



# trinity tidings

**Volume 55 – No. 2**

**February 2026**

Church Office Hours:  
Mondays thru Thursdays 9:00 - 12:00 PM  
Closed on Fridays

The Rev. Althea Seidel, Pastor (pastoralthea3@gmail.com)  
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Visit us on the web at [www.trinityleb.org](http://www.trinityleb.org)

**trinity tidings** is the newsletter of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 723 Lehman Street, Lebanon, PA 17046

*“Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?”*

*Matthew 16:24-26*



## FROM THE PASTOR



expectations of people of faith as we handle the not-so-fun parts of life. She writes about the many expectations we have for ourselves and for each other

when it comes to handling hardships, loss, and other life changes. Taylor says: “...[E]motions such as grief, fear, and despair have gained a reputation as ‘the dark emotions’ not because they are noxious or abnormal but because Western culture keeps them shuttered in the dark with other shameful things like personal bankruptcy or [addiction]. If you have ever spent time in the company of the dark emotions, you too may have received

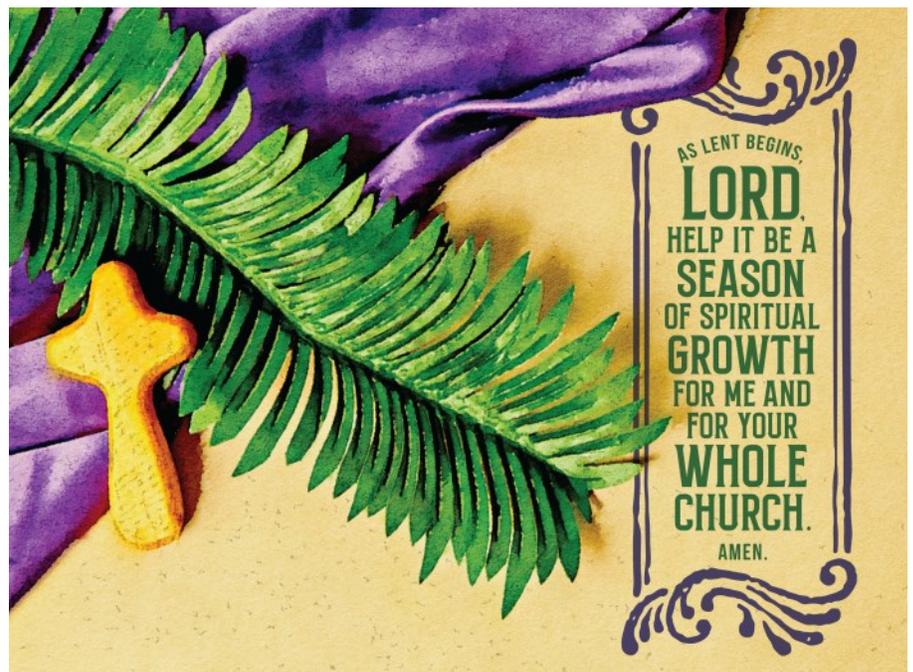
*Continued on page 2*

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Holy Trinity,

It has been a cold winter so far! Unfortunately, the snow and ice has kept us apart more often than together. I feel like we haven’t seen one another very much as many people have been getting sick, going to rehab for various reasons, and traveling. Thankfully, I have been feeling better!

I have noticed that people seem to be feeling many different things the last few weeks. It doesn’t help when we are stuck at home snowed in. It doesn’t help when recent news stories also bring us many mixed feelings. I pray all of you are doing what you need to do to stay well and take care of yourselves the best that you are able. Self-care is important even when we are not physically ill!

A book I read a few years ago came to mind as I was thinking about the past few months or so. It is called *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor. In her book, Taylor writes about



**Continued from page 1, From The Pastor**

subtle messages from friends and strangers alike that you were supposed to handle them and move on sooner instead of later. Some of us have gotten the message that if we cannot do this on schedule, we may not have enough faith in God.

...[T]he good news is that dark and light, faith and doubt, divine absence and presence, do not exist at opposite poles. Instead, they exist with and within each other, like distinct waves that roll out of the same ocean and roll back into it again. As different as they are, they come from and return to the same source...[F]aith will not offer me much to hold on to. It will not give me a safe place to settle. Practicing it will require me to celebrate the sacraments of defeat and loss, but since the religion I know best has a lot to say about losing as the precondition for finding, I can live with that...my sense of God’s absence can be a token of God’s presence if I let it.”

We may have our doubts off and on, here and there, yet even Martin Luther believed God is closest to us when we feel furthest away. Taylor continues, “...God speaks to Jesus only once in the entire New Testament- shortly after he is baptized by John-it seems clear that this father and son were not in constant public conversation. Their conversation was almost entirely private, when Jesus went out on the mountain to spend the night with God in prayer...The only witnesses to his most intimate moments with God were the moon and stars-and it was all prayer.” It is a beautiful thing to know that God truly knows us from the time we are in our mother’s womb, to the time we are born, our life long, and in death. God hears our every prayer, our every tear that is cried, our angry moments, and our deepest joys. We do not

need to be embarrassed, but instead, embrace our relationship with our Creator and do our best not to let go of it. Lent is a time when we strive to be closer with our Lord again.

Winter can be gloomy and difficult in its own way. I pray we are all able to lean on our faith and the hope of a coming spring to get through the coming weeks. If you are feeling like venturing out a bit, I encourage everyone to come to our Lenten Bible studies and discussions. We have moved these “Lunch and Learn” discussions to Tuesdays at noon. Bring a bagged lunch and join us for some thought provoking and encouraging discussion lead by your friendly pastor. Sometimes caring for ourselves means seeing others, being in fellowship and spreading some of Christ’s light to one another.

We do not know what is ahead for us this year. We cannot always see the road ahead of us. We do our best to follow God’s will for our lives. Let us pray that God continues to lead us as we do our best to trust in Him. We will not fear because we do not face anything alone. Amen!

Blessings to all,

Pastor Althea

Excerpts from: Taylor, Barbara Brown. *Learning to Walk in the Dark*. New York, HarperCollins Publishers, 2014. Pages 77, 148, and 180 adapted by Rev. Althea Seidel.

### Church Council Members

- Neal Galbraith (*President*)
- Louise Lundquist (*Vice President*)
- Nancy Brightbill (*Secretary*)
- Brad Bishop (*Church Treasurer*)
- Kathy Bishop
- Jay Brown
- Karen Fitting
- Pam Gainer
- Heidi Gerver
- Jessie Green
- Renee Hunter
- Lynn Kern
- Henry Wampler



### Committee Chair Persons

- Worship & Music:  
Paul Copenhagen
- Finance:  
Horace Ehrgood
- Christian Education:  
Elizabeth Hershey
- Property:  
Henry Wampler
- Archives:  
Jim Dibert
- Social Ministry: Jim Dibert
- Social Activities: Stephanie Kaylor



# WORSHIP with us

## February Worship Schedule

February 1, 8, 15, and 22

9:00 AM—Traditional Service

10:15 AM— Adult Sunday School



### Online Worship Service:

Our online worship will continue to be available. You can find the service by going to <https://www.trinityleb.org/links>. Here you will find links to the live-stream, the bulletin, and the replay of the service so that you can watch at any time you wish during the week.

**Inclement Weather Policy:** If Church is going to be cancelled due to weather, it will be posted on our website page: [www.trinityleb.org](http://www.trinityleb.org). Don't forget to refresh your browser when viewing the website. You can also find information on our Facebook page: [facebook.com/htclebanonpa](https://facebook.com/htclebanonpa). The decision will be made by 7 p.m. the Saturday prior to service.

## Prayer Partners

If you would like your name added to the list for prayer, please call the church office, 717-273-8567 or email at [stephanie@trinityleb.org](mailto:stephanie@trinityleb.org).

If you no longer wish to be included in the prayer update list, please let the Church Office know to remove your name.

We ask our readers to include the following people in their prayers:

Margaret Arnold, Barb Atwood, Bill & Carol Auman, Terry Clearwater, Deb Dobson, Donna, George & Susie Eckert, Dan Fox, Mike and Nancy Hentz, Patty Hess, Jim & Judi Light, Janice Peiffer, Rachel, Ed Ream, Marie Smith, Nancy Warner, and Mary Yeagley.



**Our Vision...**Our mission is to grow in faith and discipleship, share the Good News of Jesus through word and deed, love others as Christ loves us, and celebrate life in Christ through worship, sacraments and service.

**Our Mission...**We are a community of believers who come together in:

- ✠ **Worship** to be transformed by the presence of Jesus Christ in and through God's gift of Word and Sacrament.
- ✠ **Christian Education** to deepen our faith and strengthen us in faithful service, trusting in the creative activity of the Holy Spirit.
- ✠ **Friendship** to celebrate our unity in Christ and sustain and nurture each other as we journey with Him in our day-to-day lives.
- ✠ **Stewardship** to gratefully use the time, talents and possessions we have been given in furthering our mission in response to Jesus' call and the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- ✠ **Evangelism** to share the Jesus story so that others may come to know God's reconciling grace and the peace, joy and hope that his divine grace gives.
- ✠ **Social Ministry** to respond to the spiritual, mental and physical needs of our neighbors and advocate for the poor, hungry and vulnerable peoples of the world.

## How Do You Want to Celebrate Your Life?

*A Lunch Workshop with Pastor Althea*



Save the Date from Pastor: February 22, 2026 -- Following worship I will be hosting a workshop on planning your wishes for end of life and funeral services. This is certainly not the most fun topic. However, in my years of experience, it is extremely helpful for loved ones to have things written down and planned as much as possible. There is no pressure with any aspect of this. I will briefly go through the process of funeral preparation and go over items which are able to be chosen ahead of time. Participants will take a worksheet home and fill out information at their own leisure. Copies may be made of personal plans if desired for church files. Bring a potluck dish.



## LCCM Food Bank Item

The items requested in February is **pasta and sauce.**

Items can be brought to the church at any time and placed in the red shopping cart labeled “LCCM Food Bank” located in THE GIVING PLACE (Arnold St. side annex of Luther’s Place).

Please continue your generosity by continuing to donate to the Food Bank. Your donations are greatly needed and appreciated.



## Donation Items

The items requested in February are **soap, deodorant, lotion, granola bars, energy bars, packs of crackers, pasta and sauce.**

Monetary donations are also needed. To give, simply mark your donation with a note “Share & Care.”

Items can be brought to the church at any time and placed in the bin labeled “SHARE & CARE” located in THE GIVING PLACE (Arnold St. side annex of Luther’s Place).

## February 25: Birding Pennsylvania’s State Parks by Chris Kemmerer



Pennsylvania has one of the largest state park systems in the country. With 124 parks across 64 counties, the system includes geologic wonders, prominent moments in American history, old growth forests, tidal waterways, and Great Lakes access. This diversity is also represented in the flora and fauna. Join Chris Kemmerer, Education and Interpretation Section Chief for Pennsylvania State Parks, on a tour of the best birding spots in the PA’s state park system. He’ll highlight parks close-to-home near Lebanon, parks worthy of a daytrip and parks further afield that may require an overnight visit or two. You’ll also learn a few other ways to engage with the PA State Parks beyond a birding adventure. Program starts at 7 p.m. in Luther’s Place.



# CAN YOU HELP?

## Aluminum Can Collection

The church continues to collect aluminum cans for recycling. Please bring the aluminum cans (**rinsed & flattened**) to the church weekdays during church office hours, or bring them along to church, Sunday School, or any other church function. A container for them is located in THE GIVING PLACE (Arnold St. side annex of Luther’s Place).



## Medical Equipment & Supplies

We have a small lending “library” of equipment and new medical supplies that are available for use by members of Holy Trinity. Some of the items include: wheelchairs, shower chairs, medical bed, pads for beds, adult diapers, and more. These items are available at no cost to you. If you have a need or would like to donate an item, please contact the Church Office at 717-273-8567.



**The Lutheran Camping Corporation  
of Central Pennsylvania**  
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm

## Upcoming Events:

February 15: Winter Fun Day at Kirchenwald

March 15: Summer Camp Open House at Kirchenwald and Nawakwa

For more information, please visit:  
[www.lutherancamping.org](http://www.lutherancamping.org)



# FEBRUARY

## birthdays

2 - Darla Kise  
1213 Washington Street  
Lebanon, PA 17042

James Engle (*celebrating his 17th birthday*)  
447 Mill Bridge Drive  
Lebanon, PA 17042

Camden Snyder (*celebrating his 16th birthday*)  
19 Fox Run Road  
Lebanon, PA 17042

19 - Horace Ehrgood  
1695 Quentin Road  
Lebanon, PA 17042

4 - Marie Weise  
1880 North 7th Street  
Lebanon, PA 17046

Connie Thompson  
26 Raymond Street  
Hummelstown, PA 17036

6 - Thomas Hershey  
615 Bollman Street  
Lebanon, PA 17042

Bobbi Wike  
142 Julia Lane  
Lebanon, PA 17042

10 - James Cassel IV (*celebrating his 14th birthday*)  
PO Box 399  
Mt Gretna, PA 17064

20 - Jay Brown  
630 King Street  
Lebanon, PA 17042

11 - Asher Johnson (*celebrating his 7th birthday*)  
35 Canal Street  
Lebanon, PA 17046

24 - Carson Brossman (*celebrating his 16th birthday*)  
301 Klein Avenue  
Lebanon, PA 17042

Sandy Johnson  
101 Overlook Drive  
Lebanon, PA 17042

Jim Logan  
810 Hill Street  
Lebanon, PA 17046

14 - Judi Light  
345 Woleber Road  
Myerstown, PA 17067

25 - Barbara Atwood  
103 Ginger Court  
Lebanon, PA 17042

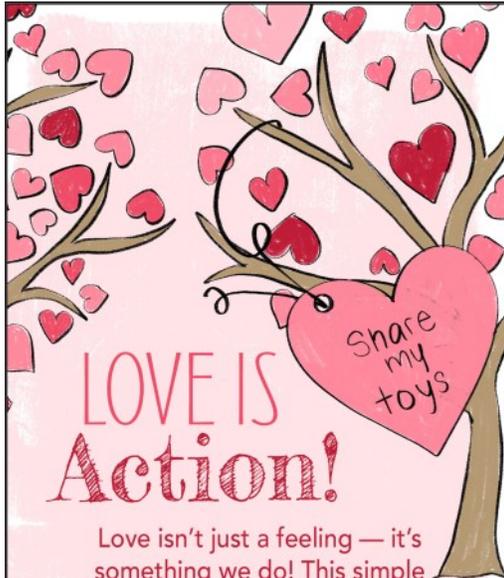
15 - Janice Newmaster  
Poplar Terrace, Apt. 312  
605 South 8th Street  
Lebanon, PA 17042

*Please consider sending a card or giving them a phone call to celebrate their special day.*

16 - Emily Engle (*celebrating her 17th birthday*)  
447 Mill Bridge Drive  
Lebanon, PA 17042



# KIDS PAGE



## LOVE IS Action!

Love isn't just a feeling — it's something we do! This simple activity reminds us that acts of love, big or small, can grow and bless others.

**What you need:**

- Construction paper (brown for the trunk, pinks and reds for hearts)
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Markers or crayons



**What you do:**

1. Cut a large tree trunk and branches out of brown paper and glue it onto a sheet of paper or poster board.
2. Use colorful paper to cut several hearts — these will be your "leaves."
3. On each heart, write loving actions like "share my toys," "pray for others," or "help clean up."
4. Glue the hearts onto the branches to create a full, love-filled tree.
5. Hang it somewhere visible as a reminder to put love into action every day!



## Grape EXPECTATIONS

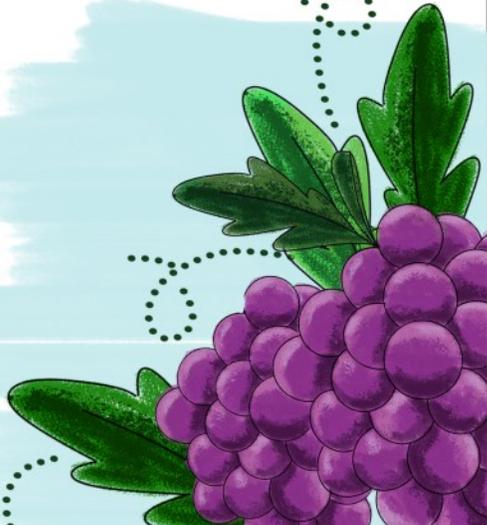
Try this chilly new take on a healthy snack.

**What you need:**

- 30 grapes, washed and dried
- ½ cup vanilla yogurt
- 4 graham crackers, crushed
- Toothpicks
- Parchment paper

**What you do:**

1. On a baking sheet lined with parchment paper, arrange grapes in a single layer. Freeze for two hours.
2. Insert a toothpick into each grape.
3. Dip each grape into the yogurt, coating half of it.
4. Roll each dipped grape in the crushed crackers. Place back on the parchment.
5. Freeze for two more hours. Enjoy!



# Worship

## Lectionary Readings

### Sunday, February 1

*4th Sunday after Epiphany*

Micah 6:1 - 8

Psalms 15

1 Corinthians 1:18 - 31

Matthew 5:1 - 12

### Sunday, February 8

*5th Sunday after Epiphany*

Isaiah 58:1 - 9a [9b - 12]

Psalms 1112: 1 - 9 [10]

1 Corinthians 2:1 - 12 [13 - 16]

Matthew 5:13 - 20

### Sunday, February 15

*Transfiguration of Our Lord*

Exodus 24:12 - 18

Psalms 2

2 Peter 1:16 - 21

Matthew 17:1 - 9

### Wednesday, February 18

*Ash Wednesday*

Joel 2:1 - 2, 12 - 17

Psalms 51: 1 - 17

2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10

Matthew 6:1 - 6, 16 - 21

### Sunday, February 22

*1st Sunday in Lent*

Genesis 2:15 - 17, 3:1 - 7

Psalms 32

Romans 5:12 - 19

Matthew 4:1 - 11



# February 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 6P PRAISE RINGERS 7P PSALM RINGERS 7P PROPERTY CMTE MEETING	3 7P SENIOR CHOIR	4 Private Event 12P PRIVATE EVENT	5	6	7 Private Event 12P PRIVATE EVENT
8 10:15A ANNUAL MEETING	9 6P PRAISE RINGERS 7P PSALM RINGERS	10 4:30P PRIVATE EVENT 7P SENIOR CHOIR	11 QUILTING group QUILTING AT ST. LUKE'S 6:30P SOCIAL MINISTRY	12	13	14 HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY
15	16 6P PRAISE RINGERS 7P PSALM RINGERS	17 NOON MEAL AT LCCM 6P FINANCE 7P SENIOR CHOIR	18 5:30P SOUP NIGHT 5:30P WELCA 5:30P MENTOR A MOTHER 7P PRIVATE EVENT 7P ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE	19 6:30P EXEC. MEETING 7P CHURCH COUNCIL	20	21
22 ANNUAL MEETING 10:15A FUNERAL PLANNING WORKSHOP	23	24 LUNCH and LEARN 12P LUNCH & LEARN 7P SENIOR CHOIR	25 7P QUITTAPAHILLA AUDUBON SOCIETY MEETING	26	27	28
EVERY SUNDAY: 9:00AM Service of Holy Communion 10:30AM Sunday School	Look Ahead March 2026 17 St. Patrick's Day 20 1st Day of Spring 29 Palm Sunday	March 2026 S M T W T F S 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	DAY CARE MONDAY - FRIDAY 5A - 6P	JESUS LOVES YOU - and so do we!		