



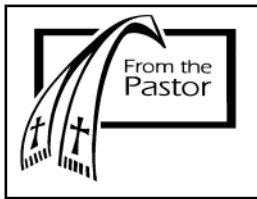
The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 70, Number 1

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From Our Pastor

Connect
Care
eQuip
Cultivate

What's in a Name?

The first day of January has many designations. It is New Year's Day. It is also the Eighth Day of Christmas (eight maids a milkin', seven swans a swimmin'). And, according to the Church's liturgical calendar, it is the day called "the Name of Jesus." This designation comes from the story of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, and echoes the words of the Gospel of Matthew.

"After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb." Luke 2:21

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:20, 21

The eighth day is the traditional day of circumcision for boys in Judaism, and at their circumcision they are given their name. "By what name shall this child be known in Israel?" This is what the Gospel of Luke says was done for Jesus. Eight days after he was born Jesus would have been brought to the Temple to be made a part of the Covenant People, and given his name.

This designation of the "eighth day" is a way of pointing out a shift in time. Beyond the week, not just on the first day of the next week, comes the "eighth day." Thus the eighth day signifies a time of something new.

In baptism you have been made part of God's Covenant people. In baptism you have been made new. In Jesus you have been given a name. You are given the name "Christian." You are called "Child of God."

What a great thing it is to celebrate this day, and to celebrate "the Name that is above all names" (Philippians

2:9), the "Name under heaven by which we may be saved" (Acts 4:12). And how coincidental it is that this Day is celebrated on the first day of the New Year, a time when all is made new. The celebration of the covenant, the marking of the Name of Jesus, is set at the very beginning. Martin Luther encouraged people to start each day in the name of Christ, and to end each day the same way. Make the sign of the cross, say the Creed and the Lord's Prayer, give thanks for the gift of the new day, and commend the passing day to God.

As you begin a new year of life, remember to keep Jesus first in your life. Live a life of worship to the One who came that we might be part of God's covenant. Live a life that reflects the love and compassion of the One who puts others first. Seek first the reign of God, and God's righteousness in all that you do and say. Look first to the words of Jesus for wisdom and guidance for how you live each new day in the coming year. For it is in this Name, the Name of Jesus, which means "he who saves," that "we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

May the covenant blessing of God be known in your life,

Pastor Karl M. Richard

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The Vicar's View: The Ending of Mark and Sharing the Good News in the Midst of Fear

As we come into this new year, we continue to get to know the gospel of Jesus Christ through the eyes of the second evangelist, Mark. We've been spending a lot of time at the beginning of his Gospel, but it is at the very end that we find one of my absolute favorite verses: "So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid" (16:8). Such a strange ending for a Gospel. It's a cliffhanger with no written continuation, no resurrection appearances, no declaration of the risen Jesus to the rest of the disciples. I can really sympathize with the scribes who changed the end of Mark, clapping on two happier and more resolved

conclusions to the Gospel. (You can find those later additions in some modern versions of the Bible, listed as “The Shorter Ending” or “The Longer Ending.”)

Mark 16:8 is an incredibly apt ending, though, with Mark choosing to conclude his Gospel with a theme that pervaded it: fear. Fear runs through most of the characters (with a few notable examples, including Jesus), and often it’s what seems to prevent people from hearing the Good News that the Reign of God was near. Fear is what prevents people (including Jesus’ disciples) from accepting him as the Son of God or understanding Jesus’ mission as Messiah. Fear is what makes the disciples scatter and deny Jesus when he is arrested. So it makes sense that fear would be what prevents the women from telling anyone about their strange encounter with the young man at the tomb.

We can assume that, eventually, the women did share the message from Jesus. But one of the ending’s main functions is to challenge any disciples of Jesus who are hearing it or reading it. “Hey, you!” Mark seems to be saying. “You who are hearing or reading this! Will you let your fear or discomfort prevent you from sharing the Good News, or will you conquer your fear and spread the Word?”

The truth is that we **will** be afraid sometimes, but also that we don’t need to let that fear paralyze or deter us. God continues to be with us in our fear, just as God has been with so many engaged in mission and evangelism throughout the centuries. The first disciples did not start out as the Church with complete confidence and fearlessness, but they were strengthened by Jesus’ presence and equipped by the Holy Spirit (John 20:19-23; Matt. 28:16-20; Acts 2:1-4). Martin Luther was surely scared as more and more powerful leaders in the Roman Catholic Church opposed him, but he continued to stand for the principles he had found in Holy Scripture.

As we go through tough situations in our lives or in the world, we will fear from time to time, but we will continue to listen to the Spirit and to each other, declaring the good news that Jesus Christ is risen and that the Reign of God is near. So, during this new year, I would encourage us to be even more fearless as disciples of Christ and messengers of God’s peace and reconciliation. One small way we can try to do this is by reading and practicing the excellent tips that Mike Lavery has been giving us in his “Practical Evangelism” article, as he gives us doable techniques to evangelize in our quickly-changing society. May this year be a year when we respond to Mark’s ending together by saying, “Yes! We will declare Jesus’ resurrection to the world, in thought, word, and deed!”

Vicar Daniel Smith

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Highlighting our Social Ministry Partners: Silver Springs-Martin Luther School

In November, Vicar Dan spoke with Amanda Bryant, the Development Officer of Silver Springs-Martin Luther School. Silver Springs is one of the social ministry partners that we at Saint Matthew are most involved with. The following is a paraphrase of the conversation Vicar Dan and

Amanda had about the school and its ministry, its joys and challenges, and Saint Matthew’s involvement with it. This interview will actually be split into two parts, so be sure to watch out for part 2 in February!

Vicar Dan: So, could we start with you telling me a little bit about the history of Silver Springs. I know it has a long history (some of which we heard in October from Sister Sally), but can you give me a quick summary of how and when it started?

Amanda: Sure! What would become Silver Springs-Martin Luther School started out as an orphanage in 1859 created by a Lutheran pastor’s wife, Elizabeth Fry Ashmead Schaeffer. When she founded Silver Springs, it was the Lutheran Home at Germantown. She was given a dollar by a local pastor for providing a home for kids in need. She spoke to people in her congregation (Saint Michael’s in Germantown) and her community, and opened the orphanage very close to the Lutheran Seminary in Mount Airy. That was the beginning of it all.

Vicar Dan: So how has Silver Springs changed over the years?

Amanda: Over the 160 years of its existence, Silver Springs has adapted its programs and structures to meet the needs of current times. One big example of this is that it stopped being an orphanage. We also left Philadelphia and came to Plymouth Meeting, where we bought the dairy farm that is now our campus. We wanted enough room to grow if need be. We also wanted a calming place in nature for the kids to play in and just enjoying being outdoors. So many visitors have told us that they feel a real sense of calm when they come to our campus.

Vicar Dan: I would very much agree with that last bit. It’s a gorgeous space.

Amanda: It is. But with all that change, the core of the ministry is still providing care for kids in need. We are always trying to provide the best services we can to the kids who are most in need. We’re always trying to innovate with current research to guide our decisions and find what works best for the kids we serve.

Vicar Dan: So what is Silver Springs like today as an institution? Who are the people it serves?

Amanda: Well, we have three main parts. First is the residential treatment program, which consists of kids between 6 and 14 years living on our campus for about a year. During that time, they go through trauma therapy with social workers and therapists. Our goal is family reunification, if that is possible and is healthy for the child.

We also have our approved private school, the Martin Luther School, for Kindergarten through 8th grade. Many of the children who are part of our residential program go to the school. But we also bus in kids from 57 school districts, not just from the inner city but from a bunch of places in Southeastern PA. Bussing the kids in and out from 57 districts is a feat in and of itself.

Vicar Dan: I can imagine. It sounds like it could be chaotic.

Amanda: It actually isn’t, believe it or not. It actually looks a bit like a ballet, except with buses instead of dancers. Anyway, our

classes are usually quite small, around 12 kids, and we have plenty of supports in place for kids who are behind educationally. A lot of what we work on is behavioral issues, and we stress that this is an environment of safety, respect, and responsibility. Our total enrollment is about 200.

We also have a community care aspect to Silver Springs, with an office in Mount Airy where we provide services and support for foster families.

In terms of the kids we serve, we often say that most of the kids have something “bad, sad, or scary” in their background. Neglect, abuse, homelessness. A lot of them have feelings that are really big for kids their age. Because of that, they struggling with their emotions and behavior. We also serve people who have difficulties for biological or genetic reasons, like mental illness. For some kids, being here is the first time they’ve felt really loved.

The total number of kids and families that are served through all of our programs is around 2,400. We’d love to not be needed, but that doesn’t look like that’s going to change anytime soon. We’re glad to be here.

Vicar Dan: We’re very glad and thankful you’re there too!

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Christian Education Updates

The hustle, bustle, and activity of Advent and Christmas are over! In December, we had a great showing for the annual Hanging of the Greens, as we came together in fellowship to eat, decorate the church, and sing carols. We also got ready for our younger students to declare the good news of God’s coming into this world. At the 5:00 Christmas Eve service, they performed a pageant based on the angels’ preparations for Jesus’ birth. A big, big thank you to all of the volunteers for Hanging of the Greens, and to all of the adult leaders, students, and parents for taking out time and energy in a busy season to get the pageant together. Truly, neither of these wonderful events and expressions of our faith could have been done without all of your hard work and commitment! In addition to all of this, we had a great opportunity for prayer, devotion, and craft-making in the home thanks to “An Illustrated Advent for Families.” We hope your families took advantage of this great opportunity to prepare the way of the Lord in your homes! As we start off the new year, I pray that we will continue to come together in worship and in Sunday School to grow in our relationships with God and with each other.

God’s Blessings for a New Year,
Vicar Dan Smith

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Adult Bible Study in January and February: Making Sense of the Cross

On Wednesday, January 3rd, we will be starting a new adult Bible study series, with classes at 6:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. To get us ready for Lent and Holy Week, we will be exploring the meanings of Jesus’ death and resurrection together. To do so, we will be using an interesting, interactive program designed by David Lose

called *Making Sense of the Cross*, which is composed of a book and a DVD segment for each of the six sessions. Note that it will be very helpful for the class participants to read a chapter of the book before each Wednesday class. If you plan on being a part of the class, books will be provided and can be picked up in the church office.

Vicar Daniel Smith

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Annual Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2018, following the 10:15 a.m. service. A light luncheon will be served, followed by the meeting. Please mark your calendars and plan to be present.

The 2017 Annual Report will not be mailed. Copies will be available in the church by Sunday, January 21, the week before the meeting. If you are unable to get to the church and would like a copy of the report, please call Janice in the church office at 610-543-8700.

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Children’s Corner

Dear Children,

As you read this Newsletter, the New Year has begun and we are now in—“the Epiphany of Our Lord.” Thinking back on all the Christmas plays I have seen, I was always energized by the appearance of the Magi (3 Kings/Wise Men). So, I did some research and found that the history of this miraculous event is **unclear** because the Eastern and Western Christian Churches often rely on their own beliefs. Also the Star of Bethlehem presents many astronomical puzzles. In connecting the Matthew Story (Matthew 2) with the world of astronomy and physics, many questions are raised. How does the Star move? Where does it go? Why does it rest over the manger? A few more questions to ponder. Were there really 3 kings? Were they really kings or were they scientists? Illustrators have always pictured these three men riding camels, but this may not be true—they could have ridden other animals or even walked. The **fact** is however, that each one brought a gift and that gift was definitely prophetic (telling what may happen in the future.)

As you sing this carol, “We Three Kings of Orient Are,” look carefully at the verses as they tell a very important story. Verse 1 tells that these men came from the Orient and had a long difficult journey. Verse 2 tells of the **gold** that is brought to the Christ Child crowning Him the King. Verse 3 tells of the **frankincense**—a rich perfume that goes along with worshipping God (many churches use this gift in their worship service). Verse 4 tells of **myrrh** which is a bitter scent and tells us of Christ’s last day on earth. Verse 5, is one of **hope** as Christ is risen from the tomb and Alleluias ring throughout the world—a Happy Day indeed!!

Now, what is the “take away” from this article besides lots of unanswered questions and a few facts about

the carol we sing on or near January 6 (when some churches celebrate Epiphany)? Well, although many of the ideas that we all grew up with may or may not be exact, this journey to Bethlehem shows us that Christ is appearing to **all** people. What about the gifts? Although the gifts of the Magi were probably expensive and the men carried them a long way, they were also symbolic: gold for a king, frankincense to worship a king, and sadly myrrh foretelling the death of Jesus on the cross. My “take away” from this information rather “niggles” in my heart—How often do I seek Jesus? What gifts can I give Him? What is your “take away”?

Dear Parents,

If your child is old enough and has an interest in astronomy, Google has some material that you might read. An Atlas would show you the rough journey—field, moor, mountain—from the Orient to Bethlehem. What other animals could the Wise Men ride? Could you guess how long it would take to travel this distance today? Young children would probably love to draw some part of the trip. Speech bubbles would be interesting. Have fun!

Sylvia Yost

Worship and Music Notes

While this article is being written in advance of the happenings on Christmas Eve, I just wanted to let you know what a joy it is to celebrate the Christmas season at Saint Matthew. While a lot of time and hard work is involved to make the actual Christmas Eve services meaningful and beautiful, there is also a great deal of joy and delight that comes in the fellowship of the preparation itself. Thank you all – the staff, the musicians, the volunteers, the kids, all of those smiling faces in the pews – you make it so very special! Blessings!

Pat McHugh

Souper Bowl of Caring

Save the Date and more! The 2018 **Souper Bowl of Caring** is scheduled for Saturday, February 3, with door hanger distribution the week before, Saturday, January 27. Don't miss your chance for a day of fellowship and fun as you help to fill our county food banks !

And to help build our energy and network, there will be a **Kick Off** for students on Sunday, January 14, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Springfield High School's Blue Gym. Plans are underway for games, challenges, food and, perhaps, T.V. football.

Keep your “eye out” for the new Delaware County Souper Bowl of Caring Facebook Page.

Natalie Rees Berry
natberry@rcn.com



Family Ministries

Come join the Family Ministries for a family game night! Bring your favorite games to share (if you don't have any, we have plenty!) We will meet in Elbert Hall for light refreshments and games on January 27, from 3-5 p.m. See you then!

Melissa Lavery

Nursery School

Happy New Year from the Nursery School staff and children. We will return to school on Tuesday, January 2, 2018. The new year will be filled with wonderful activities, continuation of alphabet recognition, printing skills and enjoying friends. School will be closed on Monday, January 15, for the celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Parent/Teacher talks will take place January 22 to January 25. School will remain open during conferences with substitutes in place. Registration for 2018 for our in-house students returning in September will take place at this time. Any prospective families who are interested to have their child attend our school in the fall of 2018, please contact the Nursery School office at 610-543-5589.

We wish you many blessings in the coming year!

Linda M. Maylie, Director

#PracticalEvangelism: The Resolution

Everyone makes New Year's resolutions. “I want to get a new job.” “I want to pay off debt.” Successful resolutions usually are small changes that are achievable, realistic, and have a positive impact on the individual or those around them. How many of us make spiritual New Year's resolutions? Probably very few, including myself. I want to challenge each of you to make a spiritual resolution this year. Share it with someone and ask them to hold you accountable. If you aren't accountable to someone other than yourself, most likely it will be forgotten or you will make compromises. Change is hard and you need help. Find it, and who knows? That person may join you.

Initially, you might not know what to do. Here are some ideas: attend Sunday school (you will learn about your faith and others in the church); attend a Bible study, either at Saint Matthew, work, or school (believe it or not, my last and current job, had employee-organized Bible studies); give blood (okay, that is a shameless plug for Saint Matthew Blood Drive on February 8th sponsored by the Evangelism and Stewardship committees); or volunteer to work the blood drive. So far these options will only take about an hour of your week. If that is not doable, how about committing to buying one can of food a week for a month or even the year and donating them to Loaves and Fishes drop box in the church lobby? That's at most \$6 a month. If you did that for the whole year, that's 52 cans. If half the congregation did this, we would be helping a lot. And last but not least of all...**Pray!** Pray for you! Pray for me! Pray for everyone! That is free, achievable, and impactful.

These are all suggestions. Pray on it and choose what is best for you.

Happy New Year!

Mike Lavery

Silver Springs Christmas Gifts

To everyone who donated gifts to Silver Springs, a great big thank you! We did an amazing job again this year. We collected:

- 5 Card Games
- 6 Board Games
- 3 Action Figures
- 5 Hot Wheel Sets
- 7 Hot Wheel Car Sets
- 13 Stuffed Animals
- 5 Very Large Stuffed Animals
- 3 Hatchimals
- 14 Lego Sets
- 20 Barbie Dolls
- 2 Barbie Outfits
- 8 Pairs of Pajamas
- 4 Bottles of Body Wash
- 3 Shirts
- 15 Pairs of Socks
- 2 Pairs of Slippers
- 32 Bracelets
- 45 Headphones

Total: 192 items

As an added note, the ladies of the two Women of the ELCA groups donated most of the money to purchase all the wireless child-safe headphones so that every child would be getting a set. A special thank you to them.

None of this would have been possible without your wonderful support. We learned from the staff the day we were at Silver Springs how much they appreciate all of the things we do for them throughout the year. It will be a special Christmas for the many children because of our efforts. Thank you again.

Nancy Regan

Men's Breakfast

The January Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, January 20, 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.

Financial Update

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God.

If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4 vs. 10-11

| | <u>October 2017</u> | <u>Year to Date</u> |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Giving/Income | \$44,967.31 | \$420,435.77 |
| Expenses | <u>41,614.89</u> | <u>88,083.57</u> |
| Plus/Minus | \$ 3,352.42 | (\$58,741.19) |

Summary: For November we finished in the black with a positive in the amount of \$3,352. For the year we still remain in the red overall in the amount of \$58,700. December has usually been a strong month for giving as we enter Advent and celebrate Christmas. This year December also has 5 Sundays which also helps with giving. Thank you so much for your continued support for Saint Matthew.

Giving Opportunities: Every week we have a giving opportunity to support the ministry of Saint Matthew. Thanks to all of those who have pledged their support for 2018 to continue this mission. May God bless you during this wonderful season as we celebrate the coming of our King. May the joy and wonder of the season open your heart to the power of God in your lives.

Silver Springs Christmas Wrapping Trip

This year ten ladies from Saint Matthew traveled to Silver Springs-Martin Luther School to wrap Christmas gifts for the children in the residential treatment program. We were able to wrap 5-8 gifts for 65 children, or about 350-400 gifts in a record of 4 hours. Our wrapping skills have improved with the many years of practice there. This is our 9th year of this project! A special thank you to Marjorie Aronson, Lily Beggarly, Diane Billick, Joanne Castagna, Barbara Kinsey, Marge Kobasa, Joan Krauter, Maureen McCleary, and Nicole Smith for all the fun and hard work. We were treated to lunch and heard more about Silver Springs programs from Amanda Bryant, too. Thank you again ladies for a job well done!

Nancy Regan

The Circus!

Mom came into my room early as she was preparing breakfast. "Get up, Tony—Today's your birthday and Dad wants to give you his present before he goes to work." It was also a regular school day so it was to be a busy one. I remember thinking that after all my pranks with my friend Billy, my birthday might be overlooked that year. It wasn't so. I began to feel the family's forgiveness and I was so grateful that Mom had made preparations for my birthday party the following Saturday.

Dad was in the kitchen dressed for work when I entered wearing my dressing gown. Little Janette was out of her room ahead of me. I think she was excited to celebrate and sing "Happy Birthday" with Mom and Dad. "Tone" he said, "we left something in the living room for you. Let's go

and take a look in there!” So off we went down the hall to the room we did not frequent very much. Dad had hunted and proudly hung over the fireplace the mounted head of a buck red deer with a big rack of antlers. Mom was not at all keen to use this room for entertaining her guests because the eyes of the deer were so real.

In one corner of the room I was surprised and thrilled to see a brand new bicycle with a red bow on it. Dad had seen me riding on a borrowed bike that was too big for me. I rode it with my leg under the bar and feet on the pedals as I steered it along on an angle. Never did I imagine a new bicycle might arrive as a birthday present. I was elated and totally bowled over. Dad had a big grin on his face when he saw my reaction to his kind gift. Little did I know that I was to have so many adventures with this same bike.

On the appointed Saturday, we had the party; and who came to visit from Gisborne but Daddy Pop and Matey, my Mom’s dear parents. It was so good to see our grandparents again after our time in Fiji. Daddy Pop was the Harbor Pilot for the ships which entered and left the docks in the hometown and yes, he still had his faithful crew. Sister Janette was beaming with all the preparations for the party and mingled so happily with everyone there. Her dunking in the creek was now a distant memory and I think and hope she had forgiven me too!

I remember crossing the same creek with my fellow troublemaker Billy on the trellis extension of our rear property line. On the neighbor’s lot, we stopped to look into the garage where our contractor neighbor kept his pick-up truck. It was empty so we walked down the driveway toward the street when Billy spied an open can of red paint sitting on the step of the house and he struck his finger into it. I went one better and took it home with us. Guess what? We started to paint the new bike with the red paint and, in doing so, spattered paint on the wall of our garage!

There was no way we could get the paint spatters off so we started to paint the garage red. . . The more we painted, the less paint was in the can. We had no ladder handy, so our effort included about 4 feet in height the length of one side wall facing our front yard. It was soon Dad would be home from work. Billy left and I was uncertain how to handle what I could predict as approaching doom! Mom happened to look out the front door to check on us kids and just lost it! “What have you done?” She was incredulous. “How can you explain to Dad? You’ll be grounded forever?” Oh boy . . .!

I knew that what Billy and I did was not the usual mischief. It was more than that—it was pure vandalism. Why we did it, I’ll never know. Did Dad get mad at me? You bet! He was speechless at the rebellious character he had for a son. He made me clean the paint off the bicycle with turpentine on a rag and got out the white paint again to cover our messy paint job on the garage. Three coats it took, like the neighbor’s garage wall after the mud fight. Billy and I, never again, were to be together at our house under any circumstances.

Mom and Dad, I think, did some parenting evaluation and decided that we needed to spend more time pursuing outdoor interests as a family. A pleasure it was to go on hikes

together in the back country. One of my favorites was the nature walk from Day’s Bay. This little community located on the eastern shore of Wellington Harbor had set aside the natural woodland behind it as a public nature preserve. It was crowded with tree ferns and native trees found only in New Zealand and had a well-defined path with duckboards set over wet spots. Altogether it was a place of wonder. Each time we visited, we were accompanied by a little bird called a fantail who, chirping away, would flit from tree to tree ahead of us to show us the way.

The path ended at the top of the hill and the landscape became open rolling pastures with sheep grazing there. In the distance we could see the Pencarrow lighthouse and the glinting waters of Cook Strait beyond the harbor mouth. Dad loved to have us trek to the lighthouse for the wonderful view. We could see the peaks of the mountains of the South Island from there. Little did we know we were observing a distant scene that, in a few brief years, would change our lives forever.

These memories are so vivid. They seem to have occurred from events just yesterday. Childhood stories help to define the character of who we become in the future. We are here on this earth by God’s grace and purpose.

Thanks be to God!

Tony Webb

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First Thursday Friends

First Thursday Friends will gather on Thursday, January 4, at 11:30 a.m. at Tom Jones Restaurant, 4417 Edgmont Avenue, Brookhaven, PA 19015. For more information contact John Stefl.

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January Newsletter Deadline

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

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Social Ministry

Many, many thanks to all of you who so generously participated in the Pajama Project for the children of Faith Immanuel. As we have stated before, these gifts are the only gifts some of these children receive for Christmas, so your gifts are truly appreciated. The gifts were delivered to the church in time for their Christmas party.

As we begin another year, we want the congregation to know that the Social Ministry Committee is very thankful for all of your support for our projects. Without all of you, we could not be successful.

We wish our entire congregation continued blessings in 2018.

Cheryl Morrell

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Women of the ELCA

For to us a child is born to us, a son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulders and he will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

As we continue to celebrate the 12 days of Christmas and look forward to Christ's coming again, may we continue to be His hands and feet here on earth.

Ladies, won't you join us this month in the following activities:

January 10—Board Meeting—Library at 9:30 a.m.

January 13—LWR Quilts and High School Quilts—Parish Education Building at 10:00 a.m.

January 17—Ronald McDonald Quilts—Parlor at 10:00 a.m.

January 23—Esther Circle—Parlor at 10:00 a.m.

January 23—Sarah Circle—Parish Education Building at 7:00 p.m.

January 27—High School Quilts—Parish Education Building at 10:00 a.m.

We continue to support The Welcome Church with **foot powder, razors, deodorant, small packets of tissues, small toiletries, paper plates, hot cups, drawing pads, pens, colored pencils and cookies.** Thank you for your continued support.

Joan Krauter

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Vital Statistics

Deaths: Mr. Charles Mowbray, Jr.
Died: December 9, 2017
Funeral: December 13, 2017

Mr. Richard Printz
Died: December 16, 2017
Funeral: December 27, 2017

25th Wedding Anniversary: Mr. and Mrs. David Parsons
January 16, 2018

New Address: Betty Johns
Peter Becker Community
800 Maple Ave.
Harleysville, PA 19438-1047
Attn.: LL#11

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Worship Responsibilities

Altar Guild **Coordinator: Jeff Wesley**
Jan. 7 J. Krauter, P. McHugh
Jan. 14 J. Krauter, P. Stefl
Jan. 21 J. Krauter, M. McCleary
Jan. 28 J. Krauter, P. Stefl

Worship Assistants **Coordinator: John Kampmeyer**
Jan. 7 8:00 a.m. Vicar Daniel Smith
10:15 a.m. Vicar Daniel Smith

Jan. 14 8:00 a.m. Kathie Morgan
10:15 a.m. Jeff Wesley
Jan. 21 8:00 a.m. Joanne Castagna
10:15 a.m. (No assistant needed)
Jan. 28 8:00 a.m. Maureen McCleary
10:15 a.m. Fran Gordon

Acolytes

Jan. 7 8:00 a.m. Robbie O'Brien
10:15 a.m. Briana Burdette
Crucifer: Patti Wesley
Jan. 14 8:00 a.m. Alexa von Berg
10:15 a.m. Rebecca Engberg
Crucifer: Ethan Kraft
Jan. 21 8:00 a.m. Jackson Bennett
10:15 a.m. Patti Wesley
Jan. 28 8:00 a.m. Matthew Johnston
10:15 a.m. Rebecca Engberg
Crucifer: Briana Burdette

Coordinator: Dawn von Berg

Communion Servers

Jan. 7 8:00 a.m. Michael and Lisa Umbenhauer, Kim Cobb
10:15 a.m. John and Dotty Engelbrecht, Natalie Berry
Jan. 14 8:00 a.m. Barbara Hewitt, Nancy Regan, Doug Bratz
10:15 a.m. Bea Toomey, Tony Webb, Carol-Jo Eick
Jan. 21 8:00 a.m. Steve and Jean McGarvey, Joan Krauter
10:15 a.m. Meredith Harris, Dan Lazaro, Gail Hendrickson, Judy Hendrickson
Jan. 28 8:00 a.m. Tyler Bennett, Jenna Cirillo, Vicar Daniel Smith
10:15 a.m. Chris and Karen DiSanto, Vicar Daniel Smith

Coordinator: Joan Krauter

Lectors

Jan. 7 10:15 a.m. Phil Kline
Jan. 14 10:15 a.m. Joan Krauter
Jan. 21 10:15 a.m. Vicar Dan Smith
Jan. 28 10:15 a.m. Heather Markland

Coordinator: Jeff Wesley

Sunday Nursery

Jan. 7 10:15 a.m. Sue and Brian Barber
Jan. 14 10:15 a.m. Melissa and Mike Lavery
Jan. 21 10:15 a.m. Nicole and Greg Smith
Jan. 28 10:15 a.m. Diana and Pat Dolan

Coordinator: Janice Gardner

Greeters

Jan. 7 8:00 a.m. Chris and Kristen Rohrer
10:15 a.m. Linda Shipley, Jim Snyder
Jan. 14 8:00 a.m. Matthew and Christine Scott
10:15 a.m. Carole Centrella, Bea Toomey
Jan. 21 8:00 a.m. Dee and Doug Bratz
10:15 a.m. Don and Sylvia Yost
Jan. 28 8:00 a.m. John and Patti Stefl
10:15 a.m. Dorothy D'Arcy, Cheryl Ferry

Coordinator: Nicole Smith

January Birthdays

| | | | |
|-------------------|------|-------------------|------|
| Al Beale | 1/1 | Andrea Kinsey | 1/14 |
| Nancy Beale | 1/1 | Monica Engberg | 1/15 |
| Gavin Finn | 1/1 | Jake O'Brien | 1/16 |
| Shirley Thorn | 1/1 | Michael Reger | 1/16 |
| Bonnie Miller | 1/3 | James Hessenauer | 1/17 |
| Joan Stefan | 1/3 | Jennifer Bonath | 1/17 |
| Keith Engelbrecht | 1/4 | Ryan Marshall | 1/17 |
| Dorothy D'Arcy | 1/5 | Lisa McGuigan | 1/17 |
| Joelle Link | 1/5 | Kathleen Galle | 1/18 |
| Danielle Ley | 1/6 | Carole Centrella | 1/19 |
| David Baumann | 1/7 | Danielle Lazaro | 1/19 |
| Dolores Bratz | 1/8 | Eleanor Humphrey | 1/21 |
| Kendall McCallum | 1/8 | Benjamin Marles | 1/21 |
| Luke Plachuta | 1/8 | Sylvia Yost | 1/21 |
| Carl Smith | 1/8 | Carrie Arbutina | 1/22 |
| Matthew Scott | 1/9 | Diane Frattini | 1/24 |
| Tina Ziff | 1/9 | Peter Henry | 1/24 |
| Lauren Ferguson | 1/10 | Susan Kline | 1/24 |
| Michael Hassett | 1/10 | George Jones | 1/25 |
| James Millon | 1/10 | Jacob Nave | 1/26 |
| Nicole Smith | 1/10 | Muriel Wagner | 1/26 |
| Frances Pieri | 1/11 | Scott Wueschinski | 1/27 |
| Judy Hendrickson | 1/12 | Ginger Heck | 1/29 |
| Jamie Reger | 1/12 | Heather Markland | 1/29 |
| Amanda Schuler | 1/12 | Gina Milana | 1/29 |
| Gerald Bartels | 1/13 | Sean Stark | 1/29 |
| Luci Lynch-Murtha | 1/13 | Sarah Larkin | 1/31 |
| Travis Dixon | 1/14 | | |

If we have missed your birthday, please notify the church office.



*Celebrate the New Year -
worship our Lord!*

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Plan to attend
the Annual Congregational Meeting
on Sunday, January 28,
following the 10:15 a.m. service



Coffee Connection

Sunday

January 14, 2018

Join us for food, fellowship, and fun

Refreshments and treats will be served in the parlor after each service

If you would like to donate a treat, there is a signup sheet outside of the office. All contributions are greatly appreciated.