



NEWS AND NOTES

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Advent is a time of longing and hoping for the future into which God is calling us. Advent's message is that our present is never all that God intends, that it is actually the kingdom of God for which we are longing as we try to fill our emptiness with other things.

MANY ARE FOCUSING ON
FORMING PARTNERSHIPS WITH
OTHER NON-PROFITS AND
CHURCHES TO ACCOMPLISH
TOGETHER WHAT THEY CANNOT
ACCOMPLISH ALONE

A time of pastoral transition in a congregation is a bit like Advent. There are hopes and dreams for the future, some of them rooted in past experience, and some more open to future possibilities. One of St. Daniel's prophets told me that some are expecting that when this transition is over, St Daniel's will have called someone like Pastor Weir and everything will go back to the way it was when he was here. For good or ill, I can assure you that is not possible.

Both St Daniel's and our surrounding culture have changed dramatically in the past 20 years. Church attendance is down almost everywhere, and at St Daniel's by more than half in that time. Giving has also declined more recently, requiring us to cut staff compensation, including that of the pastor, for the coming year. Building expenses continue to rise, and since our building produces

little income that cuts into our ability to pay staff members.

We are not alone in this situation. Most non-profit corporations and churches are experiencing growing needs and shrinking resources to meet them. In response, many are focusing on forming partnerships with other non-profits and churches to accomplish together what they cannot accomplish alone. I believe that St Daniel's needs to develop a number of partnerships with other congregations and organizations, including one to provide pastoral services. Our Mind, Body, Spirit program at Conrad Weiser West is a partnership with St Paul's UCC, and can provide a model for accomplishing our ministry with others.

May this Advent season be a time of reflection and growth in God's grace as we look toward a different future into which God is calling us!

Pastor Detweiler

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - NOVEMBER 12, 2018

- Council approved a balanced budget to be submitted to the congregation at the meeting on December 9. Balancing it required cuts to staff, reducing the pastor position to about half-time, and cutting the Congregational Ministries position by half.
- Adjustments to the balance sheet were approved to charge the deficit of \$123,000.00 accumulated over the past few years to the Memorial, Youth New Ministries and Special Gifts funds.
- Active Social Ministry will prepare Christmas baskets and deliver them to our homebound members on December 10.
- The Annual Cookie Walk will be held on December 2, with proceeds going to World Hunger.
- The slate of Council nominees - David Bright, Ann Faust, Dustin Jacobs, Marie Peiffer was approved to be submitted to the congregation for a vote on December 9.
- Worship Committee reported that we will use WOV setting 5 and sing one stanza of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" each Sunday.
- We wrapped up our stewardship Program with Commitment Sunday on November 18.
 - Pastor Detweiler reported that he has visited all but one of the shut-ins. He will start the next round of visits after Christmas.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2018**

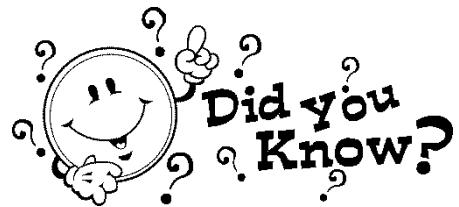
Following the 9:00am Worship Service

We will elect church council members for the coming year and act on the budget for 2019.

Please plan to be present for this Important meeting.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - JANUARY 27, 2019



St. Daniel's Preschool float was the third place winner in the Robesonia Jack Frost Parade.

Thank you to all the preschool parents for their wonderful artistic abilities and all the effort and work they put into creating this awesome float.

Congratulations on a Great Job!

17th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS VESPER SERVICE



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23 2017 at 4:00pm
Pre-service music by Hand Bell Choir - 3:40pm
Conrad Weiser High School Auditorium
Free Will Offering will be received
Reading Pops Orchestra & the St. Daniel's Vesper Choir
& Soloists: Melissa Small, Gretchen Patti & Tyler Ravert

We are asking you for special financial support so we can continue to offer this rich tradition this year and in the future. Envelopes for your contribution will be available in the narthex and included in the bulletin

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Monday December 24



3:00 PM Christmas Eve Service & Holy Communion

7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service & Holy Communion

YOUTH EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2018



Calling all St. Dan youth and families (and others who are welcome to join us)! We are heading to Shady Maple on Saturday, December 29 for our Christmas breakfast. We will leave from the church at 7:45 a.m. or you may meet us there. The cost will be \$5 for youth, \$10 for parents of youth and \$10.00 for all others. The money is payable that day with either a check made out to St. Daniel's or the exact cash needed for your group. Please see sign up sheet located on youth bulletin board.

St. Dan's youth and any others interested will be heading to Laurel Nursing Center on Sunday, December 9 after the worship service to visit Pastor and Mrs. Adams. We will also take along Christmas treat bags to distribute to the other residents just like we did at Halloween. After our visit, we will stop for lunch at Blue Mountain. If anyone would like to make a monetary donation to help offset the cost of the treat bags, please see Joy. There is a sign up sheet on the youth bulletin board for this event.



- 12/01 - Suzanne Ellefson
- 12/02 - Robert Feeg
- 12/02 - Naoma Witzke
- 12/04 - Susan Williams
- 12/04 - Vicki Bricker
- 12/04 - Brian Yoh
- 12/04 - David Jacobs, Jr.
- 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
- 12/17 - Jennifer Jacobs
- 12/18 - Vernon Bright
- 12/19 - Clifford Heistand
- 12/19 - Madison Gheer
- 12/21 - Jon Fisher
- 12/21 - Brent Boyer
- 12/23 - Robert Seltzer
- 12/16 - Betty Moyer
- 12/26 - Kayla Zerbe



- 12/02 - Cheryl & Charles Moody



Vera (Betty) Jenks died on Nov. 23, 2018 at the age of 95. She was the widow of Earl Jenks, and the mother of Vera Hufford. She was pre-deceased by a son, Francis Jenks. She had four grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Betty's family and friends.



Active Ministry Committee,
To all of you, I say thank you for the food. Words cannot express my gratitude.
Thanks again, Stew Wenrich

Dear Members of St. Daniel's,
Thank you so much for all the goodies. I am enjoying them all.
God Bless, Pearl Burkhart

Active Ministry Committee,
Hope you're blessed knowing that God is using you to help change the world – one life at a time.
Blessings and thank you,
Pat Nettling (Gretchen Patti's mother)



Charts for sponsors for 2019 Altar Flowers, Bulletins and Newsletter & Advertising are hanging in the narthex in the Hallway leading to the Education Wing.
Sponsoring is an ideal way to honor a loved one or a significant occasion.
Flowers: \$25.00 per vase; \$50.00 both vases
Bulletins: \$20.00 per week
Newsletter/Advertising: \$35.00 per week; \$140.00 per month



REDNER'S SAVE-A-TAPE

Redner's Warehouse Markets has a "Save-a-Tape" program which contributes money to St. Daniel's. Receipts are **ONLY** accepted if the customer uses their 'save-a-tape' card at the time of purchase. If you do not already have a card, it is easy to apply for one at the courtesy desk in your local Redner's market.

Redner's has informed us of the following **CHANGES** to the program. At this time the **ENTIRE RECEIPT** must be presented, including the bottom portion showing point balances. Receipts may be placed in the small blue box located on the top shelf of the desk in the outer office.

Thank you for following these guidelines. The Redner's program is another way to Support St. Daniel's ministries.



Prayer Shawls are available to comfort those who are sick or grieving.

If you would like to knit or crochet a Prayer shawl, yarn and instructions are available for your use - or - if you know someone who needs to be wrapped in St. Daniel's love,

Contact Barbara Davis at 610-927-8218 or Rita Henning at 610-927-0873 for further information.

**ROBESONIA COMMUNITY CHURCH
BLOOD DRIVE**

**DEC. 6, Thursday, 2:00 to 7:00pm
Trinity Lutheran, Robesonia**

The blood drive will benefit the Miller – Keystone blood center and local hospitals. If you have not already signed up and would like to donate blood, please call Cheryl Moody at 610-926-6522 or Sign up online at www.giveapint.org.

Thank you for your support.
Give the Gift of Life!



PEP CLUB
(People Enjoying People)

Thursday, Dec. 6 - Back by Popular Demand! We are scheduled to go to the Berks Career and Tech Center for lunch prepared by the culinary students. We will order off the menu and plan to arrive at the school at 12:15. We will carpool from church, leaving from church at 11:50am. You must sign up by Weds., Nov. 28!

**Friday Dec. 14 - 11:00am. ALL
PEP CLUB MEMBERS ARE
CORDIALLY INVITED** to
The Pre-school Christmas Program.

This is always a delightful program sure to bring a smile to your face. After the program there is a wonderful lunch for all attendees prepared by the Active Ministry Committee. Should you desire, you may bring a side dish, but it is not necessary! It is helpful if you sign up so the cooks have an idea how many to prepare for. Sign up sheet on PEP bulletin board.



Please remember our homebound members with Christmas cards. Please look for a list of homebound members in the narthex. No need for stamps or addresses, just write the person's name on the envelope and place in the basket. Cards will be delivered along with a basket of cookies and fruit with a visit from one of our church members December 10.

All cards must be received by December 9!



Are you looking for ways to give back this Holiday Season? Why not consider a gift to Western Berks Shepherding! This important ministry provides transportation to doctor appointments, the pharmacy and grocery store to individuals in need in our community. While many of us take these simple acts for granted, our clients cannot.

For them, our services are not a convenience, they are a necessity.

We do not charge our clients for these services. While we accept donations, many are on a fixed income and can only afford to give very little. Because of this, it is becoming increasingly more difficult to cover our operating expenses. Your tax-deductible gift this holiday season, will allow us to continue to actively serve them in 2019.

Checks may be made payable to Western Berks Shepherding Ministries, Inc. and Mailed c/o Trinity Lutheran Church
108 S. Robeson Street
Robesonia, PA 19551

Thank you so much for your generosity



The Giving Tree is in the narthex. Eleven young adults are enrolled in the Family Promise U-turn program, which helps young adults who have aged out of foster care find housing, jobs and a chance to finish and/or continue their education. We are asking that all gifts be returned to the church by **Sunday, December 16.**

You may wrap or we will wrap for you, just make sure the tag is firmly attached, There are tags for monetary donations if you would like us to shop for you. Thank you to all who purchased gifts, gave a donation or assisted with the sorting and delivery. Your generous contributions will make the Christmas much brighter for these young adults and baby.

All are invited to the Giving Tree wrapping party and lunch on Sunday, Dec. 16 after worship.

We will make the final preparations for the scheduled delivery to Family Promise that week. There will be crafts to make as gifts as well as one to keep if you so desire. The main lunch course will be provided, but you are asked to bring a side dish or dessert. There is a sign up sheet located on the blue tower as well as on the youth bulletin board.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS provide animals, water wells, and farming tools for those living in foreign countries to help them become independent.

Good Gift tags are also available and are the perfect gift for those who 'don't need any more stuff!'

DECEMBER 2018



Children's Church will be held during worship for children ages 2 through grade 6

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 12 Noon "Life Begins" at 75 Christmas Party
2 9:00a Worship Cookie Walk after worship NO Bible Study	3 11:00a Staff Meeting 7:00p Worship Meeting/Chapel 7:00p Fall Fest/Library	4	5 6:00p Clinic	6 11:45a Leave Church for PEP Culinary Dinner 6:45p Bell Choir 7:30p Choir	7	8 Social Hall Rented
9 9:00a Worship Congregational Meeting NO Bible Study Youth Visit Rev. and Mrs. Adams	10 Active Soc. Min. Shut in Visits 11:00a Staff Meeting 5:00p Exec. Com. Meeting	11 8:00a Breakfast at Heidelberg	12 1:30p Endo Clinic 6:00 Clinic	13 11:00a Preschool Program 6:45p Bell Choir 7:30p Choir	14 11:15a Pre-K Program followed by lunch	15
16 9:00a Worship 10:15a Adult Bible Study Giving Tree Prep/Lunch follows worship	17 11:00a Staff Meeting 6:30p Transition Team Meeting Preschool Break for Christmas begins	18 6:00p Women's Clinic	19 6:00p Clinic 6:00p Council Dinner at Heidelberg/Mtg follows at 7:00p	20 6:45p Bell Choir 7:30p Choir	21	22 Vesper Set Up at CWHS
23 9:00a Worship NO Bible Study 4:00p Vesper Service at CWHS	24 Office Closed 3:00p Christmas Eve Service 7:00p Candlelight Service	25 Merry Christmas! Office Closed	26 NO Clinic	27 NO Choir	28	29 7:45a Youth leave for Shady Maple
30 9:00a Worship NO Bible Study	31 Office Open NO Staff Meeting					

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.



WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT

Newsletter - December 2018

The West Berks Mission District is a coalition of area Lutheran churches working together to do effective, cooperative ministry. YOU are a member of the West Berks Mission District! The WBMD office is located in St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1015 Windsor Street, Reading PA 19604.

WBMD Director – Dawn Baxter Dawn@westberksmissiondistrict.org
Office Staff/ Bookkeeper - Jane McClellan Renner Jane@westberksmissiondistrict.org

Office Phone – 610-375-8303

Website: www.westberksmissiondistrict.org

Special thanks for your continued support of the Johnson-Agiri family from Nigeria!

Their next hearing and the judge's asylum decision will be on Tuesday, December 11th in Philadelphia. If anyone could offer the use of a 7-passenger vehicle for this trip it would be greatly appreciated. The school-age children do

WBMD Calendar of 2019 Events

Jan. 9 Epiphany Luncheon for Rostered Ministers
Jan. 22 WBMD Council at St. John Mohnton
March 3 Bowl-a-thon at Berks Lanes
March 26 WBMD Council at Atonement
April 17 Lenten Prayer Breakfast
May 2 WB Rostered Ministers w/ Bishop Zeiser
May 30 Ascension Service & Spring Assembly
June 24-28 WBMD Day Camp with Bear Creek
October 13 Reading-Berks CROP Hunger Walk

cards for grocery and department stores, shared a smile and a laugh with the children; to all who have been “the hands and feet of Jesus” in service to this family – we give thanks for the blessings you have shared. The family is so grateful and overwhelmed by the love and support they have received from our community!

Please continue to keep them in your prayers...

Wishing you a blessed and peaceful Advent and Christmas season!

You might enjoy these special concerts...
Ringgold Band at Schwarzwald – Dec. 2 at 3 pm
Charlie Zahm at Allegheny – Dec. 7 at 7 pm
Check the website for more information

DECEMBER



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Greeters

- 12/02 - John & Grace Schittler
- 12/09 - Lois Ranck
- 12/16 - Calvin Yoh
- 12/23 - Cheryl Moody
- 12/30 - Vernon & Patsy Bright

Ushers

- 12/02 - Bob Shartle, Elsie Shartle
Noreen Ritz
- 12/09 - Jay Schmehl, Trudy Zerbe
Terry Speicher
- 12/16 - Bob Feeg, Pat Bechtel
Merle Witze
- 12/23 - Dave & Melanie Jacobs
Steve Bright
- 12/30 - Calvin Yoh, Cheryl Moody
Brian Yoh

Children's Church Volunteers

- 12/02 - Cheryl & Charlie Moody
- 12/09 - Pearl & Barry Wurst/ Geoff
Terpstra
Youth Helper – Lacey Lewis
- 12/16 - Jenny & Darryl Plassio
Youth Helper – Ben Small
- 12/23 - Robin & Sarina Gordon
Youth Helper – Enzo Plassio
- 12/30 - Joy Kline & Dustin Jacobs
Youth Helper – Savannah Lewis

Flowers

- 12/02 - Betty & Larry Bashore in memory
of Larry Marchetti
- 12/09 - Pearl & Barry Wurst in memory
of Loved Ones
- 12/16 - No Sponsor
- 12/23 - Patti Family in Celebration of
Christmas
- 12/30 - Linda Rentschler in memory
of Larry

Bulletins

Month of December - Mike & Susie Zerbe

Newsletter & Advertising

Month of December - Sam & Dave Bright

Fellowship Hostess

To be Advised



NEWS & NOTES is a publication of

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Isaiah 9:6 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

*For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

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