

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. William A. Schaefer, Pastor



Living, Learning, and Growing in the Word of God

1325 Mission Road, Latrobe, PA 15650
Phone: 724-537-7273 Fax: 724-537-6039

Webpage: www.princeofpeacelatrobe.com
Email: office@princeofpeacelatrobe.com



P.O.P. NOTES



December 2011 Volume 49 Issue 11

A December To Remember

I was watching TV and reading on the internet about all the fuss and chaos of “Black Friday”. I was taken by the amount of people who decided to forgo spending Thanksgiving with their families so they could stand in line beginning on WEDNESDAY at the “Big Box Stores” and malls so they could be the first to get the best deals. I struggled to understand their thinking, but I soon gave up with a thought of “to each his own”.

As I prepared for my sermon on the 1st Sunday of Advent, I began to think about these shoppers again. Now, mind you, I have nothing against someone getting a great deal on something, but it struck me as odd that people would actually give up precious time with their family to stand in line for over 24 hours to get an x Box or a TV. I thought there is something that happens to us at Christmas that changes us from a people of God to mere consumers.

As I preached my sermon, I talked about keeping awake in our faith. Our goal as Christians is to keep connected to God through prayer, reading of scripture and personal devotion. These are the primary ways that we can stay awake in our faith. This can be done alone or even better with friends and family. It can be done with singing and excitement or it can be done with silent devotion. It can be done with an Advent wreath or without one. The goal is hear how God is speaking to you and your family this Advent season. If you need resources, please call me at the office or email me at pastorbill@princeofpeacelatrobe.com.

Advent calls us to not jump to Christmas, but to experience the power of Christ, who has already come as a child, but who has yet to come again. Advent calls us away from being consumers of products to being hearers and doers of His Word. In doing the things listed above, you can experience the joy of Advent and make for you and your family, a December to remember.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bill

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Rosie Nickle – Ministry Chair

Christian Education Meeting December 8th at 7:00p.m.

Children’s Christmas Program – will be held on December 11th during the service. There will be no Sunday School on December 25th or January 1st.

Youth group meeting on Sunday Dec 4 at 5:00pm. Parents are welcome to come as we will be planning activities. We will also be having dinner. Please let Jen Schaefer know if you will be coming. Youth group is for youth in 5th-12th.

Confirmation Class – the Confirmation Class will be doing a variety of things to raise money for camp. In addition to the soup sale and the spaghetti dinner they will be selling coupon books, pies and candy. Please consider supporting the kids through one or two of these ventures.

FINANCE

Dwight Sarson – Ministry Chair

TREASURER’S REPORT

October 2011

CURRENT FUND

Beginning Balance	\$1,246.50
Receipts	\$ 9,622.32
Disbursements	\$12,082.19
Ending Balance	\$(1,213.37)

BENEVOLENCE

2011 Pledge	\$18,000
Amount Pledged to Date	\$15,000
Amount Received to Date	\$12,654.50
Difference Over/(Under)	(2,345.50)

BUILDING FUND

Beginning Balance	\$23,242.07
Receipts	\$1,233.51
Total Available	\$24,475.58
Less Disbursements	<u> \$0</u>
Ending Balance	\$24,475.58

OUTREACH

Vickie Onusko – Ministry Chair

Winter is on the way and the blanket drive will continue until further notice. Please bring in your new or gently used blankets to be donated to those in need. Please place blankets in the bin in the narthex.

Meals on Wheels is in need of drivers to deliver meals to homes. Meals are picked up at Latrobe Hospital and then delivered to individuals homes. It takes about 1 to 1 1/2 hours once or twice a month. If you would be interested please contact Alice Harr 724539-8988.

Finals boxes – We would like to send boxes filled with goodies to our college students this year for finals week. I believe that would be the first week of December. We would like to include: Hard candy, licorice, chips, gum, peanut butter or cheese crackers, combos, microwave popcorn, hot cocoa, drink flavoring packets, protein or granola bars, chocolate. If you would like to purchase any of these or give Kellie, Pat or Ginger money towards these boxes or the mailing of these boxes we would appreciate it. We have 7 of our kids that have supplied their address and I think it would be nice to let them know we are thinking of them.

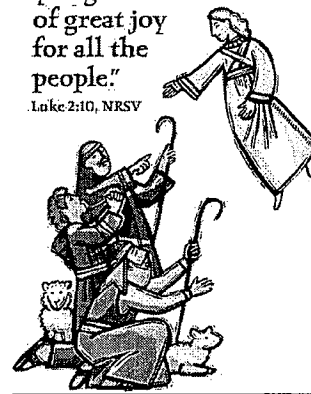
Property and House Committee

R.R. Schmitt/Lee Semasko–Ministry Chairs



Tractor cost	\$3049
Less total Donations	-\$2515
Remaining	\$534

“I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.”
Luke 2:10, NRSV



MUSIC AND WORSHIP

Pam Yuhaniak – Ministry Chair

The 2012 Head Usher sign-up sheet is in the Narthex on the Ushers station. Please sign up early to get your desired month. Your willingness to serve in this capacity is greatly appreciated!

The 2012 Flower book pages are now in the notebook on the Ushers station.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR DECEMBER

DECEMBER 4TH

Greeters: The Jellison Family
Acolyte: Zakary Jellison
Lay Reader: Margy Williams
Lay Assistants: Ed and Carolyne Sparber
Advent Wreath: The Mentch Family

DECEMBER 11TH

Greeters: Larry and Nancy Miller
Acolyte: Courtney Warren
Lay Assistants: Jim and Shirley Moretti
Advent Wreath: The Ray Family

DECEMBER 17TH

Lay Reader: Don Kayser
Lay Assistants: Pam Yuhaniak

DECEMBER 18TH

Greeter: The Weltz Family
Acolyte: Marc Weltz
Lay Reader: Sherry Stahl
Lay Assistants: Pat Fry and Barb Volpe
Advent Wreath: The Schmitt Family

DECEMBER 24TH

Greeters: Bill and Debbie Rose & Family
Acolyte: Rachel Douglas
Lay Reader: Lee Semasko
Lay Assistants: Dave and Jenny Bowser

DECEMBER 25TH

Greeters: The Onusko Family
Lay Reader: Jen Schaefer
Lay Assistants: Dave Braden/Pam Yuhaniak

Head Usher for December is Dwight Sarson
Altar Care for December is being done by the week

STEWARDSHIP

Susann Tschupp – Ministry Chair

HIS WAYS ARE NOT OUR WAYS

The Academy Awards were held some months ago. The newspapers printed reports on the event days before it was held, with most of the reports speculating on which movies and actors would claim the coveted Oscar. One such article asserted that the honor was not necessarily bestowed on the most talented actor or the best movie, but on those who had done the best PR work. Lots of hype, lots of

advertising, lots of interviews surround these movies and the people associated with them in the hope that we will open our pocketbooks and go to see them. It often works! It works in the business and political worlds too. Press conferences are held to make sure that the public will hear and hail the decisions those leaders make.

Here we are, ready to celebrate the birth of Christ – a major event, even for those who don't believe in Him. Today this celebration is heralded back in October, or at least November, by merchants filling their shelves with enticing gifts, decorations, cards, and all the trappings of Christmas.

How different from the first Christmas! Mary and Joseph settled down in an inn. There were no photographers waiting outside to snap the first picture of the new king. No one knew what was happening! No one, that is, except for the parents and the host of Heaven who made the announcement. But to whom was this announcement made? To the powerful who would speed through the towns and villages, spreading the news? No, to shepherds who were outcasts, hired hands so low on the social scale they weren't even allowed to give testimony in a court of law, nor were they allowed to come into the Temple.

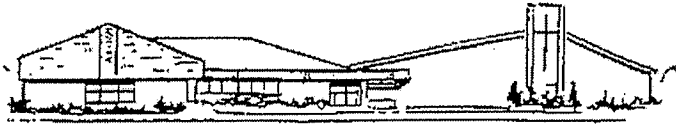
Yet these were the ones chosen by God to tell the good news. These wretched creatures saw the angels with "*...the glory of the Lord [shining] around them...*" They heard the message the angels brought: "*Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord . . . You will find a baby . . . lying in a manger*" (Luke 2:9, 10). They saw, they listened, and then they went to see for themselves. After receiving the Good News, they spread it. "*When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them*" (Luke 2:17-18).

If lowly shepherds could tell the story, can't we as well? "*All who heard it were amazed,*" Luke writes, but he doesn't say all believed. All we're asked to do is tell the story. How could fear, uncertainty, or apathy hold us back? This is the biggest news mankind has ever received! As stewards of the Gospel, we have no choice but to follow the example of the shepherds and "*spread the word concerning what has been told [us] about this child.*"

Fellowship
Shirley Kelley – Ministry Chair

Women's Christmas Party – will be held at Sharky's on December 7th at 6:00p.m. If you are interested in attended please see Shirley Kelley for your menu choices.

Christmas Dinner Pies – we will again be supplying the pies for the Christmas Dinner hosted by the Ministerium. If you are able to donate money towards this project please see Shirley



1962-2012
50th Anniversary

*Living, Learning and Growing in the Word
of God*

On January 8th, the committee will be holding a "Kick off to the 50th Anniversary" Dinner immediately following the service. Everything will be provided and a free will offering will be taken. All members are invited to attend.

If you or someone you know from the congregation is in the hospital or is at home and sick and needs a visit from Pastor Bill, please call the office so that he can schedule a visit. The Pastor is only told by the hospital when a person is a patient if they ask for the church to be notified.

Prayer is an essential part of who we are as a people of God. Below is a list of people from our congregation to keep in your daily prayers. If you know of others who should be added to these lists, please contact the church office with the names.

From our congregation: Julie Zeltner, Bev Guyer, Mary Jane Hayden, Vi McInay, Verna Allen, Dave Williams, Ron Carey, Dick Braun, Tom Ridge, Verna Frontz, Phyllis Stewart, Ginger Warren, Norie Schrecengost, R.R. Schmitt, Vickie Onusko and Terri McAfoose.

Others in need of our prayers: Rev. Susan Luttner, Dan Schaefer, Bill Hauger, Betty Onusko, Nickolas Gehlman, Debbie Gehlman, Mary Jane Bangor, Nash Sinchak, Donald Dick, Mary Evelyn and Gene Miller, Cecil Metz, Jim Greene, Ann Walthour, Chris Volpe, Helen Lowman, Betty Jean Sulzer, Bruce Kantorik, Carol Keim, John Horton, Joyce Roddy, Ethel Weltz, Karen Groans, Lillian Santone, Rev. John Tollner, and Julia Kozar.

Our Shut-in members:

Louise Johns(Emeritus), Frieda Nehls (Nature Park Commons), Helen Albright(at home), Phyllis Stewart (Redstone Highlands), Marie Hill(at home), Betty Felbaum (at home) Barney and Dolores Helfferich (Emeritus), Thomas Washnock (at home) and Violet Myers (Barnes House).

Those in the Military: Sean Stewart, Justin Kowatch, Jordan Omlor, Troy Golden, Richard Schall, Erik Sarson, and the 28th Military Police Battalion.

Addresses for Care Homes of our Members
Barnes House

2021 James Street
Latrobe PA 15650

Nature Park Commons

132 Nature Park Road
Greensburg, PA 15601

Emeritus (Green Meadows)

500 Brouwers Drive
Latrobe PA 15650

Redstone Highlands

8 Garden Center Drive
Greensburg PA 15601

Announcements

Adams Memorial Library is having a Fundraiser. They have been extremely lucky in having such generous donors of Baskets. You buy tickets and place in the box that corresponds with the basket you want to win. Winners will be drawn on Dec. 15th. The list of baskets is hanging in the narthex.

Kellie needs your help – Please remember to fill out you Membership information form and you Spiritual Gifts Inventory and return them to me as soon as possible.

The Thomas Foster Care Agency needs your help! We are searching for new foster families. We focus more on quality foster families, rather than quantity. We have a more than 95% success rate of rebuilding and reunifying families. The Thomas Foster Care Agency is located in Oil City, PA; however we have contracts in sixteen counties around Pennsylvania. Those counties include Armstrong, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Clarion, Clearfield, Elk, Greene, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Mifflin, Northumberland, and Westmoreland. If you live in one of those counties and are interested in learning more about becoming a foster parent, please contact Brenda at (724) 867-9471 or Amy at (814) 516-1851.

50 Years of Ministry – On November 25, 2012, Prince of Peace will celebrate 50 years of Ministry. The First services were on June 3, 1962 and the Congregation was officially formed on November 25, 1962. For 50 years, we have served the people of Lawson Heights, Latrobe, Unity Township and the Synods of Southwestern PA. Beginning in January, we will have a yearlong celebration of this important event in the life of this congregation, but we need your help!!!. The committee would like to plan a special event for each month of the year, so this does not have to be a year-long commitment. If you would like to be involved for a certain month, or have an idea you would like to share, contact Vickie Onusko, Shirley Kelley, Pam Yuhaniak, or Pastor Bill.

The anniversary committee is looking for photos, movies, slides, programs, or any items that would help to archive the history of Prince of Peace. We would like to make a digital "movie" to put onto our web site, and would also like to use these items for our monthly celebrations starting in January. If you have something we could use, please get it to Pastor or to Kellie in the office. If you would like it back, please mark it with your name and phone number so we can return it when we are finished.

Pennsylvania Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP helps PA citizens pay their heating bills and resolve heating emergencies such as utility termination, no fuel.

LIHEAP offers both CASH and CRISIS grants:

- **CASH grants** (11/01/11-3/20/12) help pay heating bills. Payment is sent to the utility company or fuel provided and is credited on the recipient's bill. In some cases the check may be mailed directly to the recipient. Maximum benefit \$1,000/Minimum benefit \$100.
- **Crisis Exception Payment** (11/01/11-01/02/12) Household without heat (Considered Crisis Grant)
- **Crisis Grants** (01/03/12-03/30/12) help families with an emergency and are in danger of being without heat (broken furnaces, less than 15 days left of fuel). Maximum benefit \$300/Minimum \$25.

LIHEAP applications available in the Narthex in the rotating rack.

'Tis the season: Give more through life insurance

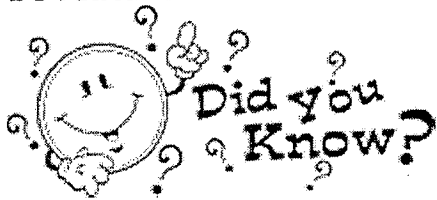
It's the time of year when gift giving is on everyone's mind. Would you like to contribute to our congregation, your alma mater or favorite charity?

Doing so can be easier than you think— with life insurance.

Although the primary purpose of life insurance is to provide a death benefit to a beneficiary, that beneficiary doesn't have to be a person-- it can also be your organization of choice. In this season of giving, why not give more than you dreamed possible by using life insurance as a charitable gift? To learn more about how you can use life insurance to give more, contact Kirk Perry, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Financial Representative, at 724-836-7772 or kirk.perry@thrivent.com today, or visit thrivent.com

CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY CARING...

This page features our members that are doing positive things within the congregation and in the community. If you catch someone being "good" please let Kellie know so they can be featured in this new section.



Morgan Rose Wano was in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade?



Set to show their skills

Laurel Valley Academy of Dance students performing in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City this year include (front row, from left) Kaitlyn Grimm, Courtney Morrison and Adriana LaMantia and (back row, from left) Sarah Scekeres, Morgan Wano, Nichole Johnson, Valerie Magda and Rebekah Marsh. The dancers from the Latrobe-based school will perform a circus-themed routine during the parade. Members from the school participated in the parade in 2004.

J.T. Douglas has added a new twist to his hockey career. Since the J.V. team was short of players, he decided to play as a player, as opposed to his normal goalie self, for the team. He has never played as a player and it requires an entire new set of equipment plus different skates. In his first game, he had two assists, one being to his brother, Ben, for a goal. He also had his first goal ever in the following game. He is still a goalie for his travel team.

Food Drive – Harvest Food Collection enabled us to help three local families. Thanks so much for your generosity.

Leaf Raking – the following helped rake leaves for two elderly households who are very grateful: Pastor Bill, Noah, Angeline, Dwight Sarson, Vickie, Becky and Kimmy Onusko, Doug, Jacob and Emily Hay, Carisa Byich, Kelly and Marc Weltz.

Playground fundraiser – which was held here on November 5th helped to raise \$650.00 for the playground project. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make this project a success.

Mittens – During our mitten drive we collected 20 pair. These mittens were donated to the Women's shelter of Pittsburgh. If you still have mittens or would like to purchase them they can be placed on the Wish Tree as the tags are taken.

Wish Tree – we are again sponsoring 40 Children from Grandview Elementary School for Christmas. As of today, there are 16 tags left. Please take a tag, record the tag and return the purchased gifts, unwrapped, by December 11th. If you are unable to shop but would like to sponsor a child, please call Kellie in the office and she will make sure the items get bought. Thanks so much for all you do.

Blanket Drive – to date we have collected 22 blankets to keep those in need warm this winter. The drive continues until further notice.

Rachel Douglas – competed in her first meet since breaking her ankle. She did well and qualified for the state meet.



CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS

PASTOR - BILL SCHAEFER	Finance - Dwight Sarson (532-3020)
President - Vickie Onusko(537-9383)	Outreach - Vickie Onusko - (537-9383)
Vice President - Dwight Sarson (532-3020)	Fellowship - Shirley Kelley - (537-5645)
Secretary - Cathie Schall - (539-7164)	Worship/Music - Pam Yuhaniak (537-5533)
Financial Secretary - Pat Fry (539-7513)	Library - Margy Williams - (539-8704)
Treasurer - Lisa Mentch (309-3264)	W.E.L.C.A. - Shirley Kelley - (537-5645)
Stewardship - Susan Tschupp (219-3893)	Memorial Committee -Pastor Bill/Pat Fry
Christian Ed - Rosie Nickle (539-9488)	Prayer Chain - Ginger Warren (593-7524)
Evangelism - Cathie Schall - (539-7164)	Altar Care - Pam Yuhaniak - (537-5533)
Property/House - R.R. Schmitt (537-3245) Lee Semasko (537-9164)	Funeral Dinner Coordinators- Sheila Thompson - (537-8010)/Ginger Warren (593-7524)



December Birthdays

- 1 Erica McIlnay
- 4 Stacey Walker
Victor Grimm
- 5 Flo Gulisek
Nathan Braden
Isabella Wood
- 7 Beth West
- 9 Ron Gray
- 10 Ben Means
Nick Means
- 11 Paul Kuhns
Donna Smith
- 12 Lynda Monticue
- 14 Scott Mills
Myles Douglas
Michelle Catone
- 17 Kyle Brewer
William Wood
- 19 Caleb Jellison
- 21 Margy Williams
- 24 Justin Kowatch
- 26 Deana Rohrer
- 27 Pam Stanko
Juliann Zeltner
- 30 Carolyne Sparber
Debbie Spatola




December Baptisms

- 1 Shane Koontz
- 3 Pat Fry
- 6 Jennifer Brewer
- 8 Patty Williams
- 11 Courtney Warren
Teagan Schmitt
- 13 Kelly Ross
Wylie Nolan
- 18 Ryan Kowatch
Adam Kowatch
- 19 Donna Gerhart
- 26 Isabella Wood
- 28 Kris Kotouch
- 31 Gayle Poole




December Anniversaries

- 5 Jim & June McIlnay
- 12 Jack & Kathy Bangor
- 20 Bob & Kay Shaw



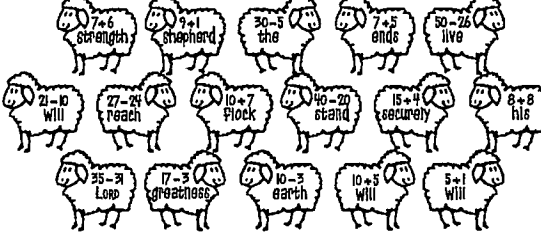
PUZZLE



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 _____ and _____ his _____
15 20 10 17

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

_____, for then _____
19 16 14 6

_____ to the _____ of _____."
3 12 28 7

MICAH 5:4, NIV

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

ATTITUDE

by: Charles Swindoll

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company... a church... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude... I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you... we are in charge of our attitudes.