

The Parish Press

OF

PINE STREET EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 30 # 12

DECEMBER, 2015

*Christmas Eve
Candlelight Worship
Service*

*Thursday, December 24th
At 6:00 PM*



Christmas Day

informal Worship
at 10:00 AM

Everyone is welcome!

Holden Evening Prayer
Every Wednesday in Advent
December 2, 9, 16 & 23 at 7:00 PM

Bible Study at 6:00 PM
May bring a bagged lunch. (See page 3.)

Council Members

We thank *Joanne Williams* and
Ryan Versluis for serving on Church
Council.

We thank our 2016 Council
Member, *Nancy K. Leighow*,
who will begin her
term in January.

In this Issue:

God

Loves

You

and

So

Do

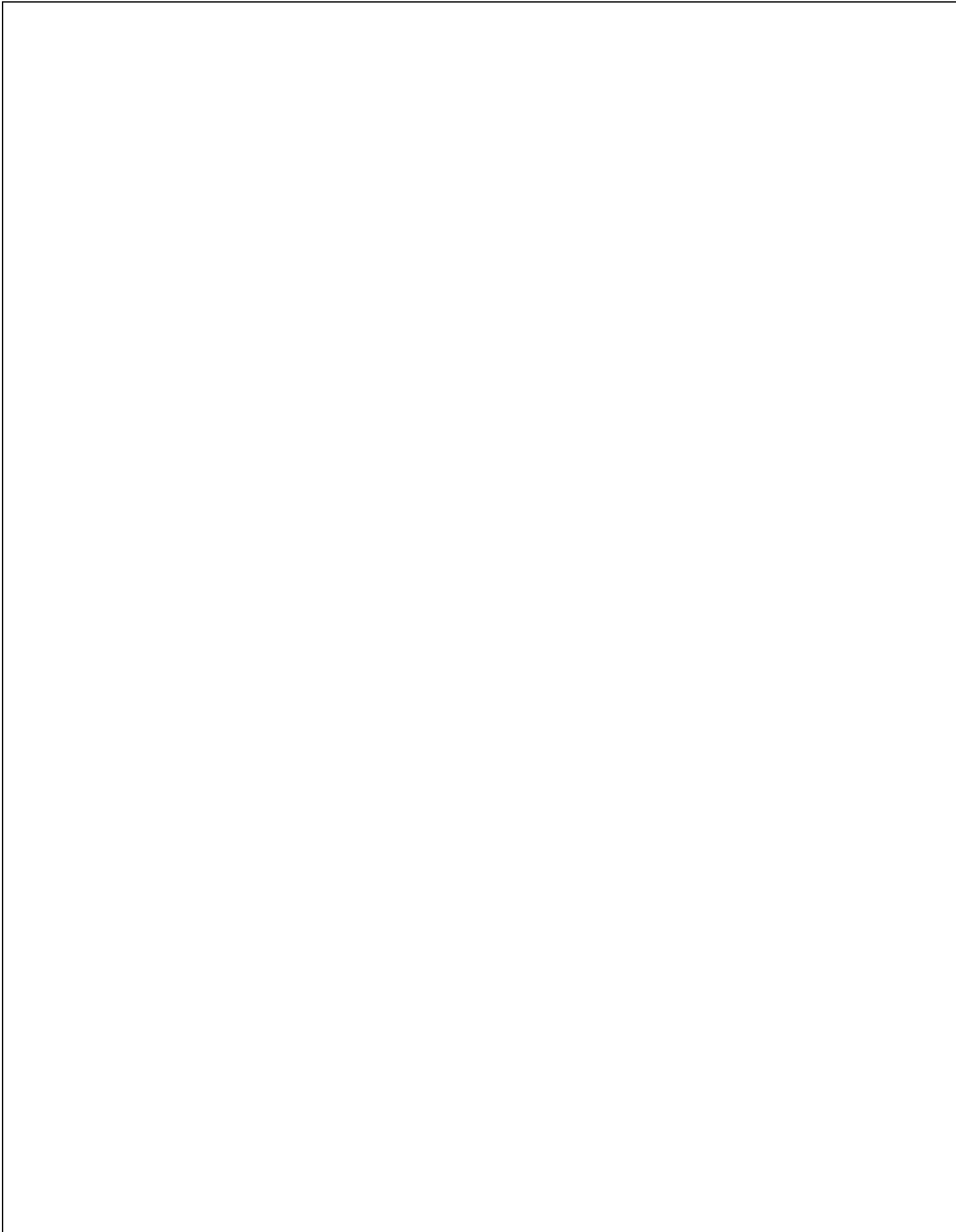
We!

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With This Issue:

December & January Calendars and
Schedules
Love Envelopes in your packet: **Good
Samaritan Crisis Fund**

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED: for Sound System. If anyone is interested, please see Michael Eyer.



NEWS AND NOTES

SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of:

† Joyce Vincent, cousin of Emily Curry, who died November 14, 2015.

Holden Evening Vespers

Wednesday Evenings in Advent, December 2, 9, 16, 23, we will have Evening Prayer, Vespers. This year we will have the very beautiful musical setting written by Marty Haugen, for Holden Village. (An ELCA Retreat Center near Chelan, Washington) Vespers is a service of meditation, prayer, and reflection, with beautiful music, sung by the choir, soloist, presider, and congregation. Holy Communion will be part of the Vespers service. We invite you to come to worship mid-week, immediately after Bible Study. The scripture lessons in these Vespers will be taken from the Prophets, reflecting on their anticipation of the Messiah. This time of worship is a time for preparing for the Incarnation of our God in the birth of the Messiah, Christ our Lord. These informal services will help re-focus on the true meaning of the season, the Birth of Christ. We reach out to our Brothers and Sisters at Trinity Oak Grove, and also at Trinity Lutheran Church, Danville. The Reverend Trevor Hahn will participate in these Vespers.

MARRIAGE

On November 7, 2015, Brittany Koons and Perry Schenck were united in Holy Matrimony by the Reverend John R. Koons.

Brittany is the daughter of Christine and Michael Koons. We wish Brittany and Perry many blessed years together!

Bible Study for Advent

Advent Bible Study will begin on the first Wednesday of Advent, December 2, with a study of the Old Testament lessons from the previous Sundays of Advent. We invite you to bring a sack lunch, or whatever form of dinner you choose, and wrestle together with these scriptures. These lessons challenge us to look at the prophets and why they wrote what they did, and they will challenge us to look at the writing of the prophets to understand where we are being challenged today, in our world. Join us as we study the lessons: Jeremiah 33. 14-16; Malachi 3. 1-4; Zephaniah 3. 14-20; and Hebrews 10. 5-10. Following Bible Study, we will have the opportunity to pray together in Evening Vespers in the Sanctuary, and to receive Holy Communion.

WEATHER REMINDER

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



A STEWARDSHIP MINUTE

*Written by S. William Snover, MD
Financial Secretary*

On November 8th we were privileged to have Rev. Alf Bashore, Sr. as our supply pastor. He preached from the Gospel of Mark 12:38-44 (please read this if you are not familiar with it). Pastor Bashore then asked two pointed questions: "Do you believe that all that you have comes from God?" And "Do you believe that all that you have belongs to God?" The only allowable answers are yes or no.

I am not aware of any "rich" people at Pine Street. I am also not aware of anyone who is going hungry, or is cold or homeless. Likewise, I am not aware of anyone who does not possess some small measure of time and talent. Some of us have more than others, but I suspect that all of us have *enough*. Unlike the woman in the Gospel reading who gave all that she had out of her extreme poverty, can we give from our abundance, can we sing, play bells, read the lessons, light the candles, usher, serve on a committee or ministry, help with altar care, count the offering, bake, cook, organize, teach, visit, carry the cross, assist in serving communion. And the list goes on. These small acts of giving will fill us with large measures of faith and gratitude. Gratitude, is the basis of stewardship.

Thank you God for all you do,
Bill

Pastor's office hours:

Monday: 10:00 – 1:00

Tuesday: Afternoons by appointment

Wednesday: 10:00 – 1:00

Other times can be arranged with Pastor Lois.

Please note that meetings or pastoral calls may interrupt this schedule.

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.

We do all of this exclusively with partners from the communities we serve. Our partners help us remain incredibly efficient and effective. Our partners let us help people help themselves...for a day when they won't need us at all.

Please use your *Love Offering* envelope in your envelope packet for your donations to the **Good Samaritan Crisis Fund**.

Good Samaritan Mission Center
275-2500
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday
9 AM-4:30 PM

THRIVENT CHOICE

We thank *Jack Dyer* and *Sue Neitz* for directing Choice Dollars to our church through the Thrivent Financial Choice Program. We appreciate your generosity!

Newsletter Deadline

The Deadline for the next edition of the *Newsletter* is **DECEMBER 15 for the JANUARY, 2016 Newsletter**. All articles submitted are subject to editing; typewritten or e-mailed articles are especially appreciated. It may be necessary to hold articles submitted after the deadline date until the next month.

FOOD BANK NEEDS

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 from the list below or any other non-perishable food item. All donations are distributed to those in need in our community.



Dec: Tuna and Canned Meats (or any other non-perishable food items)

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

The Danville-Riverside Food Bank, which is a non-profit volunteer organization, is open to anyone in need from 10:00 AM to 1:00 P.M. the 1st Saturday of the month at Shiloh United Church of Christ, 500 Bloom Street in Danville, and the 1st Tuesday of each month at St. Peter's Methodist Church in Riverside. Volunteers are always needed. Please call Marysue Christian at 570-275-5403 or email her at marysu@ptd.net for more information.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Charles McWilliams (90*)
- 3 - Tiffany Dyer
- 6 - Danielle Sticklin Bloom
- 7 - Meaghan Harner
- 9 - Ryan Versluis
- 10 - Elizabeth O'Brien; Talulah Rice
- 16 - Harold Hack; Paul Sticklin
- 17 - Stephen Rice
- 18 - Caz Morgan
- 21 - Rex Hepner, Jr.

- 22 - Desiree Hepner; Gisela Reedy (86*)
- 23 - Sherry Achey; Larry Bohner
- 24 - Viola DeWald (88*)
- 25 - Baby Jesus; Elizabeth Baylor
- 26 - Pastor Lois Martin
- 29 - Holly Patterson
- 30 - Pete Dyer
- 31 - Melissa Bohner; Cora Wydra



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 21 - Sue and Marlin Neitz
- 28 - Kathi and Thomas Beiter

- * Charles McWilliams;
404 Galaxy St.; DuBois, PA 15801
- * Gisela Reedy
Ave B; Box 139; Riverside, PA 17868
- * Viola DeWald
301 Green St.; Danville, PA 17821

W/ELCA Calendar of Events



- ♥ **December**
1: Advent Quarterly 1:30 PM (SH)
- ♥ **January 5:** Ruth Circle [Muffin Man] 11:30 AM
- ♥ **January 6:** Martha Circle [Muffin Man] 6:00 PM; Jean Crumb has the lesson.

Please note: January and February Circle Meetings will be cancelled if bad weather and will not be rescheduled.



The Toys for Tots

donation box is in the narthex for your unwrapped toys and gifts to help kids have a better Christmas! The Deadline date is, **Sunday, December 13!** Thank you from the Marines!

Pine Street Prayer List December, 2015



HOMEBOUND AND SPECIAL PRAYER LIST:

Kathy Thomas; Sherry Achey; Burrnell Metzger; Anna and Carl Rice; Eleanor Wray; Sam Harrison; Shirley Gamble; Charles (Sonny) McWilliams; Marie Adams; Nelenia Swank; Lillian Stahl; D. Jean Cope; Paul Gemberling; Lois Oberdorf and Jane Beagle.

CONGREGATION MEMBERS:

Joan Greely; Shirley Hawley; Ann Hummer; Hunter Beasley; Norman Troutman; Judy Rogowsky; Jack Dyer; Aggie Oyster; Charlotte Mitchell; Pauline Nedrow; Jennifer O'Brien; Nikki Morgan; Carl Rice, Jr.; Ann Marie Binder; Marvin Fry; and Art Sticklin.

FRIENDS OF CONGREGATION

MEMBERS: Keith Knorr; Lucille Appleman; Charlie Dutt; Kay Swank; Idita Dennehy; Jeff Anselmo; Lois and John Clark; Josiah S.; Pat Whitenight; Benny Bordner; Bert Williams; Lew Riley; Gary Leighow; John Butkofsky; Brandon Cooper; Steve Treon; Stan Davis; Roxanne Kerr; Doug Dawson; Pastor Brian Moyer; Brenda Kile; Connie Gibbs; Patsy Berns; Shane Einsig; Mike Shoemaker; Rhonda Brouse; Terri Beyer; Pete Zimmerman; Tim Raup; John Stoker; Daymon Davis; Ralph Reedy; Raymond Neitz; Elroy Neitz; Emily Stookey; Cathi Flanagan; Charlie Meginley; Pastor Robert Loughborough; Nancy Curry; Kathryn DiOrio; Mark Pontiac; Brenda Lee Lunger; Abby Thomas; Cindy Gearhart; Rod Vincent; Nathan Lubeski; K.M.L.; Joan Livziey; Spencer Vincent; Autumn Kern; and Emily Sue Nillson.

SPECIAL MILITARY LIST:

Matthew Clark; Johnathan Babb; Nate Hughes; Nicole and Alejandro Hernandez; Dillon Donahoe; Olivia Ward; Sgt. Levi Gearhart; Sgt. David Gregory;

Jordan Zander; Oliver Rice; Trevor Patterson; Jeremy Weikel; Robert Carpenter; Trevor Stone; Charlie Reedy; Shawn Dyer; Shane Bergenstock; SSGT Andrew Bauman; CPL Jason Lee Smith; B.J. Dellinger; Tim Mekosh; CPT Barry Troy; CPT Steven Black Barr; Tristan Winter.

Please use an orange pew card for Prayer requests & removals.

PRAYER LIST UPDATES

As situations change, prayer is most effective when requests are current and regularly updated. Therefore, we would appreciate it if you would check over the prayer list, and if there is someone that you put on that list that is doing better and can be removed, please contact Deb at office. You can notify the church office by emailing Deb at pinestch@ptd.net or by calling from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Mon-Thur. at 570-275-2110. Please keep this in mind when you put other relatives and friends on our Prayer List.

To activate the Prayer Chain, contact numbers are: 387-1795 or 441-5643. No Emails please. (To have someone's name included on the weekly Prayer List, please email or call Deb separately at the church office at 275-2110 or pinestch@ptd.net).



Fellowship Menus

DECEMBER

Dec. 7: Hot Dogs, Rolls and Baked Beans
Dec. 14: Covered Dish
Dec. 21: Pasta Casserole & Cold Salads
Dec. 28: Macaroni & Cheese & Tossed Salads

Please sign up to host a Fellowship Hour for your church family.

It would be ideal if each ministry as well as families could take a turn hosting.

Monthly Financial Stewardship report for October, 2015

In 2015 we need to **average \$2,445** per week in giving to assure that we are able to meet all of our budgeted expenses. Our expense budget is something that we adopted and committed to.

Our weekly average church attendance during October was **64**. Our total giving to the General Fund totaled \$8,097, an average of **\$2,024** per week.

Our year to date attendance was **2999 (70/week)** and our year to date total giving was **\$96,322, (\$2,240/ week.)** We ended the month **\$8,813 behind** in the giving that we will need to meet our budgeted expenses.

Can each of us commit to being even more faithful in our attendance and support? If you cannot attend as regularly as you'd like, please consider making regular contributions through the automatic *Simply Giving* program. Many of our members have stated that they have been "thinking about" making the commitment. Now is the time to "get around to it" and join those who have taken the step. Presently we receive about 35% of our needs through this program. See Bill Snover to enroll.

LIBRARY DONATIONS

Thanks to Chris Linn, our church neighbor, for the donation of two books edited by her relative, John E. Knight.

The Pilgrim's Journey by Paul Bunyan, and *The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas à Kempis, can be found in our church library. Look for them and other resources to enhance your home study and devotions.

Prowlers were seen behind the church trying doors.

Please make sure all the doors are locked (try them after locking) and lights out when leaving the buildings!
Thank you.

Simply Giving is:
.....the most convenient way to send your tithe to the church.

- *No more writing checks!*
- *No more remembering to bring your envelope!*
- *No more concern about your tithe if you can't be in church!*
- *It's Simply Giving! It's all done for you!*

See Bill Snover to answer your questions and to sign up.

Financial Status of the Restoration Project:

(as of October 31, 2015)

Total cost of the exterior restoration project: \$78,643

Donations received in October: \$345 from giving
398 from hoagie sales
\$743 total received

Total on hand: \$ 3,503

Loan balance: \$16,888

RIDES AVAILABLE

Rides are available for people for urgent medical care.

Volunteer drivers are:

- ♦ Sue & Dick Baylor (279-4766)
- ♦ Bill & Mary Jane Snyder (275-4083)
- ♦ Bill & Jeannie Snover (672-3055)

Call any of the above numbers or call the church office from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at 275-2110.

Available for Pick-up on the table in the narthex. The most recent copies of:

- Upper Susquehanna Synod Ark, which includes *Currents* and Camp Mt. Luther *Camel Tracks*.
- *Christ in Our Home* Devotional Booklets small and large editions
- *Spark Family-Splash* in God's Word magazine
- *The Lutheran Magazine*—selected issues
They are free while supplies last—take one for your family. If more copies of USS Ark are needed, please ask Deb.

The Thank You Corner

- ♦ **Volunteers & Members** – for everything you do all year long whether it be a worship server, a church ministry member, an office volunteer, or someone who visits our shut-ins and those who minister to other brothers or sisters....we thank you for your grace and love!
- ♦ **To ALL** who ordered hoagies, to all who get orders and thank you to all who help make and deliver them.

GLScrip Gift Card Order

Gift Cards make great Christmas gifts!

You can earn money for the church when you buy gas, school supplies, or any purchasing you need to do by purchasing gift cards. **Consider using gift cards when shopping for essentials and extras. Weis and Giant are now only available through GLScrip. Mostly everyone dines out and buys gas—consider getting gift cards to use.**

They work same as cash!!!

ORDER DEADLINE DEC. 13

PROCEEDS SUPPORT OUR WEBSITE! CHECK IT OUT AT WWW.PINESTREETLUTHERAN.ORG

Directions from Danville to Trinity Oak Grove:

8:30 AM Worship time

Near Liberty Valley Golf Course on Rt. 642, turn right onto Klondike Rd. Just after going under the I-80 bridges, turn onto the first left. This is Oak Grove Rd. The Church and pavilion are at the crossroads 4-way stop.

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$60 to Geisinger in support of the Marie Lamey Endowment. As our partner, you help us on the quest to provide the best possible healthcare experience, with lasting benefits for each patient, family, and community we serve.

Our goal is to treat every patient we see as if they are family members. This means committing to programs and services of the highest quality, efficiency, privacy, and

provided with compassion – and we feel privileged to be the recipient of your generosity.

Your commitment is inspiring and we will keep you closely apprised of the advances made thanks to your support.

Sincerely,
Jeramie Barber
AVP, Advancement
Geisinger Foundation

Dear Members of Pine Street,

Your meal you made for us was delicious and we had plenty left to send “doggy bags” for our students. The children cleaned up their plates also.

Thank you for helping us have a successful “Getting Ahead” class. Also, thank you to Sue and Jane.

Sandy O'Rourke

Thanks to all my Pine Street family for their prayers and well wishes for Brittany and Perry.

Their wedding was beautiful. Please continue to pray for blessing through their marriage.

Love,
Christine & Michael Koons

NEW ACOLYTES

A very special Thank You to our new acolytes: Allen Snyder, Devan Beyer and Thomas Martin. We are grateful for your willingness to serve our Lord in worship.

SPONSORS

Please help sponsor these important items for our Worship Services for honoring or memorializing loved ones and friends. Thank you!

- **Bulletin sponsor are needed** for December 20, 24 (Christmas Eve), 25 (Christmas Day) and 27.
- Altar Flowers are full.
- **Communion Bread sponsors are needed for** December 13, 20 and 27.
- The Sanctuary Candle is full. Thank you to all sponsors.

- \$20.00 per week for **Bulletins**;
- \$36.00 per week for **Flowers**
- \$10.00 per week for **Wine (filled for the year)**
- \$15.00 per month for the **Sanctuary Candle**.

Please sign up on the sheets on the bulletin board in the narthex. You can pay any time up to the date of your choice. Just use a blue pew envelope and mark what it is for and put it in the plate, you can mail it, drop it in the mail slot in the office door, or you can add it to your regular envelope and put it in the plate or mail—just be sure to write on what it is for on the envelope. Thank you!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

2015 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Interim Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Lois Martin

Co-Treasurers:

Roxanne Patton & Roberta Recla

Richard Baylor

Darlis Dyer

Alfred Bashore

Thomas Herrington, President

Mary Ann Landi, Vice President

William Snover, Council Secretary

Mary Jane Snyder

Ryan Versluis

Joanne Williams

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CAMP MOUNT LUTHER

Mt. Luther, of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, is an extension of the congregation's ministry in the unique setting that the camp provides. Children, youth and adults learn, worship, witness and serve within a Christ centered Lutheran tradition. All persons regardless of race, creed, color, or special needs are welcome to attend this camp of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Get more information at:

Camp Mt. Luther is online at

www.campmountluther.org

Good Samaritan Mission Center

275-2500

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday
9 AM-4:30 PM



*As you celebrate the
glory of this
miraculous season, may
your home be filled
with love, peace, and
joy. May these
blessings follow you
and your family
throughout the
New Year!*

WEBSITE

www.pinestreetlutheran.org

And, if you haven't registered on the site, please do so!

***Check it out!* Alf Bashore is updating the site please get material and announcements to him.**

THANK YOU!

TRANSFORMATIONAL MINISTRY

Our Purpose Statement:

God's mission and our purpose for Pine Street Lutheran Church is to share our faith, hope and love through prayer discipleship, ministry and worship.

Guiding principles:

1. We pray daily for guidance and discernment of God's will for us.
2. With guidance from the Holy Spirit, we study the Bible and proclaim the Good News in our church, community and world.
3. Trusting God, we serve all people following the example of Jesus.
4. We gather as one body in Christ to proclaim our faith, glorify God, and be filled with God's Holy Spirit.