



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

4856 Wayne Road Phone: 717-267-2266
Chambersburg, PA 17202-9355 Fax: 717-267-7030
E-Mail Address: info@solomonslutheran.org

December 2023

IN THIS ISSUE:

Pastoral Letter.....1-2
 Giving Reminders/Serving in December.....3
 Remembering Our Homebound.....4
 News around Solomon's.....5
 Special Worship Opportunities.....6
 A Special Thank you & Reminders.....7
 SpiriTrust Lutheran Opportunities.....8
 Birthdays & Anniversaries.....9

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 Mike Allwein

Dear Members of Solomon's Faith Community!

Advent and Pickleball? Really? What do these two have in common? Maybe because I began writing this after our November Council meeting when I mentioned pickleball. But let's back up to Advent before I get too far off course.

The season of Advent begins on December 3, and as you know, these are the four weeks prior to Christmas in the church calendar. The voice of Advent is the human experience of *longing* and *waiting*. Both longing and waiting go together in this season. Advent is about not having to know exactly what is coming tomorrow, only that what it is, it is of the essence of holiness for us. Every piece of the human journey—some difficult, some uplifting—Is a sign of the work of God within us for people of faith. We are becoming as we go. We learn in Advent to stay in the present, to notice the gifts that surround us, knowing that only the present—well-lived—can possibly lead us to the fullness of life.

This Advent, I invite you to struggle with, confront these questions: What are your longings? For yourself? Your family? Your church?

In my initial days as your interim, I heard many individuals express the longing for a more viable congregation. Here are a few Advent thoughts about smaller congregations, which includes Solomons.

Smaller congregations matter to God. In countless small member congregations, people have learned what it means to follow God and the Holy Spirit. Smaller congregations hold significance in the eyes of God, as they possess distinctive gifts and opportunities for serving both God and neighbor. Smaller congregations create

space for deep relationships with both God and with one another, serving as a testament to the presence of God. Maybe we don't need to be "all things to all people," only to know more clearly who we are.

As I've said several times and in several places in these early weeks of my being here, I see my role as walking side by side with you to help discern how Solomons can become a viable Lutheran faith community in this area. How do we identify leadership to help us rediscover and reclaim the hope we have in Jesus Christ? And wasn't that the journey the Israelites were traveling—looking for the hope of a Messiah—that we choose to reclaim during Advent? Solomons is now walking an Advent journey!

And that brings me back to pickleball. I suspect you all know how pickleball has stormed the country in the past 2-3 years. When I visit my brother-in-law, his family lives in a community where there are six pickleball courts, and every morning all of those courts are filled for 4-5 hours with more than 30 people playing this sport. They have a system of how to rotate in/out, and it works great, playing with different persons each time. I'm not suggesting we go out and paint pickleball courts in the Fellowship Center tomorrow, but I do want us to be open to new ideas, new ways of opening this congregation to all that is taking place around us.

At my age, I've come to believe that *faith is more about what we see and what we notice than with what we believe*. That may not seem to be orthodox Lutheran theology, but this Advent, I ask you to spend some time reflecting on what this may mean in your personal faith life and the faith life of this congregation.

O Come , O Come Emmanuel! Blessed Advent!

Blessings & love,

~pastor mike



Gospel Readings for DECEMBER:

Sunday, December 3 - Mark 13:24-37

Sunday, December 10 - Mark 1:1-8

Sunday, December 17 - John 1:6-8,19-28

Sunday, December 24 - Luke 1:26-38

Sunday, December 31 - Luke 2:22-40

Church Directory Update

Every January a new church directory listing the names, phone numbers, addresses, and email addresses of all Solomon's members is published by the church office. **If your contact information has changed since publication of the 2023 directory, please let Kimberly know by December 13th.**

End of Year Giving Reminders

2023 Offerings: If you desire to have your contributions allocated for the 2023 tax year, they need to be received in the office by **December 31**. Contributions received after this date may be allocated to 2024.

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.

Serving in December

	12/3/23	12/10/23	12/17/23	12/24/23	12/31/23
Head Usher	Janice McEntire				
Lector	Rich McEntire	Patricia Yetter	Bonney Coldsmith	Patricia Yetter	Wayne Dale
Acolyte	Janice McEntire	TBA	TBA	Sarah & Rebekah Aldrich PM	TBA
Communion Set-Up	Ilona & Jerry Laney	Peggi & Wayne Norman	Peggi & Wayne Norman	Peggi & Wayne Norman	Peggi & Wayne Norman
Communion Clean-Up	Ilona & Jerry Laney	Peggi & Wayne Norman	Peggi & Wayne Norman	Peggi & Wayne Norman	Peggi & Wayne Norman
Communion Assists	Marjorie Dale	Marjorie Dale & Peggi Norman	Ron Coldsmith	Peggi Norman AM	TBA
Communion Bread	Peggi Norman				
Securing Offering	Janice McEntire & Ron Coldsmith				

2024 Altar Chart

The 2024 chart for Altar flowers will be available starting December 10, 2023. It will be in the office to the left when entering the front door of the sanctuary. The cost of the two vases will be \$50.00 per week. You will continue to provide Kimberly with the information for the bulletin prior to the week before the Sunday you choose. Please include the cost of \$50.00 with the bulletin information.



Sharing Christmas Greetings

Remembering Our Homebound Members – We are a family and some of our family are now homebound and unable to join us at church. Please consider sending out holiday greeting cards so our homebound feel more connected. Receiving a colorful note from you is sure to brighten their day! Their addresses may be found in our church directory.

Bill & Jane Brindle
Ginny Detwiler
Esther Gift
Genny Grant
Jean Jackson
Frances Kramer
Carol Locke

Nancy Marshall
Becky McCleary
Marjorie McMullin
Joe Mock
Linda Russ
Ina Shreiner
Martin Wenger



Christmas Party Luncheon

Sunday December 10, 2023

After Church in SFC

Everyone's invited!



**Menu: Make your own Pizza,
Veggie Tray, Chips, Cookies, Ice Cream,
Punch, Coffee, Hot Tea & Water
(Sign-up sheet in the Sunday School room)
*Join us for good food & fellowship!***

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Sunday Morning Bible Study - Pastor Mike 's Bible study is held every Sunday, beginning at 9:00am. We conclude at 9:50, in order to prepare for worship. We look at one of the Scripture texts for the following Sunday. Copies of the reading can be found on the table in the SS room in a tray marked "Bible Study." If you cannot join us every week, please join us when you are able! The Bible is our Book of Faith!

Thank you! from Social Ministry



Social Ministry would like to send out a **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who volunteered to work the Salvation Army red kettle and donated paper goods to the Maranatha Food Pantry. Your time and generosity is very much appreciated!

News from the Church Council

Election of New Council Members - Congratulations to Marjorie Dale and Tana Vance for being elected to the church council, effective January 2024. A big *thank you* to Linda Berberich and Wayne Norman, both of whom have completed their years of service.

Thank
You

for your commitment and dedication!

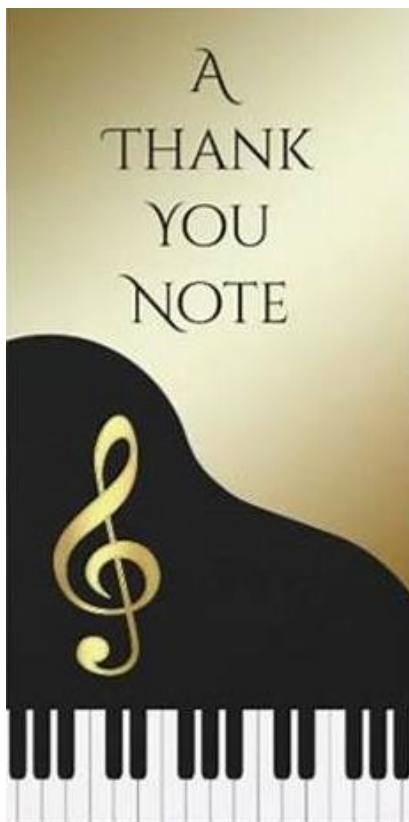


Save the Date!

Immediately following worship on December 31, which includes our Christmas Cantata during worship time, we will enjoy a family dinner in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a time to be together on the final day of 2023, a time to give thanks for the many gifts bestowed upon this congregation this past year! Please plan your schedule to be able to join together as one faith community for this fellowship meal together!



Thank you, Doug, for your many years of service!



On December 31 of this year, we will regretfully accept the resignation of Doug Mummert as our Choir Director and Director of Music here at Solomons Lutheran Church!

We give thanks to God for the ministry, the gifts of music, and the committed presence of Doug Mummert here at Solomons Lutheran for the past 30 years. Doug has endowed this congregation with his hard work, his commitment to excellence, and his warm presence throughout these many years. Doug has witnessed many changes in Lutheran liturgy and how these changes have affected the music of our Lutheran worship. Working with many different pastors over these past 30 years, with many choir members, soloists, always present at funerals and weddings, when called upon, we will miss the high quality and genuine level of enthusiasm Doug has brought to this position. For Doug, it was much more than simply a job—it was his vocation and gift to this congregation. For these reasons, and many more, we will miss seeing Doug on the organ and piano benches on a Sunday morning. Please take time before the end of this year to let Doug and Zoe

know how much we have appreciated both of them, and how much they will be missed!

“Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of your servants Doug and Zoe Mummert, who have enriched this congregation and shared their gifts with Solomons Lutheran Church. Bless and preserve them at this time of transition.” (**Occasional Services for the Assembly**)

Friendly Reminders

Have an item for the January newsletter?! Deadline is **December 19th**. Email Kimberly at office@solomonslutheran.org.

News from SpiriTrust Lutheran



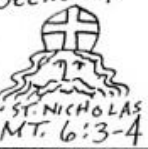








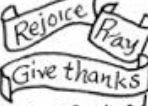









Volunteer Opportunities at SpiriTrust Lutheran, The Village at Luther Ridge

Pianists are currently needed to play once a month at the Sunday afternoon chapel service. The service begins at 2:00pm and lasts for approximately a half hour.

Volunteer opportunities are also available in our skilled care center. Come assist residents with simple crafts, bingo, and other games. Assist team members with manicures or transporting residents to and from events. Or simply come and spend time with residents by making friendly visits.

Please contact Linda Beaver if you are interested in helping at lbeaver@spiritrustlutheran.org

2023 Advent Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
LIGHT ONE CANDLE. 3  MK: 13:24-37	LISTEN. 4 SHALOM PEACE SALAM PS. 85: 8,9	BE STRONG. 5  1 COR. 1:3-9	GIVE SECRETLY. 6  ST. NICHOLAS MT. 6:3-4	SHINE LIGHT. 7  HANUKKAH EX. 27:20	CREATE. 8  15. 64: 8	VISIT SOMEONE. 9  2 JN. 12
LIGHT TWO CANDLES. 10  MK. 1:1-8	FOLLOW. 11  IS. 40:1-11	WAIT. 12  NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH. 2 PET. 3:14,15a	FEEL SAFE. 13  PS. 91	HOPE 14 (ANYWAY)  ROM. 8:24	HOLD FAST 15  1 TH. 5:16-24	PLANT FOR PEACE. 16  15. 2:1-5
LIGHT THREE CANDLES. 17  EX. 1:6-8,19-28	FEEL CONFIDENT. 18  JOB 11:13-19	IMAGINE. 19  LK. 1:37-38	SEE NEW GROWTH. 20  IS. 61:11	BELIEVE IT. 21  WINTER SOLSTICE LAM. 3:21-24	MAKE ROOM. 22  LK. 2:1-7	HEAR SINGING. 23  LK. 2:8-14
LIGHT FOUR CANDLES. 24  JN. 1:1-5,14	BY ADVENT'S LIGHT WE HOPE TO SEE A NEW AND BETTER WAY AND THEN ISAIAH'S VOICE PROCLAIMS THE COMING PROMISED DAY. THIS WORLD IN WHICH THE SWORD AND SPEAR, THE RIFLE AND THE GUN HOLD SWAY AS IDOLS OF OUR FEARS WILL ONE DAY BE UNDONE. WHEN ALL THE WEAPONS OF OUR HATES WILL SURELY BE RECAST AS TOOLS TO PLOW AND PLANT THE SOIL WHERE PEACE WILL REIGN AT LAST. A DISTANT DREAM, YET WE WILL DARE BY ADVENT'S LIGHT TO FORGE WITH CHRIST, NEW HEARTS AND HANDS WITH WHICH TO STUDY WAR NO MORE.					ADVENT

DEVOTIONS: REV. MERRY WATTERS * ADVENT 2023 © THOMAS MOUSIN. COM * DESIGN & POEM: REV. THOMAS MOUSIN



Celebrating a Birthday in December....

12/1	Doug Mummert	12/12	Joy Gayman
12/1	Bill Chiado	12/12	Dylan Garcia
12/2	Jesse Reichard	12/16	Barbara Aldrich
12/3	Patricia Yetter	12/19	Pastor Barb
12/5	Clif Rau	12/24	Linda Berberich
12/8	Finn Weiss	12/25	Vernon Socks
12/11	Abby Schultz	12/27	Jane Brindle



Celebrating a Wedding Anniversary in December...

12/2	Wayne & Peggi Norman
12/16	Bill & Lilly Chiado
12/26	Bill & Jane Brindle
12/30	Rob & Beth Floyd

SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
4856 WAYNE ROAD
CHAMBERSBURG PA 17202-9355

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.

Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church

4856 Wayne Road

Chambersburg, PA 17202-9355

Phone: 717-267-2266

www.solomonslutheran.org

Pastor Michael Allwein

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

Philippians 4:13 (NRSV)