in the worship life of the church and in its teaching ministry (especially in Confirmation class and Bible Study). His favorite Biblical passage, outside of the Passion and Resurrection, is the account of the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4. Outside of the church, Pastor Melber enjoys playing video games (especially JRPGs), watching Japanese anime, playing the piano/organ, and playing board/card games with his family.

HOLY TRINITY ACTION MINISTRY



THE BLESSING THRIFT SHOP:

Tuesday 9am-12:30pm

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

July 03	Dennis & Gerry Dorshimer	60 years
July 04	Ray & Karen Talamantes	17 years
July 05	Robin & Shirley Suarez	50 years
July 16	David & Veronica Blocker	20 years
July 22	William & Brittany Zeky	08 years
July 24	Pastor Michael & Ginny Frost	26 years



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

July 04	Brian Everett
July 04	Lizzie Reif
July 06	Sandra Benson
July 08	Vicky Holland
July 11	Gordon Walls
July 14	Garry James
July 14	Karen McIntosh
July 19	Sean Hamor
July 20	Robert Reinhart
July 23	Jason Pryce, Sr.
July 27	Jacqueline Grimley
July 27	Vanessa Zellers
July 28	Matthew Jahelka
July 30	Veronica Blocker

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY – WEDNESDAY 8AM-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

TBD

FINANCE & ATTENDANCE

May- Monthly Envelope Offering:	\$ 4,839
May- St. Matthews Pastoral Service	\$ 3,483
May- Additional Income	\$ 643
May- Monthly Expenses:	\$ 12,355
Attendance:	
May 04, 2025	33
May 11, 2025	40
May 18, 2025	26
May 25, 2025	32

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 9:00 AM

JULY 06, 2025 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Rich Hyer

Ushers: Kelly & Scott Heinrich

Altar Guild: Needed

Flowers: Ray & Karen Talamantes - Anniversary

Bulletins: Joe & Barb Herman - IMO Big Dan

Communion Bread: The Herman's – IMO Big Dan

Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

JULY 13, 2025 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Krissy Keblish

Ushers: Ron Keblish, Taylor Keblish & Terry Holland

Altar Guild: Needed

Flowers: Steve Berger – Remembering My Parents

Bulletins: Steve Berger

Communion Bread: Needed

Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

JULY 20, 2025 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Deb Hansut

Ushers: Carol Heffelfinger & Loren LaRose

Altar Guild: Needed

Flowers: The Sosik Family – IMO Loved Ones

Bulletins: Marlene Bollinger

Communion Bread: Needed

Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

JULY 27, 2025 COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Lynn Perone

Ushers: Rich & Jeanette Hyer

Altar Guild: Needed

Flowers: The Sosik Family – IMO Loved Ones

Bulletins: Marlene Bollinger

Communion Bread: Steve Berger

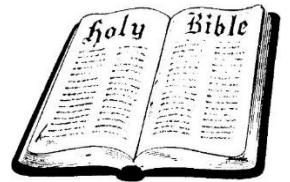
Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer



BIBLE STUDY

**Please keep an eye
open to the weekly
bulletin as we
determine the Bible**

Study dates, times & locations.



HOME VISITS

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



Fun 4th of July Trivia Facts That You Probably Didn't Know

The Liberty Bell is tapped 13 times on July 4th.

Every year on July 4, descendants of the Declaration of Independence signers tap the Liberty Bell 13 times. The tradition was created as a way to honor the original 13 colonies.

Coney Island hosts a famous hot dog-eating contest every year on July 4th.

It takes place at Nathan's Famous Corporation's original and best-known restaurant in Coney Island, New York City. But if you can't make it in person, you can still watch the televised event from home!

Joey Chestnut currently holds the title of hot dog-eating world champion after setting the new record at Nathan's.

He ate a record-breaking 76 hot dogs and buns in the 2021 competition.

There have been 27 different versions of the U.S. flag.

The original flag featured 13 stars and stripes to represent the 13 colonies. Today's American flag features 50 stars and 13 stripes.

John Hancock was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence.

His bold signature was so memorable that his name became synonymous with the word (as in, "Put your John Hancock on this form.").

President Zachary Taylor died after falling ill at a July 4 celebration.

He died on July 9, 1850, after only 16 months in office. The exact cause of his death is still debated by historians but many believe it had something to do with the large quantities of cherries and iced milk he had during the 4th of July festivities.

Apple pie has been a staple American dessert since the 1700s.

Settlers were looking for new traditions once they arrived to America. And one of the ways to reach this goal was through food—more specifically, pastries! Leaving behind their usual British scones and sweets, they were taught how to preserve apples and make pie crust from their fellow Dutch and German immigrants. Though earlier versions of apple pie did exist in other countries, the first recipe for apple pie in America was published in a cookbook in 1796.

Bristol, Rhode Island has the longest running 4th of July parade.

Dating all the way back to 1785, Bristol has held an annual Independence Day celebration—one that the town is known for. It's considered the oldest annual 4th of July celebration to date!

The proper way to fold an American flag is in the shape of a triangle.

The reason behind the triangular shape is so that it replicates the iconic "tri-cornered" hat that soldiers wore in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.

Patrick Henry is the one who said "Give me liberty, or give me death."

The famous line was actually one small part of a speech Patrick Henry gave to Peyton Randolph back in March 23, 1775—as a first formal request for the Virginia colony's right to freedom.

Betsy Ross is often credited with being the first person to sew the American flag.

Though it's not officially known who exactly sewed the first American flag, there is a long-standing belief that it was Betsy Ross—who completed the task at the request of General George Washington.

John Adams predicted that Independence Day would be a huge celebration for many generations to come.

In a letter he wrote to his wife, Abigail Adams, he declared that the day should be filled with games, sports, parades, and laughter. He basically planned the day for us!

Independence Day was once celebrated on July 5th.

The holiday fell on a Sunday in 1779, so Americans celebrated on Monday, the fifth of July.

Three U.S. presidents have died on the 4th of July.

James Monroe, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson all died on the patriotic day. (Adams and Jefferson passed in 1826, and Monroe passed five years later in 1831.)

Americans consume *a lot* of hot dogs on July 4th. About 150 million, to be exact.

Yes, you read that right! According to the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council, Los Angeles residents alone consume about 30 million pounds of hot dogs on July 4th. It's safe to say they're a holiday favorite!

Despite what you might have thought, only two men signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776.

You can thank John Hancock and Charles Thompson for this one. The rest of the delegates signed within the weeks that followed.

July 4th wasn't an official holiday until almost 100 years after the Declaration of Independence was signed.

It wasn't common to celebrate this patriotic event for the first few decades of America's independence. When it was established as an official holiday in 1870, it became one of the most popular nonreligious celebrations in the United States.

There were only about 2.5 million people living in the United States in 1776.

Today there are about 340 million people living in the United States.

Hospitals receive a surplus of patients on July 4th due to fireworks-related injuries.

In 2020, an estimated 15,600 people were hospitalized with injuries related to fireworks. Learning proper firework handling protocol can help prevent these mishaps.

Our national anthem wasn't 'The Star-Spangled Banner' until 1931.

It took 117 years for the words written in 1814 by Francis Key Scott to gain federal recognition. Now, it is easily one of the most famous songs in the country.

The One World Trade Center in New York was designed to be 1,776 feet tall.

One of the most spectacular features of the building is its height, which represents the year America declared independence from Great Britain.

The Liberty Bell hasn't been rung since 1846.

The last time the bell rang was on Washington's birthday in February 1846, when a major crack appeared on the bell.

The first newspaper to print the Declaration of Independence was the *Pennsylvania Evening Post*.

They didn't waste any time, either. The Declaration was published in the paper's Saturday issue, on July 6, 1776. It was soon published in other newspapers throughout the colonies—and there was even a German translation of it printed in the *Pennsylvanischer Staatsbote*, which was a newspaper that catered to Pennsylvania's large German population.

George Washington celebrated the 4th of July in 1778 even though he was at war.

On July 4, 1778, George Washington treated U.S. soldiers to a double ration of rum and a cannon salute.



Grant-Funded Tech Project Sparks New Ministry Opportunities at Ziegels

Written by: Winona Schappell of Ziegels Union Church, Breinigsville

In the fall of 2024, Ziegels Union Church, comprised of two sister congregations, the Ziegel United Church of Christ and Ziegels Lutheran Congregation, embarked on a joint effort to upgrade the shared 1908 church building's Fellowship Room with upgraded technology to enhance and increase informal worship and educational mission opportunities.

With the potential of applying grants to support the goal of ministries using technology, Mary Redline (UCC) and Winona Schappell (Lutheran) used local community and current congregation demographics to piece one initiative with the application

of four grants: three from UCC Penn Conference grants, Energizing Ministries, Neighbors in Need, and Operational Love of Church, and one from the NEPA Synod Witness and Service grant. With creative planning, the grants were written to cover the funding of a \$13,000 technology initiative. By January 2025, we received notice from Penn Conference and NEPA Synod confirming that all four grant applications were accepted and approved. Excited about the opportunities that these grant approvals offered,

there were still more obstacles to address. The grants did not cover the full quote for a PC projection system from Lehigh Valley Sight and Sound, so fundraisers and memorial/donation drives were needed. However, Lehigh Valley Sight and Sound started work on the project, trusting that we would be successful in raising the balance.



The Lord's blessings came in many shapes and forms.

Communications started with the Union Treasurer on establishing an accounting system to monitor grant expenditures. Union committees (Christian Education, Worship and Music, History, Fellowship) were contacted to

begin considering how to incorporate the use of the technology for our 275th Anniversary Celebrations in 2025. The Technology Committee helped to wire Internet connections, and the Property Committee found an electrician to complete the required electrical work. And with the Lord's blessings, individual members contributed donations and memorial funds of over \$6,300. With the support of the congregational members and committee volunteers, this whirlwind project was completed in three months.



On March 19th, Lehigh Valley Sight and Sound completed all the installations for a PC-controlled multimedia projection system. That same evening, Pastor Andy Meckstroth, Lutheran Pastor, used the projection system for the second Wednesday Lenten service held in the Fellowship Room. Both Pastor Andy and Pastor Larry Pickens, UCC Pastor, continued to use the projection system for the remaining Wednesday Lenten services.

Since March, several 275th Anniversary events have been held. Christian Education used the technology for a Martha Washington Tea Party and Youth Sunday worship service. The History Committee sponsored two presentations: *The Pennsylvania Germans: Past, Present & Future* by Dr. W. Donner and *The Muhlenberg Family and the Lutheran Church in Early Pennsylvania* by Christopher Malone, Curator of Historic Trappe. Weekly PowerPoint slideshows of church announcements were presented during the Fellowship Hour that is held between the Lutheran and UCC Sunday services. Families have used the system to share family photos during viewings and funeral luncheons. The system is providing an avenue of endless ministry opportunities for church committees and leadership. It is an exciting future of ministry at Ziegels Union Church, thanks to the seed funding from the Synod and Penn Conference grants.



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.

WITNESS & SERVICE GRANTS



Grab your leadership or ministry team and complete an application!

godslove.org/witness-service



01 Complete an application

02 The Grant Team reviews your application and notifies you

03 Complete your project!

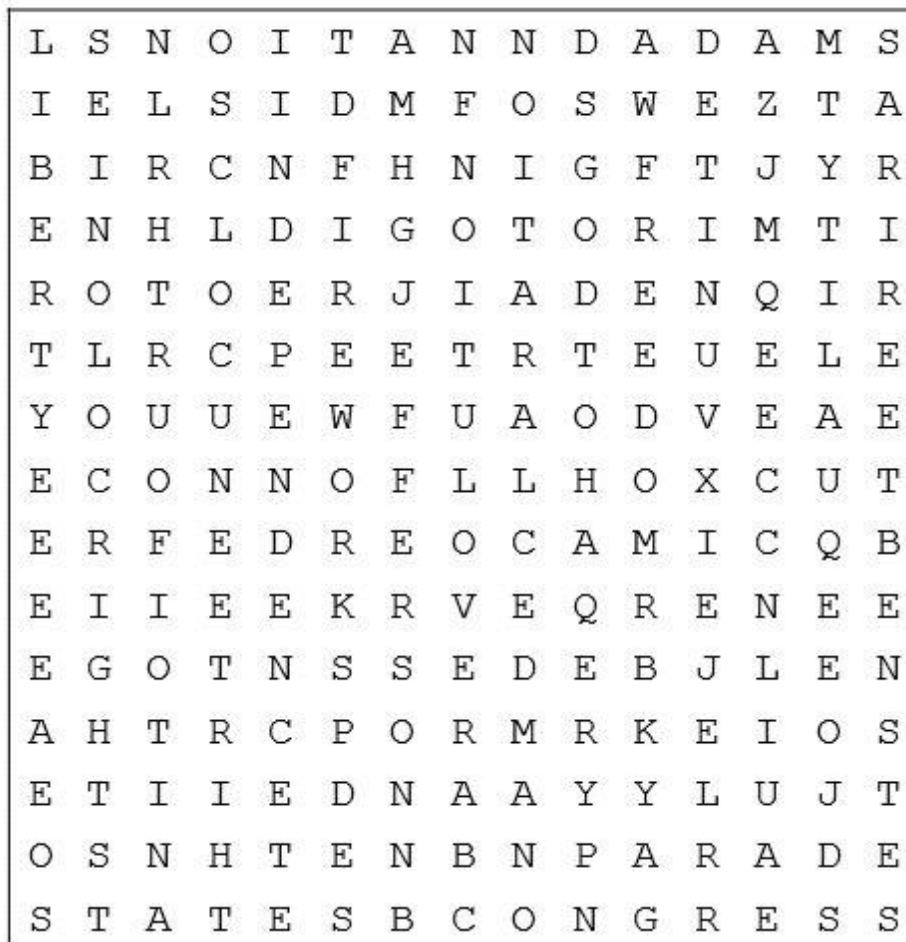
04 Submit your evaluation form

The Grants Team is looking for members to join in their work.
Contact grants@nepsynod.org if interested



Independence Day

July 4th



ADAMS
AMERICA
BARBECUE
COLONIES
CONGRESS
DECLARATION
EQUALITY
FIREWORKS

FOURTH
FREEDOM
HOTDOGS
INDEPENDENCE
JEFFERSON
JULY
LIBERTY
NATION

PARADE
REVOLUTION
RIGHTS
STATES
THIRTEEN
UNITED

