

Parish Press

December 2017 / Monthly Newsletter of Pine Street Evangelical Lutheran Church

621 Pine Street; Danville PA 17821 * 570-275-2110

WWW.PINESTREETLUTHERAN.ORG

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Fellowship Hour

December 3rd

Hospitality Ministry

December 10th

Caring Ministry

December 17th

Finance Ministry

December 24th

No Fellowship Hour

December 31st

No Fellowship Hour

^{mH}
CHIC 12^h

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

December 24th

10:30 Am

Christmas Eve Day Service

7:00 PM

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service

Blessed Christmas from Pine Street Evangelical Lutheran Church!

A Note From Pastor Koons *Advent and Christmas*

Sunday, 3 December 2017, begins a new year in the life of the Christian Church, with the observance of the First Sunday in Advent. This is the time that the Church prepares for the coming of Christ into the world. We prepare for his coming in the manger over two thousand years ago, and also for his Second coming at a time yet to be disclosed.

In this season of Advent we look both backward and forward. We look to the past to remember the greatest gift God has ever given to the world, his Son, the Christ Child. Because of this gift we dare to look forward to Christ's coming again without fear, but with hopeful expectation of that day when God will draw all of us to his kingdom without end.

While all around us (beginning earlier every year) people begin their preparations for Christmas. Decorations began to go up even before Thanksgiving; Christmas music begins to flood radio stations, restaurants and stores; television and movie channels have already begun the endless showing of Christmas themed movies.

Yet, in the church, we hold back! At Pine Street Church, Christmas music will wait until the evening of 24. December. Decorations will slowly begin to appear throughout the season of Advent. Why??? Why do we wait?

Continued on page 2



Why not now? As we eagerly await the Second Coming, it is appropriate that we hold off and build anticipation for the celebration of Christmas. Would it not seem strange to sing Easter hymns during Lent? It would be just as strange to sing Christmas hymns in Advent.

As Christians we live in the already, but not yet. We know that Christ has already been born. But it is not yet the time to celebrate. Just as you would not invite family and friends to Christmas dinner without adequate preparation, we take these days in Advent to prepare to welcome Christ into our hearts.

It is difficult, surrounded by popular and commercial lures, not to give in and jump to Christmas. Just as each of us in the coming month will be busy with shopping, decorating, baking, etc. to get ready for Christmas, so we in the church will be busy preparing the church building and our hearts to receive the Christ Child.

It is a glorious time of the year, and the Church year. The season of Advent is observed to build anticipation and hope. The season of Christmas in which we rejoice and give thanks to God for this Gift of Jesus, as well of all the gifts God continually gives us.

Sunday, 24. December, really brings all this together in a hectic way (for those of us preparing

for and leading worship). The morning service at 10:30 am will be the Fourth Sunday in Advent when the color will be blue. Then in just a few hours, all will be fully transformed for the 7:00 pm service of Holy Communion at Christmas Eve, with the color changed to white. It's a full day! But I invite you to join the family of Pine Street Luther Church to observe both. Prepare in the morning to celebrate the Birth of the Christ Child in the evening. It will make for a glorious day.

I look forward to seeing you all on that day!

In Christ!
Pastor Koons+



Christmas Eve

SERVICES

10:30 AM
ALWL Beverly Hoffman
and
7:00 PM
Pastor John Koons

Pine Street Lutheran Church



December Love Envelope:
The Good Samaritan Crisis Fund



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Food Bank Board of Directors is in Need of Volunteers...

The Danville Food Bank is set up to collect, and distribute, food to Soup Kitchens, Food Pantries, Shelters etc. The Food Bank supplies the food to various locations and they in turn provide that food to the individuals that need assistance.

The Food bank runs with the help of a board of directors and volunteers. They are currently in need of people to sit on the Board of Directors. If you have some time once a month, consider giving an hour or two of your time to the food bank. Currently, they meet the 4th Tuesday at 9 am, however that may be changing the meeting time. See Roxanne Patton for more information, if you think you may be interested!

COUNTERS TRAINING

December 10th

Following the Service
Counters assignment will be for
one Sunday in each rotation.
Trainers will be Art,
Mike and Tom.



FOOD BANK NEEDS

Tuna & Canned Meats



The Danville-Riverside Food Bank is very appreciative of the donations of food and money given by our church members. You may donate the food of the month above or any other non-perishable food item.

All donations are distributed to those in need in our community.

Place food donations in the basket in the narthex near the coat room. To make a monetary donation, please use a blue pew envelope and mark it **Food Bank**.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

The Food Bank distribution is on the first Saturday of each month from 10 AM to 1 PM, but help is also needed before and after distribution. If you have questions, please see *Roxanne Patton*,
Our Food Bank Representative

Thank You!

Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for the prayers, cards, flowers, food. Again, you are so wonderful in your support. I don't know what we would do without you. We appreciate your continued prayers as the therapy continues.

Sincerely,

Sue & Dick Baylor

Ministry News

Christian Education Ministry

Preparation Pizza Party



Many children from the congregation gathered for a "Preparation Pizza Party" on Sunday, November 29th after our worship service. This activity was planned by the Christian Education

Ministry to discuss the upcoming church season of Advent. The children participated in an Advent lesson, learned an Advent song, and created Christmas Decorations for the tree in the Fellowship Hall. They learned the meaning of many of the Christmas Decorations and engaged in discussions about preparing our hearts for Jesus when we celebrate his birth on December 25th! They wrapped up their preparation activities with a tasty treat of Nativity cutout cookies!



★
when
you
choose
joy
You feel good
& when you feel
good, you do good
& when you do good
it reminds others
of what joy feels like
& if just
might inspire
them to do
the same.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry Activity

Chris Minnich conducted continuing training for Stephen Ministers at Zion church on October 28, 2017. Those present included Pine St. Ev. Lutheran, Zion Lutheran, Sharon Lutheran, River of Life, Church of the Brethren, and Christ Wesleyan churches. Topics were Effective engagement, decisions making, focusing on strengths, actions in small steps, and trauma info. Included in training was information on the program of Table Talk. The training and the interaction with other churches very helpful



Here to help

Stephen Ministers Are Here To Help

As we read the New Testament, there was in the early churches bickering, distrust, greed, and betrayal. The Scripture gives us not a formula for perfection, but a way to address our weaknesses, find healing, and wholeness.

The Gospel message is forgiveness. Are things in the church body causing you concern? Stephen Ministers have gifts and training to help. Ask a Stephen Minister if you can be a receiver of care.


God heals the brokenness of life. We may be broken but we are Re-Creatable.

Author, Kevin Scott

Psalm 51: 10. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and **renew** a right spirit within me.

THE STEPHEN MINISTRY CONNECTION

Christ Caring for People through people




† Leslie Smith, a single parent with two young children joins your congregation.



† You meet Leslie, and the two of you spend time talking.

† You and Leslie greet each other each Sunday morning and often sit together in church.

† You and Leslie become better acquainted, and you give Leslie your home number.



† You receive a call from Leslie in which you learn that Leslie is feeling overwhelmed by family responsibilities and the move to a new city.


† You listen and tell Leslie about Stephen Ministry. You share how others in similar situations have found encouragement, strength, and help from a Stephen Minister.



† Leslie agrees to your contacting the pastor or Referrals Coordinator about assigning a Stephen Minister, with the understanding that all information will be kept confidential.

† You call the pastor or Referrals Coordinator and share some basic information about Leslie and Leslie's present difficulties without going into a lot of details.

† The Referrals Coordinator calls Leslie. They set up a time to meet to discuss Leslie's situation and to prepare Leslie for Stephen Ministry.



† Leslie meets with the Referrals Coordinator to discuss Stephen Ministry.

† The Referrals Coordinator prayerfully considers Leslie's situation and then assigns a Stephen Minister to meet with Leslie on a regular basis.

† The Stephen Minister contacts Leslie and sets up a time for the two of them to meet.



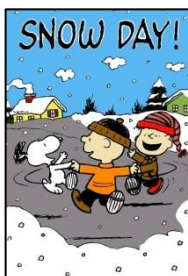
† The Stephen Minister and Leslie meet for the caring visit ...and caring ministry continues from there.



Advent Preparations

In family life, we try to prepare ourselves for the future: our next vacation, our children's education, our retirement. We are careful not to allow ourselves to be caught by surprise so that we can handle any challenges our family may face. The Scripture readings we hear in church during Advent remind us that we are called to be attentive in our spiritual lives as well. We are to wait in hope so that the coming salvation will not catch us unprepared. This means attending to our family's spiritual life as carefully as we attend to other important family matters. As you gather as a family, talk about a time when you received surprise visitors at your house, perhaps a neighbor stopping by or a relative who arrived unannounced. Was your household prepared to receive this surprise guest? What might your family have done differently if you knew ahead of time that this visitor was going to arrive? Jesus told his disciples that no one but the Father knows when the Son of Man will come in glory. Read what Jesus told his disciples about this in Mark 13:33–37. During Advent, we not only prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus, but we also check in to see if we are doing all the things that will keep us ready to receive Jesus when he comes again. Talk to your family about how you are doing in attending to your spiritual life as a family. Recommit yourselves to praying daily, reading Scripture, and staying faithful to God's commandments. Pray together that through this Advent season your family will be more prepared to receive Jesus when he comes again. As a concluding prayer read Paul's words to the Corinthians found in 1 Corinthians 1:3–9, or pray the Lord's Prayer.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/~media/Images/Loyola%20Press/ocf-articles/lesson-plans/advent-all-Family%20Handout%20Advent%20Preparations.ashx?la=en>



WEATHER REMINDER

During the winter when Danville School District is on a delay or cancelled, the church office is normally on the same schedule.

ADVENT SERVICES

Pine Street Lutheran Church will not be holding Advent Services this year. However, Trinity Lutheran Church welcomes you for Worship on Wednesday Evenings at 6:00 PM
December 6th
December 13th
December 20th



Merry Christmas



Pine Street Prayer List

Homebound

Congregation Members

Sherry Achey, Joan Greely,
Burrnell Metzger and
Lillian Stahl

Congregation Members

Hunter Beasley, Viola
DeWald, Pete Dyer, Pat Fry,
Shirley Hawley, Irene Hinkle,
Ann Hummer, Daniel Love,
Tom Martin, Nikki Morgan,
Pauline Nedrow, Jennifer
O'Brien, Sandra Reibsome,
Carl Rice, Jr, Judy Rogowski,
Art Sticklin, and Ryan Versluis.

Friends Of Congregation

Members

Janet Allis, Francis Aikey,
Susie Curry Balonek, James
Bergenstock, Patsy Berns,
Benny Bordner,
John Binder,

Neina Brady, Tom Bady Sr.,
Rhonda Brouse, Robert
Buehner, Albert Churm, Ruth
Crum, Nancy Curry, Kady
Curry Davenport, Cody
Davenport, Mary Ann Davis,
Stan Davis, Idita Dennehy,
Kathryn DiOrto, Cathi
Flanagan, Joan Fulkroad,
Connie Gibbs, Diane Hanson,
Anna Hare, Harold Hauck,
Jonah Inch, Jackie Jackson,
Autumn Kern, Roxanne Kerr,
Alex Knox, Brenda Kile, Kelli
Lambert, Joan Livziey, Nathan
Lubeski, Cheanye McClincy,
Gail Miles, Pastor Brian Moyer,
Debbie Neitz, Emily Sue
Nillson, Elroy Neitz, Britni
Newman, Carl Pennell, Mark
Pontiac, Linda Pritchard, Pat
Tom Puckey, Tim Raup, Ralph
Reedy, Iris Reibsome, Ron

Shipe, Larry Shirk, John
Stoker, Mary Sweetra, Abby
Thomas, Steve Treon, Leann
Ulrick, Rod Vincent, Spencer
Vincent, Kay Warner, Bert
Williams, and Teresa Yatko

Special Military List

Jay Brennan; Robert K. Torbush;
Cody Harper; Matthew Clark;
Johnathan Babb; Nate Hughes;
Nicole and Alejandro
Hernandez; Dillon Donahoe;
Olivia Ward; Sgt. Levi
Gearhart; Jeremy Weikel;
Trevor Stone; Charlie Reedy;
Shawn Dyer; Shane
Bergenstock; SGT Andrew
Bauman; B.J. Dellinger;
Tristan Winter,
Wesley Derrick,
SR Jensen,
Kelsey B.

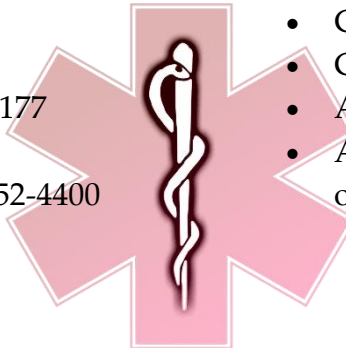
The prayer list is most effective when kept updated. Please fill out an orange card to have someone's name added or removed and put it in the collection plate. Thank you.

*Please send updated Military addresses prayer list updates to Nicole at the office or
Sue Bavior at sueb123@dtd.net*



EMERGENCY HOTLINE NUMBERS

- Al-anon : 800-628-8920
(National Hotline)
- Narcotics Anonymous: 655-7177
- Women's Center: 784-6631
- Gamblers Anonymous: 717-652-4400
- Poison Center: 800-521-6110



- Child Abuse Hotline: 800-932-0313
- Good Samaritan Center: 275-2500
- American Red Cross: 275-1441
- Alcoholic Anonymous: 286-7436
or 654-0488 (Northeast Inter-group)

DECEMBER & JAN. BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Nancy Watts-12/1
 Amelia Eyer-12/2
 Quinn Eyer-12/2
 Tiffany Dyer-12/3
 Danielle Sticklin-12/6
 Meaghan Harner-12/7
 Ryan Versluis-12/9
 Elizabeth O'Brien-12/10
 Talulah Rich-12/10
 Coleen Snover-12/15
 Ryan Styer- 12/16
 Paul Sticklin-12/16
 Harold Hack-12/16
 Stephen Rice-12/17
 Jace Diehl-12/20
 Rex Hepner-12/21
 Desiree Hepner-12/22
 Gisela Reedy-12/22
 Sherry Achey – 12/23

Larry Bohner – 12-23
 Melissa Bohner-12/24
 Viola Dewald-12/24
 Seth Snover – 12/24
 Elizabeth Baylor – 12/25
 Lois Martin-12/26
 Caz Morgan-12/26
 Gloria Hans – 12/26
 Holly Berkey-12/29
 Pete Dyer-12/30
 Tiffany Dyer-12/30
 Nicole Morgan-12/30
 Cora Wydra-12/31
 Amanda Quinn-1/2
 Kelly Boyer Forney-1/2
 Sharron Eyer-1/3
 Allyson Mullen -1/5
 Corey Hummel-1/9
 Paul Dennehy-1/11
 Tristan Beiter-1/13
 John Crumb-1/13

Eric Nelson-1/21
 Pastor Lois-1/26
 Carol Riley-1/26
 Gwyneth Beiter-1/26
 Carol Riley-1/26
 Ronald Kline-1/27
 Martin Fry-1/28
 Christine Koons-1/30
 Samuel Baylor-1/30
 Olivia Sticklin-1/30
 Barbara Ezdebski-1/31



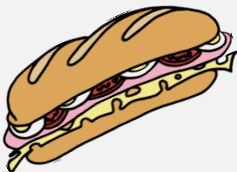
ANNIVERSARIES

Kathi & Thomas Beiter-12/28
 Sue & Marlin Neitz-12/21
 Gerardus Tromp & Helena
 Kuivaniemi -1/3
 Richard & Elizabeth Baylor-1/15
 Harold & Michelle Hack-1/15



Don't forget to sign up for **BULLETINS, ALTAR FLOWERS,**
COMMUNION BREAD & SANCTUARY CANDLE!

The sign up board is at the bottom of the stairs at the Narthex.
 Or feel free to contact Nicole at the office at 570-275-2110 to sign up.



HOAGIES

The next Hoagie making day will be **December 7th**
 with the deadline to
order and pay by December 3rd

The cost is \$4 for regular;
 \$5 for Tuna

(90% of the proceeds goes to our Restoration Project and
 10% goes to a charity or community project).

Thank you to all who purchase, take orders, and deliver hoagies!!

Art of Caring Conversation Class



The Spiritual Care Department of Geisinger Medical Center is offering an “Art of Caring Conversation Class”.

Held on Tuesday evenings
from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

This four-week, twelve-hour training is the basic requirement for persons wishing to volunteer as a Chaplain Assistant in the hospital. Participation in the course is open to everyone who seeks a greater level of skill and comfort in supporting others.

If interested in learning more, call (570) 271-3700.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN MISSION CRISIS FUND

This month's Love offering envelope in your packet. The Good Samaritan Fund was started In January of 1996. Over the years many families in the Montour County/Riverside Area have been helped through a crisis. This could be an illness in the family, job loss, car problems, a move to a new location or separation/divorce. As Good Samaritans, you can help by;

- ★ Prayer: Pray for the families in need, and pray for the Good Samaritan to meet the need.
- ★ Financial Support: Give generously. Every contribution to the fund is needed and appreciated.
- ★ Furniture: Donate your good used furniture/appliances. Dressers, tables, chairs, mattresses and box springs are always needed.
- ★ Clothes: Donate your good used clothing. Drop off clothing at the Center.

The Good Samaritan Mission does all of this exclusively with partners from the communities they serve. Their partners help them remain incredibly efficient and effective. Their partners allow them to help people help themselves...for a day when they won't need them at all. Please use your Love Offering envelope in your envelope packet for your donations to the Good Samaritan Crisis Fund.

The Good Samaritan Mission is currently in need of volunteers!



MEMORIALS



A gift was given to our Memorial Fund in memory of *Felix Olshefski* by:

† Sue & Richard Baylor

A gift was given to our Memorial Fund in memory of *Anna Rice* by:

† Lillian Stahl

† Mary Jane Snyder

† Sue & Richard Baylor

† W/ELCA

A gift was given to our Memorial Fund in memory of *Bill Snyder* by:

† Mary Jane Snyder

A gift was given to our Memorial Fund in memory of *Norman Troutman* by:

† Mary Jane Snyder

A gift was given to our Memorial Fund in memory of *Shirley Gamble* by:

† W/ELCA

A gift was given to our Memorial Fund in memory of *Carolyn Taylor* by:

† W/ELCA

A gift was given to our Memorial Fund in memory of *Nancy Leighow* by:

† W/ELCA

GLScrip Gift Cards order deadline **December 10th**

Order forms can be found on the table in the Narthex or
one can be mailed to you

*They work same as cash, make great gifts
and for everyday use!*

Weis and giant are now only available
through glscrip.

PROCEEDS SUPPORT OUR WEBSITE

<http://www.pinestreetlutheran.org>

Calendar of Events for the ... Women of the ELCA

Quarterly Mtg. – Dec. 5th – 1:30 PM



Preparation Pizza Party



THINGS HAPPENING AROUND TOWN...

Tree Fest – Caldwell Consistory; 150 Market St. Bloomsburg- Adults \$6 Child 12 & under Free
Fridays 4-8 pm, Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 12-4pm

Breakfast with Santa – Ponderosa Farms; Elysburg 8am-10am

Christmas Boulevard – Berwick; Market St. Berwick – 6-10pm

A Christmas Carol ; BTE through December 27th

The Children's Museum, McBride Memorial Library and Thomas Beaver Free Library all have great events going on throughout December. Event including **Mahjong**, **Legos**, **Zen Meditation**, **Bridge**, **Gingerbread houses** and more!

REMEMBERING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHRISTMAS

Many of us can easily get lost in the hustle and bustle of the commercialization of Christmas. The list of wants, the decorations that show up in the stores earlier and earlier every year, and all the shopping make it easy to forget the “*reason for the season*.” Here are some ways this holiday season you and your family can reflect, give thanks, and remember the importance of family.

1. Make a Garland of Gratitude – cut 25 strips of paper to count down the days, and write a blessing on each of them.
2. Exchange homemade gifts with your immediate family.
3. Visit Christmas’ past by looking through old photos and remember loved ones who have passed.
4. Participate in family’s long-standing traditions and / or establish new ones.
5. Adopt a family in need.
6. Each night, pick a holiday card you’ve received. Pray for that family and talk about how they have touched your lives that year.

Current Council Members:

Mary Ann Landi, Pres., Tom Herrington, VP., Nan Leighow, Sec.,

Richard Baylor, Alf Bashore, Michael Dennehy, Roxanne Patton, Roberta Recla,

Mary Jane Snyder, Barbara Wintersteen

Congratulations to our newly elected council members, Art Sticklin and Alf Bashore, who will begin their term January 2018.

Thank you to Tom Herrington and Richard Baylor who will be ending their term January 2018.

Organist: Ronald Kline * **Sexton:** Caz Morgan * **Secretary:** Nicole Cummins

Ministers: All the people of Pine Street

Interim Pastor: The Reverend John Koons * Phone: 570-204-3153

Church Office: 275-2110; **Mon.-Thur.** 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. **Fri.** Closed

Church e-mail: pinestch@ptd.net * **Website:** www.pinestreetlutheran.org

Mission Statement *God’s mission for us at Pine Street Lutheran Church is to share our faith, hope, and love through prayer, discipleship, ministry, and worship.*