



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

4856 Wayne Road
Chambersburg, PA 17202-9355

Phone: 717-267-2266
Fax: 717-267-7030

E-Mail Address: info@solomonslutheran.org

January 2025

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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 Mike Allwein

Dear family and friends of Solomons Lutheran Faith Community!

"When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child....[Mt. 2:10-11]"

In the movie, *Waking New Divine*, a ten-year-old boy asks the interim pastor at his church, "Do you ever see God?" "No" the pastor says, "the rewards of my job are mostly spiritual and that is enough." Then the pastor asks the boy, "have you ever thought about a life of service to the church?" "Not really," says the boy. "I don't want to work for someone I never see and who doesn't even pay minimum wage."

This humorous exchange between the pastor and the young boy gets me thinking about the season of Epiphany. Epiphany—the festival day when we remember the coming of the foreigners, the Magi, to bring gifts to the infant Jesus—is celebrated on January 6, the twelfth day of Christmas.

Christmas/Epiphany is not meant to leave us with nothing more than a child's perception of what it means to see a baby in a manger scene. It is meant to take us to the level of spiritual maturity where we are capable of seeing in a manger the meaning of the empty tomb. It is meant to enable us to see through the dark days the stars beyond them.

This is our time of recalling how we see Jesus in our daily lives. During these seven weeks until the beginning of Lent, the second lesson each Sunday is taken from Paul's letter to the Corinthians, Paul's firm but grace-filled letter to a community at odds with itself. Paul uses the analogy of the human body to challenge all the baptized in the Body of Christ to see the wonder and beauty of such a diverse community.

Despite the overall arc of the Epiphany season—looking for the deeper presence of the incarnated Christ—when we look at the scripture readings for this Epiphany season, we realize how the stories are rife with contradiction and conflict. Amid the present moment of lives in turmoil, isolation and distress, the promise of Christ is an astonishing contradiction. Through the One made known to mysterious travelers from afar, we find meaning and hope. The dawn of a new age calls us into community where, despite our differences and our despair, we are formed to live with one another and all creation in faith, hope, and—the greatest of these—love!

Blessings and love into this New Year!

~pastor mike



Gospel Readings for JANUARY:

- Sunday, January 5 - Matthew 2:1-12
- Sunday, January 12 - Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
- Sunday, January 19 - John 2:1-11
- Sunday, January 26 - Luke 4:14-21

Solomon's Serving Schedule - January

	1/5/25	1/12/25	1/19/25	1/26/25
Head Usher	Ron Coldsmith			
Lector	Wayne Dale	Patricia Yetter	Janice McEntire	Kathy Bowen
Acolyte	Wayne Dale	Janice McEntire	Norm Kuykendall	Janice McEntire
Communion Set-Up	Ilona & Jerry Laney	Ilona & Jerry Laney	Ilona & Jerry Laney	Ilona & Jerry Laney
Communion Clean-Up	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Communion Assists	Janice McEntire	Janice McEntire	Janice McEntire	Janice McEntire
Communion Bread	Janice McEntire			
Securing Offering	Brian Coldsmith & Janice McEntire			
Coffee Fellowship	TBD			



Update
your
Information!



The 2025 Church Directory will be completed on January 10th. If your information has changed since the 2024 Church Directory and you have not already given your new information to the office, please do so as soon as possible. Thanks,

The installation of council members will be Sunday, January 12, 2025.

Voting Council Members: *Ron Coldsmith, Marjorie Dale, Phil Johnson, Janice McEntire, Pastor Mike, Becky Pecha, 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 are still available: 1/12, 1/26.

Have an item for the February newsletter?! Deadline is **January 20th**. Email Kimberly at office@solomonslutheran.org.





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 |
| | | 1/19 | Rebekah Aldrich |



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

Philippians 4:13 (NRSV)