



TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

MARCH

SPRING IS COMING!

"See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth..." —Song of Solomon 2:11-12 (NIV)

Creation sings of new beginnings, fresh growth, and God's renewing power. May this new season remind you of the hope that blossoms in Christ!

WHEN LIFE NEEDS A LITTLE WIND



Botanists say that trees need the powerful March winds to flex their trunks and main branches, so that the sap is drawn up to nourish the budding leaves.

Perhaps we need the gales of life in the same way, though we dislike enduring them. A blustery period in our fortunes is often the prelude to a new spring of life and health, success and happiness, when we keep steadfast in faith and look to the good in spite of appearances.

—Jane Truax



TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Trinity Times

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 Jeremy Wolfe.....Music Director
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 Bill Hashagen.....Member
 Kelsey Nilsen.....Member
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A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR HARKNESS



Behaving Christianly in Tumultuous Times

[Paul to Timothy] I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these instructions to you so that, if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth. 1 Timothy 3:14-15



In Paul's first letter to Timothy, he expresses a concern that false teachers were spreading incorrect views about Jesus and what it means to follow him. He writes to Timothy to provide him with pastoral guidance, encouragement, and authority. False teachers were spreading unorthodox, speculative, and dangerous teaching. So Paul provides him with proper conduct in worship and sound principles of the faith. He sent Timothy to Ephesus to confront these leaders about their strange teachings. Paul also says that the purpose of the law is not to fuel speculation but to expose the truth of the sinful human condition, as it did for Paul himself. Correct teaching about the Torah will lead people to see the grace of God revealed in the Messiah, who came into the world to save sinful, broken people in tumultuous times. At the core of Paul's message is the Christian grace of love that springs from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

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A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR HARKNESS



. Paul makes clear that what a church believes directly shapes how its members live. The church should be known for its devotion to the risen Christ as it models integrity and serving the poor and most vulnerable. Simply said: *Follower's of Jesus are to behave Christianly!* Paul asserts that the goal of Christ's command is love. Timothy is to arouse the love which comes from a pure heart.

On Saturday, February 21, I attended a lecture given by Peter W. Marty, editor of the Christian Century and a retired Lutheran pastor. He begins by saying, "*he will try to address some of the issues of what it might be to cultivate a moral conscience to be responsible citizens in tumultuous, turbulent times.*" He point out that a leading crisis in American religion is that politics dominates faith in dramatic ways. A couple of generations ago, people would join a faith community and acquire a value system, a set of understandings, a deepening of one's self and conscious. Then they would take it to the ballot box that would inform their political mindset. Today it is reverse. Partisan identity and political ideology inform people's religion. As a result they weirdly warp their Christianity around their political perspectives. In other words we tend to adopt religious viewpoints based on our politics. For many, politics has become their religion. Marty sees people putting politics at the center of their psychological, emotional, and spiritual life. He believes that once politics becomes your ethnic and moral identity, it becomes very difficult to retrieve a rich and meaningful faith.

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A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR HARKNESS



He presents eight ways to anchor our Christian faith and to behave Christianly. The first is having a spiritual center. In other words, it is the kind of person you are at your center. Is this something you have ever thought about? What we are at our center will determine everything else about us. The choices we make, the commitments we hold to, the decisions we become a part of, stem from what is inside of us at the center. Eugene Peterson once said, *"Without a center, life becomes a drifting enterprise without any sustaining purpose."*

Do you know who you are in the sight of God or of your neighbors? Do you know what is in your center? Where is the tree of good and evil? It is at the center of the garden. Where was the temple built? It was built in the center of Jerusalem. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said that God belongs at the center of your life. C.S. Lewis writes, *"What matters in life is not which rules we keep so much as what kind of person we are at center. Every time you make a choice you are turning the central part of you, the part of you that chooses into something a little different from what it was before...all your life long, you are slowly turning this central thing either into a heavenly creature or a hellish creature. To be the one kind of creature is heaven. That is its joy and peace and knowledge and power. To be the other kind of creature means madness, horror, idiocy, impotence and eternal loneliness."*

So if we have the tendency to displace God and move God to the edges of life, we might take a look at that during our Lenten journeys. Lent is a time to return to God. In these troubled times we have to know who we are. Putting God at our center gives us a calm and settled mind, a rooted kind of existence. We need to fix our eyes on the Lord and discover our spiritual center.

In Christ, Pastor Harkness

WORSHIP WONDERS

WITH PASTOR HARKNESS

Why the Ashen Cross?



Have you ever wondered why a cross of ashes is placed on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday?

If you were in church on Ash Wednesday, you learned why we practice this age-old tradition. But if you were unable to attend the service, this article is for you. When I was a child, ashes were never given out in a Lutheran church. I found it curious that we called the day that began our Lenten journeys, *Ash Wednesday*. I knew my Catholic classmates came to school with ashes on their foreheads, but never knew why. My mother wasn't much help when I asked her. Maybe she didn't know why. She just said Catholics do that and we don't! So the question is, why do we do it now?

There is some history behind the practice. It originally stemmed from Old Testament traditions. Ashes were historically used as a sign of mourning, humiliation, and repentance. A humbled Job says to the Lord, "I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6). Mordecai tears his clothes and puts on sackcloth and ashes when he learns Haman gave orders to have all the Jews killed. (Esther 4:1). Daniel prays, fasts, puts on sackcloth and ashes when he learns that the devastation of Jerusalem must be fulfilled. (Daniel 9:3.)

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WORSHIP WONDERS

WITH PASTOR HARKNESS



More familiar to us is the Genesis 3:19 text. The Lord responds to Adam's disobedience saying, "*By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken. You are dust and to dust you shall return.*"

The early church in the 4th century used ashes for public penance, especially for who sought readmission to the church. In the 6th century the practice evolved from a penalty for serious sins to a symbolic act for the entire congregation marking the 40-day season of Lent.

Pope Urban II in 1091, authorized the use of ashes on Ash Wednesday. The palm branches blessed from the previous Palm Sunday were burned to make the ashes. The priest imposed the ashes on the forehead, saying, "*Remember, O man, that thou art dust, and to dust thou shalt return,*" or "*Repent, and believe in the Gospel.*"

Following the Reformation, the use of ashes fell out of favor in many Protestant denominations. Martin Luther was somewhat ambivalent about the practice. If felt it was adiaphora—something that wasn't necessary. Jesus didn't command us to do it. In addition the practice was banned in England in 1549 and revived in the 19th century.

In the 20th century, as a result of the ecumenical movement in and liturgical reforms following Vatican II, the ritual saw a resurgence. Many mainline Protestant denominations, including Methodists, Lutherans, and Presbyterians, reintroduced the imposition of ashes as a meaningful devotional practice. But for some us the question remains: is this practice righteousness or self-righteousness?

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WORSHIP WONDERS

WITH PASTOR HARKNESS



I would say it all depends on one's heart. If we wear the ashes as a sign of our own piety that calls attention to our spirituality; if it calls attention to ourselves; or if it becomes a way to prove we are righteous, then it is self righteousness. But if our lives are marked by humility, simplicity, compassion, caring, and love the cross on our foreheads it becomes a gentle reminder that we are dedicated to Christ, that we are mortal sinners in need of God's grace; and that it is about Jesus whose life and death was for others.

When it comes down to it the ashen cross placed on our brows is sign that it is the being of our Lenten journey, our journey to return to God in the kinds of practices that maintain and strengthen that relationship. It's God saying, "I want you to return to me." I want your heart. I need your heart. I want you present with me. It reminds us that we are mortal sinners in need of God's redemption. And it reminds of Jesus love for us as he journeys to the cross for our sake.

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

— Springfield Township, Bucks County, PA —



275th

ANNIVERSARY

1751 – 2026

Celebrating 275 Years of Faith & History

This year, Trinity Lutheran Church is celebrating **275 years** of faith and history!

We currently have a committee that is planning events that will take place throughout the year. There is always room for volunteers to help make this milestone a memorable one!

Please reach out to Jen Wolfe if you'd like to help in any way.

jheckler25@gmail.com



Prayers

- Our Country
- For people of the Ukraine
- All people in the Middle East

Homebound Members

- Robert & Alice Cressman
- Bob & Phyllis Labs
- Sue Lehman
- Eileen Moyer
- Sandy Rehrig
- Warren Strawsnyder Jr.

Friends and Families Who Mourn

- Michael Beck (Catino)

Healing for Members

- Chris Hershey
- Bob Gerstenberg

Healing for Friends and Family

- Becca (Wolfe)
- Richard Gross (Snyder)
- Thomas Rush (Wolfe)
- Susan Eubanks (Donley)

If you would like your prayers added to our list, please e-mail them to office@trinitypv.org

Requests will remain on the list for 1 month unless otherwise noted to the office.

From the Parish Nurse

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME (DST) "SPRING FORWARD, FALL BACK"



This year, the clocks will be turned ahead on Sunday, March 8th. This process has been going on for many years. It was originally created to conserve energy and fuel during World War I and World War II. Contrary to popular belief, farmers did not push for DST, they were actually its strongest opponents as it disrupted their early morning routines.

Unfortunately, our circadian rhythms depend on light exposure. This transition in the spring initially causes darker mornings and lighter evenings. Less morning light can decrease levels of the mood-boosting hormone serotonin. And in contrast, exposure to light later in the evening can delay the production of melatonin, the hormone that helps you fall asleep. In a recent study, it was found that the average person gets 40 minutes less sleep on the Monday after DST begins compared to other nights of the year. In a 2020 study it was found that there was a 6% rise in car accidents (many with associated fatalities) following the spring time change due to the sleep disruptions which can cause people to feel fatigued, groggy and less focused. There is also data that has linked more heart attacks in the few days following the transition. When we sleep poorly, problems like depression and anxiety can get worse.

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From the Parish Nurse

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME (DST) "SPRING FORWARD, FALL BACK"



What can you do?

- 1) Perhaps go to bed 10-15 minutes earlier, in the days leading up to the change, increasing that time to make up for that "lost" hour.
- 2) If you are able, take short 20-30 minute afternoon naps if you are feeling sleepy in the afternoons.
- 3) Try to get more morning light (at least 15 minutes if possible) during the first week to help adjust your circadian rhythm.
- 4) Curb the caffeine and alcohol several days before and after, as they can cause sleep disruptions

Happy Spring!
-Vera



A top-down view of a light blue surface decorated with several red tulips and colorful speckled Easter eggs in shades of blue, pink, purple, and yellow. The flowers and eggs are scattered around the perimeter of the frame, framing the central text.

IT'S TIME TO ORDER YOUR EASTER FLOWERS!

DEADLINE TO ORDER IS
MARCH 15

ORDER FORMS ARE IN THE NARTHEX

JOIN US EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 5, 2026



6:15
AM

SUNRISE
SERVICE



7:15
AM

FELLOWSHIP
BREAKFAST



9:00
AM

WORSHIP
SERVICE



MARCH IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH 1	Worship Service - 9:00 am Confirmation @ Trinity - 5:00 pm
MARCH 3	Bible Study - 1:00 pm
MARCH 4	Lenten Soup Supper @ Ferndale - 6:00 pm
MARCH 5	Choir Practice - 7:15 pm
MARCH 8	<u>DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS</u> Worship Service - 9:00 am 
MARCH 9	VBS Planning Meeting - 7:00 pm
MARCH 10	Bible Study - 1:00 pm
MARCH 11	Lenten Soup Supper @ Trinity - 6:00 pm
MARCH 12	Choir Practice - 7:15 pm
MARCH 15	Worship Service - 9:00 am DEADLINE TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS Confirmation @ Durham - 5:00 pm
MARCH 16	Church Council Meeting - 7:00 pm
MARCH 17	Bible Study - 1:00 pm
MARCH 18	Lenten Soup Supper @ Riegelsville - 6:00 pm
MARCH 19	Choir Practice - 7:15 pm
MARCH 22	Worship Service - 9:00 am
MARCH 24	Bible Study - 1:00 pm
MARCH 25	Lenten Soup Supper @ Upper Tinicum - 6:00 pm
MARCH 26	Choir Practice - 7:15 pm
MARCH 27	Family Game Night - 6:00 pm
MARCH 29	Worship Service - 9:00 am Confirmation @ Riegelsville - 5:00 pm
MARCH 31	Bible Study - 1:00 pm

UPCOMING BIBLE STUDIES

Bible Study continues to be held on Tuesday afternoons. Everyone is welcome!



Beginning this Sunday, March 1, Pastor Harkness will be holding an Adult Forum discussion following the worship service.

More info on next page



People of faith are often at the center of movements and important currents events affecting our lives. Some of these transformative movements include: the abolitionist movement, the Civil Rights Movement, the movements for women’s suffrage, labor protections, and currently the care for creation movement.

You will recall in Genesis that God blessed humanity, instructed them to be fruitful and multiply, and then told them to subdue the earth and have dominion over all living things (Genesis 1:28). Today we interpret that to mean that we are to be good stewards of our environment, to restore and preserve our resources, and to care for and love creation. It is our responsibility to pass our world on to the next generation better, healthier, and hardier than we found it. Scientist tell us that climate change and the warming of our planet is one of the most important issues we currently face.

So, beginning on **Sunday, March 1**, a new Adult Education series is being offered. It is called “***Climate + Faith: How We Can Help Meet the Greatest Challenge in Human History.***” I hope you will consider coming to this series after worship. You will need to bring your Bible, a journal, and I will provide the materials. Grab a cup of coffee and be prepared for some good, faith-filled conversation about our environment and what we can do about it.

-Pastor Harkness

MARCH WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Acolyte & Crucifer	Christopher	Laura	Ethan	Eileen	Kyla
Ushers/ Greeters	Alex Rhett	Laura Eileen	Laura Emma	Pat G. Eileen	Kyla Tracy
Lector	Betsy	Ann	Jeff	Pat G.	Eileen
Cantor	Jen	Charlene	Jeff	Jen	Charlene
Communion Assistants	Christopher Betsy	Ann Eileen	Laura Kelsey	Ann Eileen	Kyla Pat W.
Tellers	Ethan Jen	Ann Pat W.	Laura Kelsey	Ann Bill	Pat W. Ethan
Sunday School Assistant	Kelsey	Jen	Charlene	Ethan	Kelsey

FINANCIAL REPORT

TLC Ministry Support As of 1/31/2026

As a church, we need to keep track of our financial results in relation to both the annual budget and our actual expenses. In order to give a full and accurate picture of how we're doing, both are presented below:

Support compared to Budget:

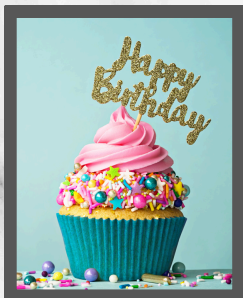
Total 2026 Annual Budget	<u>\$172,798</u>
Support required to date to meet our ministry budget	\$ 14,399.83
Actual Support received year-to-date (including parsonage & New Vitæ rent and interest income)	<u>9,133</u>
Difference between budget and support received - over/(short)	<u>(\$5,267)</u>

Support compared to Actual Expenses:

Actual Support received year-to-date	\$9,133
Actual expenses year-to-date	<u>14,098</u>
Difference between expenses and support received - over/(short)	<u>(\$4,965)</u>

Charlene Wolfe, Treasurer

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



- 2 - Tracy Carmer**
- 5 - Stan Heckler**
- 7 - Richard Wolfinger**
- 10 - Debbie Marek**
- 12 - Phyllis Labs**
- 13 - Gary Reinbold**
- 15 - Ed Snyder**
- 17 - Bob Gerstenberg**
- 18 - Maryjane Kunkle**

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 31 - Bruce & Linda Savitz**
- 31 - Ken & Diana Fluck**



MARCH BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES



- 7 - Karen Richter**
- 7 - Jacquie Scheetz**
- 19 - Willard Helm**
- 25 - Emily Hershey**
- 28 - Kali Hanson**
- 29 - Haley Fluck**
- 30 - Curt Reiss**



FRIDAY, MARCH 27
6 PM - 8:30 PM

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF
FUN AND FELLOWSHIP.
WE WILL HAVE PIZZA
AND SNACKS. BRING A
FRIEND AND YOUR
COMPETITIVE SPIRIT!

PALISADES AREA LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

Lenten Soup Suppers

This year's theme is : *Conversations with Jesus*

February 25	Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham 821 Durham Rd, Durham, PA, 18039 Topic: <i>And the Devil in the Wilderness</i>
March 4	St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church 470 Church Hill Rd, Ferndale, PA, 18921 Topic: <i>And Nicodemus</i>
March 11	Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church 2170 Route 212, Coopersburg, PA, 18036 Topic: <i>And the Samaritan Woman</i>
March 18	St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church 305 Delaware Rd, Riegelsville, PA, 18077 Topic: <i>And the Man Who Received His Sight</i>
March 25	Upper Tincum Lutheran Church 188 Upper Tincum Church Rd, Upper Black Eddy, PA, 18972 Topic: <i>And Lazarus' Family</i>

Soup Supper
6:00 - 6:45 pm



Devotions
6:45 - 7:30 pm



ALL AGES WELCOME

Egg Hunt Starts
2 PM Sharp!
Bring your own baskets.



**EASTER
EGG
HUNT**
& Celebration

Saturday April 4th 2026 2 to 4 pm...

Following the Egg Hunt.....

Join Us For Egg Games & Easter Crafts!
Silent Auction & Bake Sale (cash only)

ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

470 Church Hill Rd. Kintnersville, Pa 18930



EASTER EGG HUNT

& Celebration

Volunteers & Donations **HELP NEEDED!!**

VOLUNTEERS

- Craft Helpers
- Game Helpers
- Egg Stuff Helpers
- Prize Basket Makers
- Egg Fillers
- Prizes For Gold Eggs
- Prizes For Games
- Gift Baskets For Silent Auction

DONATIONS

March 22nd Last Day To Accept Donations!

Important Dates For Volunteers

Sunday February 15th @ 12 pm

Planning

Sunday March 1st @ 12 pm

Planning

Sunday March 22nd@ 12 pm

Egg Stuffing & Basket Making

Saturday March 4th 12 pm

Set Up, During, & Clean Up

Meetings @ St Lukes!

Great Way To Gain Service Hours!

Call or Text 484-767-4886 for more
information on volunteering!

ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

470 Church Hill Rd. Kintnersville, Pa 18930

ferndalestlukes@gmail.com





Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



TICKETS

Save the Date!

Lutheran Night at the Phillies

June 5

The Phillies take on the Chicago White Sox.
Use Code LUTHERAN

Join with your family and friends to cheer on the Phillies. Make a day of it and start your America 250 celebration early by visiting local historical sites ahead of the crowds!



Renowned Composer and Pianist Thomas Keesecker to present to local concerts

Tom served as a church musician for over 40 years in Lutheran and Roman Catholic parishes in Virginia, Montana, and Maryland. His sacred music is published by several leading church music publishers. He studied at the Berklee College of Music in Boston and the Catholic University School of Music in Washington, D.C. He mixes classical technique, jazz improvisation, Celtic and folk music influences in his arrangements. His music may be listened to on Amazon Music, Spotify, and YouTube.

Don't miss your opportunity to hear this talented musician.

Saturday, February 28

3:00 pm

Trinity Lutheran
1000 W. Main St., Lansdale
Free will offering will be taken

Sunday, March 1

4:00 pm

St. Mark's Lutheran
508 Harry St, Conshocken
Free will offering will be taken

Sunday, March 8

4:00 pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Glenside
120 N Easton Rd, Glenside
Free will offering will be taken

Sunday, March 22

3:00 pm

Reformation Lutheran
102 W Rose Tree Rd, Media