



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

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December 2019

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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

For in Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Colossians 1:19-20

By the time you read this another church year will have ended and we will be in the season of Advent—the beginning of a new church year. Advent is the time when we anticipate and prepare for the birth of Jesus—the celebration of Emmanuel; God with us!

This transitional time in the year is a time to reflect on and be thankful for all our accomplishments over the past year. Personally, I am particularly thankful for our community at Solomon's Lutheran Church and the great ministry we have been doing in and outside of our congregation. At the same time, we lovingly remember the several disciples who have joined the church eternal and who now rest with the saints in light. I give thanks for my own mother, Gerry, who died in June after a long and blessed life. She and many others nurtured my faith and enable me to witness to my Savior Jesus Christ in my words and deeds.

The good news is that because of the death and resurrection of Jesus, there are no hard endings but rather infinite new beginnings.

This can be a sad time of year for many people as they are reminded of loved ones who have passed on and holiday occasions of many years ago. Yet, most of us love the decorations, the get-togethers, the cards and the community with family and friends at this special time of year. On Christmas Eve, we will gather in worship around Word and Sacrament, light candles and sing the beloved hymns celebrating the birth of Jesus over 2,000 years ago in a lowly manger in Bethlehem.

Yes, we do not forget the past, but we look forward to the future with the certain hope that God's steadfast love will never fail us. No matter what happens, you can always be sure that Jesus is with you and promises to never let you go.

This Advent, I invite you to attend worship as we eagerly await the coming of Jesus. Each week during Advent, our confirmation students and their families will light the candles of the Advent wreath and share a blessing as we count down the days to Christmas. This is also a good time of year to spend some time each day in prayer

and reflection. Light a candle and read the devotions on an Advent calendar (there is an Advent calendar included in this newsletter.) Give thanks for the blessing of loved ones who have gone before us and consider ways you can honor them by sharing your faith and your love with others in the coming year.

See you in church!
Peace and joy in Christ,
Pastor Bill

Special Worship Opportunities

Christmas Cantata:
“Lead Me Back to Bethlehem”
By Pepper Choplin

“Lead me back to Bethlehem” to witness the joyful exuberance of the shepherds, the serene peace of Mary, and the redeeming love of the newly born Christ-child. Lead me back to that wondrous night to experience the utter simplicity of that blessed event and to see the star of holy light, following wherever it leads us.

Sunday, December 22nd
During the 10:15 a.m. Worship Service

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service
Tuesday, December 24th
Special Music Begins at 7:10 p.m.
Worship with Holy Communion Begins at 7:30 p.m.

Youth Christmas Musical
On Our Way to Bethlehem: A Christmas Musical for Children
By Roger Emerson & John Jacobson
Take the journey – then and now – to Bethlehem.

Sunday, December 29th
During the 10:15 a.m. Worship Service

News from the Church Council

Election of New Members— Congratulations to Frances Reichard, Carole Darr (returning for a second term), Barbara Aldrich (returning for a second term), and Leah Wolfinger (returning for a second term) for all being elected to the church council, effective January 2020. And, a big ***thank you*** to Patricia Yetter and Duane Shenberger, both of whom have finished their time serving on the council.

News from Christian Education

Advent Materials—Be sure to check your church mailbox for the specially-themed Advent devotionals for both young and old. This year's item for the youth is a "pop-up window" Advent calendar which features a special message and image from the Christmas story for each day leading up to Christmas on December 25th.

Youth Christmas Party--Our youth are invited to join us on **Saturday, December 14th** in the Fellowship Center. We will begin at 6 PM by enjoying a meal together of BBQ, Mac & Cheese, Ambrosia Salad, Chips, and Ice Cream Sundaes. Afterwards, we will then roll out dough to make Christmas cookies and decorate them. The kids will get to bring home their cookies to enjoy and share!

News from Social Ministry

Lunch, Learn & Play—Come to the Christmas Party Lunch, Learn, & Play on **Wednesday, Dec. 4th**. We will play a game, sing some carols and tell some stories. All are invited. Don't forget that if Chambersburg Schools are delayed or closed due to weather we will not meet. Also, please note that there will be NO Lunch, Learn, & Play in January as the first Wednesday is the New Year's holiday.

Many Thanks-- A BIG THANK YOU to those of you who volunteered to ring the bell for the Salvation Army. And moreover, A BIG THANK YOU for all the paper products you donated to the Maranatha Food Bank.

Power Pack Meals--Our church is one of three New Franklin congregations, along with the New Franklin Ruritan, now 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 cups, applesauce cups, and vegetable cups. If possible, please try to donate items in plastic containers rather than metal cans.

We will be supporting this project for the remainder of the school year. Donations can be dropped off at church or at the New Franklin Volunteer Fire Department. As of the newsletter deadline, Solomon's members had already donated 112 servings of fruit/applesauce and 21 servings of vegetables in just 10 days! Thank you!!! If you have questions or would like to make a monetary donation, please see Kristy Nienstedt or Pastor Bill.

News from the Kitchen Committee

Christmas Cookie Sale Fundraiser-- This event will be held on **December 14, 2019** in Solomon's Fellowship Center from **9-11 AM**. Assorted homemade cookies will be sold for \$5 a pound. Profits from the Cookie Sale will be divided equally between the new flooring fund for the upstairs Sunday School room in the church and towards Solomon's commitment to the Luther Ridge Skilled Nursing Care Facility.

Opportunities for Fun & Fellowship

Lunch, Learn, & Play!

**Wednesday, December 4th
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Solomon's Fellowship Center**

It's a Special Christmas Party!



*Sign up in the old Sunday School room.
Need transportation? Contact Edna Harris*

Caroling to Solomon's Homebound Members

**Sunday, December 8th
1:15 PM**



Shown above are some of last year's merry band of carolers.

***Be a part of the annual holiday tradition and help bring some cheer and smiles to our homebound members!
We will depart from the church parking lot and do a "carpool caravan" to the assorted residences.***

Youth Christmas Party

Saturday, December 14th

6:00-8:00 PM

Solomon's Fellowship Center



Dinner Menu: BBQ, Mac & Cheese, Ambrosia Salad, Chips, and Ice Cream Sundaes

Activity: Youth will roll out cookie dough and paint their cookies like those pictured here. The kids will get to take their cookies home to share and enjoy!

Please bring a rolling pin if you can.

Sign-up on the sheet in the old Sunday School room.

Secret Pal Christmas Luncheon

Sunday, December 15th

Solomon's Fellowship Center

12:00 PM



Whether you were a "giver" or a "receiver" you won't want to miss the *Big Reveal!*
Sign-up on the bulletin board or RSVP to Kristy Nienstedt directly.



**CRUSADERS FOR CHRIST
CHRISTMAS PARTY
HOSS'S RESTAURANT
Thursday, December 26th
6:30 PM**

Everyone in the congregation is invited to join us!
Games, laughter, and fellowship are on the agenda!
Please bring canned food items to donate to our local food pantry.

**Sign-up sheet is posted on the old Sunday School room bulletin board.
Hope to see you there!!**

Sharing Christmas Greetings

Christmas Card Tree—Again this year there will be a Christmas tree in the old Sunday School room to display Christmas cards. Instead of giving out individual cards to each member, just send one card to “All Solomon’s Members.” Starting Sunday, December 1st, a box will be placed near the tree for you to place your cards. “Tree Coordinators” Lilly and Bill Chiado will then place the cards on the tree. The idea is that the money saved by not having to purchase so many cards can be donated to a worthy cause such as our church or your favorite charity. We hope that everyone will participate.

Remembering Our Homebound Members--Since not all of our Solomon’s “family” can join us at church, please consider still sending out holiday greeting cards 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 & Ferd Bikle
Ginny Detwiler
Esther Gift
Genny Grant
Helen Hess

Bonnie Hudson
Frances Kramer
Marvin McKenzie
Becky McCleary
Marjorie McMullin

Hugh McNeill
Linda Russ
Gerald & Esther Schultz
Clayton Schwartz
Bob Shreiner

End of Year Giving Reminders

2019 Offerings: If you desire to have your contributions allocated to the 2019 tax year, they need to be received in the office by **December 31**. Contributions received after this date may be allocated to 2019.

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 in the office to discuss options.

An Invitation to the Antietam Memorial Illumination

On **Saturday, December 7, 2019**, Antietam National Battle Field will host the **31st Annual Antietam National Battlefield Memorial Illumination** in honor of those soldiers who fell during the Battle of Antietam. Solomon's will join over 1,400 volunteers to place luminaries and light candles dedicated to those brave soldiers.

Please join us this year as Solomon's celebrates 25 years of volunteering at Antietam. **Solomon's is in charge of setting out 720 luminaries beginning at 10 AM.** We will also light the candles around 2:30 PM, then gather for a Memorial Service at 3:50 PM. Sign-up sheets are on the Sunday School room bulletin board. If you have any questions, please talk to Sally Gayman or Bonney Coldsmith.

Welcome New Members

On **Sunday, November 3**, Solomon's welcomed new members into the congregation, **Emma English**, and **Karin & Willy Huber**.

Emma English is originally from Elizabethtown, PA. She graduated from Columbia Junior/Senior High School. From there, she earned her undergraduate degree from Penn State in Human Development and Family Studies. Emma holds two Master's degrees from McDaniel College (MD), one in school counseling and one in mental health counseling. She currently works for the Lincoln Intermediate Unit as a school counselor for the ACT 89 program providing services to private schools.

Emma has two younger brothers, Kelby and Logan. Kelby is an engineer working in PA while Logan does graphic design work out in Vancouver, WA. In her spare time, Emma likes to swim, travel, spend time with her family, watch Disney movies, and shop at Target.

Recently, Emma became engaged to Jared Mummert. They are planning a Fall 2020 wedding. Welcome Emma!!

Karin and Willy Huber have lived several places before their recent move to our area. Karin is originally from Mannheim, Germany, while Willy is from Medford, Long Island, NY. Together they made their home for thirty years in St. James, Long Island, NY, where they raised their children, Claudia and Eric. They worshipped at St. James Lutheran Church during that time. Besides their children, over the years their family has also included Schnaps (a long haired Dachshund) as well as Kitty. Later, another dog, Max, (Doberman) joined them at home.

After living on Long Island, they moved to Crested Butte, Colorado, where they made their home for ten years. They then came back East and spent ten years living in Ninety Six, Colorado.

Before they retired, Willy always worked in the Restaurant and Catering Industry. He has owned and operated several businesses over the years. Karin worked for 25 years in the Travel Industry

They both enjoy tennis, golf, and hiking. Welcome Karin and Willy!!

Please add our new members' contact information to your church directory:

Karin & Willy Huber

Emma English

Relay for Life Update

Big changes are coming in 2020! If you have looked at the *Relay for Life* website or you follow them on Facebook, you probably noticed the **Chambersburg Relay for Life event** will take place on **Saturday, May 2, 2020** at the **Chambersburg Area High School**. Another change is the hours – it begins at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday and ends at 10:00 p.m. (only a **12 hour Relay**).

Location, date and time may have changed, but some things will not! We will continue to have Basket Alley, the Survivor dinner, luminarias, and of course, our team will be working hard to raise awareness and fundraising. Please mark your calendars and log onto the American Cancer Society website to register with our team. We are very thankful to have your support.

Becky and Sam Mull,
Solomon's Relay for Life Team Leaders

Passages

Our Christian sympathy is extended to Marvin and LaRue McKenzie. Marvin's son, Steve McKenzie, passed away on October 30, 2019, from lung cancer. He was 66 years old. Steve's life was celebrated at a memorial service here at Solomon's on November 9, 2019.

May God comfort Marvin, LaRue, and Steve's family with the hope of a blessed reunion in heaven.

Stay in Touch!

Please make note of the following changes of address for these Solomon's members:

The Wolfinger Family
(Joe, Karen, Leah, and John)

Esther Gift*

Incidentally, **if you see Joe Wolfinger, please congratulate him on his retirement!** With the family's move, Joe has also sold his Solar Shine Car Wash business to the Rain Tunnel family operators. We wish Joe and Karen all the best as they start this new chapter of their lives!

Happening In Our Larger Community...



There is no Wellness Talk scheduled for December but watch this space for upcoming Talks in the new year!

Dinner at the Ridge will be held at **12:00 p.m.** at the Fleck Center on **Wednesday, December 11, 2019**. The cost is \$7.50. The menu for December is creamed lettuce, baked ham, baked pineapple stuffing, scalloped potatoes, dinner roll with butter, assorted desserts, and a beverage. Please call **264-3212** to make your reservation. Deadline for reservations is noon on Friday, December 6th.



HELP NEEDED: Do you or someone you know enjoy sewing? Our Memory Bear outreach is a special opportunity to use your sewing skills to provide comfort to those who are grieving the death of a loved one. To learn more about sewing for a greater good please contact: Kathryn Yaroschuk / Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, SpiriTrust Lutheran Home Care & Hospice: 717-217-3520 or email: kyaroschuk@spiritrustlutheranhc.org .

News from the SpiriTrust Lutheran Auxiliary

Angels of Love-- This Christmas marks the 27th anniversary of the annual Angels of Love holiday tribute! For a donation of \$10 or more (per person) you can dedicate an angel to be hung on the Christmas tree in the lobby of The Inn at The Village at Luther Ridge. This is a great way to honor and remember special family, friends, and co-workers. Moreover, your contribution lasts long after the holiday by helping the Auxiliary reach its goals to provide quality care to members of the Luther Ridge community. Fliers were placed in your church mailboxes. Contact our Solomon's Auxiliary Representative, Becky Pecha, to learn more or ask questions.

Reminders

Pastor Bill's Mid-Week Bible Study will NOT meet during the month of December. **The class will resume on Wednesday, January 8th.**

2020 Altar Flowers Chart—Sally will be posting the new altar flowers chart this month. The price remains the same as last year: \$30. Flowers are purchased from the local florist shop, Everlasting Love. 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. The chart can be found off the church entryway (leading out to Wayne Rd.) in the room to your left (as you face the altar).

Have an item for the December newsletter?! Deadline is **December 11th**. Please note the earlier deadline due to the upcoming holidays. Email Kristy Nienstedt at kristynienstedt@gmail.com or place it in her church mailbox.

Serving in December

	12/1/19	12/8/19	12/15/19	12/22/19	12/29/19
Lector	Bonney Coldsmith	Margie Dale	Wayne Dale	Sam Mull	Katy Nienstedt
Acolyte	Audrey Shenberger	Katy Nienstedt	Rebekah Aldrich	Sarah Aldrich	Clark Shenberger
Head Usher	Sam Mull	Sam Mull	Bonney Coldsmith	TBA	TBA
Greeters/Ushers	Ron Coldsmith Bo Coldsmith	Bernie & Edna Harris	Lilly & Bill Chiado	Bernie & Edna Harris	Ron & Bo Coldsmith
Children's Church		Lilly Chiado Zoe Mummert		Karen Wolfinger Becky Pecha	
Communion Assistants	Heidi Shenberger (Chalice) Margie Dale (Cups)	Ron Coldsmith (Chalice) Margie Dale (Cups)	Ron Coldsmith (Chalice) Margie Dale (Cups)	None	Heidi Shenberger (Chalice) Margie Dale (Cups)
After Service Coffee	Bonney Coldsmith	Phyllis & Jere Brehm	Secret Pal Luncheon	Zoe Mummert	Kristy Nienstedt
Communion Clean-Up	Clif & Carole Rau	Clif & Carole Rau	Ilona Laney	N/A	Ilona Laney
Communion Bread	Ilona Laney (none on the 22nd; 2 loaves for the 24 th)				
Communion Set-Up	Peggi and Wayne Norman (none on the 22 nd)				
Flower Delivery	Worship & Music Committee Members				
Securing Offering	Joe Wolfinger, Don Wildeson				
Paraments & Altar Linens	Peggi Norman				

***Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**--Lector: Sam Mull, Acolytes: Aaron & Rebekah, Greeters/Ushers: Rich and Janice McEntire, Communion Assistants: Mark Gayman and Heidi Shenberger (Chalice), Margie Dale and Ilona Laney (Cups), Kristy Nienstedt (Bread), Communion Set-Up: Peggi and Wayne Norman, Communion Clean-Up: Ilona Laney, Head Usher: TBA

WE STILL NEED TWO ADDITIONAL GREETERS/USHERS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE!!

Gospel Readings for December

Sunday, Dec. 1st--Matt. 24: 36-44
 Sunday, Dec. 8th--Matt. 3:1-12
 Sunday, Dec. 15th--Matt. 11:2-11
 Sunday, Dec. 22nd--Matt. 1:18-25
 Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th—Luke 2:1-14
 Christmas Day, Dec. 25th--Luke 2:8-20
 Sunday, Dec. 29th--Matt. 2:13-17



Celebrating a Birthday in December....

12/1	Doug Mummert	12/11	Abby Schultz
12/1	Bill Chiado	12/12	Joy Gayman
12/2	Jesse Reichard	12/12	Dylan Garcia
12/3	Esther Schultz	12/16	Barbara Aldrich
12/3	Patricia Yetter (80 th)	12/19	Duane Shenberger
12/5	Clif Rau (85 th)	12/20	Joyce Wildeson (80 th)
12/8	Finn Weiss	12/24	Linda Berberich
		12/27	Jane Brindle

Celebrating a Wedding Anniversary in December...

12/2	Wayne & Peggi Norman
12/16	Bill & Lilly Chiado
12/20	Don & Joyce Wildeson
12/26	Bill & Jane Brindle
12/30	Rob & Beth Floyd



Stewardship Bouquets

(A place to simply say “THANK YOU”)

Thank you to our 2019 Church Council Officers and Members for their hard work and dedication all year: Bill Wepking (President), Margie Dale (Vice President), Bonney Coldsmith (Secretary), Barbara Aldrich, Kathy Bowen, Carole Darr, Jay Hunter, Sam Mull, Clif Rau, Duane Shenberger, Patricia Yetter, and Leah Wolfinger. Also **thank you** to Ilona Laney (Treasurer) and Janice McEntire (Financial Secretary). And finally, **thank you** to Pastor Bill and Sally Gayman for their support of this team.

Thank you to the army of volunteers who served in a variety of ways to host the Community Thanksgiving Dinner. We especially thank Frances Reichard and the Kitchen Committee members who mobilized the troops for this wonderful meal. An astonishing 264 meals were served!

Thank you to everyone who faithfully served in the various capacities on the “Server Schedule” in 2019.

Thank you to everyone who chaired and/or served on a committee this past year.

Thank you to everyone who contributed paper products for the Maranatha Food Pantry.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Power Packs meal program.

Thank you to the Social Ministry Committee for hosting the November Lunch, Learn, & Play event.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Salvation Army Bell-Ringing at the Butcher Shoppe.

A Note of Thanks

Dear Members of Solomon’s,

Thank you very much for allowing our family to hold Steve’s memorial service at the church that he grew up in.

Thank you to everyone for all the effort that went into it. This includes the organist for her beautiful music and the pastor for his wonderful support, assistance, and words of comfort.

Thank you to all the members who made sure there was plenty of food for the luncheon and those that assisted with the serving of the food.

Grindstone Hill will always be family. We understand why our dad and LaRue returned to their roots!

Love,
Debbie & Kathy (Steve’s sisters)
Marvin & LaRue McKenzie

SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Join us Sunday mornings!

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages

10:15 a.m. Worship Service

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Pastor Bill Nienstedt

*“Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son.
By His coming give to all people of the world knowledge of your salvation.”*

Advent Prayer, ELW page 19