

The Bell



Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 2017

Service of The Great O Antiphons December 17

During this season of Advent, our church's traditions are rich with words, music, and symbols directing us to wait and prepare for the good news of the birth of a Savior and the great joy that will restore our broken lives. On **December 17, the third Sunday of Advent**, our service will be based on **The Great O Antiphons**.

Originating in the twelfth century Christian church, these antiphons are based on the familiar Latin hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, (translated by John Mason Neale). They are actually a set of medieval refrains used before and after the singing of Mary's Song, the Magnificat, and were sung on each of the seven days before Christmas. Each refrain or petition begins with "O" and asks Jesus to come and save us. Using titles given to Christ in the Old Testament, they reflect Israel's yearning for the Messiah, and they help us express our own hopes and expectations as we wait for his return.



On December 17, cantors will sing each of these antiphons as handbells toll. Our worship will also include a collection of thought provoking and inspirational readings, taken from the book *The Mystery of Holy Night* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906 – 1945). Born in Berlin, Bonhoeffer served as pastor, teacher, and theologian during one of

the most difficult times in history for church leaders. In 1933, he helped form the "Confessing Church," and in response to Hitler being named "Führer" announced that only Christ could be the leader of the church. Bonhoeffer spent the last two years of his life in prison, and in 1945 was tragically executed just three weeks before American forces liberated the area.

Following each of Bonhoeffer's readings, we will all join in singing a hymn or carol that reflects each particular theme. In addition, Bergstrasse's Festival Choir will sing *Good News*, an early American fuguing tune, arranged by James Boeringer

and *Hark, Now, O Shepherds*, a Czechoslovakian carol arranged by Marie Pooler. Joyous Praise Handbells, along with tambourine and drum, will play an arrangement of the familiar Advent hymn *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* arranged by Cathy Moglebust. And, a hymn setting of *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns* by Robert Powell will be played by flute and organ.

Seven banners, depicting a symbol for each of the seven O Antiphons and reflecting the traditional seasonal color of purple, will be hung in the sanctuary. These symbols include the **Menorah** for Wisdom, the **Burning Bush** for Law, the **Rose of Bethlehem** for Hope, the **Key of David** for the Redeemer, the **Rising Sun** for the Light of the World, the **Crown** for the Prince of Peace, and the **Creche** for Emmanuel.

Come pray, sing, listen, and prepare as we hear the good news and welcome the Savior into our lives. Invite a friend to come receive this immeasurable gift of love, come down to us at Christmas.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.



FROM THE PASTOR

What a wonderful Retirement Celebration you organized for me, and yes it was a surprise. After thirteen years in ministry together, it was good to celebrate our accomplishments and the deep relationships we have formed. Thank you for all your well wishes and for the generous monetary gift you gave Anne and I. Your kind words were much appreciated, especially since there were many ways you might have "roasted" me. It was clear that our lives touched each other in very real and meaningful ways.

Pastor Tim Craven, pastor of Mellingers Lutheran Church, once shared with me a quote he heard in a funeral sermon for a close friend. I have shared it on several occasions, and it seems appropriate for our parting: "Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in

broadside thoroughly used up, totally worn out and proclaiming, 'What a ride!' Our working together, our serving together, our worshiping together, our study and learning together, and our loving of others together has been quite a ride. In the process we have grown closer to God, closer to each other, and closer to people all over the world.

In some ways, my retirement coming on the heels of the Advent Season, seems appropriate. Advent begins a new church year, and we begin a new year apart from each other and a period of readjustment. Though all of us may be tempted to act otherwise, now is the time for slowing down and leaning together. While the world around us rushes to and from the mall, pageants, and parties, scripture and tradition beckon us to slow down and wait, leaning on each other. In the dead of winter (a time that no doubt may express our mood as we look forward to what may lie

ahead), we need others in our church family and we need signs that the sun (and the Son) will come again—life will return. A new shepherd will come and new life-giving ministries will follow. Lean on each other; draw hope, strength, and love from each other. Know that as the lighting of candles in the darkened sanctuary on Christmas Eve dispels the darkness of an uncertain and changing future, your future will surely move toward the light of the world. So, "let your light continue to shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to the Father in heaven."

Pastor Herb



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Worship - 10:30 AM

The Rev. Herbert A. Lohr, Pastor
687-6460 (home)

Jean Wilhelm, newsletter editor

Deadline for the **January** newsletter is
December 17.

Altar flower and bulletin sponsors

The flower and bulletin charts for 2018 are on the bulletin board.

The cost for sponsoring the altar flowers is \$30. The cost for the bulletins is \$10.

Christmas Eve Worship



Christmas Eve Worship Service 7:15 PM

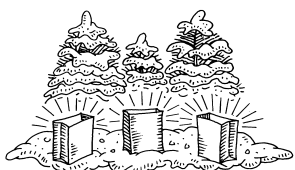
Come and celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord with a service of word, sacrament, and song beginning at 7:15 p.m. on Sunday, December 24. Our worship will include readings from the prophet Isaiah and from Luke's gospel, and we will sing many of the church's beloved Christmas carols.

Joyous Praise Handbells will begin our Christmas Eve festival by playing an arrangement by Hart Morris of a German carol originally written in 1625 and entitled *While by My Sheep*. You'll want to listen closely as handbells and chimes express the shepherds' awe and excitement upon hearing the angels' glad tidings. These instruments echo the song's refrain: *Joy, joy,*

joy. How great my joy! Next, we'll hear Donna Daub sing *When Love Was Born* by Mark Schultz. This seasonal favorite will surely fill us with the wonder of this Holy Night. And, our Senior Choir's offertory anthem, *Sing to the Child* by K. Lee Scott, is an original composition that compels us to lift our voices with those of the angels and shepherds to welcome and praise the Lord of Love.

Following the sacrament of Holy Communion will be the traditional Christmas Eve candlelighting as the congregation sings *Silent Night*. Everyone is invited to attend and join with all God's people to worship and celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.

Sing with the angels at Bethlehem; Glory to God and Peace to all people!



Lighting of the Luminaria

We plan to show our lights on the hill for the world to see again this year.

The more help we have, the less time it will take. This is a time-consuming project, so your help is appreciated. We will set up and light the luminaries at 3:00 PM on Sunday, December 24.

Make a happy Christmas

How can you make this the happiest Christmas of your life? Simply by trying to give yourself to others. Put something of yourself into everything you give. A gift, however small, speaks its own language. And when it tells of the love of the giver, it is truly blessed.

Norman Vincent Peale

*The spirit of Christmas is annual;
the Spirit of Christ is eternal.*

Stuart Briscoe

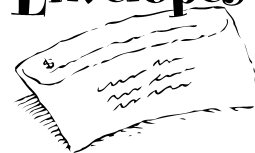
Worship participants for December

December	3	10	17	24	31
Greeters	Almanara Buffenmyer		Cathy Feather		Darlene Kreider
Lector	Bonnie Grater	Curt Hare	Deb Burkholder	Cleone Rudisill 7:15 Selma Hainley	
Acolyte	Bishop Villarreal	Marissa Spacht	Jaidyn Feather	Bishop Villarreal 7:15 Marissa Spacht	Jaidyn Feather
Counters	Earl and Sandy Eshleman	Earl and Sandy Eshleman	Bonnie Grater Mary Duing	Bonnie Grater Mary Duing 7:15 Selma Hainley/Cathy Feather	Selma Hainley Cathy Feather
Flowers			Peggy Rushton-Witmyer	Bonnie Grater	
Bulletin					

	Ushers	Communion Ushers Dec. 3, 24 (7:15), 31	Altar Guild
December	Curt Hare, Nevin Rutt, Darlene Kreider, Jane Pittman	Cathy Feather Peggy Rushton-Witmyer Deb Burkholder	Darlene Kreider Jane Pittman

The 2018 offering envelopes will soon be in the narthex at church.
Please pick up your box.

**Offering
Envelopes**



We will be collecting gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, umbrellas and socks for women and children at Vantage.

Please place the items on the Christmas tree in the fellowship hall.



Mitten Tree for Vantage



Saturday, December 9

You are all invited to go Christmas caroling to our homebound members. It will be a great day. Meet at the church at 9:30, will carol, get lunch, carol some more, be back by around 3-4 PM. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you are able to attend. We may get a van and travel together. Contact Kathy Landis for more information.

A Christmas blessing

By Ada Hendricks

May you have the
Spirit of Christmas,
which is Peace,
The Gladness of Christmas,
which is Hope,
The Heart of Christmas,
which is Love,
The Gift of Christmas,
which is Christ.



December

- 3 stuffing mix, instant
mashed potatoes
canned vegetables,
fruits, cranberry sauce,
- 10 cookie mixes, jello,
instant pudding
- 17 hot chocolate, instant
coffee, tea, soup
- 24 paper towels, Kleenex,
toilet paper
- 31 cereal, crackers

*There has been
only one Christmas—
the rest are anniversaries*

W. J. Cameron

DON'T
FORGET
THE



Mabel Bolar
 Earl and Sandy Eshleman
 Betty Evans
 Polly Gunzenhauser
 Donna Hebert
 Carolyn Hibshman
 Howard Jorgensen
 Darlene Kreider
 Larry Lausch
 Shirley Martin
 Mitzi Rice
 Cleone Rudisill
 Polly Schmuck
 Erma Snader
 Noah and Joan Stahl
 Neil and Vera Strickler
 Ruth Troutman
 Halley Bittle
 Mike Boyer
 Evanna Estes (friend of Mary Duing)
 David Evans
 Kevin Ferguson (friend of Ben and Polly Gunzenhauser)
 Rick Gerhart
 Elmer and Sheila Gockley
 Harold and Norma Good
 Earl Goshert (Jane Pittman's step-father)
 Naomi Goshert (Jane Pittman's mother)
 Nancy Heiser (Jane Pittman's cousin)
 Donna Hollinger (friend of Nancy Sweigart)
 Chris Horbey
 Robert L. Hornberger (Polly Schmuck's brother)
 Caitlyn Mertz (family of Jane Pittman)
 Mark Mertz (Jane Pittman's cousin)
 Sheila Patrick (friend of Nancy Sweigart)
 Michael Rudisill (Cleone Rudisill's grandson)
 Jennifer Sikie (family of Jane Pittman)
 Jared Snyder (Gail Smith's grandson)
 Tom Stuber (Jane Pittman's brother-in-law)
 Joe Suprik (friend of Jane Pittman)
 Cosette Sweigart (Polly Gunzenhauser's niece)
 Vernon Sweigart (Kathryn Sweigart's son)
 Randy Walker (friend of Chad and Kathy Landis)
 Harry Werner (friend of Sylvia Smith-Garman)
 Miriam Wolf

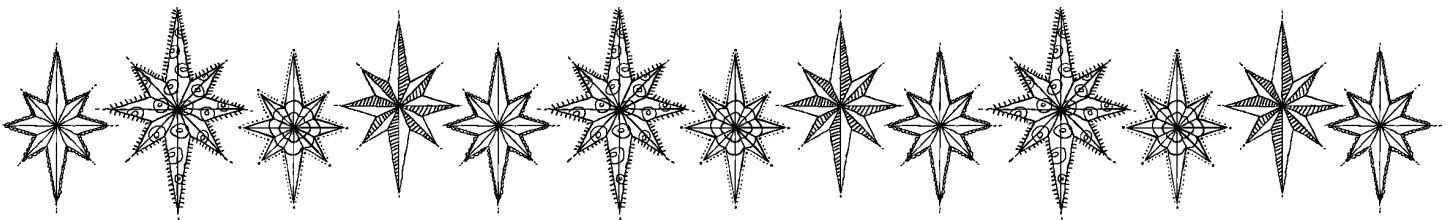


Congratulations to those with December birthdays:

- 2 Annalin Bolar
- 5 Almanara Buffenmyer
- 7 Polly Gunzenhauser
- 8 Ellie Root
- 12 Ron Hainley
- 13 Curt Hare
- 18 Evelyn Michael
- 21 Lawrence Rice
- 25 Sandy Lausch
- 28 Larry Lausch
- 31 Howard Jorgensen

Anniversaries

- 9 Barry and Darlene Kreider
- 12 Dave and Pat Heisey
- 23 Earl and Sandy Eshleman
- 25 Chad and Kathy Landis
- 27 Vernon and Pauline Schmuck





Huge heartfelt thanks and hugs to everyone for all the support with the yard sale/fundraising baskets all these many years. Prayers and blessings for each day and for peace in your heart and love to share and light the world over.

Merry Christmas and a New Year with lots of memories. Thank you so much!

The Landis Family

Thank you all so very much for once again opening your doors (and parking lot) to serve as a collection point for material aid donations for the Lutheran World Relief Ingathering. Your hospitality allowed churches from the Lancaster, Lebanon and North Lancaster Conferences—plus from other synods and states (that do not provide transportation) to bring their donations to be hauled to New Windsor, MD.

Special thanks to the men and women who unloaded and then moved the items delivered by the “early drop-offs”; to the “Tuesday Toilers” and to all who helped load the truck on October 14.

Your willingness to share your facilities year after year is greatly appreciated.

Gratefully,

Norma R. Good

We want to thank you for the very generous gift of \$1,000 to our community outreach called Peter’s Porch. With this gift, we will be able to help more families with food insecurities and their bills.

Feel free to join us on the third Saturday of the month from 8-10 AM while we serve breakfast, help people with donated clothing and give out a bag of food.

Together we will help those who need it the most!

Warm regards,

Zion Lutheran Church and Peter’s Porch

Thanks so much for the use of the bottle toss game for our Octoberfest. It was such a big hit. I kept it an extra week for our Halloween party at Trini Mini. They really enjoyed it.

Thanks again for sharing. Greatly appreciated.

Trinity Lutheran Church

Winnie Gerlach

LutherCare is committed to serve, and we are deeply grateful you have joined us in this important mission, with your gift of \$1,000 to support LutherCare and Luther Acres.

Your donation will help us continue to provide quality care to residents, children and their families and others served through LutherCare’s many programs. In addition, this gift will help us continue to provide services to residents in our Luther Acres retirement community.

We appreciate your partnership in our ministry. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of so many, as you share your gift of vision with us.

William C. Snyder

Vice President—Philanthropy & Community Engagement



The Bell

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9 Hahnstown Road
Ephrata, PA 17522

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

**Our mission at Bergstrasse is to widen the
community of people who know, love, and follow God.**

