



The Shepherd's Pipe



Volume 50, Issue 12

December 2019

Vicar's Note

Dear Friends in Christ,

December is here! We knew it was coming and whether we think that we are ready or not, it is December. The fact that we are now in December means a variety of things. As we look back just a week ago, it means that Thanksgiving has past. I hope that was a blessed time for each of you. Maybe you enjoyed some turkey and stuffing, maybe even some pumpkin pie; regardless of what you may have enjoyed at the table, I hope that this was an opportunity to connect with family and friends.

December also means that as the church, we are starting a new year. So Happy New Year to all of you as we move into this season of Advent. The word advent means the arrival or coming of something. As that old saying goes, "Christmas is coming." Well, it is coming and it will be here whether we are ready or not. Society tells us, that we need to rush around or we will be left out of this sale or that deal on the gift that we just have to have. While it is difficult to avoid the hustle and bustle of this season, I invite you try and find some moments this Advent when you can take a step back.

Consider that meaning of advent, that something is coming and that something is Christ, God incarnate. As this is the year that we will follow Matthew's Gospel in the Lectionary, it may be helpful to remember what we find in Matthew 1:23, quoting the prophet Isaiah. "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, 'God is with us.'" As we live into this Advent season, let us remember that God is with us, even as we once again anticipate the birth of our Savior, the birth that changed everything. May you find peace and blessing this Advent in the anticipation of the greatest gift of all, Christ!

Vicar Chris

I also invite you to consider Isaiah 9:6. As we anticipate Christ coming again, how has Christ been the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace in your life?

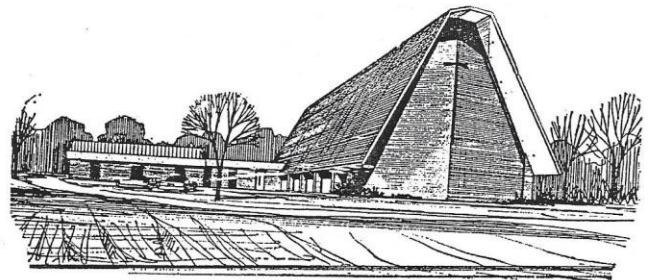
Best Wishes on Your Special Day in December:

Happy Birthday!

- 2 – Skylar Andrews
- 5 – Scott Ratkovich
- 13 – Keith Nagy
Betty North
- 14 – Diana Braun
- 15 – Vicar Chris Combs
- 16 – Rev. Thomas McCurdy
- 18 – Brian Korpela
- 21 – Brittany Miller
- 22 – Brandon Vanassa
- 23 – Dr. Curtis Johns
- 26 – Paul "Rick" Karki
Isa Skuba
- 28 – Ruth Johns
- 30 – Mackenzie Johns

Happy Anniversary!

- 12 – Timothy and Sherry Badger
- 16 – George and Ruth Ann Parnay
- 19 – Norman Conti and Deanna Fracul
- 30 – John and Sherry Hattula



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
of New Castle

Special Birthday Wishes

Let's wish Vicar Chris the happiest of birthdays as he celebrates on December 15. May this birthday be just the beginning of a year filled with great memories, wonderful moments and shining dreams. Thank you for all that you've done and continue to do for Good Shepherd!

Council Meeting

Our monthly Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 10 at 7:00 pm.

Vision Committee

Members of the Vision Committee will meet on Tuesday, December 17 at 6:00 pm.

Bible Study

Our Bible Study with Vicar Chris will take place on Tuesday, December 10 at 2:00 pm.

Join Us for Zumba!

Zumba is here at Good Shepherd! Please join us on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am. The cost is \$4 and our instructor is Danielle Johns.

Council Members

Please welcome our new council members beginning their term in 2020:

- Shirley Mazzocca
- Ruth Johns
- Michonda Weber

The following members will remain on council:

- Fred DeDominicis
- Curt Johns
- Terri Lombardo
- Hailey Tammaro
- Terri Tankersley
- Diana Tervo
- Barbara Turk
- Grover Welsh
- Linda Marttala

Staff Christmas Gifts

If you are interested in contributing to the annual Staff Christmas Gifts, please submit your monetary gift by Christmas Eve, December 24. The gifts will be presented the Sunday after Christmas, December 29. If leaving your gift in the church office, placing it in the offering plate, or mailing it, please label it as "Staff Christmas Gifts." This is our way of saying "Thank you" to our staff for serving us over the course of the year!

Additions to Newsletter

Do you have something to publish in The Shepherd's Pipe? Please have any submissions into the church office by December 23.

Advent Special Offering

This month, we will be collecting offerings to support the Ronald McDonald House Charity.

Pull Tab Challenge

Pull tabs are still being collected for Thrivent's Pull Tab Challenge for the Ronald McDonald House until Tuesday, December 3. There is a box in the library where you may place them.

Christmas Program & Luncheon

Our annual Christmas Program and Fellowship Luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 22 after our service.

Christmas Eve Service

Our candlelit service will begin at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 24. Invite your family and friends and let's celebrate the miracle, joy and wonder of Christmas together.

Council Highlights – Meeting on November 12, 2019 was cancelled due to weather conditions.

A Special Note from Our Youth Group Leader

On behalf of the Good Shepherd Youth Group, I would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who donated money and prayers to help us go to Laurelville Mud Weekend in Mount Pleasant, PA this past weekend. We experienced God's love in SO many ways. Each night the speaker preached on saying "YES!" to Jesus, laying down our sins at His feet, and telling others about His great love. We had fun with our new friends from Elfinwild Presbyterian Church doing group building exercises, playing mud football, doing a scavenger hunt, and dancing at the dance party Saturday night. We are so excited for our next adventure together!

Peace,
Hailey Tamaro
GSLC Youth Group Leader





Board of Directors

Dr. Gordon Richards, President
Rev. William Kirker, Vice President
Jacob Habel, CPA, Treasurer
Stephanie Schindel, Secretary

Dr. Matthew Fuss
Meredith Gross
Paul Herbert
Rev. Tom Meling

CHANGING LIVES, SAVING LIVES

Good Shepherd Lutheran
2323 Old Butler Road
New Castle, PA 16101

October 2019

Dear Friends at Good Shepherd Lutheran,

Thank you for your gift to Alpha Omega Center!

Just last month we had a young woman come in concerned about pregnancy. She didn't know what she would do, and she told us she wasn't ready to have a baby. When she left, she said she would think about what we said but was still undecided.

A little over a week after her appointment she let us know that she is planning to have her baby! Not only that, she had already taken some important steps to safeguard her unborn child's health.

Thanks to you, this precious mother chose life. Thanks to you, this family will be intact.

Thank you for being part of their lives!



Changing Lives Together,

Sarah M. Bowen
Executive Director

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New Castle, PA 16101

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Slippery Rock, PA 16057

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Sandy Lake, PA 16153

MAILING P.O. Box 7734
New Castle, PA 16107






















aocpartners.org

| 724.794.3325

25 Days of Christmas Kindness

Every day is an opportunity to celebrate the gifts God's given us—whether it's time, talents or treasures. If you're looking for ways to spread generosity and joy this Christmas, here are 25 daily activities you can do with your family. Track your impact by coloring in the icon for each one you complete!

DECEMBER

<p>1</p>  <p>Write letters to past and present military members through a service like AMillionThanks.org or OperationGratitude.com.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Buy extra dog or cat food to drop off at your local animal shelter.</p> 	<p>3</p>  <p>Pick up litter at your favorite park.</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>St. Nick comes tonight! Stay in the spirit by donating a pair of shoes to a local shelter or nonprofit like Soles4Souls.</p>
<p>10</p>  <p>Donate to a toy drive. ToysForTots.org can help you find a campaign nearby.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Volunteer to sing, greet or usher at church.</p> 	<p>7</p>  <p>Bake cookies for your local police or fire department.</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>Sing a carol, play a board game, or simply visit with residents at a nearby nursing home.</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Support a small business.</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>Invite a friend or neighbor over for dinner.</p> 	<p>14</p>  <p>Make a fleece tie blanket. Donate to a homeless shelter or children's hospital.</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>Volunteer to ring bells for The Salvation Army.</p>
<p>12</p>  <p>Send a Christmas card to someone you haven't talked to recently.</p>	<p>18</p>  <p>Shovel snow for a neighbor. (No snow? Ask if there's other yard work you can help with!)</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>Leave a treat or small gift in your mailbox for your mail carrier.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Bring a coffee or cocoa to a teacher, co-worker or friend.</p> 
<p>20</p> <p>Watch a Christmas movie together.</p> 	<p>19</p>  <p>Take a box of canned goods to your local food pantry.</p>	<p>23</p>  <p>Call a friend or family member.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Merry Christmas! Rejoice in the Good News with your loved ones.</p> 
<p>21</p> <p>Help with the dishes after dinner.</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>Offer to babysit for a friend or neighbor while they Christmas shop or run errands.</p> 	<p>24</p>  <p>It's Christmas Eve! Take time to reflect on the wonders of this night and the reason for the season.</p>	

Circles of Prayer for Mission

Please pray for the members of Good Shepherd:

Daily Prayer

- ❖ For Vicar Chris, in his ministry to our congregation.
- ❖ For the entire Good Shepherd family, that we may worship the Lord in Spirit and truth and grow in our relationship with him and one another.

Sunday Prayer

- ❖ For Evy Amerson, pianist/organist; in her ministry of music for our worship.
- ❖ Gracious God, all people are united in your mercy. Help us to see and understand our kinship in you and to celebrate together in worship.

Monday Prayer

- ❖ For our local, state and federal government officials, especially for President Donald Trump, his staff and members of Congress, that they may lead our nation in justice and peace.
- ❖ For courage and strength for Synodical leaders, especially Bishop Kurt Kusserow and our presiding bishop of the ELCA, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.
- ❖ For an increase in ministry workers, both rostered leaders and lay, allowing God's church to grow, sharing the faith, and encouragement to those who are new to faith.

Tuesday Prayer

- ❖ For our Church Council members in their decision making for our congregation: Theresa Andrews, Fred DeDominicis, Brian Johns, Curtis Johns, Curt Johns, Terri Lombardo, Linda Marttala, Hailey Tamaro, Terri Tankersley, Diana Tervo, Barbara Turk, and Grover Welsh.
- ❖ Give thanks to God for ELCA members who share joyfully God-given blessings through stewardship of their resources of time, skills and money.

Wednesday Prayer

- ❖ For Kevin Green, Director, his staff and ministries of the City Rescue Mission.
- ❖ God of many blessings, we give thanks for giving us life. We praise you for the call to mission with which you continue to draw us out of ourselves and into relationship with others.

Thursday Prayer

- ❖ For the Pastor/Pilots of LAMP ministry of Canada.
- ❖ For the elderly and homebound and the Meals On Wheels staff and volunteers.
- ❖ Almighty God, we give thanks for the earth you have created and all its living things. Help us appreciate the love you give and remember continued thankfulness for your goodness.

Friday Prayer

- ❖ For Grover Welsh, Sexton, Ruth Johns, Treasurer, Terri Tankersley, Financial Secretary, Hailey Tamaro, Youth Group Leader, and K'rin Fortuna, Secretary.
- ❖ For individuals who have physical, emotional, or spiritual needs and their families and friends who care for them. For our homebound members: Alba Kessler, Delores LeComte, Don Michael, Fran Nelson, Don Suorsa, Kim Cook, and Alfred Andrews.

Saturday Prayer

- ❖ For the people of the Passavant Retirement and Health Center in Zelienople.
- ❖ Give thanks for the time, talents, prayers, and funds that are donated to the ELCA Disaster Response which enable the ELCA to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and bring the Good News to those who are suffering.

LOOKING AHEAD

- DECEMBER
 - 10 Church Council
 - 22 Children's Christmas Program Followed by Luncheon
 - 24 Christmas Eve Service
 - 25 CHRISTMAS

- JANUARY
 - 5 Installation of Council Members
 - 14 Church Council
 - 26 Tentative Date for Congregational Meeting

- FEBRUARY
 - 11 Church Council
 - 26 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. Time TBD
 - 27 Ash Wednesday Services at 11:00 am and 7:00 pm

- MARCH
 - 8 Daylight Savings
 - 10 Church Council

- APRIL
 - 5 Palm Sunday
 - 9 Passover
 - 10 Good Friday
 - 12 Easter

Zumba is currently being held every Wednesday at 9:00 AM in the Shepherd Center.

Committee meeting dates and events will be added as they are planned. Keep checking back for updates!
