

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



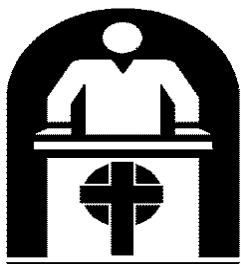
SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

JANUARY 2022



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,

The season of Christmas . . .

During Christmas, God's people celebrate Jesus' birth and regard the season as a time of gladness and joy. We revel in God's wonderful ways and rejoice in God's flesh-and-blood presence with us. The season begins with Christmas Day, December 25, and continues for the next 11 days. Although some people put

Christmas behind them on December 26, many Christians extend their celebrations of Jesus' birth, of God's wonderful ways, of God's deep and abiding love for us, through January 5.

The tradition of giving gifts at Christmas allows us to give to others as God gives to us – *graciously and generously*. Often, we make an extra effort to reach out to those in need during this season, remembering Jesus' dependence in his infancy upon Mary and Joseph and the people of Bethlehem. So, Christians, celebrate Christ's coming – *graciously, generously, and joyfully!* Then focus your thoughts on God's wonderful ways and celebrate God's presence in the coming of his Son.

The season of Epiphany . . .

Some years ago, a reporter asked the mother of a girl killed in the Columbine High School shootings how she managed. Struggling to put her faith into words, the mother, a Christian, stammered about hope – “*I have to have hope in my life in order to go on.*”

Two millenia ago, a middle-eastern ruler named Herod asked foreign scholars how they managed their journey to the war-torn land of the Jews. Struggling to put their astrology into lay language, they described a hope stirred in them by a rising star – “*We had to come and worship the new king.*”

That American mother and the oriental magi share our deep human hope for someone to make sense of our lives and bring light to the darkness in our world.

The season of Epiphany in the Christian church year is a celebration by us who are not descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, a celebration that hope – light in the darkness – is ours, too, in Jesus Christ, the Lord!

In this way, Epiphany is a season of light – the Lord’s light – that has entered our lives and helps us see beyond the darkness. We see that the Lord keeps his promise to reach out and reclaim us through his Son and to energize our lives with his work in the world.

May you have a joyous Christmas season and a happy New Year!

Pastor Miller

SNOW/CANCELLATION INFORMATION



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

FIRST IN LINE

We were rushing to our next destination when yet another traffic light turned red. As usual, I had packed too many tasks into the day. Now we’d be even later. While I stewed in frustration, my son had a completely different reaction to being stopped. “Yes — I love this!” he shouted as we sat. “We’re first in line!”

What an important lesson on perspective. I focused on the negative, but he saw the good in the situation. As Proverbs 15:13 says, “A joyful heart brightens one’s face, but a troubled heart breaks the spirit” (CEB).

Now instead of pep talks about half-full or half-empty glasses, our family offers reminders about being stopped by a light versus being first in line.

The next time I’m delayed, I hope I can think, “Yes — I love this!”

—Janna Firestone

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 2022. 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.

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

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

TURNING BACK

In 1569 Holland, Dirk Willems, a member of the Anabaptist (now known as Mennonite) church, was imprisoned for refusing to belong to the state church. He escaped and was running across a pond's thin ice when the guard in pursuit fell through. Hearing the drowning man's cries, Willems turned back to rescue him, even though it meant his capture and subsequent execution.

Four centuries later, civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. urged us to love our enemies by not defeating them “when the opportunity presents itself.” Eventually we’ll have chances to get back at people who misuse or gossip about us, he said. But “the meaning of love” is in not doing so. “In the final analysis, love is not this sentimental something that we talk about,” said King. “It’s not merely an emotional something. Love is creative, understanding goodwill for all [people]. It is the refusal to defeat any individual.”

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.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

As the U.S. evacuated thousands from Afghanistan in August 2021, an Afghan woman gave birth on a plane. She named her daughter Reach — the name of the aircraft that brought her family to safety.

Many people name their children after loved ones or special events; a child born on Christmas might be called Noel or Holly. In Bible times, too, names often had meanings: Eve likely means “mother of all living”; Abraham, “father of many”; Isaac, “laughter.” Moses is a play on words with the Hebrew for “draw out” because Pharaoh’s daughter drew him from the Nile.

Of course, the most important biblical name is Jesus, which means “The Lord saves.” As the angel told Joseph, “[Mary] will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21, ESV). The Christian church traditionally celebrates Name of Jesus on January 1. But every day, as we pray in Jesus’ name, we remember that what’s in *this* name is the salvation God offers to all.

THANK YOU LETTER

To the Prayer Shawl Group,

Thank you for the beautiful and plentiful hand-knitted scarves and hats you sent for our seafarers and asylees. Your timing is perfect as we assemble our Christmas at sea satchels which are going out on ships this week!

We are so grateful for your labor of love in Jesus' name as we surround our cold seafarers and asylees with the warmth of God's love.

God Bless you.

Peace,

Pastor Marsh Drege

Seafarers International House

LIGHTING THE WAY FOR OTHERS

When Ida Nelson, head tribal clerk of a remote Alaskan village, heard an airplane flying low after dark, she knew something was wrong. Igiugig (Igggy-yaw-gigg), population 70, isn't normally a nighttime destination. Indeed, the medevac flight was coming to pick up a sick child.

Because the local airstrip's lights had been vandalized, the plane was having trouble landing. Nelson began alerting neighbors, and within minutes, villagers lined the runway with their vehicles, headlights blazing. The pilot was able to land and then safely deliver the sick child to an Anchorage hospital. The airlift service praised the residents' determination, but Nelson describes their effort as "normal" and "ordinary."



What everyday actions can you use to provide light amid darkness? How can you shine Jesus' light in a world that needs him?

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.



- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 3 Ken Ritter | 14 Irene Wenz |
| 9 John Caricari | 16 Ryan Parker |
| 10 Dominique Clark | 19 Gianna Caricari |
| 10 Rosemary Lehman | 19 Wells Rampen |
| 12 Joe Mutis | 22 Westley Mironov |
| 12 Robert Pearson | 27 Mark Grammes |
| 14 Jeremy Schmoyer | 31 Mary Gade |



3 Joe & Allison Thompson

FUNERAL

Pastor Carey officiated at the funeral of Joyce Eisenhard on December 18.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The following memorial contribution has been received in memory of Joyce Eisenhard:

Tom & June Kellogg

A NOTE FROM A MEMBER

Dear St. Paul's Member's

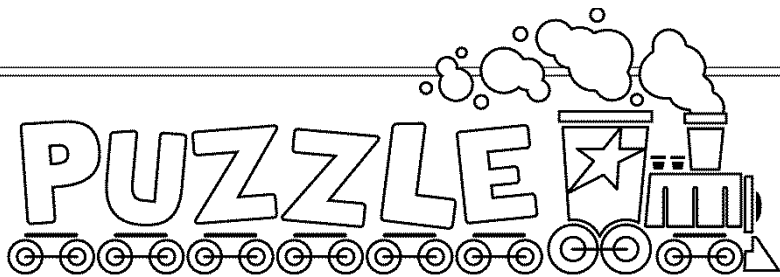
May the light that shines at Christmas guide your way throughout the year.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Earl & Irene Wenz

WINTER WONDER

If you're tired of shoveling snow by now, just be glad you didn't live in what's now Keogh, Montana, in January 1887. Two years before that area became a U.S. state, personnel at an army fort saw a Frisbee-sized flake falling from the winter sky. Scientists say the flake, estimated at 15 inches wide, likely was the result of numerous smaller flakes merging before landing on the ground. That massive dose of winter still holds the title of largest snowflake, according to Guinness World Records.



A measure of love

Jesus says one golden rule sums up the law.

Directions: Match the word parts from the ruler to the incomplete words in the first three Bible verses. Then add the bolded letters (in order) to Matthew 7:12 to complete that verse.

Do not seek **re**_____ or bear a grudge against anyone among your ___ople, but **love** your **neig**_____ as yourself.

LEVITICUS 19:18, NIV

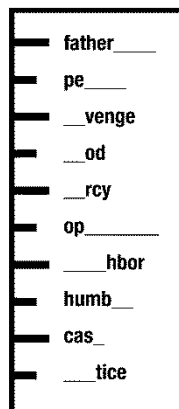
Learn to do **right**; seek jus_____. **Defend** the ___**pressed**. Take up the cause of the _____less; **plead** the ___e of the widow.

ISAIAH 1:17, NIV

He has shown **you**, O mortal, what is go____. ...

To act **justly** and to **love** me____ and **to** walk _____ly with your God.

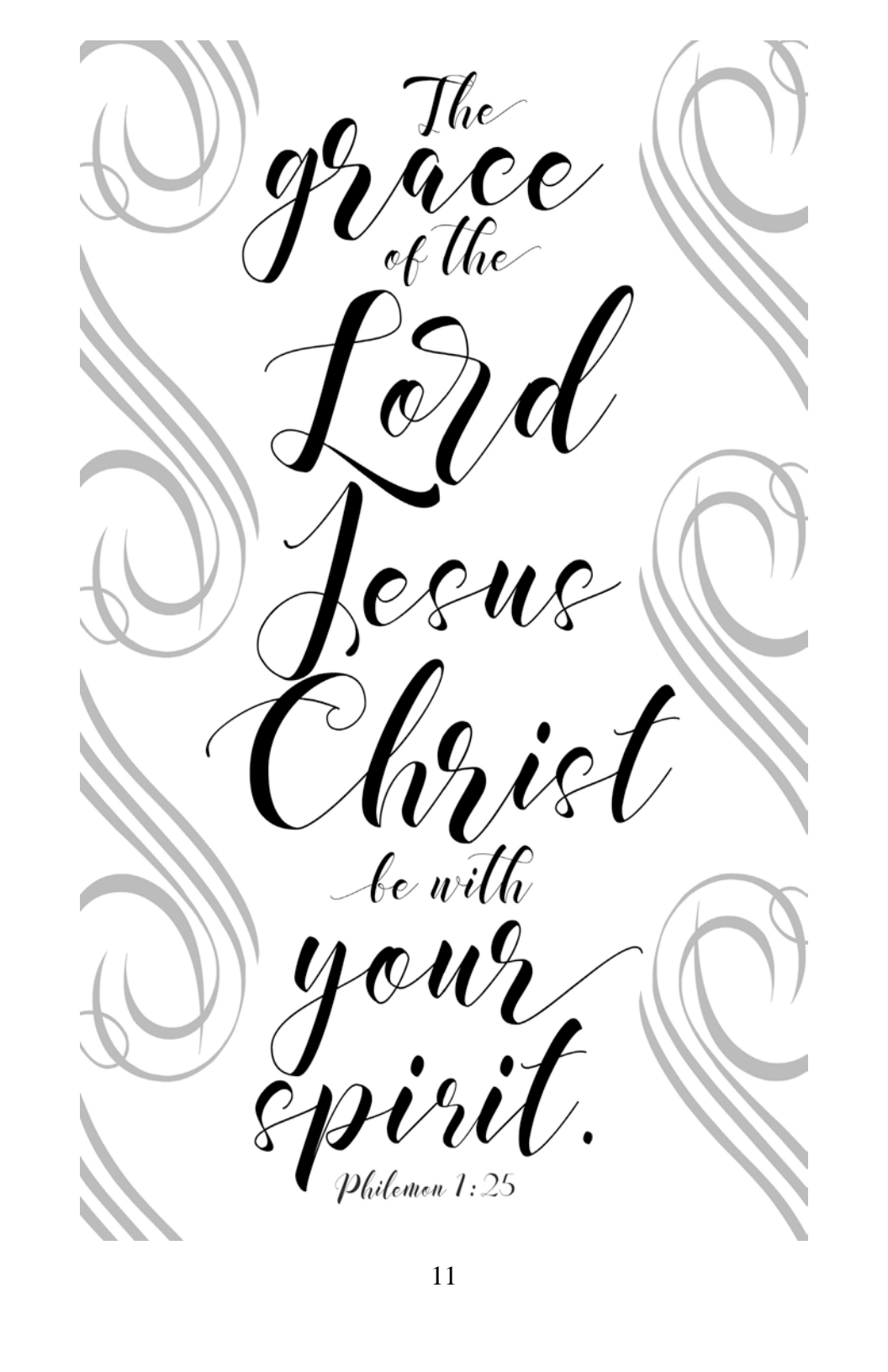
MICAH 6:8, NIV



So in _____ything, do to ot _____ what you would ___ve them d __ to you, for this s __ms up the ___w and the Proph ___s.

MATTHEW 7:12, NIV

Answer: revenge, people, neighbor, justice, oppressed, fatherless, case, good, mercy, humbly, everything, others, have, do, sums, Law, Prophets

The background of the page is decorated with a repeating pattern of light grey, stylized swirls and flourishes that resemble calligraphic scrollwork. The text is centered and written in a black, elegant cursive script. The words are arranged in a vertical flow, with 'The' and 'of the' being smaller and positioned above 'grace'. 'Lord', 'Jesus', and 'Christ' are the largest words, each on its own line. 'be with' is smaller and positioned above 'your', which is above 'spirit.'. The period at the end of 'spirit.' is a simple dot.

The
grace
of the
Lord
Jesus
Christ
be with
your
spirit.

Philemon 1:25

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS
JANUARY 16, 2022**

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

**Live in harmony
with one another;
be sympathetic,
love as brothers,
be compassionate
and humble.**






**CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000
HOSPITAL CODE: #321
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE
EMAIL: office@stpaulsville.org
Website: www.stpaulsville.org**

STAFF

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

JANUARY 2022 *St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 2 2nd SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:45 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship | 3 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 7:00 p.m.-Endowment Committee | 4 | 5 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts | 6  | 7 | 8 9:00 a.m.-NEPA WELCA Board Mtg. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:45 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship | 10 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 p.m.-Worship & Music Committee 6:30 p.m.-U.C.C./L Cemetery Board Mtg. | 11 7:00 p.m.-Basket Social Committee | 12 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA 1:00 p.m.-Stewardship Committee At Bruce Saylor's Home 7:00 p.m.-Council | 13 | 14 | 15 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 2nd SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:45 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE | 17 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study  | 18 | 19 | 20 5:45 p.m.-Haafsville Board Meeting | 21 | 22 9:00 a.m.-NEPA WELCA Board Mtg. (Snow Date) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 3rd SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:45 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship | 24 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study | 25 | 26 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 4th SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:45 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship | 31 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study | | | | | <table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <th colspan="7">February 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> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> | February 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 | | | | | |
| February 2022 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 27 | 28 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

PARKING LOT AND INDOOR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

January 2022

If you cannot fulfill an assigned duty, please call the church office at 610-398-7000
or the Council Person of the Month - Jennifer Bentsen 484-226-5227

Sunday, January 2, 2022

9:45AM PARKING LOT

Bob Nickisher
Sean Thompson

10:30AM INDOOR

Anita Eisenhard, Cal Fetherolf
Daisy Pearson, Carl Seibert
Altar Guild: Esther Seibert
Communion Asst: Sharon Bortz
Lay Asst: Rosemary Lehman
Reader: Daisy Pearson

Sunday, January 16, 2022

9:45AM PARKING LOT

Bob Nickisher
Sean Thompson

10:30AM INDOOR

Lacey Edwards, Peggy Saylor
Carl Seibert, Amy Williams
Altar Guild: Rosemary Lehman
Communion Asst: Bob Bruchak
Lay Asst: Sandi Wagaman
Reader: Rosemary Lehman

Sunday, January 9, 2022

9:45AM PARKING LOT

Bob Nickisher
Ken Ritter
Sean Thompson

10:30AM INDOOR

Zack Dimovitz, Madeline MacMechan
Ken Ritter, Judy Walker
Altar Guild: Janine Ritter
Communion Asst: Anita Eisenhard
Lay Asst: Sharon Bortz
Reader: Peggy Kern

Sunday, January 23, 2022

9:45AM PARKING LOT

Bob Nickisher
Sean Thompson

10:30AM INDOOR

Sharon Bortz, Zack Dimovitz
Frank Szukics, Judy Szukics
Altar Guild: Jennifer Bentsen
Communion Asst: Peggy Saylor
Lay Asst: Daisy Pearson
Reader: Sharon Bortz

Sunday, January 30, 2022

9:45AM PARKING LOT

Bob Nickisher
Sean Thompson

10:30AM INDOOR

Lacey Edwards, Madeline MacMechan
Judy Walker, Amy Williams
Altar Guild: Amy Williams
Communion Asst: Cal Fetherolf
Lay Asst: Rosemary Lehman
Reader: Bob Nickisher



SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

JANUARY 2022 • ISSUE 1 • VOLUME 30

Covid-19 Update & Guidelines

The Latest Situation: The Covid-19 pandemic continues to generate fear, concern, confusion and division across the country and within our own Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. The most recent developments – some troubling, some hopeful – include:

- The rise of new variants, especially “omicron”;
- The ongoing and in many cases, increasing numbers of new cases;
- The continued reluctance and refusal of some to get vaccinated, or to wear masks;
- On the good side: the increased opportunities for testing, for boosters, and for vaccines for all ages.

Here in our Synod, I now encourage us to use another trustworthy source of information to help guide our decisions concerning the pandemic: the “Covid Act Now Coalition.” This non-profit, web-based resource brings together non-partisan experts in medicine, law, and public policy, to provide objective data and analysis. Their website is being consulted as a reliable source by synods and congregations across the ELCA. From their site, we can see clearly that things are still very threatening here in NE Penn: all 14 of our counties have threat levels of “VERY HIGH” or “SEVERE” – Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, and Schuylkill all are in that worst category. Additionally, the vaccination rate is at or below 60% for 7 of those 14 counties. Most of these numbers are worse than the data for many of our neighboring synods, including the Southeastern Penn Synod, whose leaders have nonetheless chosen to put in place stricter guidelines than we have. I believe we can become safer and return to “normal” sooner if we follow their lead.

Dr. Luther Shows The Way:

Almost exactly 500 years ago – in November 1520 – Martin Luther published one of his most ground-breaking treatises: “On the Freedom of a Christian.” He begins the document with this famous declaration: “A Christian is the most free lord of all, subject to none. And a Christian is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to everyone.”

He goes on to describe how God, through Christ’s sacrificial love for us on the cross, has granted us the grace and the freedom to make our own decisions; but this freedom does not release us to disregard the truth, or our call to care and concern for our neighbor. Luther writes: “Therefore [Christians] should be guided in all [their] works by this thought and contemplate this one thing alone, that [they] may serve and benefit others in all that [they do], considering nothing except the need and the advantage of [the] neighbor.”

So “what does this mean?” The inconvenience of mask wearing; and even the threat of temporary cold-and-flu reactions to vaccinations – these are simply the sacrifices we are called to make, as “the dutiful servants of all, subject to everyone.” It is within this traditionally and theologically Lutheran framing that we maintain our vigilance; and update our guidelines here.

Covid-19 Continued...

Latest Synod Recommendations:

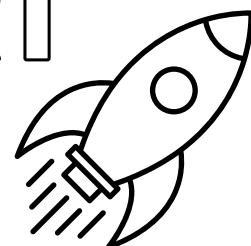
As we prepare for the larger crowds of Christmas Eve – and with Lent, Holy Week and Easter not far away – I am recommending the starting, the continuation, or the resumption, of any and all common-sense and good-neighbor precautions, including:

- Proof of vaccination or a negative test for all indoor events
 - Indoor masking
- Good air circulation, including open windows where feasible
- Social distancing, frequent washing and other effective protocols

Furthermore – at their January 15 meeting, I am encouraging our Synod Council to discuss and decide upon further appropriate actions, which may include mandates that all Synod-sponsored indoor events require masking, proof of vaccination, and/or proof of a negative test. As the duly elected governing body of this Synod, your Synod Council has the right and responsibility to make these decisions for Synod gatherings. When it comes to our individual worshipping communities, our authority is more limited; Synod Council (and myself) can only make clear and strong recommendations – based on the best science, on good conscience and on our common love for our neighbors, especially those who are most vulnerable. In other words, all congregations have the “freedom of a Christian” to decide for themselves how they will choose to act – or refuse to act. I invite us all to follow our baptismal call and Lutheran heritage, to follow God’s will and God’s love for all.

In God’s Love,
Bishop Christopher deForest

**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**

Save the date **SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2022**
June 10-11
Reading

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

February 2022 LMD NL news will be due January 13, 2022. 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.**

Peace, Joy and a Healthy New Year!
Lehigh Mission District Christmas Ingathering Committee

CWS/CROP News

Thanks to Your Generosity to CWS/CROP, Tornado Victims Are Receiving Help

Thanks to your generosity to CWS/CROP, tornado victims in Kentucky and surrounding states are receiving help from Church World Service: <https://cwsglobal.org/appeals/situation-report-tornado-response-in-kentucky-and-surrounding-states/>

You can help further by donating online

at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa>

Help Victims of Tornadoes and Other Disasters ANYTIME!

Consider honoring a loved one with an Alternative Gift to

CWS/CROP at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa> for Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries, etc.!

CROP Hunger Events Follow-up

Our 2021 Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Events donations total \$26,428.47 as of 11/30/21. Please contact our CROP Treasurer, Linda Held, at [610-797-4242](tel:610-797-4242) or jucc3441@ptd.net, if you have not done so already. -- Call or email Linda ASAP to report your CROP 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 efforts!

Luther Crest is expanding, and adding 72 new one- and two-bedroom apartments! Soon, more people will be able to enjoy senior living at its finest! Luther Crest has been the #1 choice for retirement living in the Lehigh Valley since 1983, offering seniors an active and thriving lifestyle and peace of mind knowing that additional health care services are offered right on the Luther Crest campus. Our new independent living building will be called Greenwood in celebration of our spectacular on-campus nationally accredited arboretum. Greenwood will feature 72 spacious, modern apartments ranging in size from 920 to 1900 square-feet. Floorplans include one- and two-bedroom options, all with an abundance of amenities and designer features. Call us today to find out more at [610-391-8229](tel:610-391-8229) or check out our web site at luthercrestseniorliving.org.

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.



Greetings Lehigh Mission District.

We are looking at a New Year.

In Matthew's Gospel the Magi "observed his star at its rising." Matthew 2.2.

There is a beauty in looking at the night sky. Sometimes you see a falling star or are dazzled by a bright full moon or simply admire the beauty of the dark sky with sparkles of starlight's.

Each time we look at the night sky we see something new. It is never the same night sky. The appearance of the star in the East was something new for the Magi. It was a different kind of sky.

The Magi's observation of a new star rising was an astrologer's dream. The Magi identified the Astro object as "his star at its rising." This new star guided the Magi in their journey. This star was a compass to lead them to something new -The Christ Child.

They must have been excited to follow the trajectory of this new star. They would have been excited by the expectation of what they were about to encounter. It was all new.

In this New Year, let us not be overcome by the direction of politics or the pandemic.

This New Year we can be excited and full of expectation of what is to come. We can be excited to see where God leads us into new encounters.

This New Year can become a year for our lives to grow with the life of Christ. We can see the new expectations set before us by God.

Like the Magi let us be led by the light of Christ so we can see new expectations set before us by God in our life.

Happy New Year!

The Rev. Nelson Quiñones,
Lehigh Mission District Dean

OPERATION SUNSHINE

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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!

