



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

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January 2021

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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 Bill Nienstedt

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

One of the great gifts of the Christmas season (which lasts until Epiphany on January 6) is the reminder that Jesus became human and experienced all the trials and challenges we face in this world. Especially in this stressful and challenging year of the pandemic and uncertainty about many things, it is comforting to know that God not only knows what we are going through but is willing to walk with us on our journey.

Again, this year we hear the ancient words—the announcement of a new time, of a Savior come down to us as a human being—with the ears of people who long for renewal and hope. This is as true for our community at Solomon's Lutheran Church as it is of our national community and of our world—all of us in the grip of painful uncertainties and with the strong sense of crisis around us. We go to the manger this year to look—as the shepherds and the magi did—for the future, for our future mirrored in the face of a baby. The Word made flesh did not come with a sword and a shield, but as an infant in the arms of a new mother. Helpless in himself, this infant God-with-us becomes the responsibility of the humans around him. That is a powerful thought, and it speaks to us of the presence of God around us in the vulnerable and helpless we are called to help and serve.

Martin Luther compared the tenderness we feel in caring for an infant with the Christian love we should feel for our neighbors. Luther described people as being “bound to each other in such a way that no one may forsake the other in his distress but is obliged to assist and help him as he himself would like to be helped.” Maybe this year, the helplessness many of us feel in the face of the pandemic will soften our hearts towards those who suffer both in and out of season, from poverty, illness, oppression, loneliness or despair.

My hope and prayers for us in this new year are that the virus abates, and we can get back together as a community soon, but also that we discover that the true gift of faith is to love one another just as God loves each one of us.

Peace and joy in Christ, Pastor Bill

2021 Calendar of Events



Chambersburg Conference Pastors Meeting	January
Congregation Meeting	February
Ash Wednesday Service	February 17
Wednesday Evening Lenten Suppers / Service	February 24
.....	March 3, 10, 17, 24
Spring Fun Night.....	March 13
Palm Sunday	March 28
Maundy Thursday Service	April 1
Good Friday Service	April 2
Easter Sunrise Service.....	April 4
Congregation Dinner.....	April
Easter Cantata	May
Spring Outdoor Service	May
Relay for Life Event at Norlo Park.....	June
Vacation Bible School	June 21 - 25
Vacation Bible School Celebration Service	June 27
Rally Day	September
Fall Outdoor Service	September
Fall Family Fun Night.....	September 18
Make Apple Dumplings.....	October
Thanksgiving Dinner	November
Congregation Meeting	November
Christmas Caroling to Shut-Ins.....	December
Children's Christmas Party.....	December 11
Secret Pal Luncheon	December
Christmas Cantata	December
Christmas Eve Service	December 24

2021 Altar Flowers

We have a new contract created with Royer's Flowers in Chambersburg. Please note the price of Altar flowers will change to \$35. 2021 Altar Flowers Chart—Kimberly will **not** be posting the new altar flowers chart as usual. INSTEAD, please call her to reserve your special Sunday (there are many dates available)! For the price of two flower arrangements, you can give glory to God with the beauty of His creation on the altar; commemorate a loved one; and if you choose, have your flowers given to someone who is homebound or recovering from surgery or illness.



Secret Pal Program Update

Due to the pandemic, we must unfortunately cancel this year's Secret Pal Christmas Luncheon. Secret Pal "Givers" have been asked to "reveal" themselves to their pals by Christmas 2020.

The program will continue for 2021 but with some changes. This coming year "givers" will only be sending greeting cards. We made this change because it has become difficult for them to drop off items at facilities with so many COVID-19 restrictions in place. Furthermore, mailing items has become not only unreliable but also expensive.

"Givers" should still plan to give a Christmas gift at the (hopefully in-person) Secret Pal Luncheon in December of 2021.

If you would like to participate either as a "giver" or a "receiver" for the coming year, please contact Kristy Nienstedt.

News from Social Ministry

Power Pack Meals--Our church is one of three New Franklin congregations, along with the New Franklin Ruritan, that continues to be part of a project called Power Packs. The goal is to provide nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need over the weekend days. Solomon's has been asked to collect individual serving size fruit and vegetable cups. If possible, please try to donate items in plastic containers rather than metal cans. Thank you for your continued generous support of this project. If you have questions or would like to make a monetary donation, please speak with Pastor Bill.

Fundraising Committee

Candy Fundraiser--We still have a few bags of candy and some apple butter left to sell. If interested, please call Zoe at 717-267-1777 and leave a message.

2 cont. - 1/2 lb. Peanut Butter Buckeyes 6.00 each
1 cont. - 3/4lb. Peanut butter Buckeyes 7.75 each
7 lb. - Toasted Coconut 10.00 each
11 lb. - Chocolate Raisins 10.00 each
12 Pint - Apple Butter 5.50 each

Congregation Council News

The Council, meeting in December, decided to postpone the annual congregational meeting due to the pandemic. The current plan is to combine the November meeting with the annual review meeting normally held in February when it is safe to do so. The council voted to provisionally approve the 2021 operating budget on a monthly review basis until the congregational meeting. In addition, the council elected Linda Berberich and Alan Johnson to fill council positions vacated by the completion of the terms of Bill Wepking and Clif Rau. New officers will be elected by the council at the January meeting. The congregation will elect new council members at the congregational meeting.

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 Sally/Kimberly in the office to discuss options.

Have an item for the February newsletter?! Deadline is **January 15th**. Email Kimberly at office@solomonslutheran.org.

Our Homebound Members

Remembering Our Homebound Members - With the pandemic, a great many of us have become homebound. However, many of our members will not be able to return to church even after a vaccine is available. Please consider sending out a card of encouragement to our homebound members. Receiving a colorful note from you is sure to brighten their day! Their addresses may be found in our church directory.

Harold "Bud" Armstrong
Connie Bikle
Ginny Detwiler
Esther Gift
Genny Grant
Bonnie Hudson

Frances Kramer
Becky McCleary
Marjorie McMullin
Linda Russ
Clayton Schwartz
Ina Shreiner

A Special Note of Thanks

Solomon's Church Council & Church Family,

Thank you to everyone for making my retirement day a special occasion with the service, poem, cards, reception, and retirement gifts. The beautiful glider is on my patio and I've enjoyed it even in this cold weather. I have been so blessed to have all of Solomon's as friends who have give me so much love and support all through the years as I worked at the Church.

Thank you for all your well wishes!

Sally



I would like to thank the wonderful folks at Solomon's Lutheran Church for your warm welcome and many words of encouragement! Thanks too for your patience and understanding as I navigate my new job. Kimberly



Celebrating a Birthday in January....

1/1	Hollie Taylor	1/11	Kristen Parr
1/2	Bud Armstrong (99 th)	1/12	Kaitlyn Dovey
1/4	Gertie Reichard	1/12	Marie Dovey
1/5	Carolyn McCleaf	1/16	Peggy Craven
1/9	Sarah Aldrich	1/17	Ed Reichard
1/9	Colleen Johnson	1/19	Rebekah Aldrich



Celebrating a Wedding Anniversary in January...

1/31 Larry & Gloria Socks

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Join us for Worship on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

OR check us out on *YouTube!*

Links are listed on our website.

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Pastor Bill Nienstedt

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.."
Philippians 4:13 (NRSV)