



**SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
GRINDSTONE HILL**

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January 2023

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Solomon's Says

A Newsletter from the Faith Community of Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church

"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."

Pastoral Letter – Pastor Barb Barry

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It's 2023 already?!? By the time you read this we will have celebrated Christmas. Actually, we're still celebrating Christmas. The Christmas season is 12 full days that begin with Christmas Day. The Christian church is counter-cultural like that. Everyone else has already moved on. We're taking time to reflect and consider the meaning of Jesus, who gives up everything it means to be God to take on our human form and live our human life. (Philippians 2: 6-7)

In December, our congregation stepped away from Christmas to truly celebrate the season of Advent. We explored what it meant to wait for Jesus focusing most on His most important coming – in our lives right now. I hope that taking time to flex your spiritual muscles has given you new eyes to see Jesus everywhere. How does knowing Jesus is always there, giving you what you need, make a difference?

Now, in January, we turn the pages of the calendar to a new year. It's time for those pesky New Year's resolutions. Except... Jesus isn't interested in resolutions. Instead, in all the stories in the gospels, Jesus is focused on transformation, changing our directions and our hearts from the inside out.

This focus on transformation isn't the same as the self-improvement programs that begin every New Year. Every year we make resolutions to be and do something better only to give up by the middle of February. Let's make our resolution this year not to make a resolution. Instead, let's put our hope in God who guides us gently with love to become our best selves.

Rolling up our sleeves and getting to work changing this or that does work for a time. At some point, though, we run out of steam. That's the moment we realize that grace – God's unconditional love, care and forgiveness – is essential for lasting growth. God gives us what we need to move forward. God provides the guidance and the tools. Opening our hearts to receive the gifts is our response to God's grace.

Consistent spiritual practice is the way we nurture our souls and nourish our spirits. I have a spiritual sister who asks me on every phone call. "How is it with your soul?" It is vital for each of us to take time to be in God's presence and intentionally allow God space to "get at us." We have heard that vital dynamic congregations are spiritually growing. Each of us must make time to be still and know God is among us. It matters that you take the time. The specific practices depend on your personality, life responsibilities and how God is challenging you to be present. What IS important is that the practice you choose to begin or deepen gives you an opportunity for an intentional encounter with the One Who Loves Us. If at the end of the year, we aren't changed, we're not paying attention.

May God grant us all a felt sense of presence that leads to deep and authentic transformation.

God bless you in your journey this New Year!
Pastor Barb



Thank you for the Birthday and Christmas cards and gifts. I am so grateful to be part of your ministry as you continue praying for a settled pastor.

You are in my thoughts and prayers

Pastor Barb



Gospel Readings for JANUARY:

Sunday, January 1 - Matthew 2:13-23

Sunday, January 8 - Matthew 3:13-17

Sunday, January 15 - John 1:29-42

Sunday, January 22 - Matthew 4:12-23

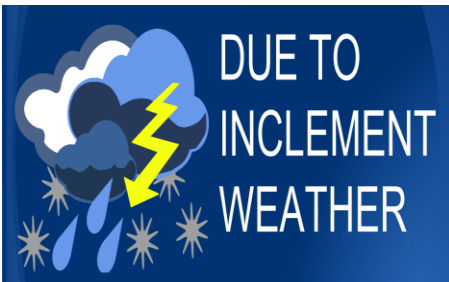
Sunday, January 29 - Matthew 5:1-12

*Happy
New
Year*

Serving in January

	1/1/23	1/8/23	1/15/23	1/22/23	1/29/23
Head Usher	Wayne Norman	Wayne Norman	Wayne Norman	Wayne Norman	Wayne Norman
Lector	Sam Mull	Patricia Yetter	Rich McEntire	Janice McEntire	Bonney Coldsmith
Acolyte	Sam Mull	Norm Kuykendall	Janice McEntire	Sarah Aldrich	Norm Kuykendall
Communion Set-Up	Jerry & Ilona Laney	Jerry & Ilona Laney	Jerry & Ilona Laney	Jerry & Ilona Laney	Jerry & Ilona Laney
Communion Clean-Up	Jerry & Ilona Laney	Jerry & Ilona Laney	Jerry & Ilona Laney	Jerry & Ilona Laney	Jerry & Ilona Laney
Communion Assists	Margorie Dale & Ilona Laney	Margorie Dale & Ilona Laney	Margorie Dale & Ilona Laney	Margorie Dale & Ilona Laney	Margorie Dale & Ilona Laney
Communion Bread	Marjorie Dale				
Securing Offering	Edna Harris & Doug Mummert				

News Around Solomon's



Service in case of inclement weather

The Worship and Music team asked that a service be taped in the event worship needs to be cancelled due to inclement weather. You are invited to join members of the choir on **Wednesday, January 11 at 10AM**, for taping the service. A bulletin entitled "Bulletin for Inclement Weather" will be added to the website in case of a cancelled service. If the need arises, the service will be downloaded to Facebook and YouTube.



We are attempting a complete overhaul of the membership data base so the information for contacting members of the congregation is correct. Please fill out the attached form and return it to the office either by email (office@solomonslutheran.org), by mail (4856 Wayne Road, Chambersburg, PA 17202), or by printing off the form and placing it in the box in the Sunday School Room. The hope is to include cell phone numbers and email addresses to the directory. Please have your information returned by: January 16, 2023. Our goal is to provide an updated directory by: February 26, 2023.

The installation of council members will be Sunday, January 8, 2023.

Voting Council Members: Kathy Bowen, Linda Berberich, Ron Coldsmith, Wayne Dale, Phil Johnson, Paul Kostreski, Janice McEntire (also Financial Secretary), Pastor Barb, Frances Reichard, Larry Socks, Martie Veilleux. **Non-Voting Council Members:** Marjorie Dale (Treasurer).



Dec 21, the longest night of the year, Pastor Barb traveled to DC to join an ecumenical group raising awareness of **the plight of homelessness**. The group laid 1300 blankets, homemade with love from around the nation, into a patchwork quilt on the lawn in front of the capitol. As it grew dark, the cold was penetrating leading all of us to experience what homeless folk endure daily. According to current statistics: 1.6 million children are considered homeless, 33% of homeless are families with children and PA is one of 10 states with the largest homeless populations. **There are tangible ways to help. If God is calling you to help, please reach out to the pastor.**



**Sunday, January 29, 2023
after worship service
Solomon's Fellowship Center**

**The youth will be making their own individual pizzas,
chips, veggie tray, cookies, chocolate covered pretzel rods and drink.**

**Join us for: Craft, Food & Fun
Sign-up Sheet will be in the Sunday School Room**



Solomon's Relay for Life Team

Fund Raiser Luncheon

Sunday February 26, 2022

Please Join Us

Menu: Hot Turkey Sandwiches, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy,
Peas & Carrots, Cranberry Salad and Dessert

Donations accepted

We appreciate your support of our Solomon's Relay for Life Team

News from Social Ministry

Power Pack Meals: The Power Pack Meal program at New Franklin Elementary School is up and running. Currently 24 students are being sent home each Friday with food to last them through the weekend. The need for donations is great. Any individual size container of vegetables, fruit, breakfast items, meals (mac & cheese, Chef Boyardee, etc.), juice pouches, Yahoo chocolate drink, 8 oz. bottle water are welcome. Please place your donation in the gray Social Ministry tote in the Sunday School room. Monetary donations are welcome, make your check payable to Solomon's with Power Pack Meals in the memo line.

Friendly Reminders

Automatic Bank Account Transfers: Families are encouraged to set-up direct deposit via automatic transfer to Solomon's bank account for regular contributions. This process is efficient, negates the need to write a check and ensures a steady stream of income annually for the congregation. Please contact Kimberly in the office to discuss options.

If you would like to sign up for **altar flowers** the following Sundays in January and February are still available: 1/22, 1/29, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26.

Cancellation Notification: In the event of inclement weather, Solomon's will announce worship services are cancelled on the following platforms: Solomon's Facebook page, Solomon's Website, and on the church voicemail **BY 7:30 AM**. Remember for events like Mid-Week Bible Study, if the schools are closed for weather, then the event is cancelled. Please always use your own judgement about whether you feel safe driving given the road conditions in your neighborhood. One part of the county may be cleared while another is not!

Have an item for the February newsletter?! Deadline is **January 18th**. Email Kimberly at office@solomonslutheran.org.



We are now including a monthly calendar as an attachment to the newsletter to remind folks of what is going on at Solomon's. Please let the office know any pertinent dates for meetings or events so they can be included on the next calendar.



Celebrating a Birthday in January....

- | | | | |
|------|-----------------|------|-----------------|
| 1/1 | Hollie Taylor | 1/12 | Marie Dovey |
| 1/5 | Carolyn McCleaf | 1/16 | Peggy Craven |
| 1/9 | Sarah Aldrich | 1/17 | Ed Reichard |
| 1/9 | Colleen Johnson | 1/17 | Carole Locke |
| 1/11 | Kristen Parr | 1/19 | Rebekah Aldrich |
| 1/12 | Kaitlyn Dovey | 1/19 | Myra Kostreski |



Celebrating a Wedding Anniversary in January...

- 1/31 Larry & Gloria Socks

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Join us Sunday mornings!

10:15 a.m. Worship Service

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

OR check us out on *YouTube!*
Links are listed on our website.

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"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.."

Philippians 4:13 (NRSV)