



# HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



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## Trinity Messenger

February 2024 Issue 2

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*Alleluia. This is my Son, my Chosen, listen to him! Alleluia. Luke 9:35*

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Early in my ministry there was a member of a congregation in which I was serving who would cease attending worship services after Transfiguration Sunday and return to worship on Easter Sunday. I thought this was rather odd, so when she began doing so the second year I was there I asked her why this was her annual practice. I thought maybe it had to do with an unusual Lenten practice she observed each year. Even though it was early in minister I had already see some odd choices to Lenten disciplines. She told me that she did not like what perceived as the “negative vibes” that came with the season of Lent, especially the sadness and grief that came with Good Friday and the terrible treatment of Jesus. She preferred the “happier vibes” that came with Easter morning and the “sunnier” times of the church year, so, she chose to stay away to avoid the aspects of the Lenten season that were dark.

I recently read a quote that stated we cannot experience resurrection if we do not first experience death. Resurrection is not possible unless something first dies so that it can return to life again. The same can be said for change in our lives. For something to change something must die so something else can take its place or at the least be transformed in some way into something different. This is true as well with our relationship with God and how we choose to live out that relationship. Do we want it to develop and continue to be something that is life-giving and beneficial for us and for those with whom we share its fruits, or do we remain in the same old relationship that does not change and becomes stagnant?

The season of Lent is not a season of “negative vibes” or of sadness. It is a season through which God graciously invites us to be honest with ourselves about the ways in which we have been living out our relationship with Him and with others, be they positive or less than positive in nature, and faithfully make the necessary changes to get ourselves into a right relationship with God. Lent also provides us with a clear reminder of the depths to which God was willing to go to display for us the love He possesses for us through the death and resurrection of the Son who offers new life to us. Through Christ’s death and resurrection, we are transformed and given new life despite our sinfulness. We daily die and are given new life because of what God did for us through our Savior. This is not sad or grief-filled, but rather is life-giving when we choose to take God’s gift seriously and allow it to transform our hearts and our lives for the betterment of God’s kingdom.

Embrace the gift of the Lenten season, my sisters and brothers, and welcome the opportunity to let die the aspects of yourselves that have been getting in the way of living the faithful life God made possible for you with thanksgiving.

Faithfully welcoming change,

**Pastor Mark**

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## Stewardship Special Giving for February Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania

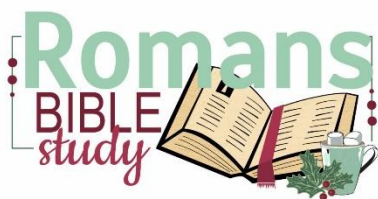
The Church, in a place and time apart...Where God's presence is experienced, Faith is renewed, Christ's love is felt, and the Church is strengthened for the service and proclamation of the Gospel! Our mission is to be a gracious expression of God's love for all people.

The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania operates three facilities: Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and the Wittel Farm; with a variety of outdoor experiences in a uniquely Lutheran tradition. Each summer, hundreds of young people, adults, and families come to camp to grow in faith through adventure, nature, and creative arts experiences.

Retreat programs are offered for all ages throughout the year. Plus, all facilities are available for rent by retreat groups, church groups, and families.

The Growing Project at the Wittel Farm is a volunteer-supported working farm that grows fresh fruits and vegetables, which are donated to address food insecurity in Lancaster County.

As a Reconciling in Christ organization, all people are invited and welcome to enjoy the goodness of God's creation through the community at camp.



### New Bible Exploration

Beginning Tuesday, February 27 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.

### Live Stream Participation

A wonderful addition to our worship life and community has been the opportunity for folks to join us for weekly worship services and other seasonal services through live stream and over the telephone options.

To help us develop a better understanding of the our remote audience and to serve you better, we would like to find out who is logging in and joining us each week or at other times, be it live or not. To achieve this, we are asking you to email the church at [officeholyltrinity@ephratalutheran.org](mailto:officeholyltrinity@ephratalutheran.org) or call the church office at (717) 733-4134 and let us know who you are and how many of you are watching or listening to our worship services. If you are presently a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church we would like to know that as well. This information will only be used to assist us in recording statistics and better serving our viewers and listeners. Any personal information you provide will not be shared with anyone beyond the pastor or used for other purposes outside the church. Thanks for being a part of this church community! We look forward to hearing from you.

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## Child Protection Policy Training

Our new church insurance policy requires that all persons of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, staff and volunteers alike, who presently have a background check on file or wish to volunteer during 2024 must attend an annual child protection training at which the congregational Child Protection Policy is reviewed. To assist you in fulfilling this requirement there will be a training for all those to whom this applies on **Sunday, February 25 during the Adult Forum**. There will be sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area, so please include your name so we can make sure there are enough materials available for everyone attending the training.

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## Why Camp?

### A place for Faith Formation and Vocational Discernment

The heart of faith formation is essentially deepening the relationship between us and God, and also between us and our siblings in Christ. Camp is a place where faith formation comes to life! Scripture and living the way Jesus teaches us becomes real. Rather than stories and poems written about and for ancient people, scripture is revealed to us as a story we enter into and are part of!

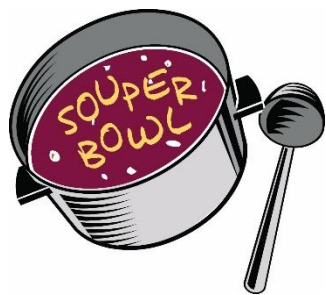
Lower Susquehanna Synod Bishop James Dunlop, who continues to attend Family Camp with his wife and grandchildren, has often reflected that his time at camp was central in his own vocational discernment, leading him to enter seminary and seek ordination. Deep conversations and time for personal devotion and prayer helped him listen closely to the Holy Spirit – and his experience was not unique!

“Camp is where I first really felt God speaking to me,” is a common refrain we hear from campers year after year – and not just from kids. We hear this from people of all ages, people in public ministry roles, and people who live out their faith in the secular world.

Maybe it’s time we rethink the value of the summer church camp experience. It’s not just a “once and done” opportunity; it’s a valuable and unmatched opportunity for lifelong faith formation and vocational discernment.

**Register Now for Summer Camp at [www.LutheranCamping.org](http://www.LutheranCamping.org)**

**The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania**  
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm  
[LutheranCamping.org](http://LutheranCamping.org)



## Souper Bowl Sunday

Show your support for your team, 49ers or Chiefs, as we collect nonperishable food products to fight hunger in the local community. Starting Sunday, February 4 there will be two boxes in the Gathering Area into which you are invited to place food products for your preferred team. On Super Bowl Sunday, February 11 the team with the greatest amount of food wins. But we all know the winners are not those on the field but rather our neighbors with whom we share this community and need our help. Please give generously to help address the hunger issues that are on the rise in Ephrata and the surrounding area.

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Come "Getty" some spaghetti 🍝!!

Fellowship is hosting a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00.

Just food and fellowship. All are welcome! Sign up sheets for attendance and donation of foods will be in the gathering area. Come feed your soul and your stomach. Questions or concerns, please see Kathy Kuhns.

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THE ADULT (all adults are welcome) LUNCH BUNCH will be going to Caruso's Restaurant after the liturgy on March 10. We'll meet downstairs immediately after the liturgy. All are welcome. Plan to join us!

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*Notes of* **THANKS**

Brenda and I wish to thank all the members of our congregation who sent me get well cards and prayers during my recent hospitalization and recovery at home. It is difficult to express all the pleasure in receiving so many get well greeting cards. Thanks especially to Pastor Mark and Donna who visited me in the hospital. I feel very fortunate to be a member of a large family who is most caring. Thanks again. Norm Wangman

Dear Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$814.54 to ministries of the ELCA through ELCA Good Gifts. As a church, we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This brings peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through your gifts to ministries of the ELCA you share this amazing grace with others and help people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love. through resources such as seedlings and seminary courses, vaccinations and vegetable gardens, Bibles, and blankets you equip God's people- around the world and around the corner- with what they need to live abundant lives. Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

With gratitude, Rachel Wind, Executive for Development.

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**Pickleball update**

**\*\*Pickleball time on Sunday, February 11th is cancelled for the afternoon. Will resume next scheduled\*\***

Game Day/Social Time. Our Pickleball Court is available every Tuesday from 8AM to 10AM. Additional days and times will be determined

upon interest of court times once we begin this new activity. All experienced players

come and join us. Come and give it a try. See Ron Kerschner if you have questions.



Senior Choir rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6:45 PM! All are welcome!!!

BELL CHOIR Rehearsals are Tuesdays at 7:00 pm.

## February 11-17 Calendar

Second Sunday Afternoon Games session for February 11, 2024 is CANCELLED

Sunday, February 11	
9:00am	Worship
10:00am	Coffee Hour After Worship
10:15am	SCS
Monday, February 12	
10:00am	Women's Prayer Group
6:30pm	Yoga
Tuesday, February 13	
8:00am	Pickleball
3:30pm	Trini Mini
7:00pm	Bell Choir
7:00pm	Finance Committee
8:00pm	Executive Council
Wednesday, February 14	
6:30pm	Senior Choir
7:30pm	Ash Wednesday service 7:30PM
Thursday, February 15	
3:30pm	Trini Mini
7:00pm	Yoga
7:00pm	Thursday Worship
Friday, February 16	
6:00pm	Spaghetti Dinner
Saturday, February 17	
7:30am	Walking Group



### Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday, February 14 at 7:30PM

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

## February 11th Servers:

**Council Team:** Bill Spitzer, Norm Wangman

**Assisting Minister:** John Weiss

**Lector:** John Weiss

**Acolytes:** Natalie Mull, Anya Gilbert,  
Clarice Doughty

**Ushers:** Denise Shirker, Trig Olson, Matt Shirker

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

**Linens:** Patricia Fassnacht

**Flowers:** Dan Doremus



## Office Hours: February 12-16, 2024

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

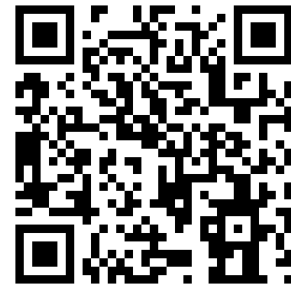
**Office Phone: 717-733-4134 Pastor's Cell: 315-317-8517 Donna's Cell: 717-669-7831**

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

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



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

