# Tidings



Gretchen Luebbe, Newsletter Coordinator gmluebbe@verizon.net

Volume 45 Issue 2

We care as friends, we love as family, and we serve as Christ

March 2024

## Special Points of Interest:

- Sunrise worship added to Easter schedule
- Fundraising for ELCA Youth Gathering
- Instrumentalists needed for Easter
- Children's musical planned for Sunday, March 17
- Volunteers needed for Holy Week & Easter
- Six new members received last month



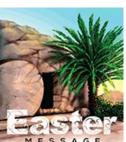
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## Message from Our Pastor

One year! I have had the honor of serving as your pastor for one year! I am so thankful for our staff and each of you



for your faithfulness and care and willingness to grow as Jesus' disciples in the world. God is Good! Looking forward to our next year together.

It's not too late to join our Wednesday discussion groups during Lent 12pm or 6:10pm. It's been a good turnout and thoughtful discussion. Please join us. (More details on page 5.)

I encourage you to join us for Holy Week worship to hear again the story of Jesus' betrayal, crucifixion, death and resurrection.

#### **Palm Sunday (3/24):**

10am Hear the story of Jesus' Passion from Mark

#### Maundy (Holy) Thursday (3/28):

7:00pm Holy Communion and the Stripping of the Altar

#### Good Friday (3/29):

12noon and 7:00pm

## Easter Morning (3/31): "Alleluia! Christ is Risen!"

**NEW THIS YEAR: Sunrise Easter Worship** at 6:45am on the lawn (Dress for the weather).

The service will be about 30 minutes long and you can warm up with some coffee and Easter Breakfast following the service.

#### **Easter Worship:**

8:45am and 11:00am

Praying for each of you in this Lent season.

God's Peace,

Pastor Kristin Hoyer



## Holy Trinity Lutheran Church



## 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

## July 16-20, 2024, New Orleans, Louisiana



Every 3 years (well, except for 2021 due to COVID), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, hosts an amazing event for 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth. The week includes music, speakers, worship, service projects and so much more! For many youth who attend it is a life-changing experience.

This summer **Alli Murgia**, **Elena & Zoe Ward**, **along with Jen Ward and Pastor Kristin** (this will be Pastor Kristin's 6<sup>th</sup> youth gathering) will be attending the event. We have a lot of fundraising to do and will be starting a **"Buy a Mile" fundraiser**. It is 1056 miles from Holy Trinity to the Superdome in New Orleans. Help us get to New Orleans by "buying a mile" (or more) for **\$10/mile**. You will receive a certificate and will be invited to a donor dinner after we return from New Orleans.

Follow the airplane poster to see how we are doing in our flight to New Orleans. If you want more information about the gathering you may go to <a href="https://www.elca.church/gathering">www.elca.church/gathering</a> to learn more or ask one of our attendees. Thank you for supporting our youth!

Pastor Kristin

## **Easter Instrumentalists**



We are assembling a group of instrumentalists to play for our

Easter worship! The group will have one rehearsal on

Saturday, March 30 at 5:00 pm.

If you are interested, please contact Nancy Fox (nanc\_fox@yahoo.com).

#### Holy Trinity Staff

Kristin Hoyer, Pastor

Andrea Barron,
Office Administrator

Nancy Fox,
Director of Music
& Family Ministries

Terry Sisk, Organist/Choir Director

Marcia Merry, Organist Emerita Debbie Harned, Interim Preschool Director

Rita Sims,

Congregation President



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Holy Week & Easter

## Palm Sunday



March 24

with Holy Communion & Palm Processional 10 am

# Maundy Thursday



March 28

with Holy Communion & Stripping of the Altar

7 pm

# Good Friday



March 29 12 pm and 7 pm

The Resurrection of Our Lord - March 31

Services with Holy Communion

6:45 AM Sunrise Worship (outdoors, dress for the weather)

8:45 AM & II AM in the Sanctuary



7:30 AM - 10:30 AM Easter Breakfast

## Assistance Needed

On Wednesday, March 20th, the Altar Guild would like to invite you to assist us in spring cleaning of the sanctuary. We will begin at 10:00. We would also like to invite you to join our committee. If you want to become involved with the church worship but don't feel comfortable in front of a group, this would be a perfect fit. It involves about 15-20 minutes of time before and after the service. You would be part of a team.

What would you do? Fill candles, set out the elements (linens, bread, wine). Wash linens as needed. Change the paraments to the appropriate colors (there is a calendar with the information.)

We also prepare the church for Advent and Christmas, Palm Sunday and Easter.

You are not expected or required to participate in everything.

If you have any questions please reach out to me or one of our other members. We would love to have you shadow us to see if this is a good fit for you. Teens are also welcome.

Do you like to bake? Perhaps you could assist with baking bread once a month. We currently have two bakers and I am sure they would be willing to share their recipe.

#### Peggy Everhart



Have you or you and your spouse/child thought about assisting with worship service by being an usher? Please speak with an usher on duty and see if you could shadow them.

If we could get 10-12 people to sign up for this important position, you would only be needed once a month.

Please take a moment and talk to your family about giving your time to this part of our worship service.

Thank You.

## Mowing Season to Begin Soon

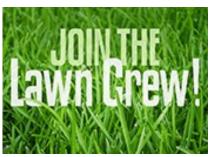
HTLC will start its 15th mowing season on March 24 ending on October 5. Last year we had four teams rotating on 2-week cycles with some teams consisting of families as well as individuals. Each team was scheduled three times throughout the season. More volunteers will add additional teams or increase the numbers on the present teams.

Two riding mowers with fuel are provided as well as push mowers and trimming equipment. Mowing can be done anytime during your 2-week cycle.

Please contact Jim Truxel -540-338-4669, <u>jimtruxel@comcast.net</u> or the Church office and I will be in touch. Standby volunteers are also accepted.

Thanks for considering this important project.

#### Tim Truxel



Altar Gui

## Wednesdays in Lent 2024

"Have a Beautiful, Terrible Lent!" Continued

Wednesdays at Noon - Lunch and Discussion

Wednesdays at 6:10pm - Discussion (you can join us at 5:30pm for dinner)

Wednesdays in Lent will use Kate Bowler's Lent discussion guide called "Have a Beautiful, Terrible Lent!"

This study will use excerpts from her new book "Have a Beautiful,

Terrible Day!" You may buy the book, but you do not need to buy the book in order to participate in the discussion.



You may go to her website katebowler.com to sign up for daily email devotions that will come to your inbox throughout Lent to be part of your Lenten discipline.

Wednesday, March 6 – "Transformation (Not Perfection)" John 2:13-22

Wednesday, March 13 - "The Depths of Renewal" John 3:14-21

Wednesday March 20 – "The Compassion of God" John 12:20-33

No meeting on Wednesday, March 27

Pastor Kristin

## The Tale of Three Trees

Music by Allen Pote

Lyrics and Narration by Tom S. Long

### **SUNDAY, MARCH 17**

Presented by Joyful Noise

### 10:00 am

"Once upon a mountaintop three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up." This is how this timeless American folk tale begins. The simple, but deep story reminds us that God is there to help our dreams come true, but sometimes in unexpected ways. It also reminds us to look for God in unexpected places in our world – even between two prisoners on a hill!

We hope that you will join us as our Joyful Noise Children's Choir retells this wonderful story.

Nancy Fox



## From Our President

As many of you are aware, I've been volunteering with the Leesburg Volunteer Fire Company for over three years now. My role primarily involves Public Education, which includes managing emails for birthday parties and

station tours. One of the highlights of this role is bringing the fire engine to children's homes and witnessing the joy on their teers faces at the sight of a fire-fighter, myself, and, most

importantly, a fire truck. Additionally, I oversee hall rentals, which is quite a demanding task in itself. If you are interested in a fire truck at your home for an event, please feel free to reach out to me.

I often get asked why I volunteer there and how I got there. Well, it all began when COVID forced our church to close, halting our social ministry work in the community. I deeply missed it and sought out other ways to contribute locally. That's when I stumbled upon the fire department, and it quickly became like a second family to me. Now, I find myself blessed with three families: my own, HTLC, and the fire department. I never imagined I would forge such incredible friendships and adopt so many young men and women along the way.

I'm sharing this story to urge everyone to take a moment to express gratitude whenever they encounter a firefighter or police officer. The recent home explosion in Sterling has deeply impacted all fire departments in Loudoun County. While I didn't personally know the firefighter involved from the Sterling Fire Department, I can attest to the emotional impact it had on me and others on the Admin team. As we prepare to lay the firefighter to rest in the coming week, I ask for your prayers for both the departed and the survivors, and ongoing prayers for healing and strength.

If community service is something you're interested in, there are numerous places seeking volunteers, including Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. I'm pleased to announce that our Social Ministry Committee is planning many activities for the year that might align with you or your family's passions. Feel free to reach out to either Susie Tinney or Sandy Phillips for more information.

Rita Sims, President

## Remember to set your clocks AHEAD one hour at 2:00AM on Sunday, March 10





WOMEN of the ELCA Holy Trinity's WELCA meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 13th was cancelled due to snow. Six members gathered the next day, prior to the Ash Wednesday service, to pack our monthly lunches/waters to support Loudoun's homeless shelter. Kim Mill and Margaret Seymour

kindly delivered these to Shelter House. In another attempt to keep us on our February schedule, WELCA gathered on Wednesday, February 28 as Kim Mill led the group through "Letting Go" for our continuing book study of Alice Fryling's Aging Faithfull`y.

As an Easter congregational outreach, WELCA has joined with Little Blessings Preschool to sponsor "Ten chicks for \$10". From the ELCA catalog - "Ten little chicks can make a big difference. Eggs from chickens not only provide an ongoing supply of protein-rich meals for a family, they can also launch a small business that provides a steady source of income." This project will run from February 18 through March 10. Church and preschool families sponsoring the chicks will be displayed on the farm display in the Commons area. Watch for the flyers, inserts, emails, and Facebook reminders!

Our next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, March 12 @ 10:00 am. We welcome you to join us in service and fellowship! Pat Bailey, WELCA President

# Communion Instruction



Mark your calendar:

## Sunday, March 10

11:15 AM-1:00 PM

This class is geared for children in Grade 2 (Older children who have not received this instruction are welcome!). It is appropriate for children who are currently receiving Holy Communion, as well as, those who are just preparing to receive the sacrament. As part of the class we will share lunch. Please contact Pastor Kristin or Nancy Fox for more information.

## January 24, 2024 Council Meeting Highlights

#### Meeting held in the Gathering Area

Ann Keigher, Rita Sims

#### PASTOR'S REPORT

- Christmas Eve attendance jumped 80 from pre-covid.
- The church has had a lot of visitors recently, including people visiting multiple times. Please continue greeting and welcoming all.
- Pastor Kristin and Chuck Whitacre attended a day-long stewardship seminar.
- Giving statements will be going out shortly.
- ELCA Youth Gathering 4 young adults from the church will be attending in the summer.
- Lent Ash Wednesday worship services will be at 12 noon and 6:30pm. Wednesdays in Lent will be a 12 noon and 6:10 discussions. "Have a Beautiful Terrible Day!" book by Kate Bowler will be used as a guide for Lent.
- Confirmation class is going to Camp Mar-Lu-Ridge March 1-2.
- Staff is having Christmas Lunch February 2nd.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Congregational meeting agenda Discussion about draft agenda.
  - \* Budget hearings were held and discussions heard from the congregation.
- February 17, 2024 Synod Educational Meeting for Council Members
- Approval of Electrical Repair and Upgrade Proposal
  - \* Adding some switches and fixes in storage areas. Matt Shultz is looking to get something to "approve as funds are available". Motion made, seconded, approved.
- Randy VanEpps suggested discussing how the scouts can participate in Scout Sunday.

**Executive Committee Meeting:** February 7, 2024

Next Council Meeting: February 21, 2024

## Lent - Holy Week - Easter Volunteers Needed\*

#### March 24 - Palm Sunday:

During the 10:00 AM service on Palm Sunday, we traditionally read the Passion Story. Multiple readers will read portions of the Story.

#### March 28 is Maundy (Holy) Thursday:

We will have a Service of Holy Communion with the stripping of the altar at 7:00 PM.

#### **March 29 is Good Friday:**

We will have the traditional Good Friday Service at Noon and 7:00 PM.

We need an Assisting Minister, Lector, Usher, Acolyte/Crucifer, and Altar Care volunteer for each service (Thursday and Friday). To volunteer, please signup by Monday, March 25. \*

#### March 31 - Easter Breakfast Help Needed!

We will be serving Easter Breakfast on March 31 from 7:30 AM to 10:30 AM. We need help with folks providing food and helping with clean-up. Signup sheets will be available starting <u>Sunday</u>, <u>March 3.</u> \*

Egg Hunt - Outdoors near the playground, starting at 10:20 AM

\* For all of these volunteer opportunities, please use the Sign-Up spreadsheet available through the "On Your Door" announcements, or email or call the Church Office. Thank you!

#### Celebrating Easter - March 31

We will have three services:

- **6:45 Outdoor Sunrise Service** (dress appropriately for the weather)
- 8:45 Traditional Holy Communion Service
- 11:00 Traditional Holy Communion Service

More details throughout this Tidings and "On Your Door" and website.

#### Easter Flowers Order Forms Are Available

Each year we decorate our sanctuary with beautiful flowers on Easter. You'll have an opportunity to purchase flowers (\$12 for one or \$22 for two) or donate funds to purchase flowers and can provide a dedication in honor of or memory of someone. The forms are available with the worship bulletins in the narthex.



## February 21, 2024 Council Meeting Highlights

#### Meeting held in the Gathering Area

Ann Keigher, Rita Sims

#### PASTOR'S REPORT

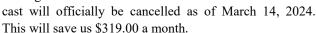
- Six people joined the church on Sunday., February 18.
- Ash Wednesday services have been well attended and will continue throughout Lent.
- More worship assistants are urgently needed.
- Confirmation retreat March 1 and 2
- Easter Sunday Schedule: 6:45 (outside), 8:45, and 11:00.
- Synod meeting for council members update: Pastor, Susie and Phil Tinney and Gretchen Luebbe, participated in a synod meeting tailored for council members, where they gleaned valuable insights about the ELCA and potential advantages for HTLC. Subsequent follow-up information was delivered via email.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Congregational meeting follow-up: Budget was approved
- Update on REACT: Regrettably, the Leesburg Zoning Committee has declined the REACT organization's request to lease office space at HTLC.
- Synod Assembly: We have received notification we can now send four members rather than two. If anyone is interested, please contact Pastor.
- Property Update: Non-profit security grants are being looked at—can apply through FEMA for a grant to improve

physical security against potential extremism or terrorism. Allowed to apply for up to \$150,000, but cannot do anything until a Federal budget is passed.

Phone Update: Next week Verizon will be out installing Fios. Com-



- Financial Update:
  - \* Moved all accounts to Truist except for the organ account, which is currently at Atlantic Union.
  - \* Council approved having Helen J. Tinney [Susie] move the Organ Fund from Atlantic Union to Truist. Helen J. Tinney and Karla McGovern will be added as signatories.
- Need to update the constitution, and will get a committee together to work on this.
- Need for feminine hygiene supplies by the library system, possible social ministry idea for a drive.

**Executive Committee Meeting:** March 13, 2024

Next Council Meeting: March 20, 2024

## Easter Breakfast

We look forward to this church family time on Easter Sunday. Breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall from 7:30-10:30. The menu is Pancakes, Sausage, Bacon, Egg Bites/Egg Casseroles, bagels, donuts, muffins, and pastries. We will be asking for people to bring either Egg Bites or Egg Casseroles, Bagels, Donuts and



Small muffins and pastries. Signup sheets with be available beginning Sunday, March 3.

We will also have an Egg Hunt at 10:20 that morning. We will be out in the grassy area and the playground ready for fun. More details for this to come during Sunday Announcements.

\*\*Debbie Harned\*\*



## 9:00 am- Noon

Welcome Aboard! This year we are journeying down the river to learn about God's gracious gift of water. From the waters of baptism to the waters that sustain gardens and farms, the water of LIFE!

Participants will learn about the importance of water and visit important "ports" along the way where they will hear Bible stories about water and hear about communities that are working to ensure safe water for all!

We can't wait to welcome you "on board" for this week of fun, faith and learning!

(\$35/week for all campers & Junior Crew. \$45/ week after June 1)

The week includes the following opportunities:

WeeBS—Campers must turn three by September 1, 2024

VBS— Campers must turn 4 by September 30, 2024

Junior Crew—A special program for rising 6th Graders

Volunteers: Rising 7th Graders through Adult

Registration Link For Campers & Junior Crew: <a href="https://forms.gle/6bhUEDi69oEPKneE7">https://forms.gle/6bhUEDi69oEPKneE7</a>

Registration Link for Volunteers: <a href="https://forms.gle/AEVazLsKkMEtNCkL6">https://forms.gle/AEVazLsKkMEtNCkL6</a>

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**Executive Committee Meeting:** February 7, 2024

Next Council Meeting: February 21, 2024

#### New Members Received

On Sunday, February 18., a family of four plus two individuals were received into Holy Trinity's family! Pictured below with Pastor Kristin are:

- Ian LoSchiavo
- The Houghton Family L to R: Jaylen, Joey, Mary, Jay
- and Cathleen Cassavant

As you see them, please greet them and help them feel welcome.

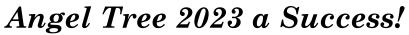


## Preschool Update

Things continue to be happy downstairs! The preschool began registration and we are already above the number enrolled this year! This month we will have our annual Art Show and Spaghetti Dinner, and then an Egg Hunt before we are off on Spring Break.

I'd like to highlight the support we get from Lynnette Mergler. Lynnette has been reading to our blessings every month for over a year. The children and staff look forward to the great books she chooses and knowing that she always comes back! Thanks, Lynnette.

Debbie Harned



Wow! We have delivered Christmas wishes for 66 children in 2023. This included six bicycles. The Girl Scouts not only did an excellent job with creating the ornaments for the tree; they also fulfilled six wishes from the tree which included one bicycle. We had participation from 42 families in the congregation, most fulfilling three or more wishes. We additionally had seven preschool families fulfill wishes.

Special thanks to Marc and Rebecca Buzzell, and Leila and Luke Willeke, for helping with the sorting and packing of the presents for delivery. Also thank you to Barrett and Peggy Everhart, Jerry Harned, Karla McGovern and Linda Rehling

CURROLL

who helped deliver the packed presents. We had much to be thankful for this Christmas.

Effie DeGroot





Joyful Noise Sing & Ring 2/22/24					
DATE	ACTIVITY				
	Sing & Ring for Worship				
	10:00 am				
Sunday, March 17	The Tale of Three Trees				
	Report at 9:15				
Wednesday, March 27	No Rehearsal – Holy Week/Spring Break				
	Easter Sunday Worship				
Sunday, March 31	8:45 am service				
	Report Time: 8:15 am				
Wednesday, April 3	Final Rehearsal for the Year!				
	Sunday Worship				
Sunday, April 28	10:00 am				
	Report immediately following Sunday School				

Youth	Singers Schedule 2/22/24			
DATE	ACTIVITY			
	Sunday Worship			
Sunday, March 10	10:00 am			
	Singers report at 9:30 am			
Sunday, March 24	Rehearsal			
	5:00-6:00 pm			
	Optional Dinner			
	6:30-7:30 pm Youth Group			
Sunday, March 31	Easter Sunday Worship			
Sanday, Water 31	8:45 am			
Easter Sunday	Singers report at 8:15 am			
	Youth Sunday			
Sunday, April 21	10:00 am Service			
	Singers Report 9:00 am			
	Sunday Worship			
Sunday, April 28	10:00 am			
	Singers report at 9:30 am			



January Financials 2024				
	Actual	Budget		
General Fund	\$26,390.04	\$30,266.67		
Air Conditioner	\$9,539.49	\$15,000.00		
Roof Fund	\$6,950.00	\$150,000.00		



"MR. WILSON TOLD ME NOT TO BECOME A STATISTIC! WHAT CHURCH DO THEY GO TO?"

## **Worship Volunteers - March 2024**

	Mar 3	Mar 10	Mar 17	Mar 24	Easter (3/31) (8:45/11:00)
Acolyte / Crucifer	Chloe & James Landas	Hope & Joy Mattina	Jane Keigher (A) TBD	Luke & Laila Willeke	TBD TBD
Asst Min / Prayers	Laurie Dieffenbach	Tammy Brende	Ann Keigher	Tammy Brende	Becca Buzzell Laurie Dieffenbach
Lector	Tammy Brende	Marc Buzzell	Samantha Waters	TBD	Lynnette Mergler TBD
Ushers	Fritz Scholz Jerry Harned	Adrian & Dan Mattina	Barrett Everhart TBD	Ron & Cathy Root	Ron & Cathy Root TBD
Coffee Host	Mattina Family	Laurie Dieffenbach	TBD	Keigher Family	Easter Breakfast
Altar Care	Deb Wenk Debbie Harned	Sharon Williams Effie DeGroot	Peggy Everhart Karen Blodgett	Tammy Brende Judy Willeke	Cathy Root TBD
Tellers	Laurie Dieffenbach Kristina Landas	Gretchen Luebbe Karla McGovern	Gretchen Luebbe Karla McGovern	TBD TBD	Laurie Dieffenbach Randy VanEpps
Lawn	N/A	N/A		Buzzell / Johanneck / Smiley	

Holy Week assignments and Sign-up opportunities available through "On Your Door."

Please find a substitute if you are not able to serve on an assigned day. Thank you.

## Happy March Birthday to . . .

- Debbie Herbert Joseph Marcheschi
- 2 Wesley McGrew Ella Nau
- 3 Beverly RobertsZachary MillerJason Waters
- 5 Colin Byrne Steve Little Alex Seymour AJ Smith

- 8 Rick Landis Grace Mattina
- 10 Sawyer Eamich
- 11 Hunter Bohnenblust Julie Hines
- 12 Kevin Burke Susie Tinney
- 13 Mike Mill
- 14 Owen BollingerRyan Dudak

- Greg McGrew
- 15 Amy Miller
- 18 Stephanie Szebalskie
- 20 Michael Burke
- 22 Isabelle Adams Tucker Benton Larry Grant
- 25 Cathy Root
- 26 Tammy Brende Kristine Jacobson



- 28 Ava Murgia
- 31 Owen Szebalskie Dot Von Hoene



3/05/2011 Gary & Alicia Scharpf3/30/1963 Phil & Susie Tinney

# MARCH Baptisms

Jonathan Bell
 Eric Bohnenblust
 Phyllis Kain
 Jacqueline Kramer

Lynnette Mergler

- 2 Sophia Serice
- 3 Matt Bland
- 4 Delilah DeMark
- 6 Jarrett DeFalco
- 9 Juliette Richards
- Susie Tinney
- 6 Emersyn Litchfield
- 17 Roger Bailey
- 20 Leah Graham
- 21 William Adams
- 22 Collin Everhart
- 23 Molly Struckmann
- 28 Emma Allen Olivia Allen
- 30 Gretchen Albers

## "I am the Resurrection & the Life..."

Please remember in your prayers the families and friends of those who died recently:

#### **Doris Allen**

Mother of Sandy Phillips



#### Gerhard (Jake) Jacobson

Former member of Holy Trinity

Our deepest sympathies to these families during their time of mourning.

#### HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

(ELCA)

605 West Market Street Leesburg, VA 20176-2506

Sunday School: 8:45 AM
Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM
Coffee Hour: Following worship

**Open Office Hours:** 

Tuesday - Friday 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM Emailing or calling ahead is recommended to make sure someone is available to help you.

Phone: (703) 777-4912

Email: office@HolyTrinityLeesburg.org



www.HolyTrinityLeesburg.org

#### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Volume 45 Issue 2

## Classics on the Go!

Thursday, February 22nd, eleven members met at the Blue Ridge Grill for lunch and fellowship.

The Classics will celebrate St Patrick's Day a wee bit late on Tuesday, March 19th at Spanky's Shenanigans on East Market Street. We will gather at noon for good food and fellowship.

Please rsvp to the church office by Friday, March 15th at noon.

If you have not joined us in the past, we would love to have you join us.

Peggy Everhart, Kim Mill, and Judy Willeke



Fiddler on the Roof is being preformed at the Shenandoah Music Theatre in Winchester June 21-30. Matinees are scheduled for June 22, 23, 26, 29, and 30.

If you are interested, let me know.

Peggy