

# PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Breinigsville, PA

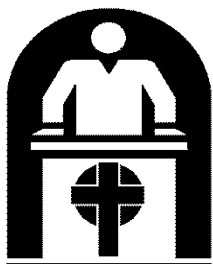
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**DECEMBER 2019**



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
8227 Hamilton Boulevard  
Breinigsville, PA 18031  
Telephone: 610-398-7000

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Dear members and friends,

The Advent season has a long tradition in the history of the Christian Church, beginning somewhere near the end of the fourth century. While it was originally celebrated for a period of forty days and included fasting, by the beginning of the seventh century it was confined to the four-week period preceding Christmas. In the calendar of the

Christian Church today, the seasons begins on the Sunday nearest to St. Andrew's Day (Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>) and includes the four Sundays preceding Christmas as well as the intervening weekdays. It is the first of the six seasons of the church year.

While Advent, in the past, has been observed in many churches as a time of penitence in preparation for the joyous celebration of Christmas, the emphasis has changed recently to one of anticipation. It calls to mind the four-thousand years of waiting for the coming of the Messiah on the part of the Hebrew people. In many churches today, there is also an emphasis upon the second coming of our Lord. For the Christian, Advent not only becomes a time of preparation for the celebration of the coming of Christ into world but also a time for the rebirth of his spirit in our lives.

With this changing emphasis of Advent there has also come a change in the color of the season. While purple has been the traditional color for many years, this symbolizes penitence and that is not the emphasis in many churches. The color has changed to royal blue, symbolizing the sense of expectation. It is designed to call forth anticipation in our hearts – hopeful waiting for the celebration of Christmas once again and for the second coming of our Lord. This color of Advent also serves to distinguish the season from Lent in our church year.

Allow me to conclude with an acrostic poem I found.

Announcing his coming, the angel from heaven  
Descended to bring his good tidings to earth.  
Victorious, triumphant, the message is given:  
Each penitent sinner, come view Jesus' birth.  
Now come we! Now sing we! Our King draweth near!  
To Bethlehem hasten! He casts out our fear! (Paul M. Lindberg)

As we look forward to the coming of Christ in our hearts at Christmas,  
may your Advent be filled with hope.

*Pastor Miller*

# WORSHIP & MUSIC

## CANTATA

The choir will be presenting their cantata on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.



### Sunday School News

Christmas is fast approaching and that means our Christmas Eve Pageant is starting to take shape.

Important Dates:

### Dress Rehearsal - December 22<sup>nd</sup> following church till 2:30p.m.

Lunch will be provided and parents can pick up their children at 2:30 p.m.

### Christmas Eve Service - 4 p.m.

Please have children at church by 3:15 p.m.

If you have any questions please let me know.

Anita Eisenhard

## WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

The worship assistant schedule in this December newsletter **IS** **DIFFERENT** from the one you received in the mail a few months ago. Please disregard that schedule, throw it away and use the one with the newsletter. I had people I had to remove and other people I had to rearrange to fit their schedules. This is a corrected and up-to-date copy.

## ADVENT OFFERING ENVELOPE



Extra Advent Offering envelopes are available in the rack at the sanctuary door.

## PARISH NURSING NEWS

Christmas is a wonderful holiday but sometimes the holiday season can lead to stress and depression. A newsletter published in 2017 from the Mayo Clinic featured some tips for preventing and coping with holiday stress and depression.

**Acknowledge your feelings.** If you are away from loved ones or are dealing with the death of a loved one, realize that it is perfectly normal to feel sadness and grief. It is okay to cry or express those feelings even though holidays are supposed to be festive events.

- **Reach out.** Seek out social events at church or in the community as they offer companionship and support. Volunteering to help others can lift your spirits and provide the opportunity to develop new friendships.
- **Be realistic.** The holidays do not have to be perfect or have the same traditions every year.
- **Set aside differences.** Accept family members and friends as they are. Chances are that they are dealing with the same stresses that you are. Set aside any grievances for a more appropriate time to discuss.
- **Stick to a budget.** Predetermine how much you can afford to spend on gift giving prior to beginning your shopping. If funds are low - try alternative gifts such as homemade gifts or the gift of your time with that person.
- **Learn to say no.** If you are overwhelmed with responsibilities, let your family and friends know that you can't participate in every activity. They will understand.
- **Don't abandon healthy habits.** Remember to get plenty of sleep and try to incorporate regular physical activity into each day. If you find that it is difficult to not overindulge in sweets and other high calorie foods at parties – have a healthy snack before going to the event.

Continued on page 5

- **Take a breather.** Try to make time to yourself each day even if for only a few minutes. Listen to soothing music, take a walk or read a book. Another idea would be to use the standing “star” that was provided at church published by the United Lutheran Seminary. Read the Bible verses listed and then conclude with the prayer listed.
- **Seek professional help if needed.** If despite your best efforts, you find that you are persistently sad or anxious, talk to your health care provider or a mental health provider.

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of our Lord. While it is easy to become caught up in the commercialization of the holidays and the demands that are sometimes placed on us remember the “reason of the season!”

## PRAYER SHAWL GROUP NEWS

For those of you working on Twiddle Sleeves, we have scheduled a sleeve blessing for Sunday, **December 8**, during worship. So if you have sleeves that you would like included in the blessing, please bring to church on the 8<sup>th</sup>, or pass along to Peg or Steph before then. Note that sleeves do not need to be embellished to be included in the blessing.

Also, we’ve scheduled a date for sleeve decorating. Mark your calendar for Sunday, **January 12, 2020**, to work on sleeves after worship. Anyone who would like to participate is welcome – no crocheting or knitting skills required for decorating sleeves!

Steph Wagaman  
Peggy Kern

## SECRETARIES DESK



The last couple weeks I came in the office on a Monday and have found cards and other items on my desk. There were no names who left them and no explanation why these items were there and what was to be done with them. As my husband would say, I'm not Kreskin. Please leave an explanation as to why you are leaving something on my desk and leave your name in case I have a question.

### **NOTE THE TIME CHANGE** **THE EMMAUS CHORALE PRESENTS:** **“CHRISTMAS CHESTNUTS”**

Sunday, December 8 at **2:00 p.m.** (changed from 3:00 p.m.) at Faith Presbyterian Church, North 2<sup>nd</sup> & Cherokee Streets, Emmaus. Director, Janet Davis, will lead the Chorale in presenting a variety of music for the season, including, “’Twas The Night Before Christmas,” excerpts from Vivaldi’s “Gloria,” “Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas,” “The Virgin Mary Had A Baby Boy”. Join us for this celebration! *Free-will offering – Refreshments Following.* Contact Carole Ann Trout at 610-398-4496 for more information.

## CAMERATA SINGERS

Are you looking for some Christmas spirit? Camerata Singers accompanied by the Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra will present a concert Saturday, December 14 at 7:30 pm. The concert will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Allentown at the intersection of Cedar Crest Boulevard and Tilghman Street. They will be performing Vivaldi's Magnificat in G Minor, as well as shorter works by Rutter, Lauridsen, Willcocks, Abendied and others. If you are interested in attending please contact Cathy Waltemyer for ticket information.

## WELCA – INGATHERING

On Wednesday, December 4, 2019, the Lehigh Mission District Christmas Ingathering will take place at St. John's Lutheran Church, 501 Chestnut Street, Emmaus. Gifts will be sorted and packed beginning at 10:30 a.m. A brief worship service and dedication of gifts will take place at 12:00 p.m. followed by a light lunch.

St. Paul's will again collect donations of gift items to be taken to the Ingathering. These **unwrapped** items can be placed in boxes found in the Narthex marked for the Ingathering. The lists of gift items are included separately in this newsletter.

Our church is also responsible for providing some specific **wrapped** gift items for children at Keenan House (17 total) and adults at Good Shepherd Raker Center (6 total). There will be tags for you to pick up on the table in the Narthex stating age group and sex of the children at Keenan and specific gifts for the adults at Good Shepherd Raker.

All donations need to be at the church by Sunday, December 1, 2019. WELCA members will sort and box the donations according to the agencies requesting them at 1:00 pm on Monday, Dec. 2.

If you have any questions, contact Sandi Wagaman 610-395-6387.



# WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

At our November meeting, Martha gave the monthly assignments for the Food Bank. She also read a news article about the Rescue Mission that had 13 men graduate their program at the end of September; and she also gave us a chuckle when she read an article of 1969 prices of items.

Thankoffering Sunday we are to bring in our coin jars.

Events: \* all are welcome to these events; look for more information in upcoming newsletters.

- December 2, sort gifts to Ingathering.
- December 4 attend Ingathering at St. John's, Emmaus.
- \*January 5 Soup and Sandwich Luncheon followed by Charlotte Gross presenting Mission Interpreters.
- \*The spring cluster meeting topic *Help Your Dr. Help You* will be on March 21.
- \*Justice Retreat, March 28
  - Christin Perez, chaplain at Muhlenberg College will present an afternoon bible study on Ruth.
    - She is part of M.U.L.E., (Muhlenberg Useful Living Essentials) the outreach program at the college, and has an article in the December issue of *gather* magazine.
  - We are collecting non-perishable, hygiene, and school supplies for needy college students at Muhlenberg.
- We discussed Family Promises which is a program for situationally homeless families in the Lehigh Valley.
  - Our consensus was to support a host church.

Our Bible study was *No hard feelings? Session three Stewarding the gift of joy* by Anna Madsen, followed by a few ladies going to lunch.

Please join us on December 11 at 9:30 for our next meeting. ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!!!!



## CARD MINISTRY



Here at St. Paul's we send cards to members of the congregation who are ill or in need of a cheerful word. These cards are on the table in the narthex. When you are here on a Sunday, or during the week, check the table to see if there is a card. Please sign your name and help bring a smile to a fellow member.

## ALTAR FLOWER AND BULLETIN SPONSORS FOR 2020

Your sponsorship of the flowers and the bulletins is a great way to pay tribute to someone special in your life and also to help offset the cost of these weekly items for the church.

The prices will stay the same. Altar flowers – one vase is \$22 or both vases at \$44. If you are sponsoring both bouquets, **PLEASE** sign your name to **BOTH LINES**. The cost for the bulletin sponsors will remain at \$20 per week.

The flower chart and bulletin chart will be posted soon on the bulletin board. If you would like to call the church and reserve a spot for a date, please feel free to do so.

## HOSPITALIZED?

Parish Code for hospitalized parishioners is 321. Please give this code when you are admitted to the hospital so the pastor can be made aware that you are a patient and can administer the pastoral care you require while you are hospitalized.

Please take note, that if you are admitted on a Thursday night, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, the pastor will not be aware that you are hospitalized until Monday mid-morning, since the church does not have office hours on Friday, and the hospital pastoral care office is not available on Saturday or Sunday.

This means, if you would like the Pastor to know you are hospitalized on the weekend, please call the church office or the Pastor.

## PRAYER CHAIN COMMITTEE



A note to let you know that if anyone is in need of additional prayers for someone in your family or someone you know, please call Judy Walker at 610-351-6040 or cell # 610-573-7117. She will start the prayer chain by calling the people who serve on that committee. They in turn will keep extra prayers going for that person. All we need is a name of someone in need of prayer; a reason does not have to be given as to why you want the extra prayers.

If you would like to become a member of this committee, just let me know. I am contacting the Prayer Chain Committee electronically using text messages and email from my cell phone. If you do not have a cell phone or computer, we can still contact you by phone. So if you want to be of service to those who need extra prayers, just contact me using the numbers above or see me at Church. This only takes a brief amount of time and there are no meetings to attend! We all need extra prayers and they do not take a lot of time but are of great comfort.

## DECEMBER FOOD BANK ITEMS OF THE MONTH

The congregation has donated to the Food Bank throughout the year but the needs of those less fortunate continue. So please continue to bring nonperishable food items along to worship.

Each month we plan to feature a food item, but any item will be acceptable.

**THANK YOU** to all who brought in soup during our monthly collection for the food bank.

During December our “food of the month” will be canned meat.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

November 24 – Deadline To Order Your Poinsettias

November 24 – Potluck & Tree Decorating

December 04 – Ingathering at St. John's Lutheran Church, Emmaus

December 15 – Cookie Social (Cookies, Coffee, Tea & Hot Chocolate)

December 22 – Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal at 11:30

December 24 – Christmas Eve Services – 4:00 p.m. Family Service

9:00 p.m. Festival Service

January 05-W-ELCA Soup & Sandwich

January 19 Installation Service for Pastor Miller at 3:00 p.m.

The Youth Group will be hosting a babysitting day on the afternoon of December 8, 2019. Be on the lookout for further details.



## LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

In Nepal, where blindness is prevalent due to under-funded medical care and a lack of eye doctors, ophthalmologist Sanduk Ruit has made it his mission to treat poor people. He's performed more than 130,000 cataract surgeries to restore sight, sometimes walking for a week with surgical equipment in tow to reach patients. Dr. Ruit also found a way for replacement lenses to be made locally for less than \$3 each, rather than buying them internationally for 100 times as much. The physician brings healing to remote villages and celebrates "big eye-opening festivals" with people who "were blind yesterday, and ... are seeing today."

At Christmas we celebrate the Word of God who came to live among us as Jesus, the light of the world. In countless ways since, God has brought light to those living in literal or figurative darkness.

We celebrate people, such as Dr. Ruit and the 650 doctors he has trained, whom God uses to cause "light [to shine] in the darkness" (John 1:5).

## THANK YOU EVERYONE

Just a quick note to say thank you to all my volunteers who help make my job easier.

A big thank you to Sharon Bortz and Carole Beck who cover the office and help run the bulletin and newsletters.

Wishing all the members and staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cindy

## LULLABY FOR THE CHRIST-CHILD

First published in 1539 in Germany, the Christmas hymn “From Heaven Above” recounts the angels’ message to the shepherds and then the spiritual journey of the baptized Christian to Jesus’ manger-bed.

Try singing verses 8, 9 and 13 (translated by Catherine Winkworth) as a tender lullaby of praise, a song of love and a prayer to the newborn Savior. If the original tune is unfamiliar, use “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” or “Just As I Am.”

Welcome to earth, thou noble Guest,  
Through whom the sinful world is blest!  
Thou com’st to share my misery;  
What thanks shall I return to thee?

Ah, Lord, who hast created all,  
How weak art thou, how poor and small,  
That thou dost choose thine infant bed  
Where humble cattle lately fed!

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
Make thee a bed, soft, undefiled,  
Within my heart, that it may be  
A quiet chamber kept for thee.

## “BE BORN IN US TODAY”

In 1865, Phillips Brooks, an Episcopal preacher from Boston, went on a Holy Land pilgrimage. Riding horseback from Jerusalem to Bethlehem for Christmas Eve worship at the Church of the Nativity was so moving that he wrote “O Little Town of Bethlehem.” The hymn’s final stanza addresses the town’s most famous newborn:

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!



... there was no room  
for them in the inn.

Luke 2:7, KJV

“Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world.”

—C.S. Lewis

\* \* \*

“Music acts like a magic key, to which the most tightly closed heart opens.”

—Maria Augusta von Trapp

\* \* \*

“That the Creator himself comes to us and becomes our ransom — this is the reason for our rejoicing.”

—Martin Luther



1 Hughey Haughney	12 Heather Sedlak
2 Angela Kropf	13 Carson Morgan
3 Melanie Dimovitz	15 Deb Sheppo
3 Doug Ebersole	16 Marion Reichard
6 Amy Mutis	17 Margaret Stoudt
7 Andrew Bruchak	19 Frank Bennighoff
7 Luke Walters	19 Diane Kropf
8 Calvin Fetherolf	22 Chris Mesko-Holzer
9 Carl Schmoyer III	23 Jennifer Carlson
10 Patty Spencer	25 Mary Ann Spengler
11 Betty Marchetti	28 Linford Bastian
12 Shayla Morgan	29 Carol Derr-Breinig

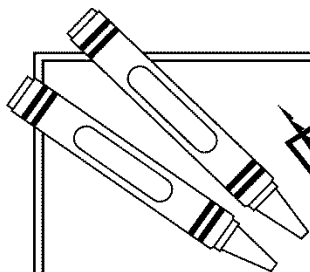


11 Jerry & Heather Sedlak
19 Patrick & Sommer Cope
22 Jesse & Jodi Eisenhard
31 Doug & Diana Ebersole
31 Fahed & Jessica Sallit

## PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Dave Apgar	Peg Apgar	Linford Bastian
Doris Fenner	Hughey Haughney	Helen Kessler
Bill Knoll	Esther Nolf	Kathy Shryock
John Thomas	Irene Wenz	Stanley Younger

(Their names were printed in the bulletin during the last month)



# PUZZLE

## Symbols of the *season*

Many traditional decorations convey the meaning of Christmas.

*Directions: Use the picture clues to the right to complete the words. Then write the boxed letters in order to complete 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV.*



shepherd's staff

tree that keeps its leaves

shines to lead the way

green for eternal life,  
red for Jesus' blood

&

sounds to announce  
good news

has no beginning or end

Th   ks b  to  od fo   is  
indesc   ba  le gif  !

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15, NIV

Answer: candy cane, evergreen, star, holly & berries, bell, wreath.  
Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER IS**

**DECEMBER 8, 2019**

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR  
ARTICLES SUBMITTED TO  
THE CHURCH OFFICE  
BY THIS DATE.**



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**CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000**

**HOSPITAL CODE: #321**

**HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

**EMAIL: [office@stpaulsbbville.org](mailto:office@stpaulsbbville.org)**




**Website: [www.stpaulsbbville.org](http://www.stpaulsbbville.org)**

**STAFF**

Pastor.....The Rev. Carey L. Miller  
Organist/Choir Director.....Ms. Judy Noll  
Handbell Director..... Mr. Richard Steltz  
Parish Secretary ..... Mrs. Cindy Krasnansky  
Sexton.....Mr. Charlie Meitzler



# December 2019 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																	
<b>1 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship	<b>2</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 p.m.-Sorting Of The W-ELCA Ingathering Items	<b>3</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 1:00 p.m.-Stewardship Committee	<b>4</b> 10:30 a.m.-Ingathering at St. John's Lutheran Church in Emmaus 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	<b>5</b> 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>																																																	
<b>8 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship -Blessing of The Twiddle Sleeves 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.-Youth Group Hosting Holiday Babysitting <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<b>9</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 p.m.-Worship & Music Committee	<b>10</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 12:00 p.m.-Secretaries Christmas Luncheon At The SYNOD Office	<b>11</b> 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA 7:00 p.m.-Council	<b>12</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>																																																	
<b>15 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship-Choir Cantata 11:30 a.m.-Cookie Social (Cookies, Coffee, Tea & Hot Chocolate)	<b>16</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	<b>17</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 7:00 p.m.-Property Committee	<b>18</b> 9:00 a.m.-Rowdy Bunch <b>NOTE THE TIME CHANGE</b> 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	<b>19</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:00 p.m. Haafsville Board Meeting 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>																																																	
<b>22 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-Pageant Dress Rehearsal- Lunch Will Be Provided. Pick Up Children Around 2:30 p.m.	<b>23</b> <b>NO BIBLE STUDY</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>Christmas Eve Services</b> 3:15 p.m.-Children Arrive For The Pageant 4:00 p.m.-Family Service 9:00 p.m.-Festival Service	<b>25 OFFICE CLOSED</b>  <b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>26 OFFICE CLOSED</b> NO TOPS NO Joyful Ringers NO Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>																																																	
<b>29 FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS</b> <b>NO MORNING BELLS</b> <b>NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 10:30 a.m.-Worship	<b>30</b> <b>NO BIBLE STUDY</b>	<b>31</b>  <b>New Year's Eve</b>				<table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="7">January 2020</th></tr> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table>	January 2020							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	
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## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### Those Who Serve for the Month of December

Council Person: Angie Kropf 484-424-2637

#### Sunday, December 1, 2019

Altar Guild: Brooke & Carlene Brumbach  
Lay Assistant: Meredith Schmoyer  
Greeters: Larry & Mary Schneider  
Reader: Sharon Bortz  
Communion Bread: Pat Spencer  
Communion Assistant: Bob Bruchak  
Ushers: Zack Dimovitz, Joshua Solderich,  
Larry Schneider, Mary Schneider

#### Sunday, December 8, 2019

Altar Guild: Jennifer Bentsen, Joyce Eisenhard  
Lay Assistant: June Kellogg  
Greeters: Keith & Rebecca Theodore  
Reader: Martha Lindenmuth  
Communion Bread: Keith & Rebecca Theodore  
Communion Assistant: Marilyn Thomas  
Ushers: Matthew Bruchak, Robert Bruchak, Anita Eisenhard,  
Ken Ritter, Carl Seibert

#### Sunday, December 15, 2019

Altar Guild: Michele Rampen, Patrice Walters  
Lay Assistant: Sandi Wagaman  
Greeters: Stan & Mitzi Younger  
Reader: Peggy Kern  
Communion Bread: Carol Derr-Breinig  
Communion Assistant: Anita Eisenhard  
Ushers: Melanie Dimovitz, Cal Fetherolf, Frank Szukics,  
Judy Szukics, Marilyn Thomas

#### Sunday, December 22, 2019

Altar Guild: Rebecca & Keith Theodore  
Lay Assistant: Cathy Waltemyer  
Greeters: Janine & Ken Ritter  
Reader: Calvin Fetherolf  
Communion Bread: Lisa Newhard  
Communion Assistant: Peggy Saylor  
Ushers: Frank Bennighoff, Brooke Brumbach, Carlene Brumbach,  
Richard Hartley, Tom Kellogg

If you cannot fulfill an assigned duty, please notify the council person of the month or call the church office at 610-398-7000.

#### Christmas Eve Family Service, December 24, 2019, 4:00PM

Altar Guild: Joyce Eisenhard, Amy Williams  
Lay Assistant: Meredith Schmoyer  
Greeters: Jeremy & Hannah Schmoyer  
Reader: Marilyn Thomas  
Communion Bread: Peggy Kern  
Communion Assistant: Anita Eisenhard  
Ushers: Aubrie Pavlacka, Garret Pavlacka, Diane Kropf,  
John Kropf, Madeline MacMechan

#### Christmas Eve Festival Service, December 24, 2019, 9:00PM

Altar Guild: Jennifer Bentsen, Janine Ritter, Susan Xander  
Lay Assistant: Sandi Wagaman  
Greeters: Richard Hartley, Cal Fetherolf  
Reader: June Kellogg  
Communion Bread: Bruce & Sandi Wagaman  
Communion Assistant: Cal Fetherolf  
Ushers: Zack Dimovitz, Richard Hartley, Larry Schneider,  
Mary Schneider, Bruce Wagaman

#### Sunday, December 29, 2019

Altar Guild: Rosemary Lehman, Amy Williams  
Lay Assistant: Dick Steltz  
Greeters: Frank & Sandy Bennighoff  
Reader: Jen Schmoyer  
Communion Bread: Janine & Ken Ritter  
Communion Assistant: Sharon Bortz  
Ushers: Angie Kropf, Rosemary Lehman, Martha Lindenmuth,  
Bruce Wagaman, Amy Williams



# Moravian Choir

November 10, 2019



# Consecration Sunday



November 17, 2019





# SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

## We Love... 2019 A Day of Learning



We Love...because God first loves us. We Love...others because each person is a child of God. We Love...by expanding our understanding of others and allowing people to be truly who God made them to be. We Love...because God is love.

These were just a few of the takeaways from We Love... 2019, a day of learning to help congregations be more opening and welcoming to LGBTQIA+ individuals and their families. For many participants this was uncharted territory, as they are learning what all those letters actually do mean (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual/Aromantic plus many more).

For others, there was still plenty to learn as we explored the intersection between sexuality/gender identity and faith and discussed how the church can be a place where people do not feel they have to hide their sexuality or gender identity in order to feel the love of God and others.



The keynote speaker was Jamie Bruesehoff, a writer and advocate in New Jersey. She is married to an ELCA pastor and is the mother of three children, the oldest of whom is transgender. Workshops included safety basics, welcoming language in worship, what scripture has to say about homosexuality, bisexuality visibility, and parents sharing stories of when their children came out and how the church was both helpful and hurtful.

We Love... is being planned again for the fall of 2020.

# Bern, Leesport Supports World Hunger

## Bern gets in the Farming Spirit to Raise Funds for ELCA World Hunger



Ministry often surprises us. Our congregations work hard to meet many needs across the United States and around the globe. Feeding the hungry is one of those needs. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me" Matthew 25:35. When we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty and welcome the stranger, we are encountering and caring for Jesus.

This past September Bern Lutheran Church in Leesport set out to raise enough money to buy one farm from ELCA World Hunger (ELCA Good Gifts). Over the course of four weeks, hundreds of dollars began pouring in. The spirit of the project was

evident throughout. Jane Battaglieri, Bern's Music Director, even enjoyed adding some special music in the spirit of the project. During one service, the song sung before announcing the total was "The Farmer in the Dell" and the postlude was "Old MacDonald." The people of Bern came together during their God's Global Barnyard project and their generosity was overwhelming! By the end of the project in October, a total of \$3,000 was raised!

The Rev. Phyllis Wolkenhauer was especially overjoyed at the success of the whole project. She wrote, "I think \$3,000.00 was a complete surprise to all of us. The day the final total was calculated, we received a letter encouraging us to participate in the ELCA World Hunger appeal and take advantage of the matching funds currently available. In the blink of an eye, the Lord increased our offerings to total \$6,000. What a gift!"



***Never underestimate the power of prayerful giving  
and of a congregation coming together  
to make an impact upon a world in need!***

## Learning Ministries Day 2020

Saturday, January 25, 2020 (snow date Saturday, February 1)  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. @ Union Lutheran Church, Schnecksville

Theme: Vision 2020

Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Brenda Smith,  
Program Director, ELCA Faith and Book of Faith  
(Visit [nepasynod.org](http://nepasynod.org) for more information)

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*January 2020 LMD NL news will be due December 13, 2019.* E-Mail any information to me at [lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com).

\*\*\*\*\*NOTE TIME CHANGE TO 2:00 P.M.\*\*\*\*\*

**"Christmas Chestnuts" – The Emmaus Chorale's Christmas Concert** – Sun., Dec 8th, at **2:00pm** at Faith Presbyterian Church, North 2nd & Cherokee Streets, Emmaus. Director, Janet Davis will lead the Chorale in presenting a variety of music for the season. Including, "Twas the Night Before Christmas", excerpts from Vivaldi's "Gloria", "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas", "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy". Join us for this celebration! Free-will offering – Refreshments Following. Contact Carole Ann Trout at [610-398-4496](tel:610-398-4496) for more information.

**Homemade Thanksgiving Sides Sale** - Looking to add some St. John's, Fogelsville favorites to your meal? **PICK UP:** Sat., Nov. 23rd from 9 AM to 12 PM. For more info call [610-395-5535](tel:610-395-5535) or visit [www.stjohns-fogelsville.org](http://www.stjohns-fogelsville.org).

**The Gospel of Thomas Series** – The current Gospel of Thomas series will have the last gathering on Nov. 20th. Look for more information after the New Year. Contact Mary Howe at [mhowe@rcn.com](mailto:mhowe@rcn.com) or [610-821-4007](tel:610-821-4007) for questions.

**Come One! Come All!** – to the debut of the **"BRIDGE"** – St. Mark Lutheran Church, Luther Hall, 201 E Juniata St, Allentown, PA 18103. Fri., Nov 22nd, from 7:00-9:00pm. Come together to share scripture, poetry, art, and music. Have some coffee or tea, light snacks and fellowship! [610-797-6440](tel:610-797-6440).

**Interplay – Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran** – 1245 W Hamilton St, Allentown, PA. **Thurs., Dec 5th**, 9:30-11:30a.m. Leaders: Sarah Carlson – Interplay Facilitator, Marcella Kray-Greggo, Spiritual Director, Social Worker and Interplay Facilitator. RSVP or questions – [marcellak2@aol.com](mailto:marcellak2@aol.com). See attached flyer.

**First Friday Luncheon Discussion** – Learning to understand one another. Muhlenberg College, 2400 Chew St, Allentown, PA, Seegers Union 111-112, **Dec 6th**. Lunch: 11:45a.m., Program: 12:00-1:00p.m. As if I were you: Acting with Compassionate Understanding. Roger Ainsle, visiting Asst. Professor Theatre; Holly Cate, Assoc. Professor Theatre; Lane Flores '20. [www.muhlenberg.edu/JCU](http://www.muhlenberg.edu/JCU).

**St. Mark Adventures** – Pines Country Christmas at the Pines Diner Theater, **Dec 15th**. Price is \$50.00 per person which includes dinner, show and gratuity; \$30.00 for show only. Doors open at 12 noon and the show is at 2:00pm. Deadline for reservations and payment is Dec 1st. Please contact the church office at [610-797-6440](tel:610-797-6440).

**Blue Christmas Worship Service at St. John's Lutheran Church**, 5th and Chestnut Sts., Emmaus. **Sun, Dec 15th**, at 3:00 pm, with fellowship following service. A service of healing and hope for those living with loss. A time to gather with others and acknowledge the "blue" feelings they have at Christmas time. Whether it is the loss of a loved one, the loss of a relationship, the loss of health or another kind of loss, everyone who seeks healing and hope in dealing with their particular loss is welcome to attend the service. Please call the church office at [610-965-9885](tel:610-965-9885) with any questions.

**Candlelight German Christmas Service** – St. John's Lutheran Church, 5th and Chestnut Sts., Emmaus. **January 5, 2020** at 6:00PM. The service including Carols will be in German, but the sermon will be in English. A fellowship follows immediately in our Parish Hall complete with homemade German Cookies, and beverages including hot chocolate. The Hall will be decorated with items purchased in Germany by our members as well as homemade ornaments. All are welcome! Please call the church office at [610-965-9885](tel:610-965-9885) with any questions.

**Centering Prayer** - the first Friday of the month – 10:30-11:30am. Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran Church, **1245 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 18102**. Parking in Lot across Hamilton St. from Church. Enter on 13th Street, look for the sign "Schantz House/Ruhe Annex". **Please let us know if you will be joining us.** Inquiries to Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner, Director Center for Spiritual Awakening [tlchiner@rcn.com](mailto:tlchiner@rcn.com) / [610-533-9362](tel:610-533-9362).





## **CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS CELEBRATE THE GOOD NEWS**

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas 2019, please be reminded of the story which Pastor Jerel Gade, then our Dean, shared with us several Christmases ago. It is the story of a traveler who was lost in the back woods. It was night and a violent thunderstorm was raging all around him. He floundered through the mud and rain, desperately peering into the darkness for some hint as to where he was. Then, all of the sudden a crash of thunder brought him to his knees. And he turned his face to the sky and said, "O Lord, if it's all the same to you, I could use a little more light and a little less noise."

Needless to say, it seems appropriate for us to contemplate this image as we prepare to celebrate Christmas in this season. Unfortunately, the political scene in our beloved nation is in a major state of disarray. And, regrettably, there is a significant conflict among our leadership. This means that the world in which we will be celebrating is desperately in need of more light and less noise.

In addition to what is happening generally, there is the special concern that we need to be relating to issues regarding to the climate of our world. The major storms in our nation during these past months have brought many to their knees. Further, the fires in the west have devastated many families. And while the icebergs in the artic have been melting at an unusual pace, those along various coasts and especially some island residents have been contemplating their futures. Thanks be to God, there are those who can project light into these dark spaces to whom we need to be paying close attention.

And, ironically, there are continuing issues involving the home of that first Christmas story. Israel is experiencing continuing conflict and its future is uncertain. There are leadership issues in Israel and major issues relating to the relationship between Israel and Palestine which are of continuing concern. Let's pray that God will project a soothing light into this crisis.

Throughout the coming months we will obviously encounter numerous opportunities where we can extend an invitation to others to join us in our mission of light. And let's not be silent – let's make noise! Invite someone to join you for worship in this Holiday Season. Encourage a neighbor to come with you to an event. Give of your time in caroling to some homebound members. Invite a lonely individual to join a parish group.

And, finally, give gifts that will show that love is important and not simply material possessions. We are indeed a blest people. Let us live that out, by being a light and a blessing to others. God has made the light shine! Let us confirm that gift! And may the noise we share be that of a soothing melody!

Holiday Blessings!  
Pastor Richard Stough

## **OPERATION SUNSHINE**

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Allentown, PA 18109

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***Operation Sunshine is a non-profit fellowship opportunity within our Mission District, run solely by volunteers. Please join us and invite your friends as we enjoy a variety of venues together.***

### **February 27 (Thurs.) – Paper Mill Playhouse – UNMASKED – MUSIC OF ANDREW LLOYD WEBER**

One of the most successful musical theater composers of all time takes audiences on a behind-the-scenes journey in Unmasked: The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber. Written with Richard Curtis and directed by Laurence Connor, Unmasked is a not-always-reverential look at Andrew's life and musical career. You'll hear his best-loved work, including classics from Jesus Christ Superstar, Evita, Cats, Phantom of the Opera, and Sunset Boulevard, in sometimes new and unexpected ways. This new production will also feature new material and rediscovered gems, along with the history of their creation intertwined with Andrew's extraordinary personal story. Lunch at Charlie Browns, Chatham, NJ which starts with their great salad bar and one entrée and one dessert choice below. **Please notify the office of your choices at time of reservation.** **Entree Choices –** Chicken Piccata, with Seasoned Rice **OR** Bistro Steak with Garlic Mashed **OR** Salmon with Seasoned Rice **Dessert Choices –** Key Lime Pie **OR** New York Cheesecake **OR** Vanilla, Chocolate or Mint Chocolate Chip Ice Cream

**Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 9:15 AM**

**Cost \$112 Payment Deadline: Thurs. Jan. 16**

### **March 25 (Wed.) – Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre – GRUMPY OLD MEN, THE MUSICAL**

Don't miss this laugh-out-loud story of family, friendship, love and romance in a fresh new musical that's guaranteed to delight! Based on the 1993 film, which starred Jack Lemmon, Walter Matthau and Ann-Margret, written by Mark Steven Johnson. The story of two aging men, Max and John, neighbors, who have been feuding for most of their lives. They are re-united in friendship through the love and compassion of their new neighbor across the street, the beautiful, eccentric and charming Ariel. Lunch is buffet style with loaded dessert tables!

**Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10 AM**

**Cost \$92 Payment Deadline: Thurs. Feb. 20**