

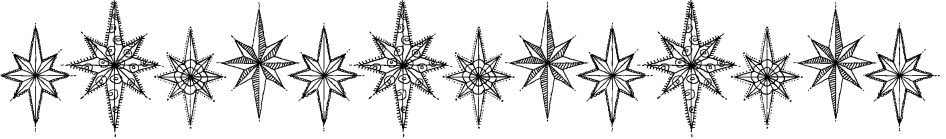
# THE PARISH VOICE

Newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church of Milton, PA  
"God's Work, Our Hands."

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December 2011-January 2012

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## **Advent & Christmas Schedule:**

- Sunday, December 4 – 5 p.m. Potluck meal with Children's Advent Pageant following
- Jazz Advent Service & Afternoon Tea, Sat., December 10, 2-4 p.m., at United In Christ Church, West Milton. Music provided by Pastor Schade, Jim Schade, Dr. JoAnne Henry, Jay Umble, & Andy Seal. Tea, sandwiches, and dessert available following the service. Free-will offering to benefit upcoming ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.
- Saturday, December 24 – 7 p.m. Festive Christmas Communion
- Sunday, December 25 – 10:30 a.m. Christmas Day Communion, with presentation of our Christmas gift to Jesus (no Sunday School)
- Sunday, January 1, 2012 – 10:30 a.m. Lessons and Carols for Christmas (No Sunday School)

Celebrate Jesus' birth with us!

### **Mission Statement of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**

We are called by God to follow Christ's example and teachings by worshipping, witnessing, learning, supporting one another, and reaching out to others.



**Public Office Hours** are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (*unless previously noted in the weekly bulletin or monthly newsletter*). Please feel free to stop by with bulletin announcements or monthly newsletter articles.

**Deadlines:**

**Bulletin announcements** are due in office by **Wednesday at 12:00 noon.**

**Newsletter articles** are due in office by the **10th of each month** (*unless otherwise noted on newsletter calendar or bulletin*).

**Deadline for the next newsletter is JANUARY 10, with assembly on Thursday, January 26.**

Please **e-mail [secretary@christlutheranmpa.org](mailto:secretary@christlutheranmpa.org)** with any bulletin announcements or newsletter articles.

**ADDRESS/EMAIL CHANGE/ADDITION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_

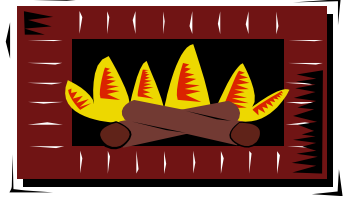
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## “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year...”

No doubt, you will find yourself surrounded by those wonderful Christmas tunes throughout the next month. You’ll be driving down the road, listening to the radio, shopping at your favorite store, gathering all the necessary food items at the supermarket for the many family and friend gatherings this time of year, and even putting around the house alongside your favorite CD or DVD. I particularly enjoy the “tech fireplace” that I can burn on my TV, thanks to a modern recording that allows me to enjoy that scene without the hassle of gathering logs or worrying about fire hazards.



In no other time of year do we find ourselves so inundated with holiday activities than the Friday after Thanksgiving through Christmas Day. Hustle and bustle will be our human bywords – far more than our regularly speed-fed days of life are in the normal activities we do.

You will also hear the message to slow down and enjoy the real meaning of the season. Most of us, especially disciples of the Lord Jesus, agree that is an important concept. Yet if you are like me, you find yourself disobeying your own good advice as quickly as you give it. Besides, the pressure to sing carols, attend every possible holiday event, and even to celebrate Christmas before Jesus’ own birthday is VERY difficult. Our American abundance pulls us more and more to grab at the abundance without thinking about its origin. And if you are an adult who likes to give to children, the emotional pull seems beyond resistance!



Remember, however, that no matter where you find yourselves these next weeks, God is still the reason for it all – AND God is the giver of it ALL. In fact, there is no time of the year when God ISN’T, so a season that springs from the birth of God himself among us is a powerful time to speak and act what we believe. The baby in the manger – Jesus Christ – is the

Savior of the WORLD. Without him, we have no Christmas. Without Jesus, we have no life. God's love that sent Jesus to be born into a world destined to kill him and still receive forgiveness of our Sin through him is MIND-BLOWING.

Take the time to celebrate Jesus this year. Even if you cannot wait during Advent's special weeks that help us prepare in the Church to greet the Lord in his time, stop whatever you are doing this holy season to focus on God's gift of love that no one else – NO ONE ELSE – can give you.

Don't ever allow yourself to be SO busy, SO tied down to a list of to-dos, that you forget how temporary are all our days. God is waiting to welcome you someday into eternal life that never needs to rush around and wear itself out.

Spend the good time you have, in this most wonderful time of year, waiting for God to open your eyes and heart. God's love for you this season – and EVERY day – is truly the reason for Christmas.

Don't forget God's neediest ones as you make up your lists.

See you in church!

*“The angel said to (the mother of Jesus), ‘Do not be afraid...for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor, David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ --Luke 1:30-33*



Your partner in mission and ministry,

*Pastor Pat* ☺

## Prayer Concerns

**For the sick:** Charlie Baker; Jim Baugher; Betty Baumer; Dale Bender; Ryan Divers; Isobel Feehrer; Larry Graby, Sr.; Joyce Long;



Dorothy Longenberger; Jeff Mensch; Blaine Poeth; Arlene Rice; Jennifer Satteson; Harrison Shirk; Missy Wagner; Danny Young

**For those with ongoing, extended illness:** Faith Bacon; Bob Bailey; Geraldine & Christopher Betts; Joan Bilger; Inez Bingaman; Bruce Bolich; Mike Butler; Evelyn Campbell; Karen Campbell; Cassie Choplik; Carol Conrad; Rose Deaner; Travis Deitrick; Barb Demarest; Peggy & Gary Drum; Barbara & Dick Emley; Joann & Jack Ficks; Catherine Finn; Virginia Frantz; Donna Gearhardt; Marie Gray; Dana Habecker; Lee Hagenbuch; Lisa Huntington; Pat Kerstetter; Patricia Leonard; Shirley Menges; Lois, Rachel, & Jessica McDonald; John Moslock; Stephanie Neal; Lucia Nolan; Hunter Page; Sandy Paul; Lennis Pyers; Curtis Robbins; Ned Roush; Sheryl Shirk; Mike Slease; Paul Smith; Shirley Smith; Mackenzie Snyder; Sally Snyder; Florence Stahlnecker; Mary Steeley; Dorothy Stevens; Kisha Suarez; George & Tresha Sudol; Janet Swisher; Terry Valiquette; Tim Walsh, Jr.; Carol Watts; Percy Webb; Noah Wenrick; Paul Wiles; Sherry Yingling

**For those in sorrow:** All who have lost loved ones; those in our community and the world who are recovering from fires and natural disasters

**For those anticipating and recovering from surgery:** Jamie Adkins; Gary Hoke; Darilyn Kowalik; Terry Moll; Ron Mowery; Alice Roush; Bill Sechler; Bonnie Scholl; Luigi Stellato

**For those adjusting to life changes:** All those affected by political upheavals in eastern Nations

**For those struggling with personal problems:** Kevan Campbell; Gregory family

**For the imprisoned**

**For the homebound:** Phyllis Albertson; Caroline Bobb; Lucille Bruss; Mary Burns; Edith Coup; Robert Derr; Betty Dotts; Renny Dotts; Isobel Feehrer; Gladys Fisher; Bessie Hartzel; Merritt & Doris Heffelfinger; Paul Heimbach; Tom Kline; Elva Mazeall; Dix &

Pauline Reitz; Margarite Ruth; Camille Schillig; Connie Sholly; Marie Springer; Leah Walker; Kenneth Webb; Nancy Weikel  
**For those serving in the military:** Amy Brown; Matthew Dorman; Justin Gonzales; Gabriel Gonzales; Larry Graby, Jr.; Stephen Himes; Dan Moll; Josh Mosier; Anthony Nudson; Ken Ring; Eric Strobeck

**For leaders, guides, students, and workers:** Pr. Pat; Pr. Keith; Sunday School & Bible Buddies leaders and helpers; Rev. Brian & Christine Palmer, missionaries; Bishop Robert Driesen & Synod Staff; Bishop Mark Hanson & ELCA Staff

**For those needing daily strength:** Mary Cromis; Roseanna Kersavage; Camille Kreisher; Dale Kriner & family; Nick Machusak; Dianne Perrin; Rebecca Ulmer

**For those with unspoken needs**

**For our partners who serve with us in Appalachia:** Funding for Konnarock Retreat House, Inc. as it moves closer to its goal of transforming a residential girls' school from the 1950's into a retreat and community center in the shadow of Mount Rogers in southwestern VA



**More prayers needed...** These are *member families* we have prayed for in Church since last issue: Allene Engleman; Richard Schneider; Guy, Robin, Sydney, & Lindsey Mensch; Jamie, Scott, & Logan Faust; Vanessa Schneider; Dwayne Mull; Isobel Feehrer; William Sechler; Laurie Mull; Joanne Ficks; James & Joanne Seidel; April Mullin

## **Blessings and congratulations...**

... to Jennifer and Chad Lubrecht on the birth of their son, Thomas Owen, on October 15. He weighed in at 9 lbs., 12 oz.

and was 20.5” long. The very proud grandmother is Karen Lubrecht.

...to Rose Bolich and Rich Handy, who were united in marriage on Saturday, November 5, 2011, at 3 p.m., at Christ Lutheran Church.

*“Eternal God, without your grace no promise is sure. Strengthen Rose & Rich with patience, kindness, gentleness, and all other gifts of your Spirit, so they may fulfill the vows they have made. Keep them faithful to each other and to you. Fill them with such love and joy that they may build a home of peace and welcome. Guide them by your word to serve you all their days; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”*



*A Special*  
**THANK YOU**



- To all of you who so very kindly remembered me during Pastor Appreciation Month in October. I truly am blessed so serve God with you here in Milton. God bless you for your kind words and generous gifts. I greatly appreciate you, too! --With much love, Pastor Pat ☺
- To everyone who worked so hard to offer the beautiful music at our Organ Recital. Special thanks to Nancy Walters!
- To all who worked so hard and so faithfully to make our Pork and Sauerkraut dinner a success. Special thanks to James Bartlett for coordinating everything.
- To all who are so generously giving to the Sunday School Christmas project for Jesus! Be with us in worship on Christmas Day to present this very special gift to our Lord – a gift that will benefit children and their family members who are in Muncy Prison.

- To Kim Mitch and Stephanie Byers, and all our wonderful children at Christ Church who offered their talents in the Advent pageant!
- To all of you who supported my journey in writing a Christmas song last year. My son, Jeremy, produced and arranged my song and posted it on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com). If you go to that website and search for Pat Pittsnogle, you can listen to our final format. The song came to me in a dream while I was on vacation in WV in October, 2010. I woke up suddenly and had to furiously write down the lyrics and music that God gave to me. I pray it blesses you as it has blessed your Pastor! ☺

## Thank You Notes



I write to express my gratitude for your support. Your gifts to ELCA Missionary Sponsorship support over 240 missionaries working hand in hand with our global neighbors in 50 countries around the world. We can only do our work because of the ongoing support we receive from people like you. Together we are making a difference and for this, I give thanks.

*I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;  
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds (Psalm 9:1).*

- Hand in hand with you,  
The Rev. Twila Schock, Director  
ELCA Missionary Sponsorship and  
Global Appeals  
Email: [missionarysponsorship@elca.org](mailto:missionarysponsorship@elca.org)

Thank you to the Staff Support Committee for all the planning and work put into the Staff Celebration Dinner. The food was delicious, and the goodie bags were much appreciated, too. Thank you for your thoughtfulness!

- Lorei, Rich, Nancy, Brett, Donna,  
Bob, Debbie, Deaner, Ruth, & Pastor Pat ☺

## Worship Attendance Records

| <u>Week of</u> | <u>Sun.</u> | <u>Wed.</u> | <u>Other Services</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Oct. 2         | 55          | 8           |                       | 63           |
| Oct. 9         | 44          | 6           |                       | 50           |
| Oct. 16        | 57          | *           |                       | 57           |
| Oct. 23        | 50          | 9           |                       | 59           |
| Oct. 30        | 50          | 9           | 1 priv. comm..        | 60           |

\*No worship – worship leader ill

*Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy...*

## Loose Cash Offerings in Worship & Special Appeals Envelopes

**Sunday School Christmas Project – December**  
**Pastor's Discretionary Fund - January**

*(envelopes provided with newsletter)*

*Please make checks payable to "Christ Lutheran Church."*

*Be a cheerful giver!*

*Please give generously to help others!!!*



*Tithes and  
offerings*

## Weekly Giving Per Envelope October, 2011

| <u># Envelopes</u> | <u>Amount Given Each Week</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 3                  | \$100.01 or more              |
| 2                  | 70.01 – 100.00                |
| 7                  | 50.01 – 70.00                 |
| 3                  | 40.01 - 50.00                 |
| 9                  | 30.01 - 40.00                 |
| 17                 | 20.01 - 30.00                 |
| 4                  | 15.01 - 20.00                 |
| 9                  | 10.01 - 15.00                 |
| 15                 | 5.01 - 10.00                  |
| 45                 | .01 - 5.00                    |
| 22                 | 0                             |

### **From Your Finance Leaders**

No report available this month...check the February Newsletter for the next update.

*Thank you for all you do to support the ministry God calls us to do at Christ Church!*

## Thrivent Choice

Thank you to Pastor Pat for recently designating your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Christ Church. We appreciate your gifts!

For those who are Thrivent members and wish to designate Christ Church in your next opportunity for giving, talk with your Thrivent representative about how you can make that happen. Pastor Pat would be willing to help you with that, too – phone 742-7473, or see her at Church. Thank you!

## Stewardship for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – Top Ten Stewardship Verses

(from the 2010 Rethinking Stewardship Conference;  
commentary by Grace Duddy, M.A. Senior, Luther Seminary)

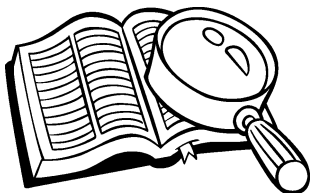
#7 – Genesis 1-2:4, especially 1:26-27, 31

*“Who do you see when you look in the mirror?”*

Stewardship originates from the creation story. In this story, God impresses God’s own image upon humanity and charges humanity to care for all creation. God is the maker of all things and we are called to be responsible stewards of God’s creation.



## Bible Study & Christian Education Opportunities



- Thursdays, 2 p.m., in the parlor – studying the book of Genesis, using Book of Faith resources. We will take a break on Thanksgiving Day

and December 29.

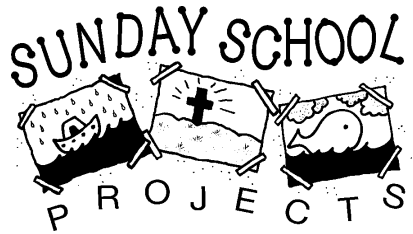
- Sunday Bible Study (monthly) – from 7-8 p.m. in the parlor. We are studying the book of Esther. We'll take a break during December and meet in January on Sunday, January 8, 2012.
- Gerasene Team ministry – we are studying and pondering ways we can reach out in our community with the good news of Jesus. We meet during the Sunday School hour (9-10 a.m.) on Sunday, December 11. January's date will be Sunday, January 22.
- Don't forget to be part of Sunday School each week! Our children's classes focus on a Bible story for the month, with music, crafts, and more. Adult/youth classes meet each week under the direction of Rose Bolich and Kellie Brouse. Confirmation classes meet with Pastor Pat, as needed. Come grow in God's Word as we study and learn together each Sunday from 9 to 10 a.m.
- Bible Buddies youth gatherings continue. All youth from pre-school through upper elementary are encouraged and invited to attend. We meet from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. – and supper is included! Our January meeting date is Fri., January 13! Bring a friend!



To save on the cost of heating and cooling the sanctuary, the Wednesday afternoon Quiet Communion is now meeting in the parlor on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. Join us for worship in that cozy setting as we gather to praise and honor our Lord each week.

## Sunday School Christmas Gift for Jesus....

Our Sunday School project for Jesus is providing Bible-based books, puzzle books, jigsaw puzzles, coloring books, and crayons for children up to age 16. These gifts will be given to the women's prison in Muncy for children to use while they visit their mothers or other relatives in prison.



Add your gifts to the collection box in the narthex. Don't forget the older children, too, as you shop for Bible-based or faith-engaging activity books. You can make a wonderful difference in the quality time children can spend with someone they love who is living out a prison sentence.

We will present our Christmas gift to Jesus in worship on Christmas Day, December 25. Please give generously.

## Healing Prayers



At both our Wednesday service on December 14 and our Sunday service on December 18, we will offer opportunity for you to receive prayers for healing. This is a gift God offers in worship to strengthen our physical ailing as well as the stress of emotional, personal, professional, social, or any other struggles we may have in our daily lives. It is an opportunity to receive an anointing of oil for healing of body, mind, and/or soul.

When we gather to worship on those days, bring your needs for which you ask God to bring you healing. As the Holy Spirit renews you in faith and hope, receive God's eternal, renewing love.



Take a tag off the tree and purchase a Christmas gift for a needy child in our local area. The Angel Tree ministry is sponsored by the local Salvation Army. The child's first name, age, and gift information is on the tag. Return your unwrapped gift by December 11. If you have any questions, contact Betty Morgan at 742-8654.

## **Gifts for Danville State Hospital Patients**

Adult patients (men and women) at the Danville State Hospital are in need of shampoo, conditioner, and body wash this Christmas. If you would like to participate in this ministry, you can bring your unwrapped purchases to the Church by December 11. If you have any questions, contact Betty Morgan at 742-8654.



## Do you have a memento of your Baptism into the family of Jesus Christ?

*(a bulletin, an outfit, certificate, a special gift or note that someone gave you on the special day you became a child of God – or even the date of your baptism written on a piece of paper)*



Dig it out of your special place – and bring it to worship with you on the Sunday we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord, Sunday, January 8, 2012. Consider also a special offering you may want to offer in thanksgiving for your life of faith. We will gather our mementos around the altar that Sunday and receive a special baptismal offering

to support providing water in communities around the world where water is in scarce supply.

## Thinking about Giving Your Time to One of Our Ministries here at Christ Church?

Join the Spiritual Growth Ministry that works together to plan our Worship, Christian education, Witnessing, and Social Ministry needs AND/OR join the Stewardship Ministry that works together to plan our Finance, Property, Endowment, and Staff Support ministry.

We work together as leaders here at Christ Church. Will YOU join our happy throng???

Your ideas and conversation would be MOST welcome!!!

Spiritual Growth meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month in the parlor; and Stewardship meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – same place. We meet both days at 6:30 p.m.



# Prayer Book



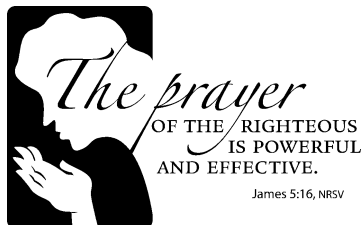
What is prayer? Simply communicating with God. Prayer can take place in your car, at the grocery store, at school, at home, at work, at church, anywhere. We can pray for support, for comfort, for strength, for guidance, for thanks, for anything. Prayer should be a lifeline to our existence.

With that thought in mind, the Spiritual Growth Ministry would like to reissue the congregational prayer book that was compiled a number of years ago when Pastor Sue was our minister. The book is full of prayers for every occasion, and what makes it special is that the prayers were submitted by members of our congregation. Some were prayers written by members and others were prayers from another source.

For the new publication, the Spiritual Growth Ministry is requesting you to submit your favorite prayers for new additions to the book. You can submit online to [network@christlutheranmpa.org](mailto:network@christlutheranmpa.org) or bring them to the office marked "Attention: James Bartlett" by December 25, 2011. Contributors' names will be compiled in the back of the book and not with each individual prayer.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE COPYRIGHT APPROVAL IF IT IS AN ALREADY PUBLISHED PRAYER.** If you are not sure what the previous sentence means, talk to Pastor Pat or James Bartlett, and they will be happy to explain it to you.

The Spiritual Growth Ministry hopes to have the book ready for distribution to members by Lent.



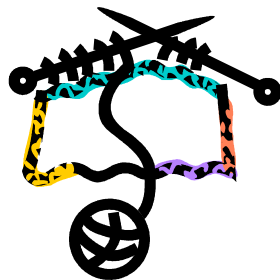
## Helping Others

- Campbell's Soup labels and Labels for Education for the Navajo Lutheran Mission project
- Can tabs for Ronald McDonald House
- Pennies for Social Ministry projects
- Caps for Creation (box located to left of narthex door) – Update: Currently, we have recycled (and kept out of landfills) 167 pounds of plastic caps! That's a LOT of caps! Keep the recycling for God's creation going!!!!
- Old Sunday School/devotional material/Bibles: We have a connection with a ministry that provides these materials to countries who have none. If you have a collection of these types of materials lying around your Sunday School room or home that could be useful to someone else, bring them to the Church Office. We'll send them out to folks who can really use them!



## Knitting Group

Come, join in the fun and fellowship on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. here at Christ Church. Bring your knitting or crocheting project – or learn from one of the veteran crafters!



## Little Needs... Little Things... Little Ways You Can Help

The church needs these items on a regular basis. If you can provide any of them, THANK YOU!

- Paper plates, cups, napkins, plastic silverware
- Boxes of tissues
- Hand sanitizers
- Dishwashing soap for kitchen & sacristy
- Zip-lock plastic bags and aluminum foil



Needs  
This  
Month

## HandUP Foundation

**Food Bank** – The Milton Food Bank is collecting *jello & pudding/December* and *cereal* for the month of *January*. Please place your donations in the grocery cart in the narthex.

*New hours:* The Food Bank will be open **only** the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday from 9 a.m. – 12 noon. It will be closed all other Wednesdays. Qualified recipients are still eligible to receive their food allotment once per month. Questions, call 742-3000.



## Northern Lights Activities

- December 1                      Dinner & Movie, 6 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, Milton. Bring a bagged meal.
- December 6                      Book Group, 10 a.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, Milton. We will discuss Mitch Albom's The Five People You Meet In Heaven. Bring a bagged lunch.
- December 21                      Bible Study, 10 a.m., St. John's Lutheran Church, Delaware Run, Watsontown. Topic: Every Woman of the Bible
- Advent Bible Study, 7 p.m., St. John's Lutheran Church, Delaware run, Watsontown. Topic: see above
- December 24                      Christmas Eve Services at Trinity Lutheran Church, Milton. Family Friendly Worship at 7 p.m., Special music at 10:30 p.m., Candlelight Communion at 11 p.m.
- December 25                      Christmas Day Worship of Lessons & Carols at 9:30 a.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, Milton.

## Leave a Legacy for Ministry and Mission

Are your CD's coming due and the current interest rates are very low or are the returns on your stock not doing what you expected? Make a gift of the stock or the principal of your CD and receive fixed annuity payments at higher rates than your current dividends or CD returns. Consider a Charitable Gift Annuity with fixed annuity payments for life and tax deduction for the donation, and the ministry of your choice receives a wonderful gift. For more information about how to make charitable gifts using a Charitable Gift Annuity or other ways to make charitable gifts, call

Pr. Greg Kramer at the Lutheran Planned Giving Office, 570-374-2044, or call the ELCA Foundation, 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2970, or visit [www.elca.org/fo](http://www.elca.org/fo).

## **Upper Susquehanna Synod News**

Come spend time away at Mount Luther with friends and family preparing for Christ's birth! This event will take place on Saturday, December 17, from 10 a.m.-12 noon at the Evergreen Center at Mount Luther. We'll have activities to help you get ready for Christmas, including crafts, singing, cookie baking, and more. To help us prepare, please RSVP to the camp office at 922-1587. Price is \$6 for each participant or \$20 for a family of four or more.

FLOOD SU: Friends Living Out Our Discipleship at Susquehanna University – to be held on Saturday, January 14, 4-7 p.m. at the Field House. Doors open at 3:45 p.m. The event is open to youth in grades 4-12. FLOOD SU features a praise band, service project, swimming, open gym, racquetball, hot dogs, snacks, Rock Band, and Guitar Hero. Each youth group should bring a reasonable amount of snacks to share, clothes for swimming, a loud voice to sing God's praises, hands to do God's work, games, and sports equipment. We'll provide service project materials, hot dogs and drinks, basketballs, volleyballs, Rock Band, Guitar Hero! Cost is \$5 if registered by Tues., January 3; \$10 at the door, with free admission for adult chaperones. It is requested that adult chaperones have their PA State Police Criminal Background and Childline Child Abuse Clearances. Each congregation should provide one adult (21 or over) for every seven youth. Registration forms are available on the Synod's website, [www.uss-elca.org](http://www.uss-elca.org) or the camp's website, [www.campmountluther.org](http://www.campmountluther.org).

Copies of USS ARK (Upper Susquehanna synod news) and CAMEL TRACKS (Camp Mt. Luther news) are available in the narthex. Help yourself!

## Bible Trivia



BIBLE TRIVIA

Read the book of Obadiah (in the Old Testament). Why is God angry with Edom?

*Answer on Page 22.*

## ELCA: Did You Know?

### Transformed and Eager to Serve

They call it their “happy place”: Our Saviour Lutheran Church on the Rocky Boy’s American Indian Reservation in north central Montana, where middle school youth from St. Mark Lutheran Church by The Narrows, Tacoma, Wash., have served on weeklong mission trips over the last two summers.



“When they arrive, they are totally different kids, which is amazing,” says Ingelaurie Lisher, director of youth at St. Mark. “They keep the other kids in line. They want to set a good example. This is something that means so much to them.”

Like most servant groups at Our Saviour, the youth help out with projects on the grounds of the congregation, including light construction, painting, cleaning and maintenance work. Downtime means opportunities to play basketball and swim with

their Chippewa-Cree peers at the reservation's recreation center or learn traditional crafts, like beading. They also attend worship twice a day -- an important component of the trip, Lisher says.

As the St. Mark youth experience their time of service and gain insights into a different culture, they begin to think beyond themselves, Lisher says. "They realize, 'This isn't about me or my life in Tacoma,'" she observes. "The kids explore who they are and the gifts they have. They see God at work in a different place. When they come home, all they talk about is their experience at Rocky Boy's."

Likewise, members of Our Saviour and other residents of Rocky Boy's enjoy meeting servant groups, like St. Mark's, says the Rev. Linda Webster, pastor. "We share a meal or have a barbecue," she says. "We sit together and talk. Relationships start from that. It's an important connection." Many youth return from the trip transformed, eager to serve at St. Mark and in the community, Lisher says.

"There is an openness and excitement," she said. "By the end they realize it's not about the work they've done, but about the relationships they've made with one another and with God."



BIBLE TRIVIA

**Bible Trivia Answer:** They are violently fighting with their brothers and sisters in faith (and even body! – Obadiah speaks of the descendants of Jacob and Esau, twin brothers born to Isaac and Rebekah in the book of Genesis, Chapter 25. Take a look at Galatians 6:10, too. How does St. Paul call us to treat one another?)



This  
Month's  
Anniversaries

|                        |       |          |
|------------------------|-------|----------|
| Willard & Janie Bloom  | 12/16 | 44 years |
| Dana & Kelly Schneider | 12/17 | 23 years |
| Lee & Darlas Yost      | 12/23 | 61 years |
|                        |       |          |
| Jerry & Alice Roush    | 1/4   | 53 years |
| Leroy & Bonnie Hauck   | 1/8   | 30 years |
| Dix & Pauline Reitz    | 1/26  | 50 years |



|                 |      |
|-----------------|------|
| James Bartlett  | 12/1 |
| Nancy Watts     | 12/1 |
| Sharon Karchner | 12/2 |
| Connie Mensch   | 12/2 |
| Jen Suarez      | 12/2 |

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| Brad Bartlett        | 12/3  |
| Charlene Francis     | 12/3  |
| Marvel Fisher        | 12/4  |
| Ann-Marie Gregory    | 12/4  |
| David Yost           | 12/6  |
| Ruth Greenly         | 12/7  |
| Florence Ishler      | 12/7  |
| Kenneth Snyder       | 12/7  |
| Robert Derr          | 12/10 |
| Kim Herr             | 12/11 |
| Nancy Manning        | 12/11 |
| Dale Bender          | 12/12 |
| Grant Wargo          | 12/13 |
| Penny Ulmer          | 12/17 |
| Linda Valiquette     | 12/17 |
| Scott Reed           | 12/18 |
| Brenda Bartlett      | 12/19 |
| Kelly Solomon        | 12/19 |
| Kelli Haupt          | 12/20 |
| Margarite Ruth       | 12/20 |
| Alyssa Byers         | 12/21 |
| Janie Bloom          | 12/22 |
| Manni Ramos-Valentin | 12/22 |
| Blake Wargo          | 12/22 |
| Zeke Fisher          | 12/24 |
| Jason Walls          | 12/25 |
| Jamie Faust          | 12/27 |
| George Bolich        | 12/29 |
| Anna Mae Harpster    | 12/29 |
| Barbara Gray         | 12/30 |

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Ronald Snyder    | 1/3 |
| Sydney Blosser   | 1/5 |
| Julie Cipriani   | 1/5 |
| Pauline Guffey   | 1/5 |
| Kelly Schneider  | 1/5 |
| Izak Trinidad    | 1/5 |
| Lucille Bruss    | 1/6 |
| Vanessa Gonzales | 1/7 |
| Jack Aunkst      | 1/8 |

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| Edith Coup       | 1/14 |
| Kristen Bastian  | 1/15 |
| Kay Dunn         | 1/18 |
| Aaron Johnson    | 1/18 |
| Dwayne Mull      | 1/19 |
| Robert O'Connell | 1/20 |
| Thomas Berger    | 1/21 |
| Peggy Neuhard    | 1/23 |
| Torrey Drum      | 1/26 |
| Andrea Engleman  | 1/28 |
| William Winner   | 1/30 |

(If we missed your birthday, call the Church Office  
and let us know!)



# SAVIOR ORNAMENT

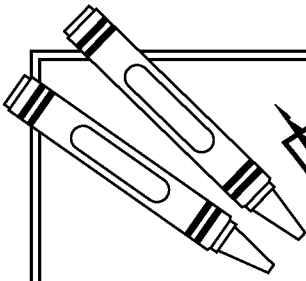
This Christmas, celebrate Jesus' birthday by making this keepsake ornament.

## **What you need:**

- Wooden clothespin with round end
- Black permanent marker
- White cloth or felt
- Small wooden star (available at craft stores)
- Yellow paint
- Paintbrush
- Gold glitter (optional)
- Glue gun (and an adult)
- Straw-colored raffia
- Palm-size wicker wreath (available at craft stores)
- Ribbon

## **What you do:**

1. On the clothespin's round knob, draw two dots for eyes.
2. Wrap the white cloth around the clothespin, like a swaddled baby.
3. Paint the star yellow; add glitter, if desired.
4. With the glue gun and adult supervision, glue the raffia to the bottom inside of the wreath. Then glue the swaddled clothespin atop the raffia and glue the gold star atop the wreath.
5. Tie a ribbon around the top, near the star.
6. Hang the ornament on your Christmas tree or tie it on a gift.



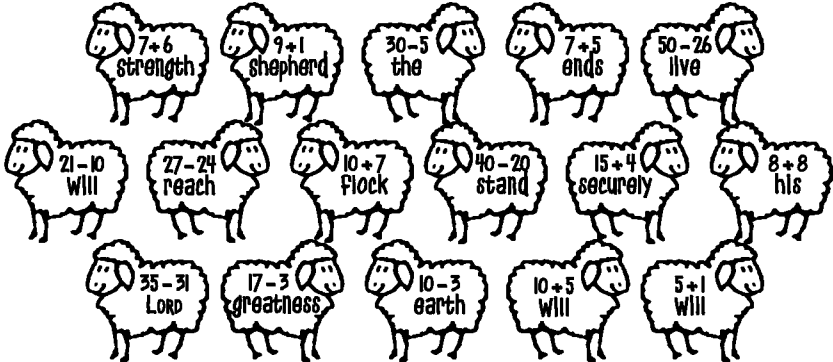
# PUZZLE



## A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

**Directions:** To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.



"He 15 20 and 10 his 17

in the 13 of the 4 .... And they 11 24

19, for then 16 14 6

3 to the 12 of 25 7."

M I C A H 5 : 4 , N I V

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord .... And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV



**CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**1125 MAHONING STREET, MILTON, PA 17847**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Public Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**Phone (570) 742-7473**

**Pastor E-mail: [pastor@christlutheranmpa.org](mailto:pastor@christlutheranmpa.org)**

**Secretary E-mail: [secretary@christlutheranmpa.org](mailto:secretary@christlutheranmpa.org)**

**Church Website: [www.christlutheranmpa.org](http://www.christlutheranmpa.org)**

**Staff:**

**The Rev. Patricia A. T. Pittsnogle, Pastor**

**Lorei Comerer, Church Office Manager**

**Donna Spear, Webmaster**

**Nancy Walters, Director of Church Music**

**Brett Hosterman, Organist**

**Rose Deaner, Treasurer**

**Ruth Greenly, Financial Secretary**

**Tbd, Custodian**

**Bob Greenly, Groundskeeper**

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