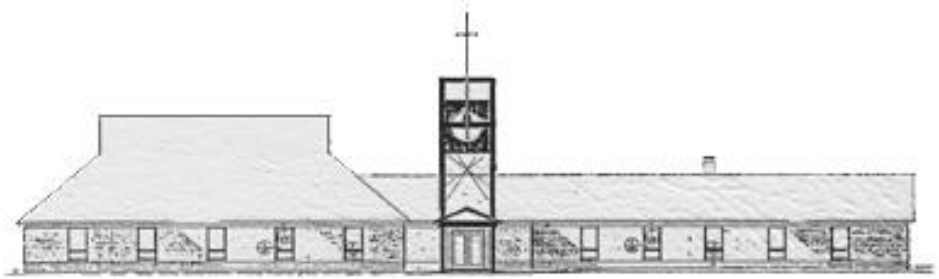


PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



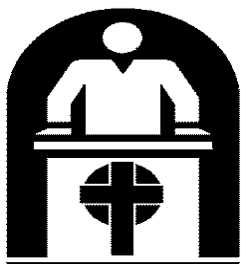
SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

DECEMBER 2021



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

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS is published by St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Dear Members and Friends,

We are in the season of the church year called Advent. It is a time of waiting, four weeks until the celebration of the birth of our Savior.

We can compare that time of waiting to the birth of a baby. There is anticipation, excitement, and preparation. The baby's room is prepared. Clothing is bought ahead of time. Diapers are

purchased beforehand. A shower is planned. There is much anticipation before the celebration. Advent is a time of anticipation before we celebrate Christmas. And even in the secular world there are all kinds of tasks of preparation. Buying gifts, decorating the house inside and out. Putting up the tree and decorating it. Some will even have a "putz."

One of our treasured family traditions was opening the Advent calendar. We would gather round and open each window on the cardboard calendar to see what symbol would appear. Some years my middle son who was really into Legos would have a Lego Advent calendar and each day there would be a small Lego piece to be put together (yes, I've stepped on many a Lego with bare or socked feet – ugh!!).

In worship during Advent, we light one more candle each week on the Advent Wreath, all in preparation for the birth of Christ. It is in the preparation and the waiting that helps us see the blessing of the birth of our Savior. We recognize the coming Savior, but we also recognize that Christ is present now. We celebrate his coming in the past, his coming to us in the present in word and bread and wine, and his coming again in the future.

Come and celebrate our Lord's presence in the wonderful season of Advent and Christmas.

Pastor Miller

PS: Nancy and I want to wish all the members of St. Paul's a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

Pastor Miller

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

3:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:30 PM

St. Paul's is offering three options for Christmas Eve worship.

Our first service will be at **3:00 PM IN THE PARKING LOT**. It will be a somewhat abbreviated service. There will be singing of traditional Christmas hymns, Holy Communion, but no sermon.

Our second service will be held at **5:00 PM INSIDE THE CHURCH**. We are calling this our "family service." There will be a PowerPoint presentation (pictures) of our Sunday School children enacting the Nativity with other students reading the Christmas story. This will be a full worship service with abbreviated hymns. Masks are recommended.

Our third service will be held at **7:30 PM INSIDE THE CHURCH** and will also be a full service with abbreviated hymns. The 5:00 and 7:30 services will be candlelight. Masks are recommended.

Come join us to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Christmas, yes it is that time of the year again. Due to low attendance of children, we will not be having a normal Christmas Eve program. However we will be presenting a slide show of the Christmas Story with the children at the 5:00 p.m. service Christmas Eve. We hope you will enjoy watching the smiling faces on Christmas Eve.

Reminder to the parents and children, the pictures will be taken during Sunday School on December 5th at 9:15 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS

The last week of the year (December 27th – 30th) the church office will be open from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all the members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Thank you to all my volunteers this year. I couldn't do my job without you. You are the best!

Cindy

ASSISTANT SCHEDULES

The assistant schedules are still being done one month at a time. With the two services, fewer volunteers, conflicts in schedules, it is not easy for Steph to coordinate the schedules, and she has to unfortunately schedule you more than once a month and maybe for more than one thing a Sunday. Please look the schedules over and let me know of any changes needed.

Cindy

USHERS/WORSHIP ASSISTANTS ARE NEEDED

We are in need of people to help with either the parking lot service or the inside worship service, or both. For the parking lot you will be walking up to the cars and handing out bulletins, communion packets, and collecting the offering. For the inside service, worship is the same as before Covid 19 – i.e. hymns are sung, offering is collected in the pew, and communion is taken at the altar. You will be handing out the bulletin, helping to collect offering, and directing the congregation to the altar and handing them a communion cup. If you would be willing and interested in helping, please contact Steph Wagaman at 610-395-0355 or stepbillwagaman@rcn.com or call the church office at 610-398-7000.

BULLETIN & ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS

We are in need of bulletin sponsorships for 2021. Bulletin sponsorships will be for both the parking lot and inside services. The price is \$20.00. Call the church office to pick a date to sponsor or check the bulletin board for available dates. Fill out the white slip with your name, date you are sponsoring and the wording and place it in the folder under the signup sheet.

Altar Flower Sponsorships are: one vase is \$22 or both vases are \$44. If you are sponsoring both vases, **PLEASE** sign your name to **BOTH LINES**. Fill out the blue slip with your name, date you are sponsoring and the wording and place it in the folder under the signup sheet. Call the church office to pick a date to sponsor or check the bulletin board for available dates.

Watch for the sponsor sign-up sheets for 2022 shortly. Prices will stay the same for the flowers (at this time) and bulletins.

PARISH NURSING NOTES

“Pandemic Vocabulary”

Peggy Saylor, RN

When I was doing my graduate work at Moravian College, one of my favorite courses was Epidemiology. However, I never in a million years thought that I would get to live through some of the terms that we discussed in class.

Yet here we are in the middle of a pandemic but hopefully headed toward a return to “normalcy” soon. Some of the terms have been confusing as well as how they relate to our present situation.

1. **Pandemic** - this refers to an epidemic that has spread across multiple countries and has affected a large number of the population. When the World Health Organization classified the COVID-19 epidemic as a pandemic, more than 100 countries had reported cases and 118,000 individuals were affected.
2. **Epidemic** – this term describes a disease where there is a sudden increase in cases above what is normally expected in a country or geographic area.
3. **Twindemic** – some infectious disease experts are concerned that with the approach of winter when people spending less time in outdoor activities and more time huddled together in drier air, the influenza rate will be higher this year. If so and the COVID pandemic remains widespread – a “twindemic” could occur. Hopefully, individuals will remain vigilant regarding social distancing and good handwashing hygiene. Wearing a mask in crowded area such as a bus, train or plane would also help. The largest deterrent to this scenario is vaccination for both influenza and COVID-19.
4. **Endemic** – this refers to a disease that is still circulating but not out of control. Experts are predicting that sometime in the not-so-distance future such as a matter of months – this will occur. Vaccines to boost the level of waning antibodies in a person’s bloodstream will help prevent serious and even mild infections.

In summary, these are terms that most of us never expected to live through. As we enter the Advent season of hope, love, joy and peace, my holiday wish for all of you is that you experience these virtues with family and friends and enter the new year with good health and hopefully on the road to an endemic!

WOMEN OF THE ELCA NORTHEAST PA SYNOD

- Sandi Wagaman has volunteers that will be delivering the In-Gathering items.
- The sorting of the items will be on November 29 after the Bible study.

The Bible Study was *The gift of the Spirit: A divine wild goose chase*, Session three, Wind of God, refining and rerouting by Sara Olson-Smith. This study is to deepen our understanding of the Spirit's actions in scripture and in our lives.

Our December Bible Study will be *Women of Advent*, we draw strength from our spiritual grandmothers by Lindsay Hardin Freeman.

Upcoming Bible Studies

2022 – January through April

The kingdom of God by Mark Allen Powell

A four-session study

Upcoming Northeast Pennsylvania Women of the ELCA Events

- Spring Justice Event, March 26 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Breinigsville
- Convention, June 11, at TBD!!!!
- Fall Fun and Service Event, date TBD!!!

Join us on December 8 at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for our next meeting.

POINSETTIAS

Worship & Music would like to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve. Anyone willing to sponsor a Poinsettia, please call the church office. Deadline to place your order is Sunday, November 28th.



If you would like to make a donation towards the Poinsettias, please mark the line for donation.

Extra copies can be found in the rack at the sanctuary door, on the website or call the church office at 610-398-7000.

2021 LEHIGH MISSION DISTRICT CHRISTMAS INGATHERING

The Ingathering is finally back, but in a modified form from years past to accommodate COVID. Instead of a list of items to donate to 10-12 different agencies, each congregation has been assigned two agencies to focus their donations. St. Paul's will be collecting items for The Allentown Rescue Mission and Turning Point. Our WELCA group will be responsible to take our items directly to these two organizations rather than gathering at a site to sort and pack them. Let Sandi Wagaman know if you would like to volunteer to be a delivery person.

We will once again also be purchasing gifts for specific individuals with Topton Home Children's Services and Good Shepherd Home-Raker. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. We will deliver the assigned gifts to Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church 535 W. Emaus Ave, Allentown on Wednesday, December 1, 2021 between 9:00-10:30. We also are looking for a volunteer to deliver these items to Trinity. You will not need to get out of your car, someone will be there to unload for you.

Please Note: Good Shepherd gifts should be either boxed and wrapped with holiday paper or put into a holiday gift bag and stapled shut. Topton Home has requested that the gifts **should not be wrapped in paper** but they can be put in a gift bag without the usual tissue paper stuffing.

Place all items for the Rescue Mission and Turning Point in the box provided in the Narthex. Gifts for Topton Home and Good Shepherd-Raker should be placed on top of the coat rack. Please check off your name on the list when bringing your assigned gifts.

Deadline to bring items for both of these parts of the mission will be Sunday November 28, 2021.

Contact Sandi Wagaman if you have any questions. cell 610-203-8085 or home 610-395-6387.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

The end of 2021 is almost here. In order to make sure all your contributions are posted on your Year End Giving Statement, it is important to have your 2021 contributions received in the church no later than Thursday, December 30, 2021 (Church Office is closed on Friday) or if mailed, they must be postmarked by December 31, 2021. Any contributions that arrive after that, starting in January, will be posted on your 2022 giving statement.

Sandi Wagaman

THANK YOU TO THE PRAYER SHAWL GROUP KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS

Thanks to our dedicated knitters and crocheters, we were able to send **36 hat and cowl sets, plus an additional 5 cowls**, to Seafarers International House (SIH). SIH is a Lutheran-run hospitality house that serves seafarers and sojourners. The program is called Christmas at Sea – where they collect hats, cowls, scarves – and make care packages with additional gift items for the seafarers. Seafarers are the “unseen essential workers” and are overworked and away from their families for extended periods of time. The SIH port chaplains deliver the packages filled with gifts to the ships for the holiday.



A great big thank you for those who helped make hats and cowls for the Christmas at Sea project:

Patti Everett, Jackie Grove, Peggy Kern, Judy Noll, Daisy Pearson, Sandi Wagaman, and Steph Wagaman

SNOW/CANCELLATION INFORMATION



Winter advisory...Please be sure to check St. Paul's website, www.stpaulsbville.org or WFMZ storm center to see if any church service or event is cancelled due to snow or ice.

GET TO KNOW OUR NEW MEMBERS

On November 14th we received Kevin and Dominique Clark into membership of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The following is some information to help us get to know about the Clarks.

The Clarks moved to Breinigsville from Brodheadsville, PA. They moved to be closer to their jobs. Kevin works at Amazon and in his free time enjoys working on cars, especially his 1987 Camaro. Dominique is a registered nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at Reading Hospital. In her free time, Dominique enjoys reading, baking and spending time with friends. Kevin and Dominique have one child, a son named Cole who is 7 months old. They also have a 2 year old chocolate lab named Maggie.

GREETING CARD CLASS

St. Paul's is pleased to announce a new class being held at the church on the second Thursday of each month. The class is all about making greeting cards from paper, ink and die cutting. Many techniques are taught and hands on learning with the stamping and die cutting is a must. This class runs from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and the cost is \$35.00 which includes everything you need, and you leave with 8 different cards suitable for all occasions



The 3 hours are fun filled and relaxing and will bring out you creativity and imagination. Bring a friend for a fun time.

Reservations are required because supplies may be limited. If you are interested please contact Gretchen Galiardo at ggaliardo@aol.com for any more information.

ANNUAL REPORT



Committee reports for the 2021 Annual Report are due by December 30, 2021. I know some committees have not met this year, but any information you would like included please submit by that time. Thank you,
Cindy

THANK YOU LETTER

Dear Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Food Bank, I would like to thank you for your food donation of 302 pounds of canned and boxed food given on 10/21/21. Your donation allows us to keep our shelves stocked with items that we know our clients appreciate. It also allows our budget for purchasing food to be stretched a little further.

Your support enables us to provide food assistance to 800+ low-income households in the Allentown area every month. Your donation helps us provide vital food resources throughout the year and especially during these critical months of the COVID-19 crisis. Last year alone the Food Bank served over 28,000 people. A recent Penn State University study reports 'over 12% of PA households were experiencing hunger at the end of 2020'

Our Food Bank serves over 24,000 people each year. Each visit provides our clients with enough groceries, including fresh fruits and vegetables, for a short period. It is with the generous donations, such as yours, that allow us to continue to serve those who are food insecure in our community.

There is no way to aptly express our gratitude for your support. The staff and over 150 volunteers at the Food Bank are continually in awe of our community support and generosity as demonstrated through your donation. YOU are helping us make a difference!

With sincere gratitude,
Julie Ludrof Scott
AAEFB Board Member

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.

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.



We have opened the church, and we will still be sending cards to the members of the congregation. If you know of someone who is ill or hospitalized, please let the office know. Judy Szukics will be contacted and she will send a card signed from the congregation.



1 Hughey Haughney
2 Angela Kropf
3 Melanie Dimovitz
6 Amy Mutis
7 Andrew Bruchak
7 Luke Walters
8 Calvin Fetherolf
10 Patty Spencer

11 Betty Marchetti
12 Heather Sedlak
16 Marion Reichard
17 Margaret Stoudt
19 Frank Bennighoff
19 Diane Kropf
25 Mary Ann Spengler
29 Carol Derr-Breinig



11 Jerry & Heather Sedlak
19 Patrick & Sommer Cope

NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, November 14th we received the following individuals as members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church: Kevin & Dominique Clark.

REMEMBER TO REACH OUT

For many people, the holidays bring sorrow, grief and stress. If you're hurting, turn to Jesus and his power. Learn from the woman who, desperate to be healed, reached out to touch the edge of Jesus' robe and was immediately cured.

Sometimes we think our healing process will be so exhaustive that we hesitate to take the first step. Or we doubt that Jesus still performs miracles. Amid your pain, have you reached out? Have you dared to touch Jesus' robe? He is there, waiting to say: "Your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering" (Mark 5:34, NIV).

—Julie Lee

A SEASON OF WAITING

Our oven recently bit the dust, and the needed replacement part is no longer manufactured. Due to an appliance shortage, we had to wait eight weeks for a new oven! Yet even amid inconvenience, I see God's purpose. We were thankful to have a grill and slow cookers in the meantime. We creatively attempted to cook favorite meals in different ways. And though we craved anything baked in an oven — cookies, casseroles, even chicken nuggets — we realized that waiting eight weeks for an oven isn't truly a trying time.

Many of us wait for much greater milestones and miracles: physical healing, the return of a prodigal child, an end to financial struggles. Paul offers us hope as we wait: "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had" (Romans 15:5, NIV).

When you're in a season of waiting — including Advent! — consider what you're thankful for and what you crave. Tell God how you're feeling and ask for endurance while you wait.

—Janna Firestone

IF ONLY ...

LOVE
YOUR neighbor
AS YOURSELF.
Mark 12:31

There are many of you ... who think to yourselves: "If only I had been there! How quick I would have been to help the Baby! I would have washed his linen. How happy I would have been to go with the shepherds to see the Lord lying in the manger!"

Yes, you would! You say that because you know how great Christ is, but if you had been there at that time, you would have done no better than the people of Bethlehem. ... Why don't you do it now? You have Christ in your neighbor. You ought to serve him, for what you do to your neighbor in need you do to the Lord Christ himself.

—Martin Luther

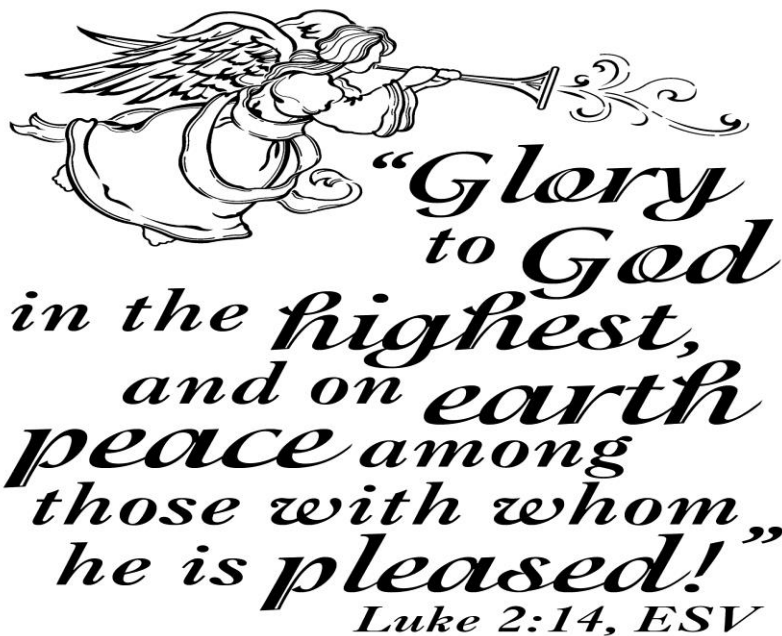
A SHOOT BRINGS LIFE

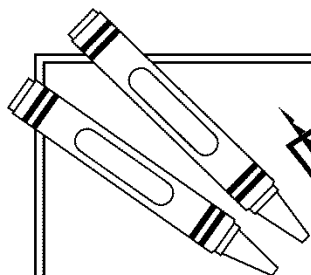
Last year, Israeli scientists harvested dates from seeds that had been dormant about 2,000 years. The seeds, recovered during archaeological digs, were nurtured in incubators and several thrived. One (named Methuselah!) became a 10-foot-tall palm tree.

Horticulturists joked about marketing “dates that Jesus ate,” but there’s another scriptural connection. Isaiah 11, a traditional Advent reading, prophesies: “A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots” (verse 1, NRSV). Jesus is the tender shoot that emerged from the humble peasant origins of Jesse, father of King David. From a dynasty that went dormant due to Israel’s sins sprouted a mighty tree, who will someday usher in a reign of peace (see verses 6-7).

Some people and churches celebrate Christmas with a Jesse Tree, remembering how God sent Jesus to sprout life out of death and bring new hope and joy to the world.

—adapted from *The Wired Word*





PUZZLE

WHITE AS SNOW

Jesus, our Savior, came to earth to purify sinners.

Directions: Figure out which path through the puzzle is correct. Choose one to try, starting at the first picture under the "Path" box. Follow each picture's directional cues to see if the words make sense when placed in order in the blanks below. If not, try a different path until you figure out the Bible verse.



PATH 1	PATH 2	PATH 3	PATH 4	PATH 5	PATH 6
for	give	come	together	around	after
self	into	settle	eternal	thanks	forgive
God	LORD	says	without	Christ	warmth
love	sins	scarlet	other	light	praise
red	star	white	snow	winter	peace



"_____ now, let us _____ the matter," _____ the
 _____. "Though your _____ are like _____,
 they shall be as _____ as _____"

ISAIAH 1:18, NIV

Answer: Path 3; come, settle, says, LORD, sins, scarlet, white, snow

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS
DECEMBER 12, 2021**

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



CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000

HOSPITAL CODE: #321

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE





EMAIL: office@stpaulsbbville.org

Website: 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

December 2021 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																								
			1 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	2 7:00 p.m.-Choir	3	4																																																								
5 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:45 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship	6 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	7  ★ PEARL HARBOR ★ <i>Remembrance Day</i>	8 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA 7:00 p.m.-Council	9 6:00 p.m.-Card Crafters Group 7:00 p.m.-Choir	10	11																																																								
12 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:45 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	13 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	14	15	16 5:45 p.m.-Haafsville Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.-Choir	17	18																																																								
19 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:45 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship	20 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	21	22 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	23 7:00 p.m.-Choir	24  <i>Christmas EVE</i> 3:00 p.m.-Parking Lot Worship 5:00 p.m.-Family Service 7:30 p.m.-Festival Service	25  <i>Merry Christmas</i>																																																								
26 1st SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:45 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship	27 1:00 p.m.-Lehigh Zion Cemetery Board Mtg.	28	29	30	31  <i>New Year's Eve</i>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">January 2022</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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	January 2022							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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PARKING LOT AND INDOOR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

December 2021

If you cannot fulfill an assigned duty, please call the church office at 610-398-7000
or the Council Person of the Month - Angie Kropf 484-424-2637

Sunday, December 5, 2021

9:45AM PARKING LOT 10:30AM INDOOR

Bob Nickisher
Sean Thompson

Jennifer Bentsen, Lacey Edwards
Cal Fetherolf, Amy Williams
Altar Guild: Amy Williams
Communion Asst: Sharon Bortz
Lay Asst: Sandi Wagaman
Reader: Bob Nickisher

Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24, 2021

3:00PM PARKING LOT 5:00PM INDOOR

Tom Kellogg
Bob Nickisher
Sean Thompson

Jennifer Bentsen, Sharon Bortz
Lacey Edwards, Amy Williams
Altar Guild: Jennifer Bentsen
Communion Asst: Peggy Saylor
Lay Asst: Daisy Pearson
Reader: Sharon Bortz

Sunday, December 12, 2021

9:45AM PARKING LOT 10:30AM INDOOR

Bob Nickisher
Sean Thompson

Frank Bennighoff, Sharon Bortz
Ken Ritter, Sandi Wagaman
Altar Guild: Rosemary Lehman
Communion Asst: Rosemary Lehman
Lay Asst: Daisy Pearson
Reader: Peggy Kern

7:30PM INDOOR

Frank Bennighoff, Zack Dimovitz
Ken Ritter, Judy Walker
Altar Guild: Janine Ritter
Communion Asst: Bob Bruchak
Lay Asst: Sandi Wagaman
Reader: Daisy Pearson

Sunday, December 19, 2021

9:45AM PARKING LOT 10:30AM INDOOR

Bob Nickisher
Sean Thompson

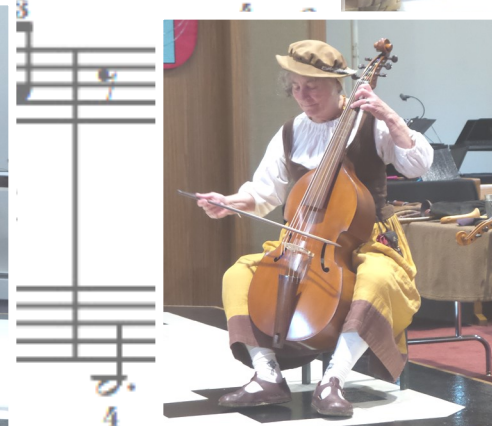
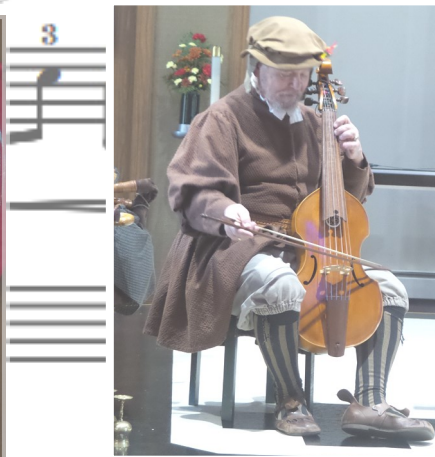
Zack Dimovitz, Frank Szukics
Judy Szukics, Judy Walker
Altar Guild: Esther Seibert
Communion Asst: Anita Eisenhard
Lay Asst: Rosemary Lehman
Reader: Sandi Wagaman

Sunday, December 26, 2021

9:45AM PARKING LOT 10:30AM INDOOR

Bob Nickisher
Sean Thompson

Frank Szukics, Judy Szukics
Madeline MacMechan, Carl Seibert
Altar Guild: Amy Williams
Communion Asst: Cal Fetherolf
Lay Asst: Sharon Bortz
Reader: Cal Fetherolf



Blessing of Hats and Cowls for Seafarers



November 7, 2021



SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

DECEMBER 2021 • ISSUE 12 • VOLUME 29



What's up with the Synod Website?

.....

Have you ever been frustrated by the synod website? Have you ever found yourself searching high and low unable to find the correct form or link? Have you noticed outdated information that's useless due to its datedness? If you answered "yes" to any of the previous questions, you're not alone!

The Synod Connections team along with staff worked to vision a new website in February 2021. We hired a designer/programmer and met with them to discuss what we needed our website to do and what information is needed to provide. Unfortunately, the designer was not able to finish our work due to personal issues. Fast forward to October 2021... Staff and members of the Connections team reached out to a new designer, Carter Blend, to work on redesigning our website, logos, and communication templates. We shared our vision and hope for the website. Over the next month, Rev. Lauren Wolfe Blatt, Director of Communication and Events will be working with Carter to organize our existing information, update our website, and live into who we are as a synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

We can't wait to launch our new website and share our new logos with all of you!!!



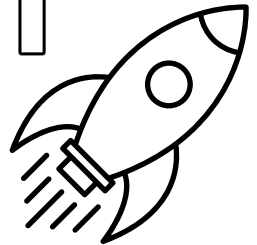


The next Learning Ministries Day will be held on January 22, 2022 at Atonement, Wyomissing from 8:30am-3:00pm. The theme of the day will be "Live Well from the Waters of Baptism," which will be led by The Rev. Dr. R. Jane Williams, Episcopal priest and clinical counselor.

For unto us a
Child
is born

ISAIAH 9:6

MISSION SUPPORT 2022



Send in your mission support commitments for 2022. You can find the form on the synod website, under the resources tab.

boundless
god beyond measure

JULY 24-28, 2022
MINNEAPOLIS, MN
REGISTER NOW AT [ELCA.ORG](https://elca.org)

STEWARDSHIP
EXTRAVAGANZA
January
22, 2022

TRINITY
LANSDALE



The Rev. Nelson Quinones, Dean
The Rev. Jean L. Huber, Assoc. of the Bishop

610-653-5858
610-704-5133

Elizabeth Leibenguth, Mission District Chair
Mrs. Linda Smith, Newsletter Editor

484-550-0057
610-437-9927

January 2022 LMD NL news will be due December 16, 2021. E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

Financial gifts can be sent to our new mailing address to the attention of our new Lehigh Mission District Treasurer Leslie Talago at: **Leslie Talago, LMD Treasurer, St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 417 N Seventh Street, Allentown, PA 18102.**

LEHIGH MISSION DISTRICT ADVENT CHRISTMAS INGATHERING

Lehigh Mission District Advent Christmas Ingathering - This year's Ingathering will be held at Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church **535 W. Emaus Ave Allentown, PA. 18103**, Wednesday, December 1, 2021. We thank Trinity Memorial for sponsoring this year's Ingathering. Any questions please contact Penny Newhard, newhardp@ptd.net. **NOTE:** This will be a Covid safe event this year. It will be a **DROPPING OFF OF THE GIFTS ONLY** and **Limited Small Items**. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk:

Photos and Videos

Check out the Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk/Car Parade collage of photos and sponsor logos on our website: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa>! (Thanks to Patrick Walker of CWS for putting the collage together!) Post your CROP Hunger Walk photos and videos on social media! And thanks to all who have already shared your photos!

Help End Hunger ANYTIME!

Consider honoring a loved one with an Alternative Gift to CWS/CROP at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa> for Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries, etc.!

Walk Follow-up

If you have not done so already, please contact our CROP Hunger Walk Treasurer, Linda Held, at [610-797-4242](tel:610-797-4242) or jucc3441@ptd.net. Call or email Linda ASAP to report your team's online donations, and to let her know if someone from your team would like a CROP t-shirt - free for anyone who has raised \$150 or more!

Send checks for "CWS/CROP" ASAP to Linda Held, 3441 Devonshire Road, Allentown, PA 18103.

Thank you for helping our neighbors in need through your CROP Hunger Walk/Car Parade efforts!

DON'T SPEND ANOTHER WINTER HOME ALONE! LUTHER CREST offers all you could ever want ... stunning accommodations | chef-prepared dining | convenient amenities exciting events--and new friends! Because Luther Crest is a Continuing Care Retirement Community, you will have peace of mind in the coming years. Don't miss out ... If you decide on this great deal now, you can move in later in the year. Come discover why our residents are fond of saying, "This is the Way to Live" * Entrance fee starting at \$99k on one-bedroom apartment. Limited Time offers. Please contact Mary Louise Drosdak at [610-391-8258](tel:610-391-8258) or Toll free [800-606-3424](tel:800-606-3424).

Muhlenberg College, Update on the annual Advent Candlelight Carols Service, from Rev. Janelle Neubauer, Chaplain. Candlelight Carols will return live and in-person this year! The 2021 services will take place on **Saturday, December 4 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 5 at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.** The **third production will be live-streamed and available to the general public**. To continue to protect our Muhlenberg community from the spread of COVID-19, we will take certain precautions that have proven effective strategies to stop the spread of the coronavirus. These precautions will include reduced-capacity seating at each service by 26%, requiring all attendees to wear masks for the entirety of the service and including proof of vaccination as a prerequisite to attend the service for all ages 12+. To ensure access to our community, attendees may reserve only three tickets. For more information on this year's Advent Candlelight Carols, visit the Muhlenberg website www.muhlenberg.edu.

The **Clothes Closet is now open again**. We are going to **still need volunteers during the week to help sort and organize our donations**. This can be as little as an hour or two per week. We want to keep this vital ministry to the community going. For more information, please contact Leslie Talago, Parish Administrator at St. Luke's Lutheran Church at [610-434-3943](tel:610-434-3943) or email to LETalago@StLukesLuth.org. Thank you to all who help contribute things!!

COME AWAY TO A QUIET PLACE... A Brief Pause for Prayerful Renewal in Centering Prayer. Centering Prayer is a particular form of quiet, receptive prayer as taught by Father Thomas Keating and Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bourgeault. A portion of each one-hour gathering will include some discussion about centering prayer. So, whether you never heard of centering prayer, are a beginner, or an experienced pray-er, All Are Welcome. **First Friday of each month** led by Ferd Piccuiro and hosted by Pastor Maritza Dolich via Zoom, **10:30 - 11:30 AM** (Sessions held via **Zoom** temporarily until we can all meet together again in person at the Center for Spiritual Awakening). **Please contact Ferd to be placed on the email list with the Zoom Information.** ferdpiccuiro@ptd.net / Cell: [908-310-4228](tel:908-310-4228), Home: [610-737-7871](tel:610-737-7871)

SUSPENDED - St. Luke's ELL and Naturalization Test Study groups have been **SUSPENDED** due to cautions regarding large gatherings during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. Please contact Leslie Talago at [610-434-3943](tel:610-434-3943) for more information.



Lehigh Mission District Christmas Ingathering 2021

As you read this newsletter, I am excited with anticipation to participate in the blessing of the Christmas Ingathering donations. The blessing of the Christmas Ingathering gifts is going to take place at Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church in Allentown followed by a luncheon.

I am also excited to personally congratulate Trinity Memorial on the 100th Anniversary Celebration of ministry that they celebrated in October.

The Christmas Ingathering gifts are an effort put forth by congregations and organizations in our mission district. These Christmas donations help bring joy to the people who receive them. We are excited that this year the Christmas Ingathering is taking place.

In 2020 gathering, collecting, and distributing the Christmas Ingathering donations posed a major challenge. Christmas Ingathering Committee Co-Chairs Penny Newhard and Kathy Reyher, along with me leaned on the side of caution to postpone the event. It was noted in a letter by the Co-Chairs, "We cannot in good conscience follow through with this program this year. Too many churches have not opened their doors yet for worship. The volunteers are 65+, and the group that we used to help unload the gifts donated are no longer available."

In February 2021, Kathy Reyher died. Her leadership will be sorely missed by St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Lutheran Congregational Services of the Lehigh Valley, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, the Lehigh Mission District Christmas Ingathering, and many more churches and organizations.

We continue to be surrounded by the pandemic. Still, many congregations have opened their doors in the mission district, and many church members have joined in the celebration in the spirit of Christmas giving. Thank you to all of you in the mission district for making this worthy cause take place. I want to thank Penny Newhard for her leadership and all the volunteers who continue to support the Christmas Ingathering. I want to thank Trinity Memorial for hosting the Christmas Ingathering.

I am excited as I look forward to the blessings of these Christmas Ingathering gifts and anticipate the mutual joy it will bring to all people involved in the one spirit of God.

Merry Christmas,

The Rev. Nelson Quiñones,
Lehigh Mission District Dean

OPERATION SUNSHINE

1933 Hanover Ave.
Allentown, PA 18109
Phone: 610-435-9155

Open: Mon 11-3 and Wed. 11-3

E-mail: LMDopsunshine@aol.com

Web site: www.LMDopsunshine.com

Paula & Dick Skelly Co-Trip Coordinators

Operation Sunshine is a non-profit fellowship opportunity within our Mission District, run solely by volunteers.

****PLEASE NOTE THAT MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED
ON THE BUS AND AT ALL VENUES****

Stay Tuned

2022 Schedule will be available soon!

