



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

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January 2024

IN THIS ISSUE:

Pastoral Letter & Gospel Readings.....1-2
 Serving Schedule/News Around Solomon's...3
 Friendly Reminders.....4
 Birthdays & Anniversaries.....5

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

"The grace of God has appeared!" [Titus 2:11]

Dear Members of Solomon's Faith Community!

The Bible verse from the Letter of Paul to Titus is read at every Christmas Eve service. Most of us have heard it countless times, but it can easily get lost in the Christmas Eve excitement of the Christmas story, the music, and the overall exhilaration of the evening! After all, how can this short verse compete with the Gospel story that entices us with a pregnant teenage girl giving birth to her first child in a manger, a caring father, prayerful shepherds and singing angels?

I want to suggest these to be equally glorious words, not only on Christmas Eve, but for us as we begin a New Year. As we now bring one year to its conclusion and begin another, it is ironic that what comes to me is a deep realization of our need to be connected to each other. There are still empty pews each Sunday morning, empty chairs at family tables, empty homes in our neighborhoods and on our streets. For some, there is a feeling of emptiness for God!

Here at Solomons, there will be some significant changes taking place into 2024. We regretfully accepted the announcement of retirement by **Doug Mummert** at the end of the year. Whether you have been a member of Solomons for many years or for only a few, we will all miss the profoundly exciting and prayer-filled quality of music Doug and provided for 30 years. If we

realize worship to be the center of our congregational life, we all know the degree of impact Doug's retiring will have on us.

However, we most joyfully welcome **Heidi Shenberger**, who will take over the music responsibilities on an interim basis. Heidi and her family were members here at Solomons for several years, so Heidi is familiar with our liturgy and worship style. Having met Heidi in early December, I am excited to welcome her in her role as minister of music on this interim basis!

Beginning at the January Council meeting I have asked that we make time on each monthly agenda to discuss how Solomons can continue to be a viable Lutheran faith community in this area. We all are aware of the challenges confronting congregations, with aging members, a decrease in weekly attendance, as well as shortages of ordained pastors. All denominations are being confronted with these issues; and I want to be proactive here at Solomons to work together and be creative in our thinking as to how we can continue to be a church that reaches out in ministry to the community, as well as is able to sustain a meaningful, prayerful Sunday worship. My foundational belief is that "*the grace of God has appeared*" and is with this congregation!

Paul's words to the young boy, Titus, fuel a bold hope that we are never a defeated people. It is because this "*grace of God has appeared*" that draws the helpless, the hopeless, the faithful and the confused to the Gift given to us at Christmas. In you, members of Solomons Lutheran, I have experienced a determined and dedicated faith. As we begin 2024, my prayer is for your deep faith to continue, believing that because "*the grace of God has appeared*" you will continue in your steadfast love and connectedness to each other and the broader communities of Chambersburg, Waynesboro, and beyond. Be assured, the outrageous love of God will pursue you into this New Year!

Blessings & love,

~pastor mike



Gospel Readings for JANUARY:

Sunday, January 7 - Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, January 14 - Mark 1:4-11

Sunday, January 21 - Mark 1:14-20

Sunday, January 28 - Mark 1:21-28

Solomon's Serving Schedule - January

	1/7/24	1/14/24	1/21/24	1/28/24
Head Usher	Ron Coldsmith			
Lector	Bonney Coldsmith	Patricia Yetter	Janice McEntire	Kathy Bowen
Acolyte	Wayne Dale	Norm Kuykendall	Wayne Dale	Wayne Dale
Communion Set-Up	Ilona & Jerry Laney	Ilona & Jerry Laney	Ilona & Jerry Laney	Ilona & Jerry Laney
Communion Clean-Up	Ilona & Jerry Laney	Ilona & Jerry Laney	Ilona & Jerry Laney	Ilona & Jerry Laney
Communion Assists	Marjorie Dale	Janice McEntire	Ron Coldsmith	Janice McEntire
Communion Bread	Janice McEntire			
Securing Offering	Janice McEntire			
Coffee Fellowship	Marjorie Dale & Tana Vance			

News Around Solomon's

Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Esther Gift who was called to her eternal home on Tuesday, December 26, 2023 at the age of 94. She was an active member of Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church where she sang in the choir and volunteered in a number of different areas including the kitchen and fundraising.



**time to
UPDATE**



The 2024 Church Directory will be completed on January 15th. If your information has changed since the 2023 Church Directory and you have not already given your new information to the office, please do so as soon as possible.

The installation of council members will be Sunday, January 7, 2024.

Voting Council Members: *Kathy Bowen, Ron Coldsmith, Marjorie Dale, Phil Johnson, Paul Kostreski, Janice McEntire, Pastor Mike, Frances Reichard, Larry Socks, Martie Veilleux, Tana Vance, Earl (Sarge) Weaver.*

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: 1/7, 1/21, 1/28, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25.

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

Happy **2024** New Year



Celebrating a Birthday in January....

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

*Happy
Anniversary*

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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Pastor Michael Allwein

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

Philippians 4:13 (NRSV)