

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

FEBRUARY 2026

Volume 61 – # 02



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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FEBRUARY 2026

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1 **2** **3** **4** **5** **6** **7**

Worship Service 9am **Office Hours 8am-1pm** **Office Hours 8am-1pm** **Office Hours 8am-1pm**
Thrift Shop 9am-12:30pm

8 **9** **10** **11** **12** **13** **14**

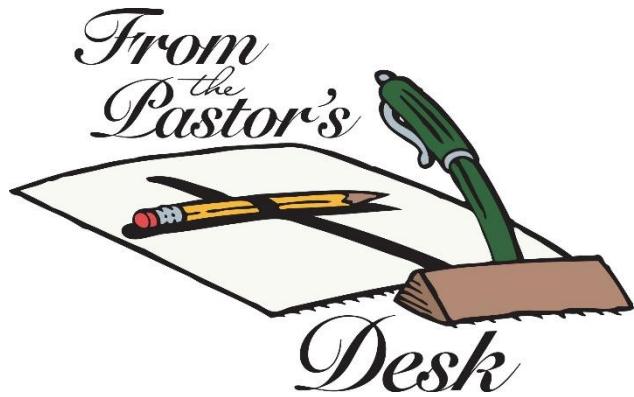
Worship Service 9am **Office Hours 8am-1pm** **Office Hours 8am-1pm** **Office Hours 8am-1pm**
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15 **16** **17** **18** **19** **20** **21**

Worship Service 9am **Office Hours 8am-1pm** **Office Hours 8am-1pm** **Office Hours 8am-1pm**
Thrift Shop 9am-12:30pm **Ash Wed. Service St. John's 7pm**

22 **23** **24** **25** **26** **27** **28**

Worship Service 9am **Office Hours 8am-1pm** **Office Hours 8am-1pm** **Office Hours 8am-1pm**
Thrift Shop 9am-12:30pm **Lenten Service St. John's 7pm**



"The priesthood of all believers." This is a doctrine that is important to our lives together as Lutherans. Unlike some other church structures, there is not a lot of things that a pastor can do that a layperson can't. In fact, the only reason there are a few things that are done by pastors only is more out of church order than it is out of doctrine.

Lutherans believe that the ministry of the Church is the ministry of all the Baptized. That means bishops and pastors, deacons and laypeople all play important roles in the mission of spreading the Gospel of God's saving work throughout our communities and the world.

In light of this, I would like to make this our focus for 2026. In our hymnals is a liturgy for Affirmation of Baptism. We use this at different times of the church year. You've likely seen it used when teenagers go through the Rite of Confirmation or when individuals join the church. It is also useful as a tool to remind us of the ministry to which we are all called as Baptized Christians.

On Sunday, February 1, I will be handing out two things. One is a copy of the liturgy for the Affirmation of Baptism. The other is a small business card that has the question asked during that affirmation, whether we will continue to uphold those promises made at our Baptism and at our Confirmation. It is my hope that as you carry it with you, you will remember the ways in which we are all called to this work together.

We will also spend some time this year organizing and reorganizing our own church structure, committees, and teams in a way that will benefit the work we are doing. Stay tuned!

Blessings,
Pastor Ken

HOLY TRINITY ACTION MINISTRY

THE BLESSINGS THRIFT SHOP:

Tuesday 9am-12:30pm



ANNIVERSARIES

February 05 Lizzie & Eric Reif 26 Years
February 14 Stacy & Andrew Hollywood 12 Years

It's Your Birthday!

February 04	Ronald Reitz
February 07	Richard Hyer
February 08	Austin Miller
February 09	Tara Berger
February 09	Jacoby Soriano
February 14	Madelyn Hoffert
February 14	Valerie Kleppinger
February 18	Caythlin Bloss
February 18	Jessyca Fredericks
February 18	Lyndsey Heinrich
February 18	Mary Walls
February 18	Tanya Yesik
February 19	Ann Marie Raub
February 20	Thomas Ring
February 23	Johnathan Barkanic
February 26	Calvin Craig
February 28	Bernice Kleintop
February 28	Richard Moyer

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS MONDAY – WEDNESDAY 8AM-1PM

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATE

We welcome Deb Hansut and Don Delich to the council. Also, Ron & Krissy Keblish graciously accepted another term. Good luck to all!

We would like to thank Larry Arner & Terry Holland as they step aside from serving as members. We appreciate your generous giving of time & hard work! Larry will continue in his role as Treasurer.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

<i>Jon Kistler</i>	<i>President</i>
<i>Steve Berger</i>	<i>Vice-President</i>
<i>Rich Hyer</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>Jim Miller</i>	<i>Asst. Treasurer</i>
<i>Krissy Keblish</i>	
<i>Ron Keblish</i>	
<i>Gerry Dorshimer</i>	
<i>Scott Heinrich</i>	
<i>Eric Reif</i>	
<i>Gordon Walls</i>	
<i>Deb Hansut</i>	
<i>Don Delich</i>	



FINANCIAL PERSONNEL

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



COUNCIL MEETING

February 15 6:00 pm

FINANCE & ATTENDANCE

Dec.- Monthly Envelope Offering:	\$6,469
Dec.- Additional Income:	\$544
Dec.- Monthly Expenses:	\$9,224
Attendance:	
December 07, 2025	40
December 14, No Service - Snow	0
December 21, 2025	50
December 24, 2025	61
December 28, 2025	29

SUNDAY WORSHIP – 9:00 AM

FEBRUARY 01, 2026

Assisting Minister: Rich Hyer

Ushers: Kelly & Scott Heinrich

Altar Guild: Gerry Dorshimer, Deb & Steve Hansut

Flowers: Ann Eckhart

Bulletins: Steve Berger

Communion Bread: Steve Berger

Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

FEBRUARY 08, 2026

Assisting Minister: Krissy Keblish

Ushers: Terry Holland, Ron Keblish & Taylor Keblish

Altar Guild: Gerry Dorshimer, Deb & Steve Hansut

Flowers: The Sosik Family – IMO Loved Ones

Bulletins: Steve Berger

Communion Bread: Steve Berger

Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

FEBRUARY 15, 2026

Assisting Minister: Deb Hansut

Ushers: Loren LaRose & Carol Heffelfinger

Altar Guild: Gerry Dorshimer, Deb & Steve Hansut

Flowers: Needed

Bulletins: Needed

Communion Bread: Steve Berger

Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

Assisting Minister: Lynn Perone

Ushers: Rich & Jeanette Hyer

Altar Guild: Gerry Dorshimer, Deb & Steve Hansut

Flowers: Needed

Bulletins: Needed

Communion Bread: Steve Berger

Times News / Website: Fred & Betsy Masenheimer



LENTEN SERVICES

February Services:

February 18 – Ash Wednesday at St. John’s – 7:00pm

February 25 at St. John’s – 7:00pm

- **6:00 PM – Soup & Sandwich**
- **7:00 PM – Worship**
- **Bible Study will meet during Soup & Sandwich on special topics. This year's Mid-Week Lenten series is “The Gospel in Exodus”.**
- **March Services will be listed in the next newsletter**

BIBLE STUDY

- ***See Lenten Services Schedule***

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.**

SUPER BOWL PARTY



We will be hosting a Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 8.

- **DOORS OPEN @ 5:00 PM**
- **GAME BEGINS @ 6:30 PM**
- **PIZZA, DRINKS & SNACKS INCLUDED**
- **WATCH SOME FOOTBALL, PLAY SOME GAMES!**
- **THERE IS A SIGN-UP SHEET IN THE NARTHEX**



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Learning to Stay in the Conversation

Written by: The Rev. Samantha Drennan, Co-Convener, Synod Racial Justice Team

I have been doing racial justice work with my colleagues in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod since late 2020. I have long known about widespread racial injustice in the United States, and the fact that systemic racism is deeply rooted in our long-established institutions, including the church. However, like many white people, for a long time I tended to avoid frank conversations about the injustice faced by people of color in the US. It was – and still is – a topic that makes people uncomfortable. And I felt helpless to change anything.

A shift came for me upon seeing the events of what is sometimes called "The Summer of George Floyd." Thanks to outspoken leaders like The Rev. William Barber, the late civil rights leader Congressman John Lewis, and the local group POWER Interfaith, I became aware how widespread these injustices are. I came to realize that these incidents, including but not limited to racial profiling by law enforcement, would never be addressed until white people began talking about them. As a result, in late 2020 I joined a group of Synod laypeople and clergy who had come to the same realization and wanted to do something. After many conversations, we began to plan an event where those who felt called would start having these difficult conversations.



On May 22, 2021, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod hosted a virtual conference called "Trouble the Water," a day comprising worship, a keynote speaker, and workshops. The participants were invited to join together in that "troubled water" – to come willing to experience the discomfort caused by openly confronting racism, then hopefully joining us in generating the waves of change and progress we hoped to make. Following worship, the Reverend CeCee Mills (then Director of Evangelical Mission of the North Carolina Synod) delivered a powerful keynote address, after which two sets of concurrent workshops were offered on a range of topics. It was a first attempt at providing space for honest, difficult conversations.

Following this event, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Racial Justice Team was formed. In the past four years, the team has submitted two resolutions (which both passed at their respective Synod Assemblies): one requiring anti-racism training for rostered ministers in the Synod; and another adopting a Land Acknowledgement statement. The team has also facilitated an online book study and has held six in-person anti-racism training sessions.



Last Fall (October 30 – November 1, 2025) I had the privilege of attending the first ever Synod Racial Justice Leader Gathering at the ELCA in Chicago. This gathering brought together approximately 50 individuals, both clergy and laypeople, who organize racial justice work in their respective Synods. Planned and overseen by Jennifer De Leon (ELCA director for Racial Justice) and Rev. Christina M. Montgomery, ELCA Racial Justice Manager, it was a deeply impactful and inspirational experience for me. The schedule included devotions, reflections, workshops, and small group time with other leaders from our regions.

The most impactful presentation was done by Kyle Williams, who represented an organization called "A Long Talk about the Uncomfortable Truth" – "A Long Talk" for short. His official job title is "Chief Empowerment Officer." He began by telling us a deeply moving story of how this 21-day anti-racism activation experience came to be.

Kyle then shared their mission: to energize and empower allies in the pursuit of this shared purpose; and their process – to engage in an ongoing conversation focused on truth, understanding, and problem solving. He explained that many people will say they are not racist, and that's fine. However, for many people being not racist or non-racist is not enough. What some people need is a way to become actively anti-racist.

Since I have begun doing this work, time and time again people have said to me "look, I know racism and white supremacy are wrong, I get it. But when someone says something like that around me, I get nervous/frustrated/angry and I don't know what to say." I understand this frustration; I too have found myself angry and at a loss for words. What was so impactful about Kyle's presentation was that I now finally have a workable and direct response.

Kyle led us through a process called CPR, which stands for Clarify, Probe, Redirect. He said our goal should be to "get curious, not furious"; to engage the speaker's critical thinking ability by asking questions following a racist statement. Briefly, it looks like this:

Clarify:	(example) "What do you mean when you say ___?"
Probe:	(example) "How do you think it makes ___ feel when you say that?"
Redirect:	(example) "What would happen if you supported ___?"

"A Long Talk" gathers an online cohort to explore this process. Participants first watch a video on the history of race in America, then take part in a two-hour Zoom session discussing connections between American history and current realities. A follow-up session, held either in person or on Zoom, focuses on using the CPR protocol to challenge racist comments and beliefs. Ongoing support encourages continued growth and engagement in anti-racism efforts. More details about the upcoming "A Long Talk" coming soon at godslove.org/racial-justice-team.



"A Long Talk" cohort (Zoom sessions)
Saturday February 28 at 10:00am (1 of 2)
Saturday March 7 at 1:00pm (2 of 2)

REGISTRATION COMING SOON

alongtalk.com

A LONG TALK
 ABOUT THE UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTH



This event is organized by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Racial Justice Team



The Story of the Three Candles

In a small, quiet village, a young girl named Anna felt that February was the hardest month. The holiday excitement had faded, the air was bitter cold, and the days, while getting longer, still felt dominated by darkness and snow. She grumbled to her grandmother about the cold, dreary winter, wishing it were already spring.

Her grandmother smiled gently and brought out three white candles. "Anna," she said, "February is a time for hope, not just cold. On Candlemas, we light candles to remember that even in the darkest winter, the light of God is present."

She lit the first candle. "**This is the candle of Memory**," she said. "It represents Mary bringing the baby Jesus to the Temple, bringing light into the world, just as the sun is starting to return to us".

She lit the second candle. "**This is the candle of Stillness**," she continued. "Just as the earth rests under the snow, preparing for spring, we use this time to rest, pray, and grow quietly in our hearts".

She lit the third candle. "**And this is the candle of Action**," Grandma said. "Just as we bring light to a dark room, we are called to be kind to those who are lonely or cold this winter".

Looking at the three candles, Anna's heart felt warm. She realized that winter wasn't just empty—it was a time of preparation, and she could bring her own light to it through kindness.

February Reflection: Light in the Darkness

- **Theme:** Purification and Light (Candlemas, Feb 2nd).
- **Scripture Focus:** "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Isaiah 9:2).