



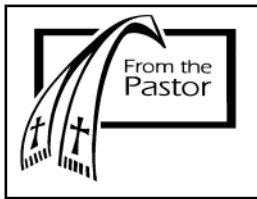
The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 69, Number 11

December 2017

Internet Web Site: www.stmattspringfield.org



From Our Pastor

Connect
Care
eQuip
Cultivate

What do you know of the story of your birth? Do you know where you were born? On what day? Do you know the hour and the minute? Were you born in a hospital? Do you know which one? Was anyone other than your mother present? Was there a doctor, a nurse, a midwife? Was your father in the room? Your grandparents? How many inches and how many pounds were you?

After you were born, what happened? Were you healthy and well? Or did you need some extra care? Did you go straight home? Did you move in with grandparents? Were you kept away from everyone for weeks or months? Or did your parents take you out and about right away? Did you have your own room? Or did you stay with a sibling? Or in with your mom? Were you baptized right away? Or was it some months, or years, before you were claimed as God's child as well? Where were you baptized? Who officiated?

How do you know what you know of your birth story? Who told the story to you? Your mother? Your father? Your grandparents? Siblings, uncles, aunts? Did each person tell you the same things, or did the stories vary a bit? Did you get a fuller picture of those days and weeks because more than one person told the story? Did you learn over time that some of the story is family legend, and may not be factual, yet still rings true because of what it says about your family? Are there still parts of the story you do not know? Do you wish you did? Or is what you do know sufficient?

The story of someone's life is always more complex than we can fully imagine. Even when we think we know it all, suddenly a friend or family member shares a piece we had never heard, and sometimes that can give an entirely new perspective on all we thought we knew. This is true for every life; our own, our loved ones, the neighbor we don't know, even the life of Jesus.

"Now the birth of Jesus the Christ took place in this way," says Matthew. "In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus," begins Luke. "In the beginning was the Word," declares John. Each of these early writers includes something different about the birth, life and ministry of Jesus. Mark records no story of Jesus' birth. Instead he begins with Jesus' public ministry at about thirty years of age. From reading them all we get a sense of the event that none of us had witnessed. We get a sense of the life that came into this world.

We wish we had more details. We wish we knew for sure what did happen and what is family legend. And yet it is a story we love to hear again and again. It is a story we love to retell, because, just like our birth stories, it gives a sense of who we are, too.

As we enter another December, we look forward to the chance to hear, to sing, to tell the story of the One whose birth among us has given us all our life, and our new life in God. We rejoice in the telling. We rejoice in being a part of this family, of this story of life. We do not have all the details, but what has been shared is enough to know the nature of the One we worship, and adore. It is enough for us to know that he who was born in Bethlehem, lived, died and rose for us. It is enough for us to know that one day he will come again in power and glory to take us home to live with God forever.

This is why we gather to pray, to worship, to read again the stories of Jesus' life. It is why we come together to connect with God and with each other. It is why we care for others with the care we have received from God. It is why we equip our children with the knowledge of this story, so they, too can be a part of the story. It is why we cultivate generosity of spirit, that we might reflect the Spirit of Him who comes to us in and through the story.

This Advent and Christmas season come and hear again the story of the One who is born in Bethlehem, who gives life and identity to you, and to the world, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Blessed be God,
Pr. Karl M. Richard

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The Vicar's View: Forever Christmas

It's mid-November as I write this article, about ten days before Thanksgiving. And yet, I've already heard Christmas music in a few stores, and watched as wreaths, tinsel, and other decorations were put up in grocery stores and restaurants. It really seems like the holiday season starts earlier and earlier each year, doesn't it? Next, I'm sure we'll have Old Saint Nick at the tail end of our Halloween parades rather than our Thanksgiving parades!

It irks me a bit, yes, but part of me also kind of welcomes it all. As a liturgical denomination, we Lutherans are used to following the story of Christ around the year. Waiting for his birth and return during Advent; commemorating Jesus' presentation at the Temple and his baptism; hearing about his early ministry and miracles; preparing for his last week in Jerusalem, his betrayal, and his crucifixion during Lent; celebrating his resurrection during the Easter season; commemorating the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples and to us during the very long season of Pentecost. I honestly love that aspect of Lutheranism, that we cycle around with the liturgical seasons until we come back to Advent again.

But I think there's a danger there too, a danger to forget about the other seasons and the biblical events and truths they point to when we're not in those particular seasons. During Advent and Christmas, we wait for Christ and celebrate his birth. We remember that the God who created the earth and is enthroned in the heavens came to earth to save us and shared our everyday, earthly existence. Remembering this love that God showed for us in the incarnation of the Word, waiting for Jesus' return to restore all things, is not something we need to confine to this church season. Every day, we worship the God in heaven who was born in the manger; every day, we thank the God who created us and was born a human to the Virgin Mary; every day, we bring our prayers and pains to the God who lived and suffered with us; every Sunday, we gather together to partake in the life of the God who continues to come to us in the Scriptures, in the waters of baptism, and in the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper. So, as strange as it may be to see Christmas decorations out in early November, I pray that they will be a reminder to you of the daily truth that God came to earth, and continues to come, out of love for each of us. Have a blessed Christmas season, everyone!

Vicar Daniel Smith

Christian Education

Our fall classes have just about wrapped up! For the last three months, we've been having a great time learning about God and the Bible with each other! In November, students and their families brought food items for the needy for our Thanksgiving Food Drive. They also brought their leftover Halloween candy, which went to the children of Silver Springs-Martin Luther School. We are

now in the season of Advent and coming up quickly on Christmas. During Advent, we hope to be providing families with opportunities to celebrate Advent in their homes during the week (in addition to during Sunday worship), so be on the lookout for those! As mentioned in the last newsletter, our schedule for the Hanging of the Greens and the Christmas pageant will be a bit different this year. After the worship services on the 17th of December, we will be having a luncheon in Elbert Hall, followed by the usual decorating of the church and a carol sing in the afternoon. The Christmas pageant, starring the youth of this congregation, will be put on during the 5:00 worship service on Christmas Eve. We hope you can take part in all of these exciting events!

God's Blessings for your Holiday Season,

Vicar Dan Smith

#PracticalEvangelism: Facebook 101

“Don't be pushy!” “Don't talk about religion at work.” “You have become a holy roller, huh?” These are statements that you may hear or say to yourself when a conversation switches to religion. These statements create a mindset that you almost have to hide the fact that you even went to service on Sunday. Let us challenge this mindset! Recognize that evangelism is tough in today's modern world. There are ways to politely, even passively, combat these societal pressures. Jesus Christ, the Lutheran Faith, and Saint Matthew has a lot to offer the world. We can't be afraid to let the world know. These monthly articles will try to provide some ideas or tools to help you spread the word. All we ask is that you participate, provide feedback, and be prepared to step out of your comfort zone on occasion. If you have methods that work for you, share them with an Evangelism Committee member so that we can include them in the future. Let's work together!

The Christmas season is here and Saint Matthew is a wonderful place to be during the holidays. We will have a lot of fun activities centered around the story of the birth of Christ. Let's try and share that with our friends and family. When you see an event posted on Facebook, please share that event. If you attend an event, post about it on Facebook and include the tag @StMattSpringfield. The tag is important because then someone can click on the tagged username and find our Facebook page. Once there, they can find other events and our website. Then they can find out service information and look at our calendar. We want to create that chain reaction.

If you see another member post about a church event, make sure to like it by clicking on the thumbs up. The more people that like it, the more people will see it. You never know, someone you know might be looking for a new church. The next day share that post. The more individual interactions a post gets, the longer it will stay in a person's news feed. This will only take a few moments of your day. You never know: You might go viral!

You can also use hashtags (#) to link posts and search for them. Take a moment and search on Facebook for #StMattsGivesThanks or #FeedTheNeed. We can use

#StMatthewLife to link our posts. If someone clicks on the hashtag, then they will see all the good things we have done over time. Imagine the effect!

You may ask, how does this really help? @StMattSpringfield had 894 total visits to our Facebook page in October, 1,014 at the time of this writing. If we reach one person who may be looking for a church or needs some joy in their life, then I say it is worth the 3 seconds it takes to like or share. After all wouldn't it be better to see a post about church over a political post these days?

11 Nov 2017 FB stats: 135 likes, 138 following, 1,014 visits

Dec 2017 FB Goal: 200 likes, 150 follows 1,500 visits

Mike Lavery

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An Illustrated Advent for Families

Are you looking for something new to celebrate Advent with your family, especially with your children or grandchildren? Have you been thinking about rich ways to extend your worship and reflections into the week and into your homes? This year, we are offering something just for you: "An Illustrated Advent for Families!" Developed by the same group that created our Lent posters from last year, this product offers several resources for you to use: family devotions each week, coloring pages (as fun for adults as for children!), an Advent calendar with all kinds of activities, and instructions and materials for you to make your own simple Advent wreath to display in your home. Because we need to make the packets in the office, please sign up on the sign-up sheet if you would like a copy. We hope you will take this opportunity to grow in your Christian faith together as families!

Vicar Daniel Smith

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Children's Corner

Dear Children,

Yesterday, I was cleaning out our desk drawer and I found a little piece of rolled up scrap paper. I started to throw it in the trash—then I decided to open it up and look at it. Somehow I felt like Alice in Wonderland as I peeled back the paper—this is what it said:

*"In creation we see God's hand
In redemption, we see God's heart"* (origin unknown)

With these words of wisdom in mind, let's move into the Advent/Christmas season! Ever since I was a child, I have always loved the Christmas Carol "*Joy to the World!*" As the choir leaves the church on Christmas Eve, this inspiring hymn is often sung at that time. The beautiful words, marvelous harmony, themes of creation and love give everyone a warm feeling. I decided to do a little search and find the origin of the words and music. The lyrics were written by Isaac Watts and as you sing the verses, you will

notice that he uses the following words to see **God's hand in Creation**—heaven, earth, fields, rocks, hills, and plains. As you sing all the verses, notice how Mr. Watts connects **Redemption** with **blessings, truth, grace, righteousness and love**. That bit of information takes care of the lyrics; however, the origin of the tune remains unclear, although George Frideric Handel's music resembles the score.

I have no idea who originated this quote ("In creation, we see God's hand and in redemption, we see God's heart") but these words surely tie into our thinking of God's plan for us. When you sing this triumphant tune, sing **all** verses joyfully, because Fred Bratz once told me that you need to sing the entire hymn in order to understand the story of God's **creation and redemption**.

Dear Parents:

The English writer Isaac Watts based the words of this carol on verses from scripture—Psalm 98, Psalm 96: 11-12 and Genesis 3:17-18. As you read these verses, remember that you are looking at them through your knowledge of the New Testament. All the verses have three lines of repetition—And heaven and nature sing; Repeat the sounding joy; Far as the curse is found; And wonders of his love—why do you think he wrote in that manner?

Sylvia Yost

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Financial Update

Go now as stewards of God's abundance; remembering the many ways that God has come down to you; looking in to celebrate all that God has entrusted to your care; and focusing out to do justice for the sake of the neighbor both near and far. Go in peace; share God's love through stewardship year-round! Thanks be to God!

From "Stewards of God's Love" published by the ELCA.

	<u>Oct. 2017</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 40,521.72	\$376,677.42
Expenses	<u>45,160.62</u>	<u>436,289.27</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$ 4,638.90)	(\$ 59,611.85)

Summary: For October we were in the red for \$4,600 while year to date we are in the red for \$59,600. At our discussion of these results at the most recent Finance Committee meeting, it was noted that giving for the year has only been at 85.8% of the projected amount while the budgeted amount for expenses is actually lower than anticipated. As a reminder, our budget for the year anticipated a shortfall of \$41,000 and we are well over that at this time. We have a giving problem at this time and we hope that over the next two months and heading into the Christmas season that we can all step up to support Saint Matthew with our continued giving along with extra or lump-sum giving to assist.

Giving Opportunities: As we finish the year, our annual Stewardship campaign is coming to an end. Please remember, however, that Stewardship is a year-round opportunity for us to share our wealth and talents for God's greater good and the good of all his Church. If you were able

to increase your giving for next year, please consider starting your increase before the end of the year. Also, as noted above, If you are able to make an end of year gift to help Saint Matthew close our budget gap for the year, that would also be very much appreciated.

The Worship and Music Committee noted that we are in need of two new candle lighters at this time and the cost is approximately \$140 per lighter. Would you be able to help in defraying the cost for one or both of these?

Also, as we look at budgets for the year, please note that the Lutheran Magazine for the congregation has an annual cost of approximately \$1,800, while we receive donations back from our members towards this cost of approximately \$400 per year. Would you be able to help sponsor some or all of the additional cost for this valuable publication?

If you are able to assist in any way, please place an envelope in the offering plate or in the office noting the reason.

Your Finance Committee

Silver Springs—Martin Luther School Christmas

Christmas is coming! The 72 children in the residential treatment program are in need of gifts. These children live at Silver Springs and have come from sad situations. Many of the children will be staying at the school for Christmas because there is no safe home for them to go to. Our hope is that we at Saint Matthew can help provide them with gifts to share on Christmas morning. We have been provided with a Christmas letter and also several special news items that are on the easel in the hallway.

If you would take a label and return the gift to the box in the office unwrapped by December 5, the ladies of Women of the ELCA will deliver them to Silver Springs. Also, several of the ladies will be spending the day at Silver Springs wrapping all the gifts. Thank you for your willingness to help the special children in this season of giving. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Nancy Regan

Silver Springs—Martin Luther School Opportunity

The children in the residential program at Silver Springs-Martin Luther School are in need of Bluetooth headphone sets that we can order from Amazon. If you are interested in donating, we will order and deliver them. Each headphone set is \$20. A full or partial donation would be accepted. This is an on-going need. Please give your donations to Nancy Regan or Joan Krauter. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Regan.

Nancy Regan

An Illustrated Advent for Families

Are you looking for something new to celebrate Advent with your family, especially with your children or grandchildren? Have you been thinking about rich ways to extend your worship and reflections into the week and into your homes? This year, we are offering something just for you: “An Illustrated Advent for Families!” Developed by the same group that created our Lent posters from last year, this product offers several resources for you to use: family devotions each week, coloring pages (as fun for adults as for children!), an Advent calendar with all kinds of activities, and instructions and materials for you to make your own simple Advent wreath to display in your home. Because we need to make the packets in the office, please sign up on the sign-up sheet if you would like a copy. We hope you will take this opportunity to grow in your Christian faith together as families!

Vicar Daniel Smith

Date Saver

Mark your 2018 calendar **now!** Springfield **Souper Bowl of Caring** will be on Saturday, February 3, with informational brochures to be distributed on Saturday, January 27. More to follow online and in print.

Natalie Rees Berry
natberry@rcn.com

Nursery School

As the children and staff celebrate the holiday season together, we share the gift of friendship and love. The children will celebrate “Jesus’ Birthday” with a Coloring Book and Crayon Pollyanna. Each child will enjoy the gift of giving as they exchange a coloring book and crayons. Our 2 day children will have their Christmas Program, “A Magical Christmas” in the sanctuary on Thursday, December 7, at 10:00 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. Our 3 and 5 day children will have their Christmas Program, “A Child’s Christmas” on Friday, December 8, at 10:00 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. Please come and join us as we celebrate the holiday season.

During the holiday season, the staff and I would like to wish all of you a wonderful Christmas with many blessings. Our school will re-open on January 2, 2018.

Linda M. Maylie, Director

Men’s Breakfast

The December Men’s Breakfast will be held on Saturday, December 16, at 7:15 a.m. at The Court Diner, 140 E. Baltimore Ave., Media, PA 19063. All men are invited to join us for morning devotions, a great speaker, an excellent breakfast and good fellowship. Please come and enjoy an excellent way to start the day.

It's Time to Order Poinsettias for Christmas

Orders for the lovely Christmas poinsettias that beautify our sanctuary each Christmas season may be placed by signing up in the church hallway or calling the church office. The cost of a plant is \$10.00, and they may be taken home following the 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Orders may be placed until Sunday, December 10.

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Are you done, Webb?

At boarding school I had been entered by my dorm in competition to play a beautiful piece of music composed by Mozart at the school concert. The piano was my instrument and I felt I had practiced this piece quite well, but I didn't realize that playing without the score in front of me would give me trouble.

There were other factors of course. It was a concert grand piano which I had never played before, and I was in the school auditorium in front of hundreds of students and faculty, hence the center of attention was nobody else but me!

As I started the piece, I could feel the anticipation of the audience in my rendition of the composer's emotion. With the opening bars I settled in until I reached the end of the first movement. My memory blanked! I was stuck in the silence. I thought if I start again, maybe I'll remember how it continues . . . so I began the piece once more. It didn't work! I couldn't remember the rest of this music. I sat disappointed and the judge asked, "Are you done, Webb?" (At this school nobody had a first name.) "Yes, sir." I answered and arose from the piano and left the stage.

It was not so much the humiliation I felt, though it was a factor in my feelings at the time; rather, it was my disappointment at the memory lapse I had without the sheet music in front of me. I had played this piece dozens of times with no glitch but obviously I could not remember it all for the concert.

There were other concerts in the auditorium where I sang with no memory blanks. Two good friends and I sang a cappella three pop music favorites at the time: "Sloop John B" sung by Harry Belafonte, "Hang Down Your Head, Tom Dooley" by the Kingston trio, and "Wake Up Little Suzie" by the Everly Brothers. Our audience loved us. We were celebrities!

My singing experience began in the Chapel Choir where we sang every Sunday morning and evening during the four years I was there. In the chapel every Christmas we sang Handel's "Messiah" and at Easter we sang Bach's "Saint Matthew's Passion." Fortuitous it is that today, after all these years, I sing in the choir at Saint Matthew Lutheran Church in Springfield.

Each year at the school, there was a Gilbert and

Sullivan production and a Shakespeare play and I contributed my efforts in providing props, helmets and scenery. I remember in Hamlet, I was the rooster that crowed at the proper time from backstage.

Before coming to the school, I had completed a year or two of wearing braces on my teeth and I was reluctant to join the annual boxing tournament during my first three years. In the fourth year I decided to enter the ring, not to prove anything for others but mainly for myself. I knew I could hold my own in a fight.

When I was about 8 years old, there was a kid who would provoke me for seemingly no reason. On one occasion, I was coming home on my bike after a long and successful search to purchase a favorite comic book at one of the suburban railway stations. Actually, I had to visit three stations before finding it! There he was, with two of his friends, standing in my way; and he asked to see my comic book. I proudly showed him my prize and he proceeded to tear the pages out. This was not OK and I let him have it with a right punch in the mouth! He lost two teeth and I got back on my bike and took off. They never bothered me again!

So I practiced for a bout in the boxing ring. I had my hair cut in a Glenn Ford style. He was a favorite Hollywood star of mine. With his looks and quiet manner, he reminded me of my Uncle Norman. The big day of competition came and I entered the ring with the gloves on.

Now, at school the audience in the boxing competition was supposed to be silent and only applaud after each bout. So, here we are. I face off my opponent and we really get into a boxing frenzy. My friends in the audience couldn't sit still. It was too much to ask. They started cheering and the hall went wild! The boxing judge stopped the fight to remind them to keep quiet, then he said for us to box on. Well, we collided again in center ring not giving an inch and the audience burst out with loud expression once more. It was so intense! The judge stopped us and again admonished the spectators. Round One was over.

The bell rang for Round Two and out we came for another clash. Suddenly I hit him with my right punch to the jaw and he went down on one knee. I backed off to allow him to rise and he spat out a piece of his tooth. Déjà vu, Tony! I remembered my comic book event from years ago and the costly dental work of my own. So my aggressive stance and determination to win the match took a backseat in my compassion for an injured opponent. In the third and final round we sparred with less fire and he was awarded the win on points. I have no regrets from this. In fact, my opponent told me afterwards that he hoped we would never fight again. Since then I've not had another fight with gloves on or off.

Competition is a big factor in our lives as we are growing up, with constant sports activities, school studies and exams. We often see others as opponents when, in reality, they are all our brothers and sisters. We are one family of humanity no matter which town or country we live in. There really is no reason to claim the superiority of one group over another. We have the same needs, the same desires for a good life for ourselves and our children and the faith that God is

good to us.

He created all of us and loves us no matter what.
May His peace always be in our hearts. Christmas greetings!

Tony Webb

First Thursday Friends

First Thursday Friends will gather on Thursday, December 7, at 11:30 a.m. at Miller's Ale House, 18 Baltimore Pike, Springfield. For more information contact John Stefl.

January Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the January newsletter are due in the church office by **noon on Friday, December 15.**

Social Ministry

The bulletin board for the Pajama Project for the children of Faith Immanuel is up in the hallway. For those of you wanting to participate, please take a tag from the bulletin board, sign your name and phone number on the list next to the name of the child's name whose tag you have taken, and please bring your gift **with the tag attached** to the church library by **December 10**, so they can be delivered to the church in time for their Christmas party. Any small addition to your gift is greatly appreciated as this is the only gift many of these children will receive. Please see Cheryl Morrell if you have any questions.

We also want to add our thanks to all of our members who took the time to sign Christmas cards for inmates in our local prisons.

We wish all of you a joyous Christmas!

Cheryl Morrell

Library

Christmas is approaching. Are you ready? Remember what we're celebrating—the birth of Jesus.

Meditations for Advent and Christmas by James G. Kirk, Shelf 242.38 KIR is our featured book for December. "All glory and honor be unto you, O God, giver of every good and perfect gift. We give you thanks for Jesus, born of Mary, Word Eternal, Source of Life. We give thanks for John, born of Elizabeth, your hand laid upon him, who foretold the coming of our Messiah and Lord. As you worked your wonders through these women of faith, instill your Spirit within us, that we, like them, may bear fruit worthy of your calling and give birth to generations who shall believe in your name." (Prayer for December 22.)

Have a wonderful Christmas.

Barbara Kinsey

Women of the ELCA

As we look forward to the Advent of our Lord and the joy of Christmas, please join us for breakfast December 2 at 8:30 a.m. in the Parish Education Building.

The Rev. Alina Gayeusk, Vicar Dan's wife, will be sharing her involvement with "Visionary Women." Please sign up so we will know how much food to prepare.

This will be the only activity that Women of the ELCA will have for December. Quilting and Circle meetings will meet in January.

Thank you for your continued support of The Welcome Church. Your donations are greatly appreciated. We will continue to collect socks, hot chocolate, coffee, tea, artificial sweeteners, paper products (cups, plates, bowls), plastic forks and spoons, drawing pads, pens, colored pencils, and cookies

Joan Krauter

Monthly Mailbag



Dear Pastor Richard,

Thank you very much for the invitation to join you and the congregation for the 75th anniversary of Saint Matthew. It was a joy to be a part of such a memorable occasion. I enjoyed seeing old friends and sharing stories from my many years growing up in the arms of such a loving church. Saint Matthew is known for throwing great parties and the luncheon was another example of their success!

Thank you again. Saint Matthew has a special place in my heart always.

Sincerely yours,
Judy O'Connell

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope your generosity fills you with the knowledge that you have reached out to help someone whose name you do not know, but whose name is universal—it is the fellowship of man.

Your recent gift of \$1,870 from your VBS program does more than purchase food. It gives dignity to those who are served by the pantry. It also gives those of us who volunteer the message that others care about those in need as much as we do. May God bless each of you and fill your hearts with the joy of giving.

Yours in Christ,
Lana A. Lindenmuth
Financial Director
Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry

Vital Statistics

Confirmation: **Quinn Martin**
Dylan McGuigan
Robert O'Brien
Madison Wesley
 November 5, 2017

Death: **Morrow Ziff**
 Died November 1, 2017
 Funeral November 8, 2017

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Worship Responsibilities

Altar Guild **Coordinator: Jeff Wesley**

Dec. 3 Pat McHugh, Dawn Liscom
 Dec. 10 Marie Miller, Maureen McCleary
 Dec. 17 Pat McHugh, Margie Larkin
 Dec. 24 Margie Larkin, Beth Terry
 5 p.m.—Chris DiSanto, Pat McHugh
 9 p.m.—Pat McHugh, Beth Camagna
 Dec. 31 Dawn Liscom, Maureen McCleary

Worship Assistants **Coordinator: John Kampmeyer**

Dec. 3 8:00 a.m. Vicar Daniel Smith
 10:15 a.m. Vicar Daniel Smith
 Dec. 10 8:00 a.m. Kathie Morgan
 10:15 a.m. Jeff Wesley
 Dec. 17 8:00 a.m. Joanne Castagna
 10:15 a.m. (No assistant needed)
 Dec. 24 8:00 a.m. Maureen McCleary
 10:15 a.m. Fran Gordon
 5:00 p.m. Vicar Daniel Smith
 9:00 p.m. Vicar Daniel Smith
 Dec. 31 8:00 a.m. Kathie Morgan
 10:15 a.m. (No assistant needed)

Acolytes **Coordinator: Dawn von Berg**

Dec. 3 8:00 a.m. Cole Bennett
 10:15 a.m. Briana Burdette
 Crucifer: Ethan Kraft
 Dec. 10 8:00 a.m. T. C. Cobb
 10:15 a.m. Rebecca Engberg
 Crucifer: Patti Wesley
 Dec. 17 8:00 a.m. Jackson Bennett
 10:15 a.m. Briana Burdette
 Dec. 24 8:00 a.m. Matt Johnston
 10:15 a.m. Ethan Kraft
 Crucifer: Rebecca Engberg
 Dec. 31 8:00 a.m. Alexa von Berg
 10:15 a.m. Rebecca Engberg

Communion Servers **Coordinator: Joan Krauter**

Dec. 3 8:00 a.m. Steve and Cheryl Morrell
 Kim Cobb
 10:15 a.m. Chris and Karen DiSanto
 Bea Toomey
 Dec. 10 8:00 a.m. Bill and Marge Kobasa
 Nancy Regan

10:15 a.m. Natalie Berry, Tony Webb,
 Carol-Jo Eick
 Dec. 17 8:00 a.m. Barbara Kinsey, Diane Frattini
 Bill Penjoke
 10:15 a.m. Gail Hendrickson, Dawn Liscom
 Judy Hendrickson, Jeff Wesley
 Dec. 24 8:00 a.m. Kevin and Karen McCormick
 Vicar Dan Smith
 10:15 a.m. Natalie Berry, Gail Conrad
 Vicar Dan Smith
 5:00 p.m. Dave and Joan Krauter
 Gail Hendrickson
 9:00 p.m. Tony Webb, Carol-Jo Eick
 Joan Krauter
 Dec. 31 8:00 a.m. Doug Bratz, Jenna Cirillo
 Tyler Bennett
 10:15 a.m. Meredith Harris, Dan Lazaro
 Jeff Wesley, Gail Hendrickson

Lectors **Coordinator: Jeff Wesley**

Dec. 3 10:15 a.m. Gail Conrad
 Dec. 10 10:15 a.m. Kevin Cunningham
 Dec. 17 10:15 a.m. Vicar Dan Smith
 Dec. 24 10:15 a.m. Jeff Wesley
 5:00 p.m.
 9:00 p.m. John Engelbrecht
 Dec. 31 10:15 a.m. Judy Hendrickson

Sunday Nursery **Coordinator: Janice Gardner**

Dec. 3 10:15 a.m. Mike and Melissa Lavery
 Dec. 10 10:15 a.m. Sue and Brian Barber
 Dec. 17 10:15 a.m. Diana and Pat Dolan
 Dec. 24 10:15 a.m. Nicole and Greg Smith
 Dec. 31 10:15 a.m. Kathy Kinder, Nicole Smith

Greeters **Coordinator: Nicole Smith**

Dec. 3 8:00 a.m. Chris and Kristen Rohrer
 10:15 a.m. Don and Sylvia Yost
 Dec. 10 8:00 a.m. Matthew and Christine Scott
 10:15 a.m. Carole Centrella, Bea Toomey
 Dec. 17 8:00 a.m. Dee and Doug Bratz
 10:15 a.m. Steve and Cheryl Morrell
 Dec. 24 8:00 a.m. John and Patti Stefl
 10:15 a.m. Gus and Karen Franchi
 5:00 p.m. Greg and Nicole Smith
 9:00 p.m. Phil and Sue Kline
 Dec. 31 8:00 a.m. Diane Frattini, Barbara Kinsey
 10:15 a.m. Gail Hendrickson
 Marion Hessenauer

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ADVENT EVENTS:

Sundays, December 3, 10, 17, 24, at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.--Our usual worship with Holy Communion and lighting of the Advent candles each week.

Advent Vespers Service at the Seminary—December 3, at 4 p.m.--An evening prayer service for the seminary and local community. This year the worship service will be led and sung by our own Vicar Dan at the chapel of United Lutheran Seminary, 7301 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19119. All are invited for the service and the reception after the service!

Sunday, December 10, at 7 p.m. —Holden Evening Prayer Service

A beautiful, musical prayer service with Kathie Morgan and Vicar Dan leading worship and Pat McHugh playing piano.

Sunday, December 17, beginning at 11:30 a.m. —Hanging of the Greens

Lunch, Decorating the Church Building, Carol Sing – sign-up sheet on the table at the church.

CHRISTMAS EVE:

5 p.m. – Candlelight Service with Holy Communion featuring the Children’s Christmas Pageant.

9 p.m. – Candlelight Service with Holy Communion featuring the Adult Choir and the Saint Matthew Instrumental Ensemble.

LESSONS AND CAROLS:

Sunday, December 31, 2017, at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. services with Holy Communion.



Coffee
onnection

*Join us for Fellowship
 Sunday, December 10*

**Refreshments and treats
 will be served in the parlor**

