



# St. Daniel's

November / December 2020

## News & Notes

### PASTOR'S *thoughts...*

The Pastor's Thoughts,

#### THE THREE TREES: A FOLKTALE FOR GOOD FRIDAY

**RUSSELL ARBEN FOX**

*Once upon a time, three little trees stood in a forest high on a mountain, dreaming of what they would be when they were grown.*

*The first little tree looked up at the stars twinkling like diamonds in the night sky. "I want to hold treasure," it said. "I want to be filled with gold and decorated with jewels. I will be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!"*

*The second little tree looked down the mountainside at the ocean far below. "I want to be a strong sailing ship," it said. "I want to travel mighty waters and carry powerful kings. I will be the strongest ship in the world!"*

*The third little tree said, "I don't want to leave this mountaintop at all. I want to grow so tall that when people stop to look at me their eyes will raise up to heaven, and they will think of God. I will be the tallest tree in the world!"*

*Years passed, and the trees grew. And then one day, three woodcutters climbed the mountain.*

*One woodcutter looked at the first tree and said, "This tree is beautiful! It is perfect for me." With a dozen swoops of his axe, the first tree fell.*

*"Now I shall be made into a beautiful treasure chest," thought the first tree. "I shall hold marvelous treasures!"*

*Another woodcutter looked at the second tree and said, "This tree is strong! It is perfect for me." With a dozen swoops of his axe, the second tree fell.*

*"Now I shall sail mighty waters," thought the second tree. "I shall be made into a strong ship fit for powerful kings!"*

*The third tree felt its heart sink as the last woodcutter approached. It stood straight and tall and pointed bravely towards heaven. But the last woodcutter never even looked up. "Any kind of tree will do for me," he muttered. With a dozen swoops of his axe, the third tree fell.*

*The first tree rejoiced when the woodcutter took it to a carpenter's shop. But the carpenter was not thinking about treasure chests. Instead, he cut and carved the tree into a simple feedbox. The once-beautiful tree was not filled with gold or decorated with jewels. It was covered with dust, and filled with hay for hungry farm animals.*

*The second tree rejoiced when the woodcutter took it to a shipyard. But the shipbuilder was not thinking about mighty sailing ships. Instead, he hammered and sawed the tree into a simple fishing boat. The once-strong tree was too weak to sail the ocean. It was taken to a little lake, where every day it carried loads of dead, smelly fish.*

*The third tree was confused when the woodcutter took it to a lumberyard, where it was cut into strong beams and then left alone. "What happened?" the once-tall tree wondered. "All I ever wanted to do was stay on the mountaintop, grow tall, and make people think of God."*

*Years passed, and the three trees nearly forgot their dreams.*

*But then one still and silent night, golden starlight poured over the first tree, as a young woman placed a newborn baby into the feedbox.*

*"I wish I could make a cradle for him," her husband whispered.*

*The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as the starlight shone on the clean and shining wood. "This manger is beautiful," she said. And suddenly the first tree knew it was holding the greatest treasure in the world.*

*And then one humid and cloudy day, a tired traveler and his friends crowded into the small fishing boat. The traveler fell asleep as the second tree sailed quietly out into the lake. But a thundering storm arose, and the second tree shuddered, knowing that it did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through the fierce wind and rain.*

*The tired traveler awoke. He stood up, stretched out his hand, and said with a strong voice, "Peace, be still." The storm stopped as quickly as it had began. And suddenly the second tree knew it was carrying the King of heaven and earth.*

*And then one terrible Friday morning, the third tree was startled as its beams were yanked from the old lumberyard. It flinched as it was carried through an angry, jeering, spitting crowd. It shuddered when*

*soldiers nailed a man's hands and feet to her. It groaned as the man cried out in agony and died. It felt ugly and harsh and cruel.*

*But at dawn the next Sunday, on the first Easter morning, the earth trembled with joy beneath the third tree, and it knew that God's love had changed everything.*

*It had made the first little tree a beautiful treasure chest. It had made the second little tree a strong sailing ship. And every time people looked upon the third little tree, they would think of God.*

*That was even better than being the tallest tree in the world.*

The author may have intended the story for Good Friday but I think it has a lot of relevance for Christmas. In the story Jesus is found in the most unlikely places – a dirty feedbox, an overloaded fishing boat, strapped to an instrument of death.

And so it may be for us living in these unusual times. The Advent and Christmas rituals will feel different in many ways this year. Yet in the midst of it all remains Jesus, a reminder of God's love for us. It may take a bit more effort, but God can be found in the most unlikely places.

Have a blessed Advent filled with the joy of Christmas.

Blessings,  
Pastor Bob

## Worship Schedule

11/01 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Service of Word -  
Readings: Micah 3:5-12, Psalm 43, I Thessalonians 2:9-13,  
Matthew 23:1-12

11/08 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Service of Word -  
Readings: Amos 5:18-24, Psalm 70, I Thessalonians 4:13-  
18, Matthew 25:1-13

11/15 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Service of Word -  
Readings: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18, Psalm 90:1-8 (9-11) 12, I  
Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30

[Parking Lot Communion at 11am](#)

11/22 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Service of Word -  
Readings: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, Psalm 95:1-7a,  
Ephesians 1:15-23, Matthew 25:31-46

11/29 First Sunday of Advent – Service of Word -  
Readings: Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, I  
Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37

12/06 First Sunday of Advent – Service of Word -  
Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, II Peter 3:8-  
15a, Mark 1:1-8

12/13 First Sunday of Advent – Service of Word -  
Readings: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126, Luke 1:46b-55, I  
Thessalonians 5:16-24

12/20 First Sunday of Advent – Service of Word –  
Readings: II Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Luke 1:46b-55, Psalm  
89:1-4, 19-26, Romans 16:25-27

[Candlelight Service](#) – [Parking Lot](#) – 6:00pm

12/24 Christmas Eve – Service of Word - Readings:  
Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)  
Candlelight Service – Parking Lot – 6:00pm

12/27 First Sunday of Christmas – Service of Word -  
Readings: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18, Psalm 1, I  
Thessalonians 2:1-8, Matthew 22:34-46

## Happy Anniversary

11/02 Samuel & Bonnie Thomas  
11/16 Beatrice & Larry Achey

11/20 Richard & Nancy Labe

11/24 Marvin & Shirley Speicher  
12/02 Charles & Cheryl Moody



11/01 Roland Feeg  
11/03 Charles Moody  
11/05 Nan Feeg  
11/05 Claire Troop  
11/07 Brad Small  
11/10 Melissa Small  
11/12 Marvin Speicher  
11/15 Carl Adams

11/15 Lisa Merkel  
11/15 Robert Preston  
11/15 Jay Schmehl  
11/16 Minnie Duffy  
11/17 Madison Bright  
11/20 Noreen Ritz  
11/28 Elise Dieffenbach  
12/01 Susanne Ellefson

12/02 Rober Feeg  
12/02 Naoma Witzke  
12/04 David Jacobs Jr.  
12/04 Susan Williams  
12/04 Brian Yoh  
12/10 Ronald O'Brien  
12/11 Randy Yarnall  
12/14 Joyce Hassler

12/15 Mary Ulrich  
12/16 Diane Heistand  
12/17 Michael Kline  
12/18 Vernon Bright  
12/19 Madison Gheer  
12/19 Clifford Heistand  
12/21 Jon Fisher

## Contributing to the Church Electronically



**It is convenient - It is secure - It is confidential - It is healthy  
It is green - It is flexible.**

Establish a giving account with VANCO online. A link is available on our website.  
Contact Church Treasurer Ron O'Brien at 610.790.5568 or [kartss@verizon.net](mailto:kartss@verizon.net)  
for help to enroll.

Download the free GivePlus+ app from VANCO on your smartphone.

Locate the church in the 19551 zip code & establish the account.

*Be sure to select St. Daniel's Lutheran Church*

## Most of the bugs are gone!

As we know with cooler weather the annoyance from natural insect pests diminishes. The bugs associated with online worship from St Daniels have also been diminished but not because of the weather. We give thanks to Andy Harkel, Marlin Kerchner, Ron O'Brien, Jenny Plassio, Todd Straub, Pastor Bob & a number of other resource people for their sustained efforts in improving the presentation. Thank you to John & Rita Henning for the generous monetary gift used to purchase the necessary equipment.

We are continuing to work on ferreting out any other bugs and squash them!



## Pep Club Christmas Bingo ~ December 9 at 11am

Due to the large space in the social hall, we can safely social distance & have fun enjoying each other's company for an hour or two. Bring your own lunch, beverage & utensils, we will provide dessert. After lunch, we will play a few rounds of bingo with fun prizes.

RSVP by calling the church at 610-693-5145 or Joy's cell 484-794-0451 or by email at [stdanyouth@aol.com](mailto:stdanyouth@aol.com).

RSVP is required so that Joy can set up the room according to covid safety standards.



The Fall Fest Committee would like to express our appreciation of everyone's patronage & cooperation in making our Soup & Sandwich Sale, held on the planned St. Daniel's Fall Fest day, a huge success!

This was the first time we completely sold out of all the sandwiches we made!

### **GIVE US YOUR THOUGHTS PLEASE ...**

This "drive thru" went so well, should we consider doing another one? Please let Larry & Betty Bashore know what you think.

The fundraiser was to benefit the "New Roof Fund" for St. Daniel's.

Condolences extended to Carl & Johanna Adams upon the unexpected loss of their 19yo grandson, Brandon in September and to the family of Pearle (Judy) Burkhart who entered into eternal rest on September 22nd.



## Thanksgiving Dinner Veterans at Liberty Square

*Please consider donating food*

*for a Thanksgiving Meal at*

*Veterans at Liberty Square.*

*We are looking for your Thanksgiving favorites!*

*We will be collecting after our Outdoor Communion Service on November 15th at 11:30am. If you would need to drop your donation off on a different date, please contact the office.*

## WoW Women of Worth

This casual get together will allow us to catch up with each other & offer support, laughter & friendship. There will be a time of devotion accompanied with refreshments.

WoW will meet from 10-11am on November 24 & December 22.

We want to keep safe and adhere to current meeting guidelines. To do this **pre-registration is necessary.**

You may call the church at 610-693-5145 or email [stdanyouth@aol.com](mailto:stdanyouth@aol.com) by the Friday before the gathering.

Looking forward to this time where we lift each other in friendship & Christian fellowship.



**December 20, 2020 & December 24, 2020 at 6:00 pm**

Both services will have the same Scripture Readings & Christmas Carols with Holy Communion.

We will be using a FM transmitter so that you are able to listen while in the relative comfort of your car.

The church will offer battery powered candles for worshipers to use & return following the service.

Please do not use candles with flames inside the cars.



## Reverse Advent Calendar

**Each day (or as able) add an item to a box or bag (not wrapped).**

**Bring the box or bag to Christmas Candle Light Services (12/20 & 12/24)**

**All donations for Mercy Crisis Pregnancy Center.**

December 1- 4 oz. Baby Bottles (No Playtex)  
 December 2- Size 5 Diapers  
 December 3- 0-3 month onesies or outfit  
 December 4- Baby Brush/Comb  
 December 5- Sheets for Crib  
 December 6- Newborn Socks  
 December 7- Infant or Toddler Hat  
 December 8- 3T- 4T Pull Ups  
 December 9- Baby Bib(s)  
 December 10- Baby Wipes  
 December 11- Pacifier  
 December 12- 8 oz. Baby Bottles (No Playtex)

December 13- Size 6 Diapers  
 December 14- Hooded Towel  
 December 15- 3-6 month onesies or outfit  
 December 16- Nasal Aspirator  
 December 17- Receiving Blanket  
 December 18- Baby Thermometer  
 December 19- 0-3 month Infant Socks  
 December 20- 4T- 5T Pull Ups  
 December 21- Burp Cloths  
 December 22- Baby Wipes  
 December 23- Baby Wash/Shampoo  
 December 24- 6-9 month onesies or outfit

This is in place of The Giving Tree for 2020 due to Covid restrictions. Any questions, please reach out to Joy Kline.



**Joel and Jen Martin, ministry leaders in the DiscipleMakers Ministry and who the congregation supports as missionaries share the following highlights about their ministry to local college campuses:**

Even with all the restrictions, which at first appeared to limit the gospel, let me give you some highlights of amazing things that are happening:

- ❖ Each week **70 or so students log onto Zoom** to experience our weekly online large group meetings where we are walking through the Gospel of Luke.
- ❖ Each week we have about **120 students involved in small groups** that are encouraging one another in their faith, studying the Scriptures, and encouraging each other how to reach out and share their faith.
- ❖ Each week we continue to **train around 30-40 leaders** in how to engage their campus. Like Paul, we may not be able to be with them in person, but we are equipping them and encouraging them to do the work of ministry at a distance.
- ❖ At an early online Zoom meeting, an Elizabethtown College student heard the

testimony of an Lebanon Valley College student that resonated deeply with her. She reached out and the LVC student was able to share the gospel. **A moment that would not have happened apart from Covid-19.**

In short, God's kingdom and the gospel haven't slowed down one bit! Isn't that amazing? We should have known that a global pandemic would only serve the further God's work.

Thank you for your partnership in the gospel through your prayers and support. Please keep praying for us, the students, and our world!



Check out St. Daniel's Facebook page to see the altar area draped with quilts for Lutheran World Relief & many food items for Liberty Square Veterans' Home on Sunday, Sept. 27.

Donations to Helping Harvest totaled \$290.00. This will enable them to purchase \$5,800.00 of food from wholesalers to feed the hungry. **WOW!!**

Thank you to Betty & Larry Bashore for delivering the food to Liberty Square.

Thanks to Bob & Linda Preston & Pastor Bob for delivering 138 quilts to Bergstrasse Lutheran Church in Ephrata. They will be sent to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in Maryland & then shipped around the world to those in need.

LWR personnel were finally able to access the blast site in Beirut, Lebanon. They were overjoyed to find that the 3 containers of health kits, baby kits and quilts were safe! They were behind a concrete building & were protected from the blast.

**Thanks be to God!**



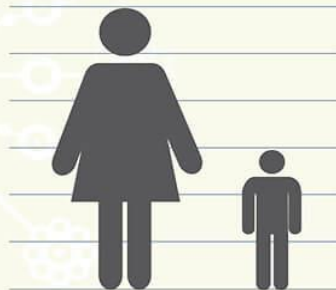
# SEASONAL DEPRESSION

## What you need to know about depression



**21 MILLION**

American adults suffer from depressive illness during any one year period.



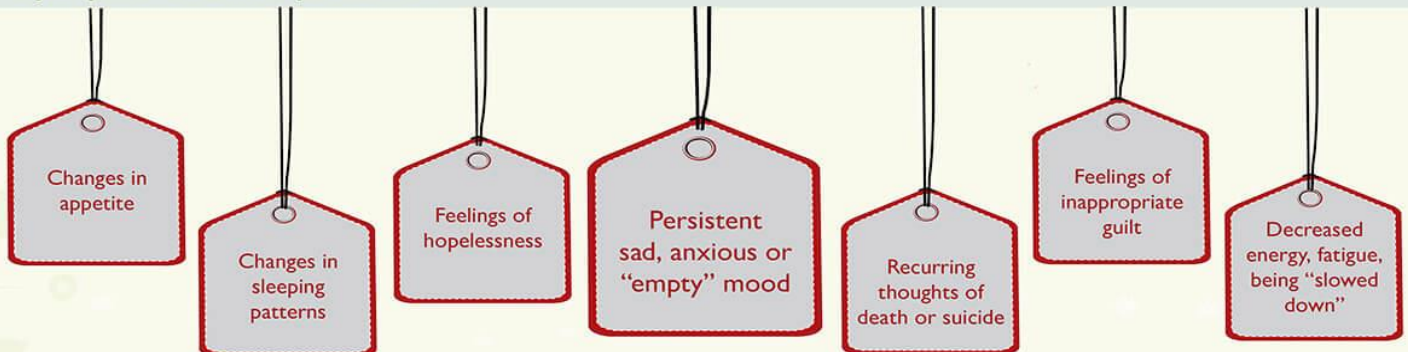
**WOMEN**

experience depression **2x** as often as men.



Without treatment, depression can last weeks, months or years.

## Symptoms of depression



Major depression is classified as a type of affective disorder or mood disorder that goes beyond the day's ordinary ups and downs, becoming a serious medical condition and important health concern in this country.

## How can you beat holiday depression?



### Exercise

A daily 30-minute walk may help prevent depression – so take a brisk stroll down a snowy path!



### Enjoy the Sunlight

As little as 15 to 30 minutes of sunlight, best in the early morning, will go a long way to alleviating the winter blahs



### Get enough Sleep

A lack of sleep can take a toll on your mood – so aim for 7 to 9 hours of sleep each night.



### Moderate Alcohol Consumption

Two glasses of wine are plenty for the holiday party – one if you've already had the eggnog.



### Adjust Expectations

Don't let visions of perfection spoil everything. Learn that most things can be good enough – gifts, food, company, etc.

### Concerned about depression?

If the depressed mood is serious, leading to isolation, crying spells, not sleeping or eating, hopelessness and thoughts of death or suicide, **get help immediately.**



#### SOURCES

Johns Hopkins Medicine Health Library; Andrew Angelino, MD, associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences



**JOHNS HOPKINS**  
MEDICINE  
[www.hopkinsmedicine.org](http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org)

## **Christmas Cards List 2020**

*Spread some Christmas Cheer this year with Christmas Cards to other members at St. Daniels. Please especially send cards to the following members.*

*No cards will be collected by Active Social Ministry this year.*

Dorothy Ravert  
Village Commons Rm 193  
1 Reading Drive  
Reading, PA 19565

Roma Ulrich  
540 West Penn Avenue  
Robesonia, PA 19551

Sandra Riegel  
24 E. High St. Apt. 202  
Womelsdorf, PA 19567

Harold Matthew  
123 Leonard Lane  
Meadowview Village  
Harrisburg, PA 17111

Elsie & Robert Shartle  
7 Westview Terrace  
Womelsdorf, PA 195567

Stew Wenrich  
811 W. Penn Ave.  
Robesonia, PA 19551

Jon & Jean Fisher  
18 Butternut Lane  
Robesonia, PA 19551

Barry Fry  
241 Steely Road  
Reading, PA 19608

Lora Achey  
330 West High Street  
Womelsdorf, PA 19567

Pat Nettling  
1 Reading Drive Apt. 153  
Wernersville, PA 19565

Carl & Johanna Adams  
Laurel Center  
125 Holly Road  
Hamburg PA 19526

Gloria Dietrich  
367 N. Church Street  
Robesonia, PA 19551

Joan Schaum  
210 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Wernersville, PA 19565

Tom Wenrich  
26 West Ruth Avenue  
Robesonia, PA 19551

Loretta Swope  
P.O. Box 103  
3051 S. Pine Grove St.  
Fredericksburg, PA 17026

Mark and Nancy Wolfskill  
1501 N. Church Street  
Robesonia, PA 19551

Rod and Lori Small  
164 N Cacoosing Drive  
Reading, PA 19608

Lois Ranck  
350 Big Spring Road  
Robesonia, PA 19551

Mary Ulrich  
61 South Mountain Road  
Robesonia, PA 19551

Joan Grimes  
120 North 5<sup>th</sup> St.  
Womelsdorf, PA 19567

Betty Moyer  
7 Central Drive  
Newsmanstown, PA 17073

Norma Zimmerman  
1 Reading Drive  
Apt. 255  
Wernersville, PA 19565

Joan Zechman  
20 South Summit Ave.  
Apt. 701  
Reading, PA 19607

Lester Zechman  
168 Grandview Road  
Wernersville, PA 19565



	09/20 vs 09/19	YTD 2020 vs YTD 2019
General Contributions	\$10,750 : ↓29%	\$131,606 : ↓15%
Benevolence Contributions	\$927 : ↓37%	\$11,874 : ↓10%
Building Contributions	\$2,944 : ↓08%	\$28,715 : ↓06%
General Expenses	\$16,215 : ↓11%	\$169,339 : ↓10%

### COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2020

- Harvest Home Sunday brought \$280.00 in donations for Helping Harvest food bank & many food items were collected for Liberty Square Veterans Home. Thank you to everyone for their generosity.
- Application to forgive the PPL loan has just been received & will be submitted for approval.
- Beverly Whipple has been hired as our permanent part-time Administrative Assistant. She will work 16 hours per week – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday from 9:00am to 1:00pm.
- Synod Convention delegates are Sam & Bonnie Thomas. A new bishop for the Northeast PA Synod will be elected on Sunday, Oct. 25, 2020.
- With much regret, the Annual Christmas Vesper Service is cancelled for this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The nominating committee is continuing to approach people to serve on Church Council.
- The call process is suspended at this time but will resume in the new year with the formation of a Call Committee.
- Our current website is being updated to better represent St. Daniel's and its ministries.
- Congregational Meeting to approve the proposed 2021 budget and elect Council members will be held on Sunday, Dec. 6, immediately following the worship service.

**St. Daniel's Christmas Advent**

We will be offering daily Advent Devotions on Facebook beginning on December 1st.

Join in with fellow believers as we anticipate the celebration of Jesus Christ's birth.

Please contact the office at 610-693-3155 if you would like a paper copy to be mailed to you instead of following on Facebook.

We will also be sharing a Family Advent Bible Verse Nightly on Facebook.

## Serve & Support

Lector ~ Flowers ~ Ushering ~  
Newsletters

2021 Sign Ups are now open

Please click on the appropriate link to sign up. After submitting your sign up, you will receive a reminder to the email you provided a few days before the date you signed up for.

Alter Flower Sponsorships

Lector for Worship

Ushering

Newsletter Sponsorships

### **ST. DANIEL'S MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of St. Daniel's Lutheran Church is to provide a caring and joyful community shaped by the love of God in Jesus Christ committed to nurturing people's faith in God and sharing His gifts of hope and love with the world around us.