



TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER



GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION

"We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19, NIV)

This month, let's share God's love in simple ways — a kind note, a prayer, a helping hand. Look for ways to bless someone around you!

STOP, LOOK, AND LISTEN

Why should we observe Lent?

We observe Lent because it causes us to **STOP**. Lent says, "Stop and rest awhile." Lent says, "Stop doing wrong."

We observe Lent because it tells us to **LOOK**. Look inward for an honest self-examination. Look upward to see the cross of Christ with healing and love. Look forward to the hope of the Resurrection.

We observe Lent because it tells us to **LISTEN**. Listen to the words of Christ. Listen to the voice of God. Listen to the winds of the Spirit of God.

Stop, look and listen. These three words are important for our safety in travel, but they may also be helpful for our journey through the days of Lent.



TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Trinity Times

STAFF

Rev. Kathleen D.R. Harkness.....Pastor
Kelsey Nilsen.....Administrative Assistant
Jeremy Wolfe.....Music Director
Judy Zellner.....Sexton
Charlene Wolfe.....Treasurer
Brenda Hashagen.....Financial Secretary
Vera Deacon.....Parish Nurse

CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS & MEMBERS

Betsy Nilsen.....President
Jen Wolfe.....Vice President
Laura Bader.....Secretary
Ann Donley.....Member
Bill Hashagen.....Member
Kelsey Nilsen.....Member
Pat Weaver.....Member
Ethan Wolfe.....Member
Judy Zellner.....Member



Call Us:
610-346-7282



Visit Us:
2170 Route 212
Coopersburg, PA
18036



Email Us:
office@trinitypv.org
pastor@trinitypv.org



Our Website:
www.trinitypv.org

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR HARKNESS



Practicing Your Discipleship Over Lent

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and
of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

Matthew 28:19



To make disciples, you must be a disciple. So as we enter the Lenten season on February 28 (Ash Wednesday), let us think about some of the practices of our faith. They include:

Pray: Prayer. Pray Frequently. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Study: Christian Education. Study Scripture Diligently. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).

Worship: Worship Regularly. "I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together" (Psalm 34:1-3).

Practicing Your Discipleship Over Lent



Invite: Evangelism. Invite Others Often. "But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'" (Romans 10:14-15).

Encourage: Teaching and Mentoring. Pass on the Faith. "Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action" (1 John 3:18).

Serve: Social and Justice Ministry. Serve for the Sake of Others. "For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

Give: Stewardship. Give Freely. "...give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back" (Luke 6:38).

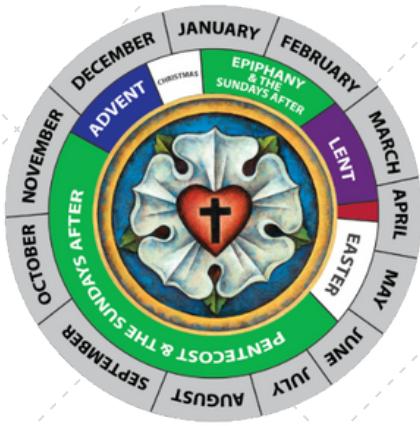
So, over the Lenten season make you take a look at your life and how you can connect to the One you gave you life, redeemed your life, and always sustains you through life.

In Christ, Pastor Harkness

WORSHIP WONDERS

WITH PASTOR HARKNESS

The Wonders of the Church Calendar, Paraments, and Colors



Did you know the church follows a calendar? And, have you ever noticed that the colors of the paraments change in the chancel?

The church year is the annual cycle of seasons and days observed in Christian churches in commemoration of the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and of Christian virtues as exhibited in the lives of the saints. It begins with Advent and ends with Christ the King Sunday.

The word **parament** means adornment. The paraments are the cloth hangings on the altar, lectern, and pulpit. They also include the vestments the pastors wear such as the stole and chasuble worn over a pastor's white alb (robe). In most Christian churches using paraments (including Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Episcopal, and a wide variety of Protestant denominations), the liturgical paraments change in color depending on the season of the church year.

In our church during **Advent**, the paraments are blue. In some churches the paraments are purple during Advent.

On Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and the Days after Christmas, Epiphany of Our Lord, and Baptism of Our Lord, the paraments are white.

CONT. NEXT PAGE



The Wonders of the Church Calendar, Paraments, and Colors

They change to green on the **Sundays after Epiphany** until the **Transfiguration of Our Lord** (the Sunday right before Ash Wednesday). Transfiguration of Our Lord is white.

On **Ash Wednesday through Lent** and on **Palm Sunday** they are purple. On **Maundy Thursday**, they can be scarlet or white. I have also seen them remain purple. But then the altar is stripped and there are no paraments for **Good Friday** in remembrance of Jesus' death.

At the **Easter Vigil** and on **Easter Sunday** they are gold (if the church has gold paraments) or white. Throughout the Easter season, they remain white until the day of Pentecost.

Pentecost the paraments are red.

Holy Trinity Sunday they are white. After Trinity Sunday is ordinary time. **Ordinary Time** is green and they remain green until Reformation Sunday. **Reformation** they are red.

All Saints Day the paraments are white.

They go back to green until **Christ the King Sunday**, which is white. Then green until **Advent** when the church year begins again.

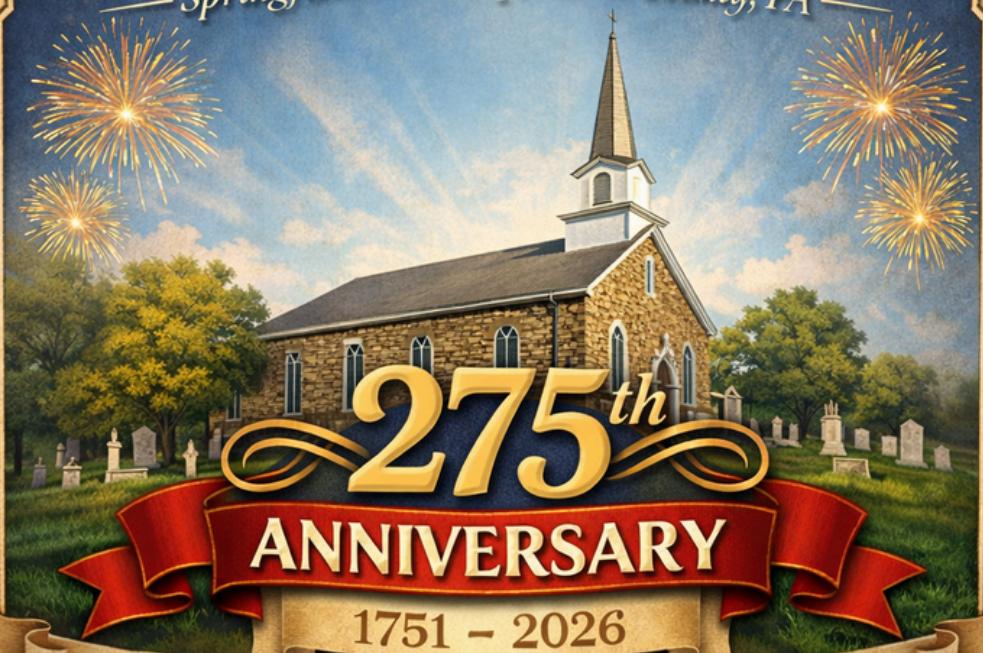
So the next question you may wonder about is: What do the colors mean?

Here are some meanings we might consider:

- **Blue:** symbolizes hope and expectation. It represents the Virgin Mary, highlighting her purity and grace. The color signifies peace and tranquility in worship settings. It represents a time of preparation and reflection. Blue contrasts with the more common liturgical color of Lent, emphasizing its unique role in the church calendar.
- **White:** Symbolizes purity, joy, and celebration, often used during Christmas and Easter.
- **Purple:** Represents penitence and preparation, commonly seen during Advent and Lent.
- **Green:** Signifies growth and life, typically used during Ordinary Time.
- **Red:** Denotes the Holy Spirit and martyrdom, used on Pentecost and for feasts of martyrs.
- **Black:** Represents mourning and sorrow, used for funerals and Good Friday.
- **Gold:** Symbolizes glory and majesty, often used for special occasions and festivals.

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

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black and Lutheran

Since February is Black History Month, I thought it appropriate to give you a little information about our black brothers and sisters who were first to share our Lutheran faith in the United States. As a part of the SEPA Anti-racism team, I was a part of a book study offered over Zoom in the month of January. The book is called **White Too Long** by **Robert P. Jones**. Robert P. Jones is the president and founder of Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI). I was pleased that one of our members participated in this study. The book begins with a brief history of how white supremacy began in our nation and how it flourished alongside Christianity. Jones begins by saying, *"The Christian denomination in which I grew up was founded on the proposition that chattel slavery could flourish alongside the gospel of Jesus Christ. Its founders believed this arrangement was not just possible but also divinely mandated."*¹

¹ Jones, Robert P.. *White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity* (p. 1). (Function). Kindle Edition.

Black and Lutheran cont.

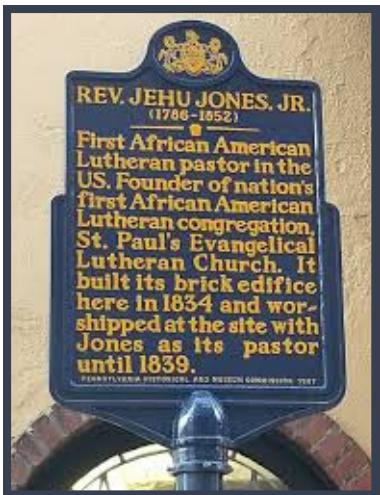
I also came across and interesting exhibition called **“Black and Lutheran.”** It was put together as a window display for Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansdale. Mark Staples, a member of Trinity, Lansdale, has been working on updating this display for Black History Month. It begins with an explanation of how Black History month was initiated.

It began on February 7, 1926, when African American Historian Carter G. Woodson wanted to encompass the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12) and Frederick Douglass (Feb. 14). Black educators and *Black United Students* at Kent State University first proposed Black History Month in February 1969. In 1976 President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month during the celebration of the U.S. Bicentennial. Congress designated February 1986 as “*National Black (Afro-American) History Month.*” And in 1986, President Reagan proclaimed that “*the foremost purpose of Black History Month is to make all Americans aware of the struggle for freedom and equal opportunity.*” Since 1996, presidents have issued annual proclamations for Black History Month.

Black and Lutheran cont.

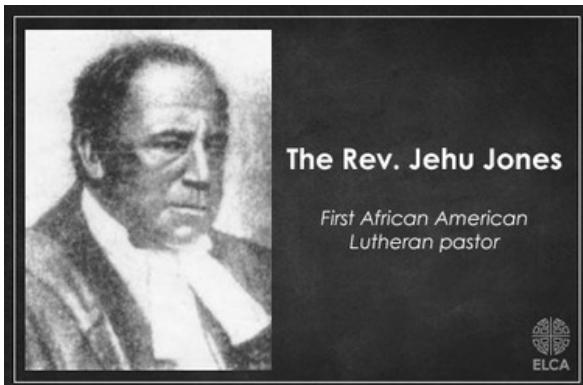
With this said, I never realized the rich history Black people have contributed to our Lutheran heritage in our country. Mark Granquist, Associate Professor of Church History at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN reports, *"On Palm Sunday 1669, a Lutheran pastor in Albany, New York, baptized into his congregation an African-American man, who was given the name, Emmanuel. African-American Lutherans have been in this country for more than 350 years, longer than many European immigrants whom we generally think of as being Lutheran."* Here are just a couple of examples of how their history began in this country.

Rev. Jehu Jones: was the first Black Lutheran pastor in North America. Born in Charleston, SC, to enslaved parents, Jehu Jones, Jr. (1796-1852) became the first Black Lutheran pastor in North America. Encouraged by his pastor, the Rev. John Bachman, he traveled to New York in 1832 to be ordained by the New York Synod.



Black and Lutheran cont.

For a time, he worked with formerly enslaved people in Liberia. Upon returning to Charleston, he was briefly jailed for violating a law prohibiting the immigration of free Blacks. In 1833, he moved to Philadelphia where Lutheran leaders there appointed him to “*work with colored people under the direction of our ministers.*” Jones decided to build a church on two lots he secured on Quince St. in Philadelphia. His first members in 1834 were about 20 impoverished Blacks. The members of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church managed to pay about 40 percent of the costs at the building’s dedication in 1836, but the rest of the needed funds couldn’t be secured. In 1839, the building was sold at a sheriff’s auction. Jones continued to serve the congregation until 1851. He died the following year.



Black and Lutheran cont.

Deaconess Emma Francis



(1875-1945) was born in St. Kitts, Virgin Islands and became a trail blazing Lutheran Deaconess*, the first of African descent in North America and the West Indies. Her commitment to church service began early, and after teacher training in Antigua, she went to Germany to pursue deaconess work.

Initially considered for missionary roles in Cameroon and Sudan, she was instead directed to an orphanage in Fredericksted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands. In 1922, after the U.S. acquisition of the Virgin Islands, Francis moved to Philadelphia, where she was consecrated a Deaconess on Pentecost. She then served in Harlem, New York, at the Transfiguration Lutheran Church, leveraging her multilingual skills to aid newcomers. Notably, Francis saved and donated a substantial sum to support church activities in the West Indies and New York.

Black and Lutheran cont.



Sister Emma returned to St. Croix in 1927, dedicating many years to the Ebenezer orphanage. Her life's work is remembered through the Queen Louise Home for Children, which includes "Sister Emma Cottage" serving children and young adults with severe disabilities.²

In Christ, Pastor Harkness

If interested, you can find this display by clicking on the button below.

CLICK HERE 

² Deaconesses are now rostered leaders of the ELCA, designated as Ministers of Word and Service and all now referred to with the title of "Deacon".



Prayers

- For people of the Ukraine
- Our country
- 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

- Thelma Broadhecker (Helm)
- Barbara DeWitt (Nilsen)
- Kenny Heckler (Wolfe/ Heckler)
- James Adams (Meterko)
- Anna Weaver (Cressman)

Healing for Members

- Bill Oraschin
- Eileen Catino
- Nancy Scheerbaum
- Bob & Phyllis Labs
- Robert Cressman
- Judy Zellner
- Rick Wolfinger
- Les Zellner

Healing for Friends and Family

- Anonymous (For cancer healing)
- Family of Bret Hanna-Shuford (Wolfe)
- Damion Anderson (Bader)
- Caron Ruhf (Donley/ Grasic)
- Elanor Titus (Meterko)
- Pat Bader (Bader)
- Thelma Broadhecker (Helm)
- Kelly McGuire (Wolfe)
- Sandy Wolfinger (Wolfe)

If you would like your
prayers added to our
list, please e-mail them
[to office@trinitypv.org](mailto:office@trinitypv.org)

From the Parish Nurse

THE DOLDRUMS OF WINTER

Seasonal affective disorder or SAD is a form of depression that repeats during predictable seasonal shifts, impacting an estimated 5% of the global population—predominantly women. Symptoms occur with significant cyclical changes in daylight hours, with prevalence in the Northern regions (less commonly in the Southern Hemisphere). Its root cause—remains unclear to researchers.

Though “winter blues” are commonly reported, SAD is a distinct, diagnosed subtype of major depressive disorder first formally described in 1984. Key symptoms—lasting roughly four months each year—resemble common depression: fatigue, increased sleep, carbohydrate cravings, and social withdrawal. Researchers argue most cases develop from a circadian rhythm phase delay disorder resulting from reduced daylight, disrupting the production of serotonin and melatonin—key neurotransmitters that regulate mood. SAD often arises as part of a broader complex of mood conditions.

Effective forms of treatment include bright light therapy—where individuals bask in strong artificial light for at least 30 minutes each morning—cognitive behavioral therapy (attempting to rewire negative thoughts about winter), and antidepressants like bupropion.

If you can, get outside in daylight for a “brisk” walk, it can do wonders for you physically as well as mentally!

Thanks!
Vera

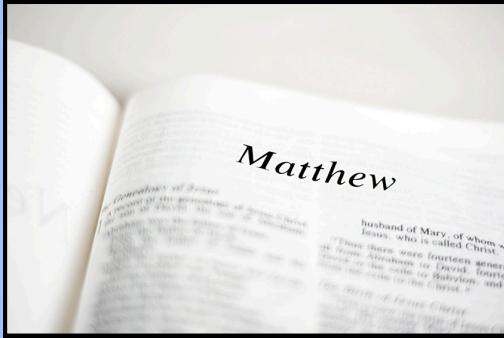


FEBRUARY IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY 1	Worship Service - 9:00 am Confirmation @ Riegelsville - 5:00 pm
FEBRUARY 3	Bible Study - 1:00 pm
FEBRUARY 5	Choir Practice - 7:15 pm
FEBRUARY 8	Worship Service - 9:00 am Souper Bowling Event - 12:00 pm
FEBRUARY 10	Bible Study - 1:00 pm
FEBRUARY 12	Choir Practice - 7:15 pm
FEBRUARY 15	Worship Service - 9:00 am Confirmation @ Ferndale - 5:00 pm
FEBRUARY 16	Church Council Meeting - 7:00 pm
FEBRUARY 17	Bible Study - 1:00 pm
FEBRUARY 18	Ash Wednesday Service - 7:00 pm
FEBRUARY 19	Choir Practice - 7:15 pm
FEBRUARY 22	Worship Service - 9:00 am Reverse Advent Dinner @ Durham - 5:00 pm
FEBRUARY 24	Bible Study - 1:00 pm
FEBRUARY 25	Lenten Soup Supper @ Durham - 6:00 pm
FEBRUARY 26	Choir Practice - 7:15 pm
FEBRUARY 27	Family Game Night



UPCOMING BIBLE STUDIES



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

FEBRUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
Acolyte & Crucifer	Laura Bader	Christopher Mager	Kyla Meterko	Ethan Wolfe
Ushers/Greeters	Pat Weaver Randy Weaver	Alex Nilsen Rhett Nilsen	Laura Bader Emma Wolfe	Pat Weaver Randy Weaver
Lector	Laura Bader	Betsy Nilsen	Charlene Wolfe	Jeff Wolfe
Cantor	Charlene Wolfe	Jen Wolfe	Charlene Wolfe	Jen Wolfe
Communion Assistants	Laura Bader Pat Weaver	Christopher Mager Betsy Nilsen	Ann Donley Kyla Meterko	Kelsey Nilsen Pat Weaver
Tellers	Laura Bader Pat Weaver	Kelsey Nilsen Jen Wolfe	Laura Bader Ann Donley	Pat Weaver Ethan Wolfe
Sunday School Assistant	Kelsey Nilsen	Ethan Wolfe	Charlene Wolfe	Jen Wolfe

FINANCIAL REPORT

TLC Ministry Support
As of 12/31/2025

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 2025 Annual Budget	<u>\$169,362</u>
Support required to date to meet our ministry budget	\$169,362
Actual Support received year-to-date (including parsonage & New Vitae rent and interest income)	<u>158,285</u>
Difference between budget and support received - over/(short)	<u>(\$11,077)</u>

Support compared to Actual Expenses:

Actual Support received year-to-date	\$158,285
Actual expenses year-to-date	<u>160,949</u>
Difference between expenses and support received - over/(short)	<u>(\$2,664)</u>

Charlene Wolfe, Treasurer

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



1 - Emily Hershey	16 - Jacquie Scheetz
2 - Julianna Hershey	17 - Wilma Snyder
4 - Michelle Hanson	19 - Judy Zellner
4 - Willard Helm	26 - George Grasic
5 - Emma Wolfe	27 - Diana Fluck
7 - Jeffery Frankenfield	28 - Ann Donley
8 - Karen Richter	28 - Richard Hari
12 - Becky Young	

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

5 - Ed & Wilma Snyder
23 - Stan & Carol Heckler



FEBRUARY BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

10 - Ed Snyder

An illustration for a family game night. The word 'FAMILY' is at the top in black, outlined letters. Below it, 'GAME' is written in large, colorful letters (blue, yellow, red, green) on a white background. The word 'NIGHT' is written in large, purple, 3D-style letters below 'GAME'. The background is dark blue with circular patterns. Various game pieces are scattered around: a red chess pawn, a domino, a black and white checkered piece, a green and yellow puzzle piece, an orange puzzle piece, a yellow and red puzzle piece, a blue and white puzzle piece, and a yellow chess king.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 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



February 18, 2026



On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

Please join us at one of the
listed times and locations.

ALL ARE WELCOME

12:00 PM

Christ Lutheran Church of Pipersville
353 E Dark Hollow Rd Pipersville, PA

12:30PM

Spoken Service

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

4:00- 6:00 PM

Ash and Dash Wednesday Drive through
St. Luke Lutheran Church Parking Lot
470 Church Hill Rd., Ferndale, PA 18921

7:00 PM

Ash Wednesday Service

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham
821 Durham Rd. Durham PA 18039

Ash Wednesday Service

Christ Lutheran Church of Pipersville
353 E Dark Hollow Rd Pipersville, PA

Ash Wednesday Service

Trinity Lutheran Church Pleasant Valley
2170 Route 212, Coopersburg, PA

7:30PM

Ash Wednesday Service

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
305 Delaware Rd. Riegelsville, PA 18077



Ages 5 & Up!

Please join us for a

Valentine's KIDS PARTY

CRAFTS, DINNER & SNACKS, GAMES

MOVIE PLAYING

BE MY VALENTINE, CHARLIE BROWN

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14TH

530 PM to 8 PM

Encouraged Donation of \$10 per child,
\$5 each additional child, OR any donations
are welcome! Nobody will be turned away!

St Luke Lutheran Church

470 Church Hill Rd.

Kintnersville, Pa 18930

For more information check out
www.stlukeferndalepa.com/vbs

Please
register here



PALISADES AREA LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

Lenten Soup Suppers

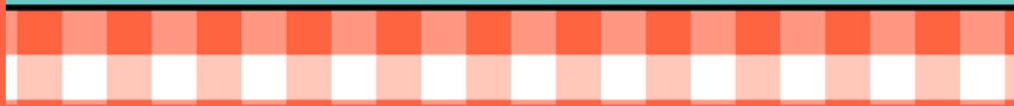
This year's theme is : Conversations with Jesus

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 Tinicum Lutheran Church 188 Upper Tinicum 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

- Craft Helpers
- Game Helpers
- Egg Stuff Helpers
- Prize Basket Makers

Volunteers & Donations **HELP NEEDED!!**

DONATIONS

- Egg Fillers
- Prizes For Gold Eggs
- Prizes For Games
- Gift Baskets For Silent Auction

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

Are you stepping into a leadership role in your congregation? Perhaps you're serving on your Church Council and want a clearer sense of what that entails. Or maybe it's your turn to guide your congregation as President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary. Whatever your role, we have an exciting opportunity just for you!

You are warmly invited to join us for a gathering of Church Council Officers.

Whether you are new to the role or a seasoned professional, this event promises to be a morning of inspiration, connection, and equipping for the vital work you do in your congregation.

Saturday, February 21, 2026

United Lutheran Seminary
Brossman Center, Benbow Hall
7241 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia

Registration will begin at 8:00 am in Benbow Hall with a full breakfast provided. Program will begin at 9:00 am and end by Noon.

You will hear from our Vice President, Cheryl Lafferty and Bishop Bryan Penman. Pastor Karl Richard, our Synod's Secretary and Mrs. Janet Neff, our Synod's Treasurer will give presentations specific to the roles of secretaries and treasurers in breakout sessions.



**SCAN HERE
TO REGISTER**



Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Click below to view a letter written by the ELCA Bishops from Minnesota addressing the recent issues with several thousand ICE and Border Patrol agents having been sent to their state.

CLICK HERE

Calm is an offering from St. Matthew's in Perkasie, in dealing with the topic of "*In the Chaos and Confusion.*" It will be held in person and online on February 11th at 7 pm.

