



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



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# Trinity Messenger

April 2024 Issue 2

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*Alleluia. Our hearts burn within us while you open to us the scriptures. Alleluia.*  
*Luke 24: 32*

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## **By Faith Alone? Yikes!!**

*Then [Jesus] said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." (John 20:27-29)*

If you have not yet figured it out, you, I, and our fellow siblings in Christ are those whom Jesus was thinking about when he offered his blessing. So, how does it feel to be the direct recipient of Jesus' blessing? And, how blessed do you feel to be one of those who must believe through faith, with the ongoing help of the Holy Spirit, instead of by direct contact with the corporeal Jesus?

Before you feel left out of the first disciples' experience and the evidence they were uniquely privy to, please recognize that Jesus is paying you and me a glorious tribute compared to Thomas, who required more proof. We have not seen, but we believe. We know Jesus by faith alone as the many who have lived and served God and the resurrected Lord before us. And we, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, place our trust in the faithfulness those saints have displayed for us. With the Spirit's unceasing guidance and assurance, we, in turn, are the ones who serve as an example for those who are new to the faith and those who will come after us. So, how we serve, in all times and circumstances, with faithfulness or without, plays an important role in helping guide and sustain those yet to be called to serve the same faith Lord.

Take heart in Jesus' blessing and Jesus' complement to your sightless faith, which does not require seeing but our faith alone. Faith that demands sight is like faith that demands proof: there can be no true belief when evidence is needed.

Striving to live by faith alone,  
**Pastor Mark**

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## First Quarter Financial Report-2024

Income \$89,182.79  
Expense \$80,858.60

Through the first quarter of 2024, we have received 30% of the budgeted income and have spent 20% of the budgeted expenses. The percentage of expenses is in line with previous years' expenses.

We are thankful for the additional giving in the first quarter which enables us to end the quarter with a positive balance. Continued increased contributions will enable the congregation to meet our financial challenges and continue to provide the same level of ministry.

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### Stewardship Special Giving for April North Lancaster Conference Disaster Response Team

As you may know, several of our Holy Trinity family members have served on work teams for Luther Disaster Response (LDR) in the mainland United States and Puerto Rico. During April, we will be collecting donations for our stewardship focus to help fund the life-giving activities of this local group as they prepare to travel to Florida to assist in restoring people's lives by restoring homes that families lost during recent storms. Beth and Tom Smith will be in worship on Sunday, April 7, to offer a temple talk to provide us with details about this upcoming trip and the vital humanitarian work this team is up to. Please be present that day to hear from them; please consider giving generously to their efforts and those of the team of volunteers they represent.

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### Congregational Gatherings in April

There will be two important gatherings in April to discuss the future of Holy Trinity.

**Sunday, April 14**, there will be a forum following the morning worship service. The Congregation Council plans to present several options (with details and implications for each) for discussion. The discussion will help the Council reduce the options for a final congregational vote.

**Sunday, April 28**, will be the annual Spring Congregational Meeting following the morning worship service. As part of the meeting, the Congregation Council plans to conduct a vote to set definitively the direction for the congregation.

The Council hopes to have both meetings in the Sanctuary, so that they can be livestreamed. While the meetings will be available for viewing while they occur, there will not be a way for viewers to participate. Also, the livestream will probably **not** be available for later viewing.

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**Information for Donna Nace's mother's funeral:** Tuesday, April 23 at Little Zion Lutheran Church, 267 Morwood Rd. Telford, PA. The greeting hour will begin at 10:00 AM and the service will begin at 11:00 AM. A luncheon will follow.

Donna's address: 1740 Lincoln Garden Rd. Ephrata, PA 17522.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in Helen Stever's name to The Benevolent Fund at Lutheran Community Telford c/o Grace Inspired Living ATTN: Alyssa Guers Director of Development, 12 Lutheran Home Drive, Telford, PA 18969, or The Daily Bread Community Food Pantry, P.O. Box 131, Schwenksville, PA 19473.

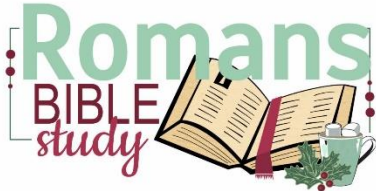


## Spring Fling Potluck

### Spring Fling!!!! Potluck

Sign up for another delicious and fun filled evening on April 19, 6:00pm. Bring something to share. Sign-up sheet is in the gathering area ☘

Fellowship Committee



### New Bible Exploration

**For those participating in the Bible study of Romans, remember there will not be class on Tuesday, March 26 (Holy Week) or Tuesday, April 2. We will resume the study on Tuesday, April 9 at 11:00 AM.**

Continuing on Tuesdays you are invited to join in a study of the book of *Romans*. The study will take place each Tuesday morning from 11:00 AM to roughly 12:00 PM. "In his *Preface to Romans* Martin Luther writes, 'this epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament, and is truly the purest gospel...It is a bright light, almost sufficient to illuminate the entire Holy Scriptures'" (*Martin Luther's Basic Theological Writings*, second ed., Fortress, 2005 pp. 98-99). *Romans* is also the most challenging of the Pauline epistles and will likely provide those participating with significant, in-depth discussion and new ideas to chew on as we wade through it and learn and grow together in our faith lives and our relationships with God and our Lord. There will be sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area for those who are interested in participating.

**If you are interested in volunteering for The (Compassion) Project in July, please contact Rob Gilbert.**



THE ADULT (all adults are welcome) LUNCH BUNCH will be going to Park Place Diner after the liturgy on April 14. We'll meet downstairs immediately after the liturgy. All are welcome. Plan to join us!

### **Pickleball update**

Pickleball Court is available every Tuesday from 8:00 to 10:00 AM. Anyone who is experienced or a beginner is welcome. See Ron Kerschner if you have any questions.



### **Why Camp? A place for families**

“My family absolutely LOVES Family Camp at Nawakwa. We love it so much that we start a countdown for the next year as soon as our week at camp is over. Seriously, we are that excited!” ~ Amy Koch  
“Every year, the first dates we put on our new calendar are Family Camp at Kirchenwald. We’ve been going since our first child was a baby, and our children have never known a summer where we weren’t at Family Camp.” ~ Pastor Alex Martini  
People often talk about Family Camp as though it’s just another vacation option, like going to the beach or Walt Disney World or the Grand Canyon, but Family Camp is so much more than that. Pastor Martini says, “We have made new friends we see year after year. Our faith is strengthened in worship, Bible study, and conversations with the staff and other campers. Our children have

learned to love camp and God’s creation in new and profound ways.”

Koch says her favorite thing about Family Camp is the people. “Our first year, we met a family from another congregation, and we have grown extremely close. We get together throughout the year, and I love that our friendship has a foundation built on faith.”

Maybe it’s time to rethink the value of Family Camp. It might be just what your family needs to reconnect with each other and with God’s family.

**Register Now for Summer Camp at  
LutheranCamping.org**

The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania  
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm LutheranCamping.org

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## April 14-20 Calendar

<b>Sunday, April 14</b>	
Forum to discuss options after worship in sactuary	
9:00am	Worship
10:00am	Coffee Hour After Worship
10:15am	SCS
11:00am	Lunch Bunch
<b>Monday, April 15</b>	
10:00am	Women's Prayer Group
6:30pm	Yoga
<b>Tuesday, April 16</b>	
8:00am	Pickleball
11:00am	Bible Study
3:30pm	Trini Mini
7:00pm	Bell Choir
7:30pm	Church Council
<b>Wednesday, April 17</b>	
12:00pm	Luther Lunch Ladies
6:30pm	Senior Choir
<b>Thursday, April 18</b>	
3:30pm	Trini Mini
7:00pm	Yoga
7:00pm	Thursday Worship
7:30pm	North Lancaster Conf. Assem. 7:30pm Social Hall
<b>Friday, April 19</b>	
6:00pm	Pot luck dinner
<b>Saturday, April 20</b>	
7:30am	Walking Group

[View This Month's Interactive Calendar Here](#)

### April 14th Servers:

**Council Team:** Bill Spitzer, John Fuehrer

**Assisting Minister:** John Weiss

**Lector:** Bill Young

**Acolytes:** Gary Nace, Anya Gilbert

**Ushers:** Dave Bowers, Bob & Ann Snader

**Altar Guild:** Barb- Steve Sweigart, Andy Sweigart

**Linens:** Brenda Wangman

**Flowers:** Dan Doremus



## Office Hours April 15-19, 2024

We recommend you call the office prior to stopping in to ensure hours have not changed.

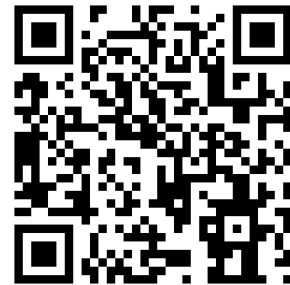
Office Phone: 717-733-4134 Pastor's Cell: 315-317-8517 Donna's Cell: 717-669-7831

Office email: [officeholytrinity@ephratalutheran.org](mailto:officeholytrinity@ephratalutheran.org)

Day	Sue	Pastor
Monday	8:00 AM- 4:00 PM	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Tuesday	8:00 AM-12:00 noon	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Wednesday	8:00 AM- 4:00 PM	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Thursday	8:00 AM-12:00 noon	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Friday	8:00 AM-12:00 noon	OFF

### Make Your Regular Offering Electronically

On the Holy Trinity website ([www.holytrinityephrata.org](http://www.holytrinityephrata.org)), a tab on the menu bar called "Online Giving" will take you to a secure web site for you to give. You can also give your Regular Offering, your Special Appeal donation, your building fund, or your Homes of Hope fund donation by using your Smart Phone and following the QR code.



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*Thanks for reading! Have a great week ahead!*

