

Ministry Matters

- in the congregation and beyond -

SUPPLY PASTORS FOR NOVEMBER:

November 5 - The Rev. Brenda Boyer
November 12 - The Rev. Julie Osterhout
November 19 - The Rev. David Kistler
November 26 - The Rev. John Hazel



MARRIAGE: We congratulate, and pray God's blessing upon, **Christopher and Kaitlyn (Floyd) Getz**, who were united in marriage on September 30th. May the faith and love of Christ fill your hearts and your marriage always. We celebrate your commitment and your joy!



SAUSAGE SUPPER:

It's almost that time! On **Saturday, November 4th** from **3:30 – 7:00 p.m.** we will be holding our annual fall Sausage Supper. The proceeds from this event support St. John's Building Fund. Tickets for the supper are \$11 for adults and \$3.50 for children ages 6-10. Children age 5 and under eat for free. Volunteers are needed to set up tables, peel potatoes, provide cakes, serve and clean up. Sign-up sheets to volunteer are in the St. Stephen's Room. For tickets, please call Carol Crawford (788-1361) or Arlene Poltrock (788-3710).



TURN BACK CLOCKS: **Sunday, November 5th**, is the end of Daylight Savings. Don't forget to turn back your clocks Saturday night!



ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY: On **Sunday, November 5th**, All Saints' Sunday, the following souls who have entered eternal rest since last November, will be remembered: **Donald Coxe, Ethel Hoda, Rudolph Hoda, and Betty Cunfer.** On All Saints' Sunday, we will also celebrate those who were baptized into the Communion of Saints during the previous year. They are: **Alexander Troy Bowden, Nicholas Pasquale Barbush, Sakura Lynn Fisher, Colten Bryce Coxe, and Jayce Chad Smith.**



THANK YOU: We would like to thank everyone for their prayers and cards during my recent unexpected illness. Will see you next summer. ~ John & Barbara Billig.



CWU – WORLD COMMUNITY DAY:

Church Women United will observe this day in a program titled "Kindling New Fires for Peace." The program followed by coffee and tea will be held on **Friday, November 3rd at 1:00 p.m.** at Black Creek United Methodist Church, 158 Golf Course Road in Sugarloaf. All women are invited to attend. A sign-up sheet is now in the St. Stephen's Room. **Please sign up by Monday, October 30th.**



World Community Day (WCD) began in 1943 from discussions at a meeting of denominational presidents and executive secretaries asking that a day be set aside in the fall for the study of peace by church women. WCD continues to emphasize peace but has been broadened to include justice, a vital partner of peace. The once clear categories of "domestic" and "foreign" were consciously blurred so the global scope of the wide range of problems could be emphasized on World Community Day.

THANKSGIVING FOOD BOXES: Thank you for the many donations received during Harvest Home to benefit our local food pantry. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and is a wonderful display of God's work through you! The Valley Food Pantry is now gathering items for the Thanksgiving food boxes for the approximately 60 area families in need. Several local churches are collecting items to contribute to this effort. Our church will be collecting **canned pumpkin pie mix** and **pie crust mix**. In addition, donations of **coffee** and **tea** would also be appreciated; those are items that are always needed. Please bring your donation by **Wednesday, November 15th.**



PREPARING FOR AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM:

Please hold our current catechetical students and their parents in your prayers as they move through this program of learning, spiritual formation, and discipleship development. The students are: **Colyn Smith, Jenna Ray, and Abby Ray.** May the Holy Spirit guide and bless them on their journey.



HANGING OF THE GREENS/CHRISTMAS PARTY:

On **Sunday, December 3rd** following the worship service, we will hold our annual "Hanging of the Greens" – when we decorate our church in preparation for the birth of Jesus, our Savior.



*Christmas
Dinner*

Immediately thereafter, we will hold our annual Christmas party in Luther Hall. The dinner is being sponsored by LCW and will be catered by Capriotti's. Members are asked to bring a salad, side dish or dessert.

The Christmas dinner is for all members, whether or not you participated in decorating the nave. A sign-up sheet will be in the St. Stephen's Room in the near future.

LIVING NATIVITY: Christ Lutheran Church in Conyngham will hold their 24th Annual Drive-Thru Living Nativity on **Saturday, December 2nd** and **Sunday December 3rd from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.** both days. There is no charge. The Living Nativity depicts various scenes telling the story of the birth of Jesus, and includes live animals.



CHRISTKINDLFEST: On **Saturday, December 2nd** and **Sunday, December 3rd, from 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** both days, Christ



Evangelical Lutheran Church will hold their annual Christkindlfest event. They welcome us to join them in celebrating the Christmas story by enjoying their sound and light Fontanini Nativity Display. There is a Tannenbaum tea room where you can indulge in tea, scones and other treats. There will be crafts for sale. St. Nicholas himself has been known to frequent the event. Their location is: 210 West Green Street in Hazleton.

ADVENT GIVING: Sunday, December 3rd will begin our Advent Giving. Listed below are the dates and "gifts" for giving each Sunday. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Ellen Sims (788-2866).



December 3 – St. Luke's Manor and Pavilion: tissues, lotion, deodorant, perfume, aftershave, jewelry, men's dark and white socks, and women's white socks – women's anklets should be high enough to cover the ankle area.

December 10 – Salvation Army: hats, scarves, gloves and mittens.

December 17 – Head Start: books, games, toys, socks, sweatshirts, and sweatpants suitable for children ages 3 & 4.

December 24 – Lutheran World Relief Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund – cash donations.

DATE CHANGES: Please note that the November church council meeting has been changed to **Tuesday, November 7th at 7:00 p.m.**



The November LCW meeting has also been re-scheduled for **Tuesday, November 7th at 1:00 p.m.** Due to frequent scheduling conflicts, LCW will begin holding their regular meetings on Tuesdays. Please note this change on your calendar.

NEW LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: We are happy to share that **Joyce Ray** and **Dawn Klick** recently completed Lay Eucharistic training. We ask that you keep them in your prayers as they give of their time to this ministry offered by our congregation. We thank God for all who respond to the call to serve in His name. If you would like a visit from a Lay Eucharistic minister, please contact Betty Kushner (788-4809).



THANK YOU - SHOOFLY PIES: Thank you to everyone who volunteered or helped in any way with our fall shoo-fly pie fundraiser. We made 874 pies!



CUB SCOUTS CHRISTMAS TREE SALE:

Cub Scouts Pack 63 will be selling live Christmas trees beginning Friday, November 24. They will be sold in the grassy area behind our parking lot across the street from the church. The scouts will be on site Friday nights and Saturdays leading up to Christmas. The cost per tree is \$25 and pre-orders will be accepted until November 12. A sign-up sheet will be available in the St. Stephen's Room as soon as it is available. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Cipriani (570) 578-6952. Details on pre-order pick-ups will be announced at a later date. Proceeds from the tree sale will go toward the purchase of new pack supplies, the annual banquet, and other fun scouting activities. Please come out and support our scouts!



CALL COMMITTEE: Church Council has begun discussions regarding the call process as we search for a new minister for St. John's. As part of that process, Council is looking for six active (voting) church members to serve on the Call Committee, with one being under age eighteen. Responsibilities of the Call Committee include: meeting and communicating with the synod, meeting and interviewing pastoral candidates, observing candidates conducting worship and preaching, and meeting with council. Those who wish to serve on the call committee should be able to interview pastoral candidates effectively, maintain strict confidentiality, and adhere to the ELCA and NEPA Synod practices and guidelines. If you would like to be *considered* to serve on the Call Committee, please see a member of Council. You may nominate another church member to serve on the committee after obtaining their approval. Council will subsequently vote to determine the Call Committee members.



Call
Committee

CHURCH PHOTOS: We have several events coming up. If you happen to capture any moments by camera and would like to share them in our newsletter, please send them to the church office email: stjohns@epix.net.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS - DECEMBER:

December 10: Christmas Caroling at 1:00 p.m.



December 17: Youth Christmas Program during worship



December 18: Fritzingertown Worship Service at 2:30 p.m.



December 24:

10:00 a.m. Service of Lessons & Carols
(no communion)

7:00 p.m. Special Music

7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service w/ communion

