

The Messenger

November 2012

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR

We will celebrate Holy Communion during our worship service on December 2, followed by a coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a delicious delectable to share and have a relaxing morning with us.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The Annual Meeting will be held on December 9, 2011, immediately following our worship service. Please see inside this issue for more details.

YOUTH GROUP COOKIE SALE

The Youth Group will be selling cookies after the worship service to raise money for events and their next mission trip. This is a great way to show your support for our youth and save yourself some cookie baking time.

CAROLING

After our Worship Service on December 9 we will travel to see our homebound members and to the local nursing homes to entertain them with songs of the season. So come join us to bring some holiday cheer to others.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our Sunday School Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 15, from 10 am to noon. This will also be the last day to drop off "care packages" for the McKinney Clinic. Please see inside this issue for more details.

DRESS REHEARSAL FOR CANTATA/PROGRAM

Dress rehearsal for our Christmas Program will be at 12:30 after our pizza lunch. This will be a very important rehearsal and all cast, crew and choir members are asked to attend it.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Sunday School will present their Christmas Program during the worship service on December 18. Please mark it on your calendars and show our children and youth how much you appreciate and support their efforts to tell the story of our Savior's birth.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

On Christmas Eve, we will begin our celebration of Christ's birth with special music at 7 pm. Our Early Candlelight service will begin at 7:30 pm and the Late Candlelight service is at 11:00 pm. Both services will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We hope that everyone will come to worship our new-born King. Come, let us adore Him.

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FROM THE PASTOR

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

No - you're not confused and neither am I. I know it is not January 1. It is, however the new liturgical year beginning with the season of Advent. This is a very exciting time in the liturgical year - decorating, lighting candles, children's programs, youth cookie baking, special music, Christmas Eve talent and services. So much to do - so little time. We will get it all done and then we can step back take a deep breath and move right into Epiphany!

Thanks to all of you who have worked so hard this last year to make the church move forward. There have been so many who have helped out that I can't name them all for fear of leaving someone out. As we think about our giving for the next year don't just think of money but consider giving some more of your time to make things here at God's house - Emmanuel.

As we enter this season of watching and waiting for Jesus to come, relax a little. Try to not get tied up in the commercialization of the season. For those who give gifts, remember to give out of love and appreciation and not out of obligation. Remember to nurture your souls as you nurture your bodies. Just as one needs to take in food and water for healthy living, one also needs to take in scripture and church and loving family to survive in this hustle bustle world.

I look forward to December with all its glitz and fun but more than that I look forward to coming together to worship, remembering why we are all here together.

Have a wonderful Christmastime!


Blessings.

PASTOR PENNY



Thank You

We received a slew of thank you letters for our benevolence donations to Lancaster Theological Seminary, Phoebe Homes and Bethany Children's Home. Each month we make a disbursement to these PNEC associated organizations to fulfill our annual budgeted benevolence support. Without us and other congregations that refuse to abandon them, these very important ministries would not be able to function and many people would be left with nowhere to go, literally.



BLOOD DRIVE

The blood drive with our Boy Scouts on Monday, November 12 was a good start for an annual event. I'm working with the Red Cross to get us in the rotation. That way we won't be scheduled too close to other drives in our area and donors will be able to donate regularly. We had 14 donors who were able to give and several who were deferred for different reasons, so we almost made our goal of 17. ***Thanks to our members and scouts who helped!*** I really, honestly couldn't have done it without you! - Denise



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, December 11, after our Worship Service. The proposed 2010 Budget was approved by the Consistory for distribution in the weekly bulletins and extra copies are available on the table in the Narthex.

NOTICE TO ALL COMMITTEES, TEAMS AND ASSOCIATIONS: In accordance with our Constitution Article 10, All committees should have a report prepared for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

“Article 10. ORGANIZATIONS, SOCIETIES. All organizations and societies of the Congregation are subordinate to the Consistory and shall make an annual report (Activities and Financial) to the Congregation.”

TWILIGHTERS

The Twilighters will hold their Christmas Party on Wednesday, November 14, at 1:00 pm at Bonanza. We'll celebrate Christmas early. This way the weather won't cancel our plans (hopefully, even though our last meeting was rained out by “Sandy”). Call Lois Eigenbrod or Mary Eroh for more information.

POINSETTIA SIGN-UP SHEETS

There are sign-up sheets on the tables in the Narthex and next to the fellowship hall doorway for you to purchase poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary. The last day to sign up is December 11.

ALTAR FLOWER CHART

The chart for the altar flowers is on the table in the Narthex. The price is still \$12.50 per vase. Please pay Mary or Jim Rinehimer for the dates you sponsor.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

We will meet after the Annual Meeting on December 11 for caroling. After stopping for lunch at McDonald's, we'll raise our voices and spirits as we sing songs of the season to residents of our local nursing homes and to our homebound. Come with us and sing glory to the newborn king!

Special Music For Christmas Eve

Anyone wishing to present music prior to the Christmas Eve Early Service is asked to see Denise Dean. We will begin at 7:00 pm and conclude at 7:30 pm. If you are more inclined to read a poem or selection, that would be very welcome also.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

This year's program will be a cantata with the speaking parts written by Dwain Straight. Dwain created this cantata and included many Christmas carols that we know and love. Anyone who enjoys singing is welcome to join us for practice on Wednesday evenings.

There are still some soliloquies (a one-paragraph or one-line speaking part) that need student actors. We also have several non-speaking parts like extra shepherds. We would also like to have one or two adults to be narrators.

The speaking parts and choirs will practice separately and then we will put it all together on Saturday, December 15. After the Sunday School Party we'll have a quick pizza lunch and then practice. We will need *all choir members and speaking parts at this dress rehearsal* so please mark it on your calendars. Also, we will have a rehearsal on Sunday morning, the 16th, instead of Sunday School and will need everyone to attend this one, too.

Thanks for your dedication,
Denise



OPERATION SNOWFLAKE

If our Worship Services need to be cancelled due to bad weather, please tune in to radio stations **WARM, Magic 93, 97BHT, 97.9X, or JR93.7.**



The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree has been set up in the Narthex. Bernie Baluta, at the McKinney Clinic, asks that we provide men's gifts. There is a great hardship among our middle/older age men and she appreciates our help in ministering to their needs. Just take an ornament, purchase the item listed on it, wrap it, tape the ornament to the package and place it under the tree. You may also include a card from you and your family.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPE

Please be generous in giving to our church ministries supported by this offering:

\$150 to Phoebe Devitt Home

\$150 to Bethany Children's Home

\$250 to Lancaster Theological Seminary

These organizations sincerely need and appreciate your support. Every penny counts with today's expenses, so please give generously. The "Christmas Offering" is a benevolence offering and is not used to build up the General Fund. Your **regular offering is needed** to support the General Fund and the mission of your church.

Envelope for Pastor's Christmas Gift

Included with this year's offering envelopes is one for Pastor's Christmas gift. Instead of giving the usual monetary gift from the General Fund, all gifts collected through this envelope will be used as Pastor Penny's Christmas gift. If you do not receive a box of envelopes, there are regular envelopes in the pews which you can designate for Pastor's gift. Thank you for being generous and letting her know how much she is appreciated.

Sunday School News

THANKSGIVING DINNERS – Thank you for being so generous. We again were able to provide meals for ten families thanks to you. We also provided a meal for a local family who truly appreciated your generosity and compassion.

CHRISTMAS PARTY – DECEMBER 15

Our Christmas Party will be held on December 15 from 10 am to 12 pm. We are asking all the kids to **bring a piece of fruit for the baskets for our shut-ins and a new or "gently used" stuffed animal or toy** to be wrapped for the children of the McKinney Clinic.

We will also be gathering **care packages** to keep with our ongoing theme **"Giving without Thinking of Receiving"** for distribution to the people served by the McKinney Clinic. Bernie, the director of the clinic, has asked that we provide more men's packages. She says that they minister to more men than women and so there is a greater need for men's gifts. The packages should include: **new white socks, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, comb, razor, hand lotion and a candy cane**. *If you would like to add anything else, please feel free (only nothing with alcohol in it). Also appreciated are gift cards from Walmart and K-Mart. A freezer bag holds the items very well.* Attach a card signed by your family and send it with your child(ren) to the Christmas

party or drop it off in the narthex under the Christmas tree **before Saturday, December 15**. Thank you for all your generosity. When making your care package, please talk with your child(ren) about how wonderful it feels to know you will make someone's Christmas brighter by giving!

Thank you for all your support, Lisa Rinehimer

YOUTH GROUP

Here's some of the stuff we have going on.

1. **Cookie Fundraiser** – We will be baking cookies on December 15 at the church. Then we'll sell them after worship on December 16. See me so we can get an idea of how many cookies we'll be able to make.
2. **Youth For Hire** – We are still looking to help people around their homes/yards. This idea benefits our group and the people we work for so think of people who might want some extra muscle for fall chores.
3. **Next Summer's Mission Trip** – When and where to next???

Come and join us so we can plan bigger and more exciting ways to show what *real teen Christians* are like! If you're **10 years old or older**, we'll be looking for you!! *We'd also like some more adults to get involved with us. Show us what real adult Christians are like!!*

Keep on believing

Marc, Lisa and Caroline



Remember to get your Weis and Carone's gift cards for all you holiday shopping! This is a great way to support the Youth Group without spending anything extra. You're just going to spend that money at the grocery store anyway so why not give the Youth Group some help with their finances? For every \$1,000 worth of cards they sell, they make \$50.

NEWSLETTER INFO DEADLINE

The deadline for information for the January Messenger is Friday, December 21. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Denise

WAPWALLOPEN CROSSROADS MINISTERIUM LOCAL MISSION FUNDS

The Ministerium would like to tell everyone that it has funds available for local mission work. These funds could be used to help with heating costs, electricity costs, or rent or mortgage payments, once per year per needy family/person. Also available are Weis and Carone's gift cards to help with purchasing fresh veggies, milk/dairy products and meats. If you know someone in need, please contact either Pastor Penny (706-6476) or Pastor Rachael Dietz (379-3878) so we can help others in our communities.

Bethany Christmas Gift List

Copies of the 2012 Christmas Wish List are on the table in the Narthex. Please note that the children at Bethany are between the ages of 13 and 18 years old. Specific gift items are included on the Christmas Wish List or if you prefer, the children love to receive gift cards to department stores, craft stores, area malls, etc. Please choose age-appropriate gifts with consideration for parental warnings, modest clothing and safety. The gifts should not be wrapped since Bethany's staff will sort them so each child gets an appropriate gift. Just drop them in the box wrapped in Christmas paper in the Narthex.

Or, if you prefer, there are copies of the list of Christmas Year Round various monetary donations, such as \$20 for pillows or sheets, \$50 for a coat, and even \$500 for the Incentive Trip – best behaved child gets a trip to Ocean City MD, New York City or Washington DC.

PICTURE PERFECT

Check the front entrance bulletin board for the following pictures:

Chris Harmon had a great time at the St. Peter's and St. John's Apple Festival. He is pictured playing his Native American "flute" while he and his family watched the blacksmithing demonstration. Chris' parents are Mark and Ashley (Deets) Harmon. Keep playing that funky music, Chris!

Admirers of photography were viewing the showing of the Mountain Top Photography Club's exhibit at the W-B General Hospital Mountain Top Campus. Other location which continually display their works are Cavanaugh's Bar & Restaurant, the Chalet Restaurant and various other local businesses. **Camille Daniels** and **Sharon Moyer** members of the Club.

AROUND OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

CHS MUSICAL – The Crestwood High School musical will be presented on Friday and Saturday, December 7 and 8, at 7:00 pm. This year's play is "Bye, Bye Birdie". Time to rock around the clock before saying good-bye to Conrad Birdie, the rock and roll star who was drafted into the army. (Sound familiar? The writers got the idea for this play from the headlines about Elvis.)

CONSISTORY MEETING

The next Consistory meeting will be on Thursday, December 20, at 6:30 pm.

UPCOMING DATES

Jan. 6 Epiphany

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE DECEMBER 2012

Dec. 2

Greeters: Janice Broyan and Camille Daniels
Liturgist: Lynne Stewart

Dec. 9

Greeters: Frank and Joan Partington
Liturgist: Jim Stewart

Dec. 16

Greeters: Sunday School Students
Liturgist: Sunday School Students

Dec. 23

Greeters: Carol & Robert Duffy, III, and Diana Decker
Liturgist: Sharon Moyer

Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve)

7:30 service:

Greeters: Dave and Rosemary Myers
Liturgist: Dave Myers

11:00 Service:

Greeters: Jim and Mary Rinehimer
Liturgist: Jim Rinehimer

Dec. 30

Greeters: Connie Davis and Judy Cybulski
Liturgist: Dave Myers

OUR CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

Dave & Rosemary Myers
Clifford & Gladys Readler
Nora Cybulski

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Kayla Supkowski	15 Andrew Horensky	21 Mary Rinehimer
1 Ronald Kania	15 Kelsey Rinehimer	24 Lonnie Rinehimer, Sr.
2 Esther Heller	17 Danielle Pallando	25 Anthony DiMaria
2 Bonnie Shafer	18 Brandon Ring	26 Russell Koons
3 David A. Myers	18 Sabian Bunnell	26 Linda Byrnes
10 Michael Belanchik	20 Darlene Stein	28 Lonnie Rinehimer, Jr.
10 Lorrie Slusser		30 Angie Thomas

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 13, 1968.....Lonnie and Mary Rinehimer
Dec. 15, 1984.....Peter and Gwen Sakowski

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