

# ***HOLY TRINITY NEWSLETTER***

***NOVEMBER 2024***

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## ***HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH***

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# November 2024

November 2024						
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

December 2024						
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
Oct 27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1	2
					Bazaar (Parish Hall)	
					Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bazaar (Parish Hall)		Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room)	Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	
10:15am Worship 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 5:00pm Girl Scouts Troop 6:00pm Girl	Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 41 (Parish Hall - Scout Room.	9:00am Thrift Shop				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:15am Worship Service in Church and 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 348 (New Girl Scout Room)	Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 41 (Parish Hall - Scout Room. Larry Arner)	Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room) 5:45pm Girl Scouts Troop 301 (GS Room)	Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10:15am Worship 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 5:00pm Girl Scouts Troop 6:00pm Girl Scouts Troop	Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 41 (Parish Hall - Scout Room. Larry Arner)	Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room) 7:00pm Camera Club	Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:15am Worship Service in Church and 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 348 (New Girl Scout Room)	Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 41 (Parish Hall - Scout Room. Larry Arner)	Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	Thanksgiving Day	Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	

## From the Pastor's Desk – November 2024

### ***“Of Stewardship & Church Budgets”***

***<sup>6</sup> Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written:***

***“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;  
their righteousness endures forever.”***

***<sup>10</sup> Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.***

***<sup>12</sup> This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. <sup>13</sup> Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. <sup>14</sup> And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. <sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift.***  
(2 Corinthians 9:6-14)

Back in the early/mid 1980's, in my first congregation (I was the Assistant Pastor) they asked the members to pledge, to make their financial commitments for the next year and then, on the basis of those pledges, they put together the next year's budget. People pledged so well and followed through on those commitments that they actually could budget 100% of what was pledged and it was more than enough to fund the entire life and ministry of that congregation. Then I came to Northeastern Pennsylvania and naively, I thought the same would apply in my new congregation. I had no idea that around here pledging was considered a dirty word. Before long my colleagues clued me in that (as they told me) Pennsylvania Dutch folks were never going to make that kind of a commitment. Their finances were kept very close to the vest. They simply would not share that with their pastor or with their fellow members. That has been the reality in all five of the congregations I have served in this synod. I'm going to guess this doesn't surprise any of you.

I'm going to be rather bold and say that this reluctance betrays a misunderstanding of the nature of Christ's church. It assumes a problematic “us vs them” feeling that always cripples our life and our ministry. The church is not, or ought not be, a loose, voluntary

organization of individuals who agree to do certain things together under the authority of either the pastor or the church council. Instead, we are called to be an intimate fellowship in which the Holy Spirit binds us together into the very Body of Christ by our Baptism into Christ. Our faith and trust in Christ, our love for God, needs to be matched by our love for and commitment to one another. In the life of Christ's Church, in any particular congregation, I ought not consider that I am giving my stuff, my time, or my money to any sort of a "them" that is separate from me. We are in this together and carrying out our calling from Jesus together using all of the resources with which God has blessed us.

So, I need to look at everything that God has given to me as an individual or to us as a family and consider how I can best contribute to the church's life and ministry. My stewardship, my giving, is a reflection, one way or the other, of my commitment to Christ. Does it proclaim that God comes first in my, or in our, life?

That first congregation I served linked those stewardship commitments directly to the church's fiscal budget in a way that I have come to believe isn't the best for either aspect of our ministry. Our Finance Committee and then our Church Council work hard to propose a budget that anticipates our income and our expenses for the coming year. We base those projections on the previous years' real numbers. What will it cost us to fund our life and ministry in the coming year? What do we believe our income will be? Those numbers are predictable at least to some degree. It is necessary for us to do this work and then present our proposal to the congregation for your approval.

Your decision, your commitment to contribute financially to our life and ministry is a choice you need to make as individuals and as families. You know how God has blessed you financially. You know your income and your expenses. Prayerfully, then, you decide on how much you can and will give each week or month to the church. That commitment has nothing to do with the church's budget decisions. It is going to be a reflection of your faith and trust in Christ.

I will not ask you to put pen to paper and tell us of your decision, but I challenge you to make that commitment just the same. Don't let your giving be from the leftovers after you've done everything else but of the first fruits of God's blessings as you have come to experience them.

Stewardship, properly understood, is the living out of our faith. We realize that God has placed these blessings into our hands AND that the way we use these blessings is our act of worship, an expression of our gratitude to God. May our decisions declare that God is our first priority.

Your Partner in Ministry,  
Pastor Mike



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



***It's Your Birthday!***

- |             |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|
| November 01 | Tricia Pryce       |
| November 09 | Dennis Dorshimer   |
| November 10 | June Andreas       |
| November 11 | Kara Suarez        |
| November 11 | Nancy Young        |
| November 15 | James Miller       |
| November 16 | Stephen Schmidt    |
| November 17 | Sharon Bowman      |
| November 17 | James Brown        |
| November 19 | Suzanne Bloomfield |
| November 19 | Kim Merkel, Jr     |
| November 20 | Maggie Weimer      |
| November 21 | Ashley Weiner      |
| November 22 | Katrina Schrag     |
| November 23 | Layla Schmidt      |
| November 26 | Michael Frost      |
| November 27 | Brittany Zeky      |

*[NOTE: If we have omitted your birthday or anniversary, please let us know.]*

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



**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Terry Holland    | President       |
| Jon Kistler      | Vice-President  |
| Karen Talamantes | Secretary       |
| Larry Arner      | Treasurer       |
| Jim Miller       | Asst. Treasurer |
| Steve Berger     |                 |
| Gerry Dorshimer  |                 |
| Scott Heinrich   |                 |
| Krissy Keblish   |                 |
| Ron Keblish      |                 |
| Eric Reif        |                 |
| Ray Talamantes   |                 |

**FINANCIAL PERSONNEL**

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Larry Arner        | Treasurer      |
| Carol Heffelfinger | Financial Sec. |

**COUNCIL MEETING**

***November 17 6:30pm***

**FINANCE & ATTENDANCE**

Sept. Monthly Envelope Offering:	\$ 7,331
Sept. St. Matthews Pastoral Service	\$ 3,300
Sept. Additional Income	\$ 778
Sept. Monthly Expenses:	\$ 10,259
Attendance:	
Sept. 01, 2024	36
Sept. 08, 2024	33
Sept. 15, 2024	35
Sept. 22, 2024	31
Sept. 29, 2024	35



**WORSHIP SCHEDULE 10:15 AM**

**NOVEMBER 03, 2024 COMMUNION**

**Assisting Minister:** Rich Hyer

**Ushers:** Kelly & Scott Heinrich

**Altar Guild:** Rich & Jeanette Hyer

**Flowers:** The Sosik Family – IMO Loved Ones

**Bulletins:** Ron & Krissy Keblish – IHO & IMO Loved Ones

**Communion Bread:** Morris & Suzanne Bloomfield

**Times News / Website:** Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

**NOVEMBER 10, 2024 COMMUNION**

**Assisting Minister:** Krissy Keblish

**Ushers:** Ron Keblish w/Taylor, Terry Holland

**Altar Guild:** Rich & Jeanette Hyer

**Flowers:** Carol Heffelfinger – June’s Birthday

**Bulletins:** Ron & Krissy Keblish – IHO & IMO Loved Ones

**Communion Bread:** Morris & Suzanne Bloomfield

**Times News / Website:** Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

**NOVEMBER 17, 2024 COMMUNION**

**Assisting Minister:** Deb Hansut

**Ushers:** Carol Heffelfinger & Loren LaRose

**Altar Guild:** Rich & Jeanette Hyer

**Flowers:** Ray & Karen Talamantes –

In Thanksgiving for Daughter Heidi Mack

**Bulletins:** Ron & Krissy Keblish – IHO & IMO Loved Ones

**Communion Bread:** Morris & Suzanne Bloomfield

**Times News / Website:** Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

**NOVEMBER 24, 2024 COMMUNION**

**Assisting Minister:** Lynn Perone

**Ushers:** Rich & Jeanette Hyer

**Altar Guild:** Rich & Jeanette Hyer

**Flowers:** Ron & Krissy Keblish

**Bulletins:** Ron & Krissy Keblish – IHO & IMO Loved Ones

**Communion Bread:** Morris & Suzanne Bloomfield

**Times News / Website:** Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

Pastor Mike will have a children’s sermon on the second Sunday of each month.



**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.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS**

**NOVEMBER 3**

*Don’t forget to turn back your clocks!*



*The following has joined the Church Triumphant between November 1, 2023 & October 31, 2024:*

**Thomas “Tom” G. Schmidt Sr.**

**October 13, 2024.**



# CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA FLOWERS



	PRICE	COLOR	QUANTITY	COST
6.5 INCH POT (5+BLOOMS)	\$10.00 EACH	RED		
6.5 INCH POT (5+BLOOMS)	\$10.00 EACH	WHITE		
6.5 INCH POT (5+BLOOMS)	\$10.00 EACH	PINK		
6.5 INCH POT (5+BLOOMS)	\$10.00 EACH	MARBLE		

TOTAL POINSETTIA'S ORDERED	QUANTITY	COST

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

ORDERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE ATTACH CHECK, PAYABLE TO "HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH" TO THIS FORM AND PLACE IN OFFERING PLATE OR BRING/MAIL TO THE CHURCH OFFICE

**ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 21, 2024 – NO EXCEPTIONS**



**November 2<sup>nd</sup>: 9am-2pm**

*Many Gift Cards and Prizes*

**Crafts - Jewelry - Food - Lunch Bag Raffle - Raffle Tickets - Bake Sale - White Elephant**

***SEE YOU THERE!***



### **CHILDREN'S SHOPPING**

**2024**

The ever-popular Children's shopping will take place on Dec. 14, 2024. From 9:00 to noon. Families can register as they enter the Fellowship Hall. Each family will be given a number in order to keep the 'first come-first

served' order. The gifts will still be offered for 25¢ each. Moms and Dads can wrap the gifts before taking them home. There will be refreshments. Hand sanitizer will be readily available in many locations. This shopping day gives children the opportunity to find nice gifts for their families and friends. This shopping day is one of our best community outreach programs. We have been doing this long enough that little trick-or-treaters from the early years are bringing their children to join in on the fun.

So. What can the congregation do to help with this project? We need gifts for men and teenage boys – think after shave, boxes of candy, small tools, earbuds, packs of batteries, etc. Sports memorabilia is always popular. Gifts for teenage girls might include cute purses, hair bands or barrettes, perfume, etc. Coloring books that are still not colored in are good. We have lots of stuffed animals. We do not need wrapping paper, bows, or cards this year. But gift bags will certainly help speed up the wrapping process. The most popular gifts are Christmas decorations and knick-knacks. We also need volunteers to register families, direct traffic, and help our young customers find what they are looking for. Volunteers should be at the Fellowship Hall at 8:30. Please call Connie at 610-509-9873 if you have questions.

Once again, shopping will be on Saturday, December 14 from 9:00 to noon. Children from 5-12 years old are welcome. As usual, they may buy one gift for each person on their list for only 25¢.





## LWR Ingathering: Can you believe we filled the Truck!



On Saturday, September 21, the NEPA Synod hosted our first local Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Ingathering to collect Mission Quilts and Kits destined for the Baltimore warehouse. Congregations collect donations and assemble various LWR kits – Personal Care, School, Baby Care or Fabric kits – for their “God’s Work. Our Hands.” service projects. Quilts are typically made all year long with a celebration Blessing of the Quilts and Kits through the fall season. Our LWR Ingathering was scheduled to coincide with these activities, to collect donations and coordinate transportation to the Baltimore warehouse. As a new venture, we were very curious to see the turnout from local churches.

As is typical with our Synod, the response was AMAZING! During our 3 hour collection period, cars, trucks and vans kept coming filled with as many boxes as could be carried! Most congregations brought Personal Care Kits totaling 570 kits from Trinity Lutheran in Robesonia, St. John’s Lutheran in Stroudsburg, Trinity Lutheran in Tipton, Trinity Lutheran in Perkasio, Zion Lutheran in Womelsdorf, Emmanuel’s Lutheran in Emmanuelville and St. John’s Lutheran in Allentown. The largest quantity donated were School Kits totaling 595 kits from Zion Lutheran in Womelsdorf, Good Shepherd Lutheran in Northampton and St. Stephen’s Lutheran in Bethlehem. Fifty-four (54) Mission Quilts were collected from St. John’s Lutheran in Slatington, St. Paul’s Lutheran in Douglassville and St. John’s Lutheran in Allentown. Fourteen (14) Baby Care kits were collected from St. John’s Lutheran in Allentown.

On October 12, through the generous donation of Kristi Parcel-Smith of Remax in Allentown, we drove her company’s truck to






Christ Lutheran Church in Reading to collect donations from three additional churches. We added more boxes containing 207 Mission Quilts from Reformation Lutheran in Reading and Robeson Lutheran in Plowville. We also added 110 Personal Care Kits from Nativity Lutheran in Reading and St. Paul's in Reading. We continued our journey on to Bergstrasse Lutheran Church in Ephrata where volunteers loaded our boxes onto a tractor-trailer headed to Baltimore on Monday, October 14. What an amazing outpouring of love for our neighbors in need!

Typically, LWR Quilts and Kits are sent around the world. Following Hurricane Helene, LWR Quilts and Personal Care Kits are being distributed throughout the devastated areas in the Carolinas and Georgia. Donations at our Ingathering represent only a portion of the total contributions to LWR from our Synod, as some congregations ship their donations directly to the Baltimore warehouse or attend a closer Ingathering. Several of our churches bring their donations to an Ingathering in Auburn, PA, and three churches delivered their donations directly to Bergstrasse Church.

*Submitted by: Eileen Lane, St John Lutheran, Allentown*



MISSION DISTRICT

**TOWN HALL  
CHEW & CHAT**

Each of the 9 mission districts of the Northeastern PA Synod will host open conversations with Bishop Christopher deForest, VP Nancy Reichelt, and DEM Deacon Kat Tigerman. These Town Hall events will be held on different evenings at various locations. All congregation members and rostered ministers within the respective mission districts are invited to attend.

**To find out when your mission district town hall meeting is, visit [godslove.org/events](https://www.godslove.org/events)**