

# Parish Press

December 2016 / Monthly Newsletter of Pine Street Evangelical Lutheran Church

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**December 5<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 PM

Community Singers Concert  
At Maria Hall

**December 7<sup>th</sup>**

5:30 PM - Bible Study

7:00 PM Holden Evening Prayer

**December 12<sup>th</sup>**

Community Singers Concert 6:30 PM  
Maria Joseph Manor

**December 14<sup>th</sup>**

5:30 PM - Bible Study

7:00 PM Holden Evening Prayer

**December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

5:30 PM - Bible Study

7:00 PM Holden Evening Prayer

**December 19<sup>th</sup>**

Community Singers Concert - 7pm  
at St. Peter's Methodist Church

**December 24<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 PM

Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service

**December 25<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 Am

Christmas Day Service  
*Community Welcome!*

Merry Christmas from Pine Street Evangelical Lutheran Church !



## A Note From Pastor Martin

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ;

*Advent is upon us, are we prepared for this season of preparation? First, we will feast on the food on the holiday of Thanksgiving, then some will shop, some will go deer hunting, and some will begin preparing for Christmas. Some will climb up to the attic or down to the basement, and pull out the decorations of the season, trees, lights, blown-up Santas, reindeer, snowmen and other assorted characters. How will we ever find the time to do all that is expected of us in these four weeks? How will we find the resources of energy, money, and still look like the cozy pictures of contentment that appear on some the Christmas cards?*

*The preparations are many as we begin this 'holiday season'. There are frantic rushes to prepare for special meals, parties, purchasing of gifts, wrapping them just right, and then, for some, coordinating family schedules and making travel plans so that those on the list get to be visited, their decorations and tree seen with*

*Continued on page 2*

## Thank You . . .

Thank you to the lady's group for purchasing the 2 carpets for the children's Sunday School room's and the siding for the garage. The Chairs in the Fellowship Hall and the Conference room have been donated anonymously. The chairs are a very welcome addition to the spaces. We are grateful to all the donors.

complimentary 'oohs and aahs.', and asking sure that 'family time' gets into the schedule.

The truth is that for some, family tensions will increase, feelings get hurt, loved ones who have died will be missed, loneliness and depression will set in, and the pressure to give what is expected will stress already strained finances.

And, in addition, but primarily, we have entered the holy season of Advent. Advent means 'to come' or 'coming'. What does the church have in mind by setting this season apart while the rest of the world celebrates Christmas now? For that matter, what does God have in mind for the church, for God's people, during this season when we prepare to receive, as for the first time, the Incarnation of our God?

With all of these preparations, it seems impossible to accomplish our tasks. Alone, we cannot do it. The Word of God reminds us that what we are really preparing for is no less than the coming of our God, in human form, the Word made flesh. We find comfort from the prophets who gave the message about the coming of the Messiah. Readings from Scripture remind us that God was also preparing the world for the coming of the Messiah through the prophets and in the Psalms.

The matter of most importance is watching for God's activity in our daily activity, God's love, God's grace, God's faithfulness. We are called to sharpen our awareness and maintain

a prayerful life as we watch and wait for the coming of the Christ. The Old Testament scripture for the four Sundays of Advent come the book of Isaiah. Repentance and hope characterize the gospel readings for this season. As we begin our preparations, enjoy our parties and the musical and drama events of the season, let us not forget that the Incarnation, the birth of Jesus, was the in-breaking of the Kingdom of God into the world. Let us not forget that our salvation began with the decision of God and the coming of God in the flesh.

Prepare the way of the Lord, rejoice, for the Word was made flesh and dwells among us. These words of the gospel on Christmas are good news, words of hope and joy. May you and your loved ones enjoy and delight in this season of busyness and preparation, of repentance and forgiveness, of good will and peace. May the Christ dwell in your heart and bring you peace,

Rev. Dr. Lois D.  
Martin ~Intentional  
Interim Pastor



***Happy Birthday to  
Pastor Lois on 12/26!***

### **Opportunities To Minister In This New Year For Your New Resolutions To Serve.**

***New Year's Resolutions? We have the perfect opportunities! Pray that God will help you discern where you can use your gifts in serving this Church: among the many Ministries, in Choir, Bells, Serving in Worship. Thank You!***



## Stewardship Meditation for December 2016

Written by S. William Snover, MD  
Financial Secretary

“And the word became flesh and dwelt  
among us, and we beheld His glory...”  
(John 1:14)

As children, we approached Christmas  
with the excited anticipation of the gifts we  
were about to receive. As adults, we  
approach the season with excitement, often  
mixed with dread at the expense and fear  
that we won't be able to satisfy the wants  
of our children, whatever age they may be.  
Yet we have already received the greatest  
gift of all, and our giving at Christmas is  
meant to be a reflection of our gratitude to  
God for the miraculous gift He has already  
given to us, our redemption through Christ.  
Jesus is “the reason for the season”, and as  
long as we remember that, we accept that  
whatever we give or receive will pale in  
comparison to God's gift to us.

Let us give out of gratitude, not out of  
obligation. Let us give as a sign of love for  
one another and out of love for our Lord  
and Savior. Let us never forget that  
whatever we give, it will never measure up  
to what we have already received. Give of  
your time, your talent, your ability and  
your treasure, knowing that while it will  
never look like enough from our selfish  
perspective, it will be received by God as  
an abundance born out of gratitude and  
humility. Merry Christmas to all!



### Financial Status of the Restoration Project: (as of October 31, 2016)

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

Donations received in August: **\$848 total**  
**\$344**(from giving)  
**\$504** (from hoagie sales)

Total on hand: \$ 7,975

Loan balance: \$10,613

### Monthly Financial Stewardship report for October 2016:

In 2016, we need to *average* **\$2,679** 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 average weekly giving through 47  
weeks of 2016 is **\$2,146**. Year to date we  
are **\$25,042 behind** in giving that is needed  
to meet our budgeted expenses.

**If you cannot attend as regularly as you'd  
like, please consider making regular  
contributions through the automatic  
*Simply Giving* program. Intentional  
regular giving through the *Simply Giving*  
program demonstrates your commitment  
and ongoing support of your church. See  
Bill Snover for enrollment information.**

*Merry Christmas*



## CONFIRMATION CLASS NEWS



On Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> the Confirmation Class: **Gwyneth Beiter, Cara Bohner, Danielle Sticklin, Cora Wydra, Josh Boyer and Jimmy Bergenstock**, along with their parents and friends finished a Halloween Float. They were treated to a light supper and good treats, then out into the darkening evening. Candy for tossing was emptied into a huge container and, even though the weather was cold and rainy, away they went into the parade! The laughter and good fun was

not dampened by the steady drizzle, the candy was dispersed to the faithful who lined the parade route in Danville. For their efforts, they won third prize! Thanks to all who helped with the truck, decorations, and food!

On **Reformation Sunday evening at 5:30**, Pine Street Confirmation Class welcomed the Confirmation Classes from Trinity Lutheran Church, Danville, and St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Danville. The three classes met in the Fellowship Hall and were fed a light meal by the Hospitality Ministry. The group gathered to begin to learn about each other as we study our churches and grow in our spiritual and faith formation during the time of Confirmation. In recognition of the Commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, questions were asked of the group regarding what we know

about each other, what we study, how we are alike and different. A lively discussion grew from the questions. The group expressed interest in doing more events together.

At the end of the meeting, three lists of thirty-two points of agreement (from the document Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist), between the Roman Catholic Church and the Lutheran Church were taken to each church. Because of the rain, they would not be posted on the church doors as originally planned. These points signify new agreements between the Churches.

*I have only been in the office a few short weeks, yet I have gotten a good understanding of how your church office is run and how a Lutheran worship service is put together. More importantly, I have learned how the people of your congregation come together for each other every single day. It has been awe-inspiring and heartwarming to see how you all work together to hold each other up on a daily basis. Whether it's to help 'figure things' out when a question arises, provide a shoulder to lean on (or a good laugh) or somewhere for someone just to "be". I certainly didn't come into this position knowing everything about working in a church, however it hasn't taken me long to know that I am excited to know I have the opportunity to work at this specific job in this particular church!*

*Thank you for the opportunity - I look forward to working with you all!*

*Nicole Cummins*

★  
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  
& it just  
might inspire  
them to do  
the same.





## Christmas Candlelight Service at Susquehanna University

On Tuesday, December 6 The Annual Christmas Candlelight Service will be held at Susquehanna University. This year will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this annual event. Choirs and Musicians, President Lemons and President-Elect Green will participate in the readings of sacred scripture.

The event begins at 7:30 and will be taped by WVIA –TV for re-broadcast during 2017 in commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. Please arrive early as seats fill quickly, there is no charge for this sacred service.

### ADVENT STUDY and WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Advent, a time for waiting, preparing, seeking. This year there are four Wednesdays of Advent. Each Wednesday we will have opportunity for study, and worship.

We will gather at 5:30 in the Social Hall, bring your own 'carry in' meal. Study will begin as we eat. At 6:45 we will adjourn to prepare for Vespers in the Sanctuary at 7:00. We will pray the Holden Evening Prayer. This beautiful service is one of prayer, quiet time, reflection, and song.

This meaningful worship service is a small retreat from the busy times of the season and recalls for us the true meaning of Advent. Please plan to join us

Other Opportunities for ongoing study and worship:

Father James Lease, St. Joseph Catholic Church; Pastor Trevor Hahn, Trinity Lutheran Church, Danville; and

Pastor Lois Martin have agreed to invite our congregations to worship together, and to reflect on our unity in Christ. We have agreed to participate as we are able in the worship opportunities of each other's churches during Advent.

This year we will use the theme of our Thirty-Two Points of Agreement between our two Church Bodies. We will begin in Advent with the twelve points of agreement regarding Church. The schedule is as follows: Sunday evenings 5:30, Vespers: St. Joseph's Catholic Church; Wednesday evenings 5:30 study, 7:00 Vespers, Pine Street Lutheran Church; Thursday evenings 6:00, Vespers Trinity Lutheran, Danville. Each week one point of agreement will be highlighted. Please come to join us as we declare our unity in Christ.

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.

## Pine Street Prayer List December 2016

### HOMEBOUND AND SPECIAL PRAYER LIST:

Sherry Achey, D., Jean Cope,  
Shirley Gamble, Sam  
Harrison, Ann Hummer,  
Burrnell Metzger, Lois  
Oberdorf, Anna and Carl  
Rice, Lillian Stahl, and Kathy  
Thomas.

### CONGREGATION MEMBERS:

Hunter Beasley, Jean  
Crumb, Marvin Fry,  
Joan Greely, Ann  
Hummer, Nancy A.  
Leighow, Daniel Love,  
Nikki Morgan, Pauline  
Nedrow, Jennifer  
O'Brien, Carl Rice, Jr,  
and Art Sticklin.



### FRIENDS OF CONGREGATION MEMBERS:

Susie Curry Balonek,  
James Bergenstock,  
Maryanne Berkey,  
Patsy Berns, Benny  
Bordner, Rhonda  
Brouse Cathy  
Butkofsky, Albert  
Churm; Nancy Curry,  
Kady Curry Davenport,  
Idita Dennehy,  
Kathryn DiOrio, Cathi  
Flanagan, Cindy  
Gearhart, Connie  
Gibbs, Bill Gibson;  
John Herrington,  
Linda and Gary Inch,  
Jackie Jackson,  
Autumn Kern,  
Roxanne Kerr, Brenda  
Kile, Kelli Lambert,  
Joan Livziey, Nathan  
Lubeski, Pastor Brian  
Moyer, Debbie Neitz,  
Emily Sue Nillson,  
Elroy Neitz, Theresa

Conrad Norman, Jaide  
Nungesser, Mark  
Pontiac, Tim Raup,  
Ralph Reedy, Ron  
Shipe, Pauline Snyder,  
John Stoker, Mary  
Sweetra, Abby Thomas,  
Steve Treon, Rod  
Vincent, Spencer  
Vincent, Kay Warner,  
and Bert Williams.

### SPECIAL MILITARY LIST:

Jay Brennan; John Matunis;  
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; SSGT  
Andrew Bauman; B.J.  
Dellinger; Tristan Winter.

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Reminder There will be **NO** FELLOWSHIP MEALS served on

† New Years Sunday  
† Easter Sunday  
† Mothers Day

† Fathers Day  
† Memorial Day Sunday  
† July 4 Sunday

† Labor Day Sunday  
† Thanksgiving Sunday  
† Christmas Sunday

### EMERGENCY HOTLINE NUMBERS

★ Alcoholic Anonymous: 286-7436 or 654-0488 (Northeast Inter-group)  
★ 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  
★ Food Bank, American  
Red Cross: 275-1441



## TABLE TALK – coming in January

**What Is This?** As we continue this year, 2017, to commemorate the Anniversary of the Reformation, we will gather on Wednesdays at 5:30 to eat a simple meal together and to discuss matters of religious importance facing life each day. While this might seem like a weighty matter, it is a weighty matter. There is little opportunity for one to voice one's questions, to query of each other, and of the Bible, God's Word, regarding current situations, and the understanding of living life now..... In the style of Martin Luther, we will gather around a table and discuss religious matters. We will use the Word of God, the lessons for the coming Sunday, as the opening of our conversations.

Martin Luther's Table Talk is a compendium of his lectures that resulted from students, friends, scholars gathering around his table in his *Lutherhaus* to discuss matters of importance in their day.

Please join us as we discuss matters that are important for the living of our days with God and God's Word in the Season of Epiphany, 2017.

### DECEMBER & JAN. BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

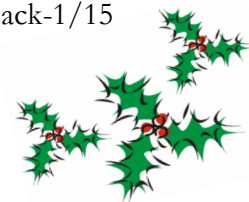
Danielle Sticklin-12/6  
Meaghan Harner-12/7  
Ryan Versluis-12/9  
Elizabeth O'Brien-12/10  
Talulah Rich-12/10  
Coleen Snover-12/15  
Paul Sticklin-12/16  
Harold Hack-12/16  
Stephen Rice-12/17  
Jace Diehl-12/20  
Rex Hepner-12/21  
Desiree Hepner-12/22  
Gisela Reedy-12/22  
Sherry Achey – 12/23  
Larry Bohner – 12-23  
Melissa Bohner-12/24  
Viola Dewald-12/24

Elizabeth Baylor – 12/25  
Caz Morgan-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  
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  
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



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