

Parish Press

January 2017 / Monthly Newsletter of Pine Street Evangelical Lutheran Church

WWW.PINESTREETLUTHERAN.ORG

A Note From Pastor Martin

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ;

We have heard the story, The Story, the birth of the Messiah, the Holy One of God, Immanuel, God With us, Jesus. This account, from Sacred Scripture seems new every year, mostly because I am different this year than I was last year, because I am another year older, because life is not static, life changes. Even if the changes are subtle, there are changes nevertheless.

This year, while preparing sermons for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and for Christmas Eve, two phrases seemed to be prominent in my reading, both alike, different gospels. From Luke's Gospel, the Angel of the Lord said to Mary: 'do not be afraid.' (Luke 1.20) From 'Matthew's Gospel, the Angel of the Lord said to Joseph: 'do not be afraid' (Matthew 1. 20) Both these messages concerned the Child who was growing within Mary, neither Mary nor Joseph understood how this had occurred.

Do not be afraid, the angel told them, they were about to be parents, there were all kinds of problems concerning this announcement. Problems with what would appear as violations of Jewish law; problems with the legalism that would threaten the life of Mary; problems with 'what people would say'; problems that might jeopardize the decisions both Mary and Joseph were about to make. Yet, how could they do otherwise than go forward with the announcement of the angel.

What kind of trust did it take for them to step into this role as parents to be, and then as parents of a child born in surroundings that defied human understanding. Do not be afraid was the message they must have heard again and again in their mind

and heart as the days wore on for the delivery. Then again, they were warned to leave for the life of the child was at risk. How far does the message 'do not be afraid' go, how much stress and unknown circumstances does it cover?

In many ways, we too are walking into this new year of 2017 with caution. The presidential election left us with surprises that we had not experienced in elections in the past, and it seems, we keep hearing of new surprises. On what shall we base our expectations, our certainty that all will be well, that our way of life and our expectations will continue?

There are other unknown issues that we face, they are part of normal life changes and challenges, some of them welcome, some of them unwelcome. Can we hear the Word of God coming to us and telling us, 'do not be afraid'? Can we, like Mary and Joseph, trust in the Lord, our newborn King, Immanuel, God With Us, and have courage, sing a song of love to God for all we have, for the people in our lives who reflect this love back to us, for this Church, where the love of God is witnessed day in and day out?

We may be thinking about New Year Resolutions, and it we are, may we resolve to hear the words of the Angel of the Lord, 'Do Not Be Afraid.'

Blessings and Love in the newborn Christ our King,

Pastor Lois



Happy New Year!

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make
Advent and Christmas a spiritual journey.
Thank you for all the preparation, decorations
and music that helped make worship joyous.
Tom and I appreciate your fellowship and your
Christian love. Thank you for the
remembrances and the gifts of love.

Pastor Lois

Adult Discussion Group **Sundays 9 AM**



A group of your friends meets every Sunday morning
at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall to chat and discuss the
Gospel Reading for that week. Around coffee, and
usually donuts, guided discussion from ELCA's Daily
Discipleship is led by various volunteers. No
previous knowledge of the Bible or formal religious
training is required.

Join your friends, and meet some new ones!



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.

BIBLE STUDY

You have continued to ask for and to support mid-
week study of faith matters. Coming on **January 25**,
we will engage in a five-week conversation / learning
event which I am calling '**Table Talk**'.

This was the name given for the conversations
Martin Luther had around his table in the *Lutherhaus*
at Wittenberg when friends gathered to discuss
matters of the day, usually regarding Reformation
events which were current to that time. We will
discuss 'matters of our day', with the view of our
Christian faith on matters that concern us. The topic
may be different each week, depending what you
bring to 'the table'. But we will always have as our
ground, sacred scripture.

Join us at 5:30, bring a bag lunch, or we may
decide together on a kettle of soup!

Art of Caring Conversation Class

The Spiritual Care Department of Geisinger
Medical Center is offering an Art of Caring
Conversation Class. Held on Tuesday evenings,
January 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st, 2017
from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

This four-week, twelve-hour training is the
basic requirement for persons wishing to
volunteer as a Chaplain Assistant in the hospital.
Participation in the course is open to everyone
who seeks a greater level of skill and comfort in
supporting others. If interested in learning
more, call Tina Kester, (570) 271-3700.

Financial Status of the Restoration Project:

(as of December 12, 2016)

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

The loan has been paid in full!

This we can celebrate.

However, another project is being planned.

If you have been regularly donating to the restoration project, please continue to donate. The sanctuary ceiling and the sanctuary walls are in need of work. Estimates are being sought. Please watch for further information.

Total on hand: \$ 7,975

Loan balance: \$10,613



Hoagies Sales were a great success in 2016! Total sales were:

\$3,700.99

This amount was used toward the building restoration project.

In addition, **\$513.60** was given to various charities in our community!

Thank you to everyone who helped make this fundraiser such an amazing success.

January 2017

A letter from the church was recently sent to all of our members. It described the financial hardship we are facing. Attendance and giving have decreased to the point where we are no longer receiving enough in the way of financial support to cover our ministry and our property expenses. Many Christians don't want to hear the need for money talked about in church, and some mistakenly feel that money is our major focus.

This is not true.

The letter mentioned that the need for financial support of the church is cited many times in the Bible. Over the next several months, I would like to focus on these please.

Starting in Exodus 23:19 "Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil to the house of the Lord your God". Make supporting your church a priority, not an afterthought. Give your "firstfruits", not your leftovers.

Our focus is to carry out our mission of hope, love and faith to our community and to each other through prayer, discipleship, worship and prayer.

Unfortunately, money is part of that equation, but so is time, talent and ability. Please give willingly of these gifts. God will be pleased.

Next month, a passage from Deuteronomy.

Blessings,

Bill

GLScrip Gift Cards – order deadline Jan.8

Make great gifts and for everyday use!

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!!! PROCEEDS SUPPORT OUR WEBSITE



Pine Street Prayer List January 2017

HOMEBOUND AND SPECIAL PRAYER LIST:

Sherry Achey, D., Jean Cope,
Shirley Gamble, Sam Harrison,
Ann Hummer, Burrtell 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, Ann Rice, 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, Diane Hanson, 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,
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.

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

500th Reformation Commemoration

Our Advent Study of the first twelve Points of Agreement between Lutherans and Catholics was attended by members of Pine Street as well as members of St. Joseph's Catholic Church and Trinity Lutheran Church, Danville.

Conversations grew from an interest that we all share the same Spirit from Baptism, that our Churches have much in common, and that we share the same faith challenges in life.

We will gather in worship on January 22 at the Basilica at St. Cyril and Methodius. We, (Pastor Trevor, Father Lease, and myself), plan to continue our discussions about our Unity in Christ throughout 2017, looking forward to the Commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation on October 31, 2017. We plan to continue to engage our congregations in these discussions. If you have questions regarding these agreements, please contact Pastor Lois.

Confirmation Class News

The Confirmation Class has been studying and discussing the Ten

Confirmands plan and host a Christmas party for parents and mentors



Commandments. How do they work in our lives now, in 2017? This is a question for reflection for all of us, not only the Confirmation students.

We will continue our study of the Commandments as we resume classes in January (Evenings on the 8th and 22nd, Mornings on the 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th.)

As part of our education and faith journey, on January 22nd, we will join our brothers and sisters in Christ, along with our Confirmation friends from Trinity Danville, and St. Joseph's Catholic Church in celebrating Sunday evening Vespers at the Basilica of St. Cyril and Methodius in Danville.

This is an opportunity for all members of this congregation as we pray together in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

There is also some conversation about planning a 'lock-in' some evening in January, or February.

Please support our Confirmation students as they grow in faith, learning to live out their Baptismal covenant in Christ.



Confirmands dropping off toys to the Community Christmas Tree.



Enjoying conversation and family Christmas traditions.

Wednesday Afternoon Crafters

Are you devastated by the overwhelming conditions of God's children you see every day on the news? Refugees, victims of natural disaster or political upheavals.... You can do a small part to help make those people more comfortable by sharing in making Lutheran World Relief Mission Quilts, and other simple projects. Our goal has been to use repurposed materials to make the quilts.

We have had lots of fabric stored at Pine Street Lutheran. Over the last few months we have cut enough 21 inch squares from this fabric to make up to 13 quilts. In addition to the squares to make the "top" of the quilts, we need "fill" in the form of old blankets, and "backs" in the form of flat twin size sheets. The completed "sandwich" will measure 60 by 80 inches. We will then tie the quilt at the corner of each square, and sew the edges. Do you have any of the following to help us complete our quilts?

Twin sheets in good shape ~Blankets in any condition (they will be sandwiched between "top" and "back")

After cutting the fabric to make 21 inch squares, there are still smaller pieces of fabric that could be cut into 6 inch squares to make more quilts. We have five boxes full of such fabric. If you are unable to come on Wednesdays, are you interested in taking home a box and cutting 6 inch squares at your leisure? (Some of the fabric may need a quick ironing.)

We have a good time chatting and working on Wednesdays. Don't think that you have to be a seamstress to help out. There's always ironing,

cutting, and tying going on. And maybe you'd like to see how that sewing machine actually works...it's really not that hard

If we get all those quilts assembled, we have stashed away fabric to make Little Dresses out of pillowcases, Fabric Kits, and School Kit Backpacks. Also, we have a table full of yarn to make prayer shawls, or other projects of your choice. Help yourself.

For more information, and videos to see the end products in the hands of those in need see:

- Lutheran World Relief Mission Quilts:
lwr.org/get-involved/quilts
- Lutheran World Relief School Kits: [/lwr.org/get-involved/build-kits-of-care/school-kits](http://lwr.org/get-involved/build-kits-of-care/school-kits)
- Lutheran World Relief Fabric Kits: lwr.org/get-involved/build-kits-of-care/fabric-kits
- Little Dresses:
<http://realhopeforhaiti.org/sewing/pillow-case-dresses/> or
<http://www.littledressesforafrica.org/blog/> or

Join us any week, Wednesdays 1-3, Luther House second floor.

~Brenda Fischer-Dennehy, Roxanne Patton
and Mary Jane Snyder.



NEEDED FOR
WORLD RELIEF MISSION QUILTS
Twin Sheets in Good Shape & Blankets In
Any Condition!

*Please feel free to join us any Wednesday at
1:00 PM -3:00 PM in the Luther House on the second floor.*

Ministry News

Hospitality News

2017 year will bring a new look to the fellowship hour. The first Sunday of each month (unless noted) a full luncheon will be provided by the ministries assigned. The remaining Sundays will offer more of a lite refreshment hour. In April 2017 the Hospitality Ministry with the help from you will evaluate the new look of the fellowship hour.

2017 Goal for Hospitality Ministry: Will discuss the 10 most important minutes to church visitors.

Hospitality Ministry Members Richard Baylor, Jean Crumb, Barb Ezdebski, Roxanne Patton, Mary Ann Landi, & Nan Leighow,

Christian Education Ministry

The church has been a warm and educational place to be on Sunday mornings from 9am-10am. Our four Sunday School classes have been enjoying faith based learning activities and conversations in their refreshed and refurbished meeting areas. The Adult Discussion Group has been gathering in the cozy corner of the Fellowship Room and has been following the liturgical calendar by discussing the application of the week's Gospel to our everyday life. The Confirmation Class has been benefitting from extended conversations about their catechism topics in the rejuvenated Youth Area and Café on the second floor of the Luther House. The Primary and Intermediate Children's Sunday School classes have also been following the liturgical calendar and getting a preview during Sunday School about what they will hear during the Children's Sermon. They are enjoying their new adjacent classrooms on the First Floor of the Luther House. The young ones especially enjoy completing their weekly "newspapers" that help them gain a better understanding of God's Word and what it means for them. We've been so happy

to see some new faces and encourage everyone to join us when you can. We feel blessed by your attendance and participation whether it is weekly or occasional. God welcomes you as you are and so do we.

Property News

Fred Hoti will be removing the snow this winter. The Women of the W/ELCA have graciously agreed to pay for the vinyl siding to put on the garage in early Spring.

Worship and Music Ministry

The beautifully decorated worship space you appreciated during Christmas is the result of many hands, and many hours, provided by those active with Worship and Music Ministry. Enhancing our worship requires not only planning for music and liturgy but also changes of paraments to coordinate with the church year, providing for the various supplies used (candles, communion wine, bread, juice, and wafers), washing worship helper robes, and the list goes on. This is a very rewarding, behind the scenes ministry. Many hands make the work lighter. And more hands are always welcome.

If you feel called to help, even in a small way, contact Brenda Fischer-Dennehy to volunteer.

Council Retreat

After a successful Council Retreat last year, Council has decided to have another Retreat. The focus of the Retreat will be to assess the ways in which Pine Street Lutheran Church is focusing assets and energy in regard to its Mission Statement. First and foremost in this assessment is conversation about spiritual direction, as the Church gathers in worship and praise, as well as spiritual growth. The date of the Retreat is Saturday, January 14, with a snow day, Saturday, January 21.



JAN. & FEB. BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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
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
Eric Snover-2/4
Ryleigh Hepner-2/11
Nathan Hepner-2/12
Nichole Lambert-2/13
Dawn Carr-2/14
Lorene Binder-2/18
Dale Stamm-2/20
Brandon Hixson-2/23
Charles St.Clair-2/26
Brenda Fischer-Dennehy-2/27

Crystal Lambert-2/27
Michael Harner-2/28
Michael Koons-2/28
Shirley Gamble-2/29

ANNIVERSARIES

Gerardus Tromp & Helena
Kuivaniemi -1/3
Richard & Elizabeth Baylor-1/15
Harold & Michelle Hack-1/15
Robert & Roberta Recla 2/6
George & Judith Adams 2/11

Why not Simply Giving?

Many of us cannot attend church as regularly as we'd like, or should. The reasons are myriad, and mostly excusable. But, your church is here every day of every week, carrying out its mission to "share our faith, hope and love through prayer, discipleship, ministry and worship." Why not make it a priority to support your church financially on a regular basis, even if you can't be here regularly?

Simply Giving is an easy, convenient and secure way to ensure that we support our church, even when we can't be here. We presently receive about 30% of our monthly giving from members using this service. Don't be afraid of electronic banking. Please see Bill Snover for information about how this works, or pick up an enrollment form in the office, or from the folder posted in the Social Room.

We also need your time, your talent, your ability and your presence. Good things are happening at Pine Street. Let's not let our church disappear. It could happen.

Thank You Notes:

To the members of Pine Street Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for the generous donation to our Girl Scout Troop!



Sincerely,
Girl Scout Troop #60096

Dear Church Friends,
We want to thank you for your prayers and cards of support for our dad's passing. We greatly appreciated you for providing us the Social Hall for our friends and family to gather together in our time of need.

A special thank you for the beautiful service.

The Family of Norman Troutman

