



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

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December 2024

IN THIS ISSUE:

Pastoral Letter.....1
 Gospel Readings/Giving Reminders.....2
 Serving Sch/Remember Our Homebound.....3
 Special Worship Opportunities.....4
 Soc Ministry/Council/Reminders5
 New Address/A Special Thank you.....6
 2024 Advent Calendar7
 Birthdays & Anniversaries.....8

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 and Friends of Solomons Lutheran,

"How good it is to sing praises to our God; for God is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting. God heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds. God determines the number of the stars and gives to all of them their names." +Psalm 147:1-4

We begin the new Church Year and the season of Advent on December 1. Advent is a season of waiting, watching, and wonder! Not like "waiting in line," but rather waiting for a concert to begin or for a love letter to arrive. A time of anticipation, expectation, and excitement! A time of renewing our hope, peace, joy, and love, getting ready for the Marvel on the way!

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin *adventus* ("arrival") – and of course, the Wondrous One who's arriving is Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Over the four weeks of Advent, we read scripture, pray, sing, and light candles to remind us of the growing light of God's presence, even and most especially in the shadows of despair, conflict, sorrow and hate.

Indeed, Advent arrives as the nights grow long and deep and dark, and most often cold. Around December 21st, the winter solstice marks the longest night of the year – and though we often think of night as a metaphor for difficulty, I invite you this year to lean into its darkness in a slightly different way. Darkness can also serve as a *positive* metaphor for those dark places in your life.

Dark skies are perfect for stargazing, for seeking out the Light of the World among the deep indigos, bottomless blues, and the inky blacks of God’s night sky. Just as the shepherds and Magi looked up to the heavens and faithfully followed the stars, I invite you to spend the next four weeks training your eyes (and hearts) to wait, to watch, and to wonder at all God has done—and will do—for the love of this broken, beautiful world.

Prayer: God of hope, peace, joy and love, during this Advent season, show us the way. Open our minds and hearts to you and to our neighbors. Make us lanterns of your light: signs of hope, makers of peace, virtuosos of joy, lovers of kindness, doers of justice. Let our lights shine! Amen! Amen! Amen!

Blessings & love,

~pastor mike



Gospel Readings for DECEMBER:

- Sunday, December 1- Luke 21:25-36
- Sunday, December 8 - Luke 3:1-6
- Sunday, December 15 - Luke 3:7-18
- Sunday, December 22 - Luke 1:39-45
- Sunday, December 29 – Lessons & Carols

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 2024 directory, please let Kimberly know by December 16th.**

End of Year Giving Reminders

2024 Offerings: If you desire to have your contributions allocated for the 2024 tax year, they need to be received in the office by **December 30**. Contributions received after this date may be allocated to 2025.

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

	12/1/24	12/8/24	12/15/24	12/22/24	12/29/24
<i>Head Usher</i>	Janice McEntire				
<i>Lector</i>	Janice McEntire	Patricia Yetter	Bonney Coldsmith	Rich McEntire	Kathy Bowen
<i>Acolyte</i>	Sam Mull	Sam Mull	Norm Kuykendall	Aaron Shreiner	TBD
<i>Communion Set-Up</i>	Ilona & Jerry Laney	Ilona & Jerry Laney	Ilona & Jerry Laney	Ilona & Jerry Laney	Ilona & Jerry Laney
<i>Communion Clean-Up</i>	Ilona & Jerry Laney	Ilona & Jerry Laney	Ilona & Jerry Laney	Ilona & Jerry Laney	Ilona & Jerry Laney
<i>Communion Assists</i>	Becky Mull	Becky Mull	TBD	TBD	TBD
<i>Communion Bread</i>	Marjorie Dale				
<i>Securing Offering</i>	Janice McEntire & Sam Mull				
<i>Coffee Fellowship</i>	Becky Mull				

December 24th - Christmas Eve

Acolyte / Lector - Wayne Dale

2024 Altar Chart



The 2025 chart for Altar flowers will be available starting December 1, 2024. It will be in the Sunday School Room on the table. 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 families 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 Brindle
 Ginny Detwiler
 Genny Grant
 Frances Kramer
 Carol Locke
 Nancy Marshall

Becky McCleary
 Marjorie McMullin
 Joe Mock
 Ina Shreiner
 Martin Wenger



Special Worship Opportunities



Sunday December 8, 2024 / After Church in the SFC

Everyone's invited!

**Menu: Make your own Pizza, Veggie Tray, Chips, Cookies,
Punch, Coffee, Hot Tea & Water**

(Sign-up sheet in the Sunday School room)

Join us for good food & fellowship!

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 are very much appreciated!

News from the Church Council



Election of New Council Member - Congratulations to Becky Pecha for being elected to the church council, effective January 2025. A big thank you to Kathy Bowen who completed her years of service.

Christmas Caroling

Christmas Caroling Sunday, December 1st following the church service.



Pizza will be provided prior to leaving to visit and share Christmas carols with our homebound residents. If you can join the carolers to bring joy to the residents, please contact Marjorie Dale.

Inclement Weather



Cancellation Notification. In the event of inclement weather, Solomon's will announce that our worship services are cancelled by sending an email to the entire membership who have email addresses. Also, the phone message on the office phone at the church (717-267-2266), will announce when services are cancelled. **On a weekend, this will be done by 4:00pm Saturday.** If you receive an email notifying you of a cancellation and if you know a friend who does not have email, please contact them. **If the church office does not have your current email address, please let Kimberly in the church office know this as soon as possible, so it can be updated!** Above all, safety is our most important concern, so please do not take any unnecessary chances.

Friendly Reminders

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



Hello friends and family of Bill and Lilly,

This is Margie, Bill and Lilly's daughter. My parents have a new email address, which is billnlil1201@gmail.com

My parents are settling into their new place in Roanoke. It's nice they are so close to Ed and Francie in southern Virginia. They both have helped Bill and Lilly adjust to this new phase in their lives. The whole family will be together for Christmas this year in Virginia.

Bill and Lilly also have a new home phone number: (540) 776-2337

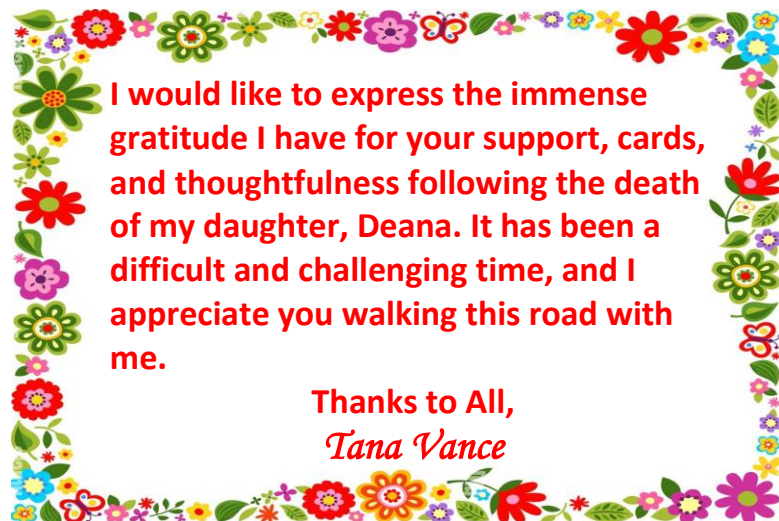
**Their new address is:
3804 Brandon Ave SW
Apt 337
Roanoke, VA 24018**

Their cell phone numbers are still the same:

Bill: (717) 360-9419 / Lilly: (717) 360-7396

Bill and Lilly send their best to each of you!

**Love,
Margie**



I would like to express the immense gratitude I have for your support, cards, and thoughtfulness following the death of my daughter, Deana. It has been a difficult and challenging time, and I appreciate you walking this road with me.

**Thanks to All,
*Tana Vance***

2024 Advent Calendar

Since the liturgical season of Advent begins on December 1st this year, **the format of the calendar is not like the traditional 24 day Advent calendars you find elsewhere:** you will find Dec. 1 in the upper left corner, but then the days are arranged randomly around the page, inviting you to find your way through Advent.

WE WONDER WHY WE ALL ARE CALLED TO COME TO BETHL'HEM'S CATTLE STALL.
 HOW COULD THE GOD WHO FORMED THE EARTH BE FOUND IN SUCH A LOWLY BIRTH?
 THIS INFANT WILL IN HUMBLE GUISE DISARM THE STRONG AND FOOL THE WISE
 AND BLESS THE POOR, ALL THOSE ONCE SCORNED, IN BEAUTY DRESS, BY GOD ADORNED.

<p>LIGHT ONE CANDLE! 1</p>  <p>JER. 33:14-16</p>	<p>SEE THE MOON. 14</p>  <p>ISAIAH 55:12</p>	<p>SEEK OUT A FRIEND... 20</p>  <p>LUKE 1:39-40</p>	<p>... OR A STRANGER. 21</p>  <p>HEBREWS 13:1,2</p>
<p>CHOOSE PEACE. 16</p>  <p>ISAIAH 11:1-9</p>	<p>UNDERSTAND. 11</p>  <p>JOEL 2:28</p>	<p>BE READY. 3</p>  <p>ESTHER 4:14</p>	<p>IMAGINE HER CONFIDENCE. 19</p> <p>Let it be to me...</p> <p>LUKE 1:26-38</p>
<p>FINISH IT. 7</p>  <p>PHIL. 1:3-6</p>	<p>LIGHT TWO CANDLES. 8</p>  <p>LUKE 3:1-6</p>	<p>SING! 17</p>  <p>PSALM 95:1,2</p>	<p>DO IT. 4</p>  <p>JAMES 1:22</p>
<p>FIND STILLNESS. 5</p>  <p>PSALM 46</p>	<p>MAKE ROOM. 23</p>  <p>LUKE 2:1-7</p>	<p>FOLLOW. 12</p>  <p>JOHN 8:12</p>	<p>LIGHT THREE CANDLES. 15</p>  <p>ZEPH. 3:14-20</p>
<p>REACH OUT. 13</p> <p>Love ~ Prayer ~ Patience ~ Hospitality ~ Rejoice ~ Affection</p> <p>ROMANS 12:9-13</p>	<p>SEE NEWNESS. 2</p>  <p>ISAIAH 43:18,19</p>	<p>LIGHT FOUR CANDLES. 22</p>  <p>MICAH 5:2-5A</p>	<p>LISTEN WITH CARE. 10</p>  <p>PSALM 19:1-4A</p>
<p>HEAR A TEACHER. 9</p>  <p>ISAIAH 52:7</p>	<p>FEEL THE LIGHT. 18</p>  <p>ISAIAH 9:2</p>	<p>GIVE SECRETLY. 6</p> <p>ST. NICHOLAS</p>  <p>2 COR. 9:6-8</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>JOHN 1:14</p>

WE'LL COME TO THAT IMPOV'RISHED PLACE AND FIND OURSELVES IN NEED OF GRACE.
 WITH ALL THE WEAK, THE WOUNDED, LOST, WHO GATHER 'ROUND THE MANGER TROUGH.
 SO COME, DEAR FRIENDS, WITH WONDER, AWE AND WORSHIP AT HIS BED OF STRAW
 WITH SHEPHERDS AND THE HOST ABOVE, COME, WELCOME CHRIST, THE LORD OF LOVE.

DEVOTIONS: MERRY WATTERS * ADVENT 2024 * POEM & DESIGN: THOMAS MOUSIN * thomasmousin.com



Celebrating a Birthday in December....

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



Celebrating a Wedding Anniversary in December...

12/16	Bill & Lilly Chiado
12/30	Rob & Beth Floyd

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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)