

# HOLY TRINITY NEWS

FEBRUARY 2025

VOLUME 60 #2



***HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH***

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## From the Pastor's Desk – February 2025

### ***“What Do We Celebrate on February 2?”***

*<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”*

*<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,*

*<sup>29</sup> “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word,*

*<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,*

*<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,*

*<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.”*

*<sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.”*

*<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.*  
(Luke 2:22-38 NRSV-UE)

Why would February 2 be significant in the Church calendar? What is it we are celebrating on that day? Most of us think of February 2 as Groundhog Day, but there are (at least) two other names by which the date is called on the Church Year calendar.

February 2 is the Festival of The Presentation of Our Lord. The account in Luke 2 (above) tells of Joseph and Mary taking their infant son Jesus to Jerusalem so that they could do what was required of them under the law and the traditions of God's people Israel. The math is tricky but it is spelled out in the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of Leviticus. Jesus would have been circumcised on the 8<sup>th</sup> day, January 1<sup>st</sup>, as we

count the days. Then there was a period of 33 days of what the text refers to as “blood purification” (curiously, if the baby born was a girl, the time was twice as long – 66 days). **“When the days of her purification are completed . . . she shall bring to the priest at the entrance of the tent of meeting a lamb in its first year for a burnt offering, and a pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering. He shall offer it before the LORD, and make atonement on her behalf; then she shall be clean from her flow of blood.”** The text allows, for those who cannot afford the lamb, that two turtledoves or two pigeons could be offered – one as the burnt offering and the other as the sin offering. This, Luke tells us, is what Joseph and Mary offered to the Lord. The 8 days before circumcision and, then, the 33 days before purification get us to February 2 as the date when the Holy Family make the journey to Jerusalem and to the Temple and what is called The Presentation of Our Lord.

The other church-related name for February 2 is Candlemas. At the very end of the Christmas/Epiphany season (In Europe many families leave their homes decorated for Christmas until this day), the church recognizes Jesus as the Light of the World and, so, has used this day for the blessing of household candles. Families would bring candles to the church that would be blessed and then taken home for use throughout the rest of the year. Simeon, mentioned by Luke in the Presentation story, declares that Jesus is **“a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”** As we lit candles on Christmas Eve considering Jesus as the Light of the World, so on Candlemas we extend that image into our homes throughout the year.

Then, finally, Groundhog Day. An article I read this week described how the Roman practice of blessing candles found its way to Germany. “The German conclusion that, if the sun appeared on Candlemas, a hedgehog would cast its shadow, making a ‘second winter’”. This, it is said, was the origin of the modern American festival of Groundhog Day – especially here in Pennsylvania with so many Germans among its early settlers.

Throughout much of Europe and into the New World, traditions have built up around this day, especially connected to the Church, with light and with candles, including torchlight parades. May we, here in our place and in our day, celebrate that God has, in Jesus, brought the Light of Life into our world and into our hearts. May we proclaim Jesus and his saving love in both word and deed to everyone we meet this month and always.

Blessings to you and peace in Jesus, the Light of the World.

Your Partner in Ministry,

Pastor Mike

# February 2025

February 2025							March 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 26	27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1
2 10:15am Worship Service in Church and 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 348 (New Girl Scout Room)	3 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 41 (Parish Hall - Scout Room. Larry Arner)	4 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	5 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	6 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room)	7 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	8
9 Super Bowl Party - TBA (Hall) 10:15am Worship 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 6:00pm Girl Scouts Troop	10 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 41 (Parish Hall - Scout Room. Larry Arner)	11 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	12 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	13 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room) 5:45pm Girl Scouts Troop 301 (GS Room)	14 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	15
16 10:15am Worship Service in Church and 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 348 (New Girl Scout Room)	17 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 41 (Parish Hall - Scout Room. Larry Arner)	18 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	19 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	20 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room)	21 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	22
23 10:15am Worship Service in 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 348 (New Girl 6:00pm Girl Scouts Troop	24 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 41 (Parish Hall - Scout Room. Larry Arner)	25 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm 9:00am Thrift Shop	26 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	27 10:30am Bible Study (Adult SS Room) 5:45pm Girl Scouts Troop 301 (GS 7:00pm Camera Club	28 Office Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm	Mar 1

**HOLY TRINITY ACTION  
MINISTRY**

***THRIFT SHOP:***



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

***ANNIVERSARY WISHES!***

February 05 Lizzie & Eric Reif 25 Years  
February 14 Stacy & Andrew Hollywood 11 Years

**CELEBRATE!**

***HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!***

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 Caytlin 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

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

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

***CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATE***

*We welcome Gordon Walls and Rich Hyer to the council. Also, Eric Reif & Scott Heinrich graciously accepted another term. Good luck to all!*

*We would like to thank Karen & Ray Talamantes as they step aside from serving as members. We appreciate your generous giving of time & hard work!*

***COUNCIL MEMBERS***

<b>Terry Holland</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Jon Kistler</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>
<b>Rich Hyer</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Larry Arner</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Jim Miller</b>	<b>Asst. Treasurer</b>
<b>Krissy Keblish</b>	
<b>Ron Keblish</b>	
<b>Steve Berger</b>	
<b>Gerry Dorshimer</b>	
<b>Scott Heinrich</b>	
<b>Eric Reif</b>	
<b>Gordon Walls</b>	

***FINANCIAL PERSONNEL***

<b>Larry Arner</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Carol Heffelfinger</b>	<b>Financial Sec.</b>

***COUNCIL MEETING***

***February 16 6:30pm***

***FINANCE & ATTENDANCE***

<b>Dec. Monthly Envelope Offering:</b>	\$ 9,791
<b>Dec. St. Matthews Pastoral Service</b>	\$ 6,599
<b>Dec. Additional Income</b>	\$ 1,334
<b>Dec. Monthly Expenses:</b>	\$ 12,829
<b>Attendance:</b>	
<b>December 01, 2024</b>	37
<b>December 08, 2024</b>	29
<b>December 15, 2024</b>	44
<b>December 22, 2024</b>	38
<b>December 24, 2024</b>	50
<b>December 29, 2024</b>	29



**WORSHIP**  
**SCHEDULE**  
**10:15 AM**

**FEBRUARY 02, 2025 COMMUNION**

**Assisting Minister:** Rich Hyer  
**Ushers:** Kelly & Scott Heinrich  
**Altar Guild:** The Keblish Family  
**Flowers:** Lizzie & Eric Reif's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
**Bulletins:** Lizzie & Eric Reif's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
**Communion Bread:** Lizzie & Eric Reif's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniv.  
**Times News / Website:** Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

**FEBRUARY 09, 2025 COMMUNION**

**Assisting Minister:** Krissy Keblish  
**Ushers:** Ron Keblish w/Taylor, Terry Holland  
**Altar Guild:** The Keblish Family  
**Flowers:** IMO John Keblish's B-Day,  
Ron Keblish's Brother  
**Communion Bread:** Diane & Jim Miller  
**Times News / Website:** Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

**FEBRUARY 16, 2025 COMMUNION**

**Assisting Minister:** Deb Hansut  
**Ushers:** Carol Heffelfinger & Loren LaRose  
**Altar Guild:** The Keblish Family  
**Flowers:** IMO Thomas Schmidt Sr. & Jr.,  
Nadine Schmidt  
**Bulletins:** Steve Berger – Father's Passing  
**Communion Bread:** Diane & Jim Miller  
**Times News / Website:** Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

**FEBRUARY 23, 2025 COMMUNION**

**Assisting Minister:** Lynn Perone  
**Ushers:** Rich & Jeanette Hyer  
**Altar Guild:** The Keblish Family  
**Flowers:** Needed  
**Communion Bread:** Diane & Jim Miller  
**Times News / Website:** Fred & Betsy Masenheimer

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

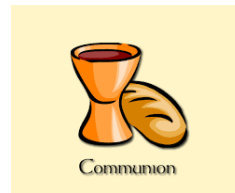
Pastor Mike will have a children's sermon on the second Sunday of each month.



**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.

**SUPER BOWL PARTY**



We will be hosting a Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 9.

- **DOORS OPEN @ 5:30 PM**
- **GAME BEGINS @ 6:30 PM**
- **PIZZA, DRINKS & SNACKS INCLUDED**
- **THERE IS A SIGN-UP SHEET IN THE NARTHEX**





## Engaging the Stranger Within: The Northeastern PA Synod's Racial Justice Work

Growing up in the American South, much of what was taught about racism dealt with history—slavery, annexation, Jim Crow, and integration. What (and how) we were taught in school, and the ways our community and churches remained unofficially segregated were “just the way things were.” There was a disconnect between the way things were and *why*. Racism was something that had happened, and we were living in the status quo of the Civil Rights Movement. And with that history focused so heavily in the South, it was like racism was somehow localized and intensified in that region, and we were more directly impacted by its legacy.

The privilege of my seminary formation and exposure to different contexts have shown just how limited my awareness of racism’s pervasiveness extends. Racism is a part of every community, congregation, home, and heart. It isn’t localized more intensely in one place or another. Our communities, workplaces, and churches in Northeastern Pennsylvania face the same legacy and challenges of confronting racist prejudices and practices, even if they expose themselves in different ways.



Cultural isolationism, unawareness of our past and current exploitation of the Lenni Lenape and Delaware peoples, emphasis on the immigrant heritage of our congregations while dismissing immigrant communities across the street, and an apathy to acts of violence against persons of color permeates our pews. Confronting personal, local, regional, and national instances of racial prejudice is as important now as ever. The gospel gives us the assurance that the way things are is not how God calls us to be. To get from here to there, we need help learning what we don’t know, and hearing firsthand from our neighbors how we can work together to resist racism.

Through your Mission Support generosity, our Synod has the opportunity to walk together in more intentional ways as we learn about our communities’ and congregations’ complicity in racial prejudice and work for racial justice. Loving the land we steward in Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and the people who occupy it, and healing the hurt of our ancestral and contemporary practices, begins with engaging the stranger we do not wish to see in ourselves so that we can better engage the stranger we do not currently see in our neighbors.



Pastor Jennifer Hall and Pastor Samantha Drennan at the 2024 youth pre-gathering event representing the Racial Justice Team

Racial Justice Boundary Training for rostered leaders, Synod Council and Staff, and congregational lay leaders has been an invaluable resource for beginning this work in our Synod. In January, we collaborated with [Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley](#) and our own Synod's [LGBTQ Task Force](#) at the Lutheran Center for a day of worship and action called MLK Jr. Day of Prayer and Service. Partnership with [Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Pennsylvania \(LAMPa\)](#), [Liberty Lutheran's](#) MLK Day of Service, and local ecumenical and interfaith agencies committed to the course of justice in our neighborhood are but a few crucial ways we are already naming and confronting racism together as Christ's church, along with our

support of the [ELCA's Truth and Healing Movement](#). All of these endeavors are bolstered by your Mission Support giving, and reflect our shared commitment to growing together as disciples of Jesus who are gospel filled and Spirit led.

Just as the Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed (Psalm 103:6), so too does God charge the people with upholding the cause of justice for those most vulnerable (Deuteronomy 16:19-20; 24:17). To get involved in our shared work of racial justice and reconciliation, [reach out to a member of our Synod's Racial Justice Team](#), participate in local or regional educational opportunities with partnering colleges and universities, confront practices that reinforce barriers based on race and ethnicity, and have conversations with other disciples in your congregation about how your baptized community can work for justice and peace in in the world.

*Submitted by: The Rev. Brandon M. Heavner, Weisenberg- New Tripoli, NEPA Synod Racial Justice Team*

**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 directions of Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life, along with the values of Loving, Healing, and Engaging like Jesus. To learn more, visit [godslove.org/missionsupport](https://godslove.org/missionsupport).

# RACIAL JUSTICE TRAINING

FEBRUARY 8

All Northeastern PA Synod rostered leaders (pastors, deacons, and synodically-authorized lay leaders) are required to have **Anti-Racism** at least once every three years. Training will be presented by The Rev. Carla Christopher.

9:30AM TO 3:00PM  
LUTHERAN CENTER  
2354 GROVE ROAD, ALLENTOWN

For more information & how to register, visit  
[godslove.org/racial-justice-training](https://godslove.org/racial-justice-training)