



**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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The Rev. Gregory W. Frey, Pastor

DECEMBER, 2022

IN THE FLESH.....

Here it comes...the holiday blitz of consumerism. (In an inflationary economic cycle aren't we supposed to buy less?) There will be no lack of media messages about Christmas most of which will deal, in one way or another, with consumption. In the midst of this we need to be reminded that Christmas is, or rather was established to be, a celebration of the *Incarnation*.

Featured in the online blog *Patheos* were the answers given by twelve pastors and scholars to the question, "Why Does the Incarnation Matter?" Each respondent was asked to write an answer in 100 words or less. I found two of the responses especially relevant considering our preparations for Christmas celebrations:

"In the scandalous Christmas stories of God-made-flesh, we see crystallized in Jesus the promise of a world transformed, a world of justice and peace where empire must be challenged, where God asks sleeping, frightened shepherds — like us — to jump up and run. God still comes, God is still being born, in our tired world. Incarnation calls us to face into the future, put flesh on Micah's ancient dream: "...they shall all sit under their own fig trees and no one shall make them afraid." (Anne S. Howard, Executive Director of The Beatitudes Society)

"The Incarnation matters because it is particular. God is not merely an abstract, theoretical *other*; instead, we are invited to find God in the

diversity of people, places, and times of our particular life. How much more particular can you get than finding God in one first-century peasant from a backwater village! The Incarnation also matters because it is bodily, calling us to engage life, not only with our minds and spirit, but with our bodies. Further, the Incarnation matters because it is earthly, reminding us that this world matters, and that Creation is good and very good." (Carl Gregg, *Alliance of Baptist Pastor of Broadview Church in Chesapeake Beach, MD*)

For Christmas to really matter the incarnation must really matter and the incarnation is nothing less than God's blessed "invasion" of the earth to share our condition and draw us back into relationship with God. That God would actively seek to bridge the gap between God and humanity demonstrates the depth of God's care and reminds us of God's commitment to creation. God loves the world God made and God loves us.

Let our Christmas celebration, aside from whatever else it may be, be a celebration of God's incarnate love.
--Pastor Frey

FROM THE PARISH RECORDS—

Baptism: 12/4—**Reagan Maura Rusiewicz**, daughter of Neil & Gina (Grier) Rusiewicz

Wedding: 11/4 – **Brian Ramsey & Ashleigh Weidner**

Memorial Service: 11/19—**Betty Yocom**

New Members: **Monte & Melinda Deamer**
Timothy & Kelly Beaver, Taylor and Kylie
Tiffany Hofer and Alina
Franklin Mann 3rd & Sherry Mann
Franklin Mann 4th & Luisa Mann



--YTD Giving thru October 2022--

	<u>Jan.-Oct. 2021</u>	<u>Jan-Oct. 2022</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>% chg.</u>
Offerings	\$ 280,930	\$ 303,928	22,998	8.9
Vision 2020 Contr.	43,297	42,940	- 356	-0.82
Total Giving	\$ 324,227	\$ 346,868	22,641	6.52

THOUGHTS ON THE NAMES OF JESUS.....Joy Gerhart

In 2019 a delightful Advent devotional book for children was published by Creative Communications for the Parish, titled "His Name is Jesus." This spurred my interest and offered inspiration for a children's Christmas program in 2020. Well, sort of. As the world turned upside down in March of 2020, I stopped work on the few thoughts I had generated regarding the theme of Names of Jesus. Although no less delightful than live programs, we creatively offered two years of child and family-oriented Christmas programs via video.

This year we are moving toward "normalcy" and planning a live Sunday School program again. I reflected on a musical I had done twice in a previous congregation titled "Three Wee Kings" which emphasized the names of Jesus related to animals and stars. Have you ever heard of Jesus being called a "Lion from the Tribe of Judah"? This is a title from Revelation 5:5. How about "the bright morning star" (Rev. 22:16)? Of course, you have heard of Jesus referred to as the Lamb of God and also the Good Shepherd. The musical ended with a beautiful song sung to the tune of "Lo How a Rose E'er Growing" using all the titles discussed including "This is the newborn King of Kings."

With this as inspiration, I looked at the devotional book and the names shared there. How many names and titles can you think of that the Bible uses for Jesus? Jesus said, "I am... the light of the world; the bread of life; the vine (and you are the branches); the gate (or door) for the sheep; the good shepherd; the way, the truth, and the life; and the resurrection and the life"—all in John's gospel. (See John 6:35, 8:12, 10:9, 10:11, 11:25, 14:6, 15:5) John the Baptist and the book of Revelation call Jesus "the Lamb of God." Jesus called himself the "Son

of Man." Others called Jesus "Messiah" (Hebrew) or "Christ" (Greek) which are titles which mean the same thing—"Anointed one."

We find many names and titles for Jesus in the Old Testament prophets' writings. Isaiah says "He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6) and "Immanuel" (Isa. 7:14). Many prophets speak about the righteous branch which will come from the stump of Jesse (Jesse is David's father) [Jeremiah 23:5; 33:15; Zechariah 3:8.] In the same vein, though the Bible citations are not from the Old Testament, Jesus is called the "Son of David" (Matt. 23:9) and of course "Son of God" (1 John 4:15 among many other places).

The "O Antiphons" which we find in the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (and read at the Longest Night service) are also names and titles of Jesus: "Emmanuel" which means "God with us," "Key of David" which is like Son of David but also expresses Jesus power and authority, "Wisdom from on High," "Lord of Might," "Branch of Jesse," "Dayspring," and "King of Nations." And we can't help but remember "King of Kings" (Zechariah 9:9) and "Lord of Lords" from *The Messiah* by Handel.

We have barely scratched the surface! How about Alpha and Omega—The Beginning and the End (Revelation 1:17-18), Teacher/ Rabbi, Savior, Redeemer, Prophet, Great High Priest (Hebrews 4:14), Servant, the Word (John 1:2-3), Rock of Ages, the Cornerstone, and Dayspring (Malachi 4:2).

Which name or title means the most to you? Martin Luther in his explanation to the second article of the Apostles' creed says, "Jesus, true God...and true human being, is my **Lord**." Do we seriously consider what LORD means? Is Jesus the one to whom we owe our trust and allegiance? Is he the most important person in our lives? Do we heartily and totally accept his rule and authority?

Perhaps the name "Lord Jesus" that I learned to say in table prayers and sing in "Away in a Manger" is the most meaningful and most intimate for me. In the gospel of Matthew we read that the angel told Joseph that he was to name him Jesus "for he will save his people from their sins." He did, and we are eternally grateful!

May Christ be the LORD OF YOUR LIFE regardless of what name you use.
Merry Christmas!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM—DEC. 18

Good news! We are going to try to have a Sunday School Christmas program again after two years of creative alternatives. This year the program is titled “His Name is Jesus” and will be shared with the congregation during the 10:30 am worship service in place of the sermon on December 18. There are plenty of parts for all children who wish to participate. We plan to rehearse during the Sunday School hour on Dec. 4, 11, and 18. “Permission slips” have been shared with families in our Sunday school, but whether or not we have paperwork, children can join in the fun, celebrating the birth of our Savior. Parents are welcome to offer their help. Try not to miss this highlight of the year!

WELCOME TO THE LORD’S TABLE.....

Eleven young people attended a First Communion instruction class on Saturday, November 19 and most of them received their First Communion on Sunday, November 20. Unfortunately, four of our kids were unable to come at the last minute because they were sick. (Good old flu season is upon us!) Congratulations to Nolan and Sheamus Breen, Tyler Cloutier, Brynn and Leah Detwiler, Elena Eidell, Lucas Gross, Nolan Houck, Gavin Michener, Vivienne Poux, and Jackson Ware. Please remember these young people in your prayers as they embark on this new part of their Christian journey of greater connectedness with Jesus and the Body of Christ, the church.



BLOOD DRIVE.....

You can save a life of someone in your community today! Sign up for the **Community Blood Drive** held here at St. Paul’s on **Monday, December 12 noon to 7 pm**. Online registration is available at

www.GIVEaPINT.org. Use sponsor code 2050 or contact Rhonda Maloney at 610-213-3085.

WOMEN’S GROUP – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 AT 2 PM

Learning About and Making Mosaic Art

Our next Women’s Group gathering will focus on mosaic art. There are many beautiful ancient and medieval pieces of art as well as contemporary creations. We will look at some varieties of religious mosaic art and then try our hand at making a simple mosaic piece. Have no fear—there will be samples, examples, lots of guidance and all the mosaic squares will be cut. (We will use beautifully colored paper, not tiles, and glue sticks!)

We have scheduled this gathering on a Saturday to accommodate those who may work during the week.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex just so we can estimate how many materials will be needed.

WE ‘RE DECORATING WITH POINSETTIAS ON CHRISTMAS EVE.....

Use the form printed below if you would like to order a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary. Orders must be placed early to ensure availability. **Try to place your order by Sunday, December 4, but final deadline to order is Sunday, Dec. 11.**

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Please order _____poinsettias (5 blooms +) at \$10.00 per plant.
Amount enclosed \$_____.

Information for the bulletin: Given to the Glory of God:
_____In memory of



by _____
_____In honor of _____
by _____
_____As a gift by _____
Name _____

GIFT CARDS FOR HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS.....

The Social Ministry Committee is now collecting Redner's and Boyer's Market gift cards to give to five families in the Daniel Boone School District and one church family this Christmas. As always we appreciate your donation of the gift cards and thank you for the wonderful response to our Thanksgiving baskets.



PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING THIS MONTH.....

If you see your name here it is not because we think you have a specific need for prayer, but to let you know you are in our prayers whatever your need may be. Please include in your prayers this month: Ed Berger, Sandra



Berger, Brett Berger, Ryan Berger, Sean Berger, Andy Berger, Robyn Berger, Owen Berger, Ethan Berger, Kathryn Berger, Carole Berry Kaylin Berry, Hadlynn Berzins, Brayla Berzins. If you have anyone to add to the prayer list, call the church office. Please pray for those with special concerns: Bruce Basch, Sue Blevins, Linda Breitenstein, Jeff Cremi, Lee Dierolf, Joyce Drey, Marlane Druckenmiller, Richard Garrow, Joanne Guss, Arlene Hildebeitel, Val Jermacins, Kim Koury, Tom Krezanosky, Leo, Bill Lerch, Shirley Martin, John McCalicher, Danielle Moyer, Craig Nichols, Carol Pearson, Ray, Patty Salemno, Ellen Sheeler, Gene Stewart, Larry Swavely, Carolyn & Matt Takarski, Kitty Varady, Tom & Bobbi Vinchosky, Sarah Wieder, Paul Yacobowsky, family and friends of Matt Miller, Betty Yocom, and all others listed below or those we name in our hearts: Carole Barbary, Makayla Becker, Avery Boorse, Michael Burd, Jake Campbell, Darrell, Diane Davis, Barbara DePrefontaine, Ethan, Eve, Heath Fegely, Ron Glaser, Norman Griffen, Anna Gyuris, Sara Hartline, Jevin Heller, Connie Hunter, Terry Johnson, Priscilla Leh, Joanne Marnell, Toby Minner, Ron Mutter, Richard Randolph, Nathan Resch, Lauren Ridge, Gene Schaeffer, Audrey Serrian, John Shaner, Vernet Spence-Brown, Jason Stalneck, Joan Wendel, Craig Williams, Jane Williams; Sandi Zelinski, homebound -- Charles Brown, Fern Brown, Peggy Burns, Jennie Clouser, Carol DeLong, Betty High, Arlene Hildebeitel, Dale Szajek.

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|-------|--|-------|---|
| 12/1 | Barbara DePrefontaine
Danielle Lassiter
Luke Yambor | 12/15 | Shamyro Roman |
| 12/2 | Colton Kupp
Karen Merkel | 12/16 | Lauri Barr
Maddalena Crichton
William Dollhopf
Judith Morrow |
| 12/3 | Robin James
Grace Johnson
Raymond Oxenford | 12/17 | Adrianna DePrefontaine
Kaitlyn Hilberg |
| 12/4 | Kathy Rhoads
Taylor Rotelli | 12/19 | Pat Leister |
| 12/5 | Alexander Moorman
Henry Smith | 12/20 | Erin Mooney
Nan Tindall |
| 12/6 | Ralph Rohrbach
Julianne Sowers | 12/21 | Nolan Houck
Laurie Muschick
Carole Renninger |
| 12/7 | Jennifer Beers
Margaret Burns
Magnolia Bushman
David Leahy
Nathan Tindall
Dave Walt | 12/22 | Brody Klink
Alexis Roman |
| 12/8 | Christopher Weidner | 12/23 | Greg Godon |
| 12/9 | Fawn Schroeder | 12/24 | Cale Weidner |
| 12/10 | Debbie Kasdras
Ada Marchewski | 12/25 | Gloria Rhoads |
| 12/11 | Ryan Bennis | 12/27 | Faith Casciano
Bob Fisher |
| 12/13 | Eric Houck | 12/28 | Kathy Szajek |
| 12/14 | Fern Brown | 12/29 | Dominic Stoudt |
| | | 12/31 | Daryl McCleary
Harry Schweikert |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO—

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|---------|
| Ken & Elisabeth Yoder | 12/4 | 29 yrs. |
| Ron & Karen Glaser | 12/7 | 29 yrs. |
| Ronald & Nan Tindall | 12/11 | 23 yrs. |
| Tim Schell & Cindy Manning | 12/14 | 3 yrs. |
| Paul & Kay Reber | 12/23 | 39 yrs. |
| Rory & Peggy Emery | 12/26 | 36 yrs. |
| Lee & Susanne Walley | 12/28 | 65 yrs. |

2022 ANNUAL REPORTS were sent out electronically to those on our eblast list. If you would like a hard copy, they are available for pick-up at the church.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2022

Contributions to the church for the year 2022 must be received before December 31 in order to be credited to your statement for 2022.

SNOW EMERGENCY

In the event that we need to cancel in-building worship due to severe weather, it will be announced on Channel 69 as early as possible. The cancellation will also be on the church's website—www.stpaulsdouglassville.com, and Facebook.



YOU ARE INVITED TO..... the Boyertown Area Chorale Christmas Concert, Sunday, Dec. 4, 3:00 P.M. at Good Shepherd UCC, Boyertown. Several members of our congregation sing with this group. A cookie reception will follow.

40th Annual Holiday Craft Show—Sat., Dec. 3, from 9 A.M.—4 P.M. at Daniel Boone Middle School, 1845 Weavertown Rd. Sponsored by Daniel Boone Optimist Club.

**COMMUNITY TREE LIGHTING
SUN., DEC. 11, 2021, 5:00—7:00 PM**

RAIN/SNOW DATE: DEC. 18

Sponsored by Daniel Boone Optimist Club

Amity Park (Daniel Boone Middle School Parking Lot)

Tree Lighting 6:15 pm

Santa will be there with gifts for all children

Refreshments and Carolers

Be sure to visit our Outreach Committee stand



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Friday, December 2

3:00 –8:00 P.M.

Greens, crafts, pies, apple dumplings, chow chow, cookies, cocoa bombs, raffle, soup, and lunch items (eat in or take out)
Santa's Gift Shop

Your donations of homemade cookies and candy
Will be accepted beginning November 28.

Also, your donations of Christmas decorations, costume jewelry, puzzles, children's books and knickknacks may be brought to the church beginning November 28.



--WORSHIP WITH US THIS ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SEASON--

Wednesday, December 21—7:00 P.M. – Longest Night

Saturday, December 24 – 2, 7 & 10:00 P.M.—Candlelight services with Holy Communion

Sunday, December 25 – **10:30 A.M. ONLY**

SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA



Merry Christmas

Dear Friends and Christ,

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Creator and from Jesus Christ! On behalf of the Northeastern PA Synod Staff and Bishop Christopher deForest we wish you the merriest Christmas and a blessed and fruitful new year!

This year the NEPA Synod accomplished a cornucopia of ministry in all corners of the NEPA territory. Your love for God in Christ fed the hungry, built relationships with the downtrodden and outcast, diapered babies, shared the love of God in Christ, and much more...

Christmas reminds us of the length God goes to build relationships with us. God comes all the way down to a dirty stable in Bethlehem... an unexpected, messy beginning for the Messiah. Jesus is exactly the Messiah we needed without understanding why we needed him.

Christmas is an opportunity to reflect on the ways God comes to us unexpectedly -- It's an opportunity to meditate on the reality that Christ comes to us as an infant, totally reliant on his parents... Christ comes in the most usual way, and yet he's the one foretold in the prophets of old, he saves the people from sin and death, and he keeps coming to us. Jesus comes to us in bread and wine, in baptism, through prayer and thanksgiving, and when we gather together around God's Word.

Continue to be the Body of Christ in the world. Keep serving, preaching, proclaiming, worshipping, and sharing the good news of what God has done for us!

Yours in Christ,
NEPA Synod Staff



Register Now!

Join us!

LEARNING MINISTRIES DAY

January 28, 2023

WWW.GODSLOVE.ORG/LEARNINGMINISTRIESDAY

SAVE THE DATE

SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2023

JUNE 1-3



NEPA SYNOD

Faith FORMATION Saturdays

Faith Formation Saturdays

Date: Monthly (2nd Saturday)
Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm EST

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7 PM--Choir	2 3--8 PM--Bazaar 10 AM--Bible Study	3 6 PM--Holy Comm
4 8 & 10:30--Holy Comm 9:15--Sun. School	5 10 AM--Bible Study 7 PM--Christian Ed.	6 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS 2 PM--Knit & crochet	7 10 AM--Bible Study	8 6 PM--T3 7 PM--Choir	9 10 AM--Bible Study Noon--Amity Fr. Circle Xmas Party	10 6 PM--Holy Comm
11 8 & 10:30--Holy Comm 9:15--Sun. School 9:30 AM--Finance	12 10 AM--Bible Study Noon--7 PM--Blood Drive 6:30--CDC 7 PM--Pastoral Care	13 Quilting 9 AM--Knit & crochet 2 PM--TOPS	14 10 AM--Bible Study 7 PM--Council	15 9:30 AM--Social Min. 7 PM--Choir	16 10 AM--Bible Study 6:30--Crime Watch Xmas Party	17 7:30 AM--Property Committee 6 PM--Holy Comm
18 8 & 10:30--Holy Comm 9:15--Sun. School	19 10 AM--Bible Study 2 PM--Personnel	20 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS 2 PM--Knit & crochet	21 9:30 AM--Bible Study 7 PM--Longest Night	22 7 PM--Choir	23 10 AM--Bible Study	24 2,7 & 10 PM-- Candlelight services with Holy Communion
25 10:30--Holy Comm 	26	27 Quilting 9 AM--Knit & crochet 2 PM--TOPS	28	29	30	31 6 PM--Holy Comm