

The Messenger

December 2017

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR

The sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated during our worship service on December 3, followed by a coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION



The Annual Meeting will be held on **December 10, 2017**, immediately following our worship service. Please see inside this issue for more details.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Come and sing the songs of the season while delighting our homebound and nursing home members. We will begin our rounds by serenading our members and then go to local nursing homes. Please see Cindy for more information.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our Sunday School Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 16, 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

Dress rehearsal for our Christmas Program will be from 1-2 pm 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 17

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Sunday School will present their Christmas Program during the worship service on December 17. 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.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

On Christmas Eve, we will begin our celebration of Christ's birth with special music at 7 pm. Our Candlelight Service will begin at 7:30 pm and 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

The word **Advent** means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. Thus, Advent is far more than simply marking a 2,000 year old event in history. It is celebrating a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God. That is a process in which we now participate, and the consummation of which we anticipate. Scripture reading for Advent will reflect this emphasis on the Second Advent, including themes of accountability for faithfulness at His coming, judgment on sin, and the hope of eternal life. In this double focus on past and future, Advent also symbolizes the spiritual journey of individuals and a congregation, as they affirm that Christ has come, that He is present in the world today, and that He will come again in power. That acknowledgment provides a basis for Kingdom ethics, for holy living arising from a profound sense that we live "between the times" and are called to be faithful stewards of what is entrusted to us as God's people. So, as our church celebrates God's in-breaking into history in the Incarnation, and anticipates a future consummation to that history for which "all creation is groaning awaiting its redemption," it also confesses its own responsibility as a people commissioned to "love the Lord your God with all your heart" and to "love your neighbor as yourself."

As the year comes to a close and the stress and busyness of the consumer Christmas holiday grows, it can be easy to lose sight of what the season really calls us to: worship. In today's world, is it even possible to slow down, to ponder, to wonder in the coming birth of Christ? Well, as we gather together in worship for the Advent season, I pray that the Holy Spirit would shine His light in your hearts and bring focus to all your Christmas celebrations: *"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord"* (Luke 2:11, ESV).

Advent Blessing and Merry Christmas, Pastor Lou



We have Gift Card Fundraiser through Great Lakes Scrip Center and includes tons of cards – from Advance Auto Parts to Wet Seal (young women's clothing). By purchasing the gift card through Great Lake Scrip, our church earns a percentage of the sale price. With this newsletter is a copy of the list

and more copies are on the bulletin tables. Just write in the quantity of the cards you want and give the list and the amount due to Jim Rinehimer. **Jim will be collecting orders Sunday December 3rd** and will distribute them as they arrive. If you have any question, please see Jim. If more lists are needed, please tell Penny.

Twilighters

The Twilighters will meet on Wednesday, December 13, at 12:00 pm for lunch and fellowship. If you would like more information, see Lois Eigenbrod or Mary Eroh.

CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

Mile-marker Birthday

ESTHER HELLER will celebrate her 93rd birthday on **December 2**, 2017. Let's all wish her a happy birthday by giving her a card shower! Look! It's raining birthday cards!



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, December 10, after our Worship Service. The proposed 2018 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.”

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

We will meet after Worship on December 10 for caroling. 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!



Christmas Cards For Vets

There is a box in the bell tower for Christmas Cards for our local veterans who are residents at the VA Hospital. The last day to put cards in the box is December 17. Thank you for remembering those men and women who served our country.

Pork Dinner Update

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO
SUPPORTED OUR DINNER!!**

INCOME		
Dinner Income	Surplus Sold	326.50
	118 Adult @ \$11	1,298.00
	1 child @ \$ 5	5.00
	Advance 155 Adult @ \$11	<u>1,705.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME		3334.50
EXPENSES		
Steve Moyer	Milk and Bread	-37.84
Allen Dennis	Pork, broth, potatoes, celery, carrots, corn	-661.83
Jim Rinehimer	Coffee, Juice, Iced Tea	<u>-30.95</u>
Donation	Cabbage & Apples were donated	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES		-730.62
DINNER PROFIT		2,603.88

Christmas Eve

Anyone wishing to present music prior to the Christmas Eve 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.



UPCOMING DATES

Jan. 6 Epiphany

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

There's something happening on the hills outside Bethlehem and field reporter Lost Soul along with news anchor Christmas Message are on the case. Everything seems "All Clear at Midnight", but then reports of heavenly singing, strange beings, and a bright star lead to the breaking story of the birth of a king. And not just any king, but the promised Christ! On Sunday, December 17, the whole story will break wide open during our 10:30 am worship service. Be sure to "tune in" by attending service and catch all the details!

We started practicing our songs and parts have been given out. Please be sure to have your children at Choir Practice on Sunday, December 3, at 9:00 am. We are going over songs that will combine all choirs as well as those for each individual choir. On Sunday, December 10, beginning at 9:00 am we will have a full rehearsal practice. Dress rehearsals will be on Saturday, December 16, at 1:00 pm and Sunday, December 17, at 9:00 am. **We will have a pizza lunch on the 16th at 12:00 (after the Christmas party).** Below is an easy to reference chart that you can hang on the fridge or wherever you put such information.

December 3	9:00 am	Choirs practice before Sunday School
December 10	9:00 am	Full Cast and Choirs Rehearsal
December 16	10:00 am to noon	Sunday School Christmas Party
December 16	1:00 to 2:00 pm	Dress Rehearsal – All Cast and Choirs
December 17	9:00 am	Dress Rehearsal – All Cast and Choirs
December 17	10:30 am	Presentation of Program during Worship
December 24	NO CHOIR PRACTICES and NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	

Thank you to all families who bring the children to practices. We couldn't have a program without your dedication.

Denise Dean

Sunday School News

THANKSGIVING DINNERS – Thank you for being so generous. We again were able to provide meals for ten families thanks to you.

CHRISTMAS PARTY - DECEMBER 17

Our Christmas Party will be held on December 16 from 10 am to 12 pm. We are asking all the kids to bring a couple pieces of fruit for the baskets for our shut-ins.

We are also collecting **care packages** for distribution to the people served by the McKinney Clinic. Bernie, the director of the clinic, continues to need 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 16.** 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

The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree has been set up in the Narthex. 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:

Phoebe Devitt Home

Bethany Children's Home

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 still needed to support the General Fund and the local mission of your church.

Bethany Christmas List

Copies of the 2018 Christmas Wish List are on the table in the Narthex. Please note that the children at Bethany are teenagers. 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 do that. Just drop them in the box wrapped in Christmas paper in the Narthex.

If someone could deliver the presents to Bethany, it would be greatly appreciated. I have a schedule of times and dates for deliveries in the office.

NEWSLETTER INFO DEADLINE

The deadline for information for the January Messenger is Friday, December 22. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Penny

FLOWERS SIGN-UPS

POINSETTIA SIGN-UP SHEETS

There are sign-up sheets on the tables in the Narthex doorway for you to purchase poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary. The last day to sign up is December 17.

ALTAR FLOWER CHART

The 2018 chart for the altar flowers is on the table in the Narthex. The price is still \$12.50 per vase. Please pay Chris Dietrich for the dates you sponsor.

Thank you's:

The following letters are posted on the bulletin board in the bell tower:

A thank you letter from Phoebe Ministries for our 2017 Benevolence donation of \$1000. Your generosity provides programs and activities for their residents.

A thank you letter from Bethany Children's Home for our donation of \$1000 to Our Wider Church Mission. Our gift helps provide for special programs such as Birthday Parties, Christmas Gifts, Arts, Music, etc.

A thank you letter from Lancaster Theological Seminary for our donation of \$1000. Our gift helps provide support for Lancaster Seminary's mission "to educate and nurture leaders to join God's redemptive and liberating work so that all creation may flourish."

PICTURE PERFECT

Check the front entrance bulletin board for the following pictures:

Irene Gilski and **Mike Cimmungs** pass a bowl of stuffing and a platter of turkey back and forth during very popular Fall Turkey Dinner at Emmanuel held on Saturday October 21st

Grayson Bunnell is shown displaying words beginning with the "E" sound as they are learning "E" words at Mt. Top Kids.

Esther Heller is shown in announcement that she will celebrating her 93rd Birthday on December 2nd. Happy Birthday Esther and may you celebrate many more.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The next **Consistory** meeting will be on Thursday, December 21, at 6:30 pm.

