



# Parish News

To Glorify God  
 To Grow in Faith  
 To Give In Service  
*Together in Christ*

**Dec 2016—  
 Jan 2017**

## A Letter from Pastor

### Advent Waiting and Advent Arrivals

Dear Members and Friends in Christ,

We often say December is Christmastime, but in reality most of the month of December is actually Advent, a wonderful short season of preparation leading up to Christmas. The four Sundays of Advent are marked by the four candles on the Advent wreath, a circle of green life with no beginning or ending. I recall as a child that it seemed like it was "a forever" from the lighting of the first candle until all four candles were lit. I wondered, "How long?" even though I knew precisely how many days were left until Christmas.

As an adult, the season's pace quickened and as a pastor, it zooms at break-neck speed. There isn't time to get all that has to be accomplished. The days become part of an ever-growing "To Do" list, one that is never finished.

But in the midst of the hectic, Advent gently calls us to what is truly important. Waiting for a Savior as in the days of old. Preparing our hearts for His coming anew in our lives. And opportunities to consider the blessed promise that Christ will return. Remember from our Communion liturgy, "Christ has come. Christ has risen, Christ will come again."

This year has also allowed us a time of waiting which may be unparalleled in the history of this congregation. I am "Advent hopeful" that we will return to our beloved Sanctuary at Grace on Sunday, December 18. On that day, there is a baby from a new family in our congregation who will be waiting to be baptized. Our sanctuary will be refurbished and more beautiful than ever before, thanks to the commitments and sacrifices of many. We will sing our praises with the organ accompaniment

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once again, be reminded of Christ's death for us with a new cross hanging on marble above the altar, handcrafted by one of our members. There will also be new lighting, heating, cooling, and sound systems. Like a kid running down the steps to see what is under the tree, I can hardly wait! Christmas Eve will be very special in our new church home. We also eagerly anticipate the return of Stepping Stones to our building in December. What a joy it will be to have children learning and growing at Grace throughout the week!

I encourage you to seek a balance in these Advent days. Take care of yourself spiritually and physically. Enjoy one another. Take time to "be still and know God." Come and worship. Share your time, talent, and treasure with someone who really needs it. Experience more and buy less.

Thank you for all ministry together in our congregation, community, and world. May you know the blessing of Jesus who came to bring us peace and goodwill to all.

Together in Ministry,

Pastor David Lutcher

**Pastoral Acts:**

Confirmation of Tara Clegg and Liana Murphy on November 20, 2016.

**Grace Advent Gathering**

Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

5:00 pm to 6:30 pm

Join us for dinner and crafts

Please sign up to share a dinner item (A-L Dessert/M-Z Side Dish). The Worship and Music Team will provide hot sandwiches.



After our event, join us for the Annual Hatfield Borough Tree Lighting festivities at 7 pm. Pastor Lutcher is leading the singing of carols. Dress for the weather and leave room for hot cocoa and cookies!!

### **Church Council Highlights**

- Approved Tara Clegg and Liana Murphy to be Confirmed
- Approved a 2017 budget
- Approved Annual Meeting date of Jan 28 at 5 pm with a snow date of Jan 29 after the 10:30 service
- Approved the creation of a new property management committee
- Approved Scouts using the Fellowship hall on Jan 20 & 21, 2017

### **2016 Grateful Grace Update**

A check was delivered to Christ United Methodist Church, Selinsgrove, PA on October 5, 2016. Frank and Kay Stone delivered the check in the amount of \$1,250.00. Thank you for your contributions, and also to Frank and Kay for delivering the check. Please contact Pastor Lutcher with suggestions for the 2017 Grateful Grace project. This topic will be included on the agenda for the Stewardship Team meeting in December.

Thanks so much for your wonderful donation as we begin to build our new church. Your thoughtful giving has inspired us to consider doing for other congregations what you have done for us. What a blessing!

God Bless, Jinny Harnum, Hospitality, Christ United Methodist Church

Hebrews 13:16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

**A message from INreach:** *Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas. – Dale Evans Rogers*

As of January, 2017 the members of the **Mutual Ministry Team** will be Frank Stone, Sr.; Al Lund, Joyce Salter, Bruce Schmidt, Diane Ball and Dave Kunkel. This team started with the call committee members and 2 members are now rotating off each year. Thanks to Bonnie Stangl and Kathy Stawasz for their faithful service on the Call Committee and Mutual Ministry team.

**If you would like to send a “postage free” Christmas card** to our shut ins, look for the list of names and addresses, along with a box to “mail” them in before December 7th.

***Please keep the following people in your prayers:***

<i>John Fischer</i>	<i>Carol Lund</i>	<i>Peg Weaver</i>
<i>Carol Buffone</i>	<i>Joan Lattanze</i>	<i>Ginger Rittenhouse Holnick</i>
<i>Pam Matolicz</i>	<i>Carolyn Kratz</i>	<i>Suzanne Colville</i>
<i>Paige Haldeman</i>	<i>Chuck Goetter</i>	<i>Bill Forst</i>
<i>Bob Yoder</i>	<i>Dawn Doll</i>	<i>The Richter Family</i>
<i>Steve Swartley</i>	<i>Karen Heacock</i>	<i>Mary Ann Little Jodi &amp; Chelsea Krawitz</i>
<i>The family of Rich Gabel</i>		<i>The Stawasz Family</i>
<i>Sandra Moyer</i>	<i>Pastor Josh Reinsburrow and his son, Henry and Danny Wagner</i>	

**Thrivent Choice Dollars**

Those of you who are Thrivent customers and receive the benefit of Thrivent Choice Dollars are asked to prayerfully consider designating them to Grace. This year, we have used Thrivent Choice Dollars for parking lot repaving, scholarships to Bear Creek Camp, paying for youth and chaperones to attend the Synod Junior High Youth Gathering, and to supplement any deficit in our current operating budget. You can easily make this happen with one phone call and Grace's ministries will be blessed by your efforts! Thank you!

**The Indian Valley Cluster** will be hosting the service for the Welcome Church on Sunday, December 4 at 3 p.m. in Logan Square, Philadelphia. Donations of hats, gloves, scarves, and warm socks are needed to give out to the homeless and needy who attend and we meet there. Those interested are to meet at Advent Lutheran on Landis Road in Harleysville at 1 p.m. and we will car pool there.

**A Congregational Meeting** will be held for the sole purpose of approving a budget for 2017 on Sunday, December 4 following the 10:30 a.m. service.

**The Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held on Saturday, January 28 at 5 pm. With a snow date of January 29 after the 10:30 am service. Please plan to attend and bring a side or dessert to share. The new council organizational meeting will be held after the 10:30 service on Jan. 29 or in the case of snow, after the annual meeting.

Submissions for the **Annual Report** are due to Patti by **January 8**. Electronic versions are preferred.

## Christmas Caroling

On Sunday, December 11, at 4:30 pm, all are invited to share the joy of Christmas carols with those who receive few visits or are unlikely to be able to attend worship on Christmas Eve. Visits will be scheduled and you will make a difference in the life of another as well as bring joy to yourself. Consider sharing the gift of Christmas song with another! All ages are welcome and needed. You don't even have to sing, the more the merrier as we wear festive attire to bring cheer to those who cannot easily get out. We will meet and/or ride share to a Pizza place (TBD) for dinner and then head out to our destinations. If you have any questions contact Lori Pluda (thepludas@gmail.com) or Pastor Lutcher.



## *Adopt-A-Family Christmas Project 2016*

For more than 15 years, Grace Members have provided gifts to many families in our area to help them celebrate a traditional family Christmas. The thank you notes from these families have been very heartwarming. The Hatfield Christmas Committee organizes the gift giving for our area families and delivers these gifts in time for Christmas Day. We know these families are located in our area, but their identities remain confidential. Each family must complete a survey and are carefully screened as far as their immediate needs.

We hope you will plan on doing some Christmas shopping for our families this year. A display in the church narthex has a wish list of items for each family. We are also collecting everyday household items for our families. A shopping list of needed items is provided. What a wonderful way to share the joy of giving! Please drop off your gifts by **Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**. If you have questions about the project, please call Kay Stone (215-368-3725).

*The Giving in Service Team* – Jean Shaffer, Lori Pluda, Diane Ball, Carol MacDonald, Mary Jane Moyer, and Kay Stone

Dear sisters and brothers at Grace,

Thank you for your continued faithfulness in sharing staple food items and essential non-foods such as detergent and paper products with your neighbors through our food cupboard at Emmanuel. Your consistent generosity plays a big part in helping us to meet the needs of our less fortunate neighbors.

The fact that you don't neglect the needs of others even while your own congregation is in the midst of change—including temporary relocation—speaks clearly! We pray that the blessings you share with others will be returned to you many times over, as we look forward with you to the time you can return to worship in the new building.

Grace and peace, Janet Hague, food cupboard coordinator

Emmanuel Evangelical Congregational Church

**Thanks from Patti:**

I would like to thank the following people for their help in transitioning me from one location to the other during the building project.

The volunteers who moved everything from one office to the other; John Stangl for all the work he has done in getting me set up with the computer and server in both offices.

It was a seamless transition back to the new building; Barry Moyer, for hanging the new cabinets in my office. They look beautiful; Ken Seiler, and his Secretary Gina, for the copying while we were without a copier, and finally, Kay and Frank Stone whose help was invaluable in organizing and setting up the new office.

-Patti Kennedy

**2017 Altar Flower (2 sponsors for each Sunday), Eternal Candle and Bulletin Sponsor sign-up sheets are in the hallway. Thank you for your continued support.**

### Our Fourth Annual Sweets for Sharing Event

Baking this holiday season? Can you bake an extra dozen for someone that can use something sweet to brighten up their holiday? Drop your cookies off at the church on December 11<sup>th</sup> or at 155 Forrest Way on December 13<sup>th</sup> after 5:30 pm. Then join the InReach Team in packing them up at 7 pm. This year we will be adding beautifully crossed stitch ornaments created by June Detweiler. They are gorgeous! The sweets are always appreciated but most of all InReach has a lot a lot of fun! Come and enjoy some fellowship and learn what we do. For more information contact Peggy.



**Stitchers Holiday Meeting** on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at Peggy's 155 Forrest Way. There is still time to do that holiday project.

### 2016 Coat Drive

Each year we gather information from families about coats for their children and then ask the Hatfield Churches and Community to donate coats and hope we have the correct number of coats and correct genders and sizes.

This year we needed 145 coats and the day before distribution we were 11 coats short. We had a little stock pile from last year but the sizes did not match our needs. I received a call that 11 more coats were dropped off for the distribution. When I counted these additional coats, there were the exact sizes and genders of the 11 coats needed. This showed me once again who is really "in charge" of all of our needs. God provides.

Thank you for all of the donations, the time given to make this event happen, the food donated and all of the helpers. It became not only a day of coat distribution, but one of sharing, laughing, fellowship, and many kindnesses.

Our final count was 145 coats requested and 150 coats donated and 30 VERY faithful volunteers.

Thank you all. MC Reilly

## Dec Serving Schedule

Dec	4	11	18	24	25 @ 4 pm
Comm Asst - 1st	Joanne Moyer	Karen Seiler	David Kunkel	J Moyer & K.Heckler	TBD
C.Ast.—2nd	Bob Reilly	NA	NA	R. Lutcher	NA
Comm Asst—9pm	NA	NA	NA	Anna Walter	NA
Lector—1st	Peg Weaver	Mickey Koffel	Robin Lutcher	Kitty Heckler	TBD
Lector—2nd	Tami Sarm	Laura Slugg	Carol MacDonald	Kim Stangl	NA
Lector—9 pm	NA	NA	NA	Frank Stone	NA
Acolyte—1st	David Kunkel	Anna Walter	Ken Seiler	M & W Slugg	TBD
Acolyte—2nd	Olivia Stone	Wyeth Slugg	Tara Clegg	Stawasz Family	NA
Acolyte—9 pm	NA	NA	NA	A & B Walter	NA
Ushers—1st	D.Capanear & Al Lund	Barry & Joanne Moyer	Ken Seiler & Bob Smyrl	B.Moyer, A.Lund, D&MJ Moyer	TBD
Ushers—2nd	Bob Kaler Family	Paul & Carol MacDonald	Kathy Stawasz & Beth Krout	J & B Stangl	NA
Ushers—9pm	NA	NA	NA	D & B Walter	NA
Greeters—1st	Ginny Williams	Ginny Williams	Ginny Williams	Kitty Heckler	Dan & Tami Sarm
Greeters—2nd	Frank & Kay Stone	Laura Slugg	Frank & Kay Stone	J & B Stangl	NA
Greeters—9pm	NA	NA	NA	Wendy Walter	NA
Nursery	Kerry & Frank Stone	G Williams & Kay Stone	Jeff & Beth Krout	NA	NA
Flower Delivery	Kathy Stawasz	Kathy Stawasz	MC Reilly	NA	Lori Pluda

**Altar Guild:**

Wendy Walter, Kay Stone, Tami Sarm

**Altar Guild on Dec 24:**

4pm—MJ Moyer; 6:30-Bonnie Stangl; 9pm-Emily Woltmann

**Council Duties:**

Al Lund / Frank Stone

**The January Serving Schedule will be distributed in December**

The Regular Sunday Schedule has services held on Sundays at 8 am and 10:30 am with SCS at 9:15 am unless otherwise noted. There will be Communion and a Children's Story and Craft each Sunday. Calvary Korean Church will use the Wagner House from 1 pm until 4 pm each Sunday and on Friday evenings at 8 pm.

Thu Dec 1, 2016	6:00 pm	Building Usage Team
	6:30 pm	Confirmation Class
	7:30 pm	Stewardship Meeting
Sat Dec 3, 2016	4:30 pm	Advent Activity Dinner
	7:00 pm	Community Tree Lighting
<b>Sun Dec 4, 2016</b>		<b>Regular Sunday Schedule</b>
		Annual Budget Meeting after the 10:30 service
	1:00 pm	Welcome Church @ Advent, Harleysville
Tue Dec 6, 2016	7:00 pm	Stichers at Schmidts
Wed Dec 7, 2016	10:30 am	WELCA
	7:15 pm	Worship & Music Team—Rm 6
Thu Dec 8, 2016	6:00 pm	Bear Creek Camp Board Mtg
<b>Sun Dec 11, 2016</b>		<b>Regular Sunday Schedule</b>
	4:30 pm	Christmas Caroling
Wed Dec 14, 2016	11:00 am	Bible Study
	6:00 pm	Council Meeting
Thu Dec 15 2016	6:30 pm	Confirmation Class—Christmas Shopping
<b>Sun Dec 18, 2016</b>		<b>Regular Sunday Schedule</b>
Sat Dec 24, 2016	4 / 6:30 / 10 pm	Christmas Eve Services
<b>Sun Dec 25, 2016</b>		<b>4pm Worship service—No SCS</b>
Mon Dec 26—27, 2016		Pastor on Vacation
<b>Sun Jan 1, 2017</b>		<b>10:30 am service only—No SCS</b>
<b>Sun Jan 8, 2017</b>		<b>Regular Sunday Schedule</b>
		<b>Annual Reports Due</b>
Tue Jan 10, 2017	7:00 pm	Worship & Music
Wed Jan 11, 2017	6:30 pm	Confirmation Class
Thu Jan 12, 2017	9:30 am	H3C
<b>Sun Jan 15, 2017</b>		<b>Regular Sunday Schedule</b>
Tue Jan 17, 2017	7:00 pm	Church Council
Fri Jan 20-21, 2017		Scouts Pinewood Derby
<b>Sun Jan 22, 2017</b>		<b>Regular Sunday Schedule</b>
Wed Jan 25, 2017	6:30 pm	Confirmation Class
Sat Jan 28, 2017	5:00 pm	Annual Meeting
<b>Sun Jan 29, 2017</b>		<b>Regular Sunday Schedule—Pastor Lutcher @ St. Andrews</b>
		<b>Rev. Susan Lang supply pastor / snow date for annual mtg.</b>

Happy Holidays !

Christmas is so special and brings many family memories to mind. My family would celebrate Christmas the entire month of December. We had an advent wreath on our dining room table and each Sunday before our family dinner, one of us would light a candle. The appreciate scripture would be read, followed by grace.

Having been raised in a Christian home, the emphasis was on the religious beliefs being most important. That didn't mean we didn't decorate, shop, mail cards, wrap presents, and trim the tree. We started assembling the electric trains after Thanksgiving. All these things were accomplished in synchronization with the choir practicing advent and Christmas selections. Time was given for extra choir and instrumental rehearsals. These were needed in obtaining the desired level of presentation.

Visit with Family relatives during Christmas week or New Year's Eve, rather than Christmas Eve. Gifts may be opened before or after Christmas services.

Whatever it takes, you can find good ways to make the right things happen and give your children fond memories of their holidays with the family. Remember, if there is secure love in your home, and if Christ is the center of your lives, there will be immense positive overflow.

Ken Delmar  
Minister of Music



The Fall has been a fun time of year at Stepping Stones! We celebrated the season by having Fall Festivals in each class filled with games, food, and activities. Coming up, we will be learning about Christmas; including trees, stars, wreaths, and the true meaning of Christmas, the Birth of Jesus. All are welcome to attend our Christmas Program on December 14th at 10 a.m. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Stepping Stones Nursery School and Day Care Center  
Glenda Wismer, Director

Gift Certificates for *The Wizard of OZ*

Looking for a unique and special Christmas gift? How about a gift certificate for tickets to The Laymen Playmen, Inc.'s 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show, *The Wizard of Oz* ?

Based on L. Frank Baum's novel, OZ, Dorothy Gale gets whisked away by a cyclone to the fantasy Land of OZ. As she goes on her journey to get home, Dorothy and her little dog, Toto, meet a Scarecrow, Tin Man, and Lion. Together, this little band search for the Wizard of OZ and are met by the Wicked Witch and many adventures. Listen to the music of Follow the Yellow Brick Road and the timeless, Somewhere Over the Rainbow.

The production will be held on February 9-12 and 16-19, 2017 at the Lansdale United Methodist Church, 300 N. Broad Street, Lansdale, PA. Show times are either 2:00 pm or 8:00 pm depending on the day. Don't forget that proceeds benefit the Hatfield Pastor's Fund. Call 215 368 9484 for your gift certificates, tickets and additional questions or go to [www.laymenplaymen.org](http://www.laymenplaymen.org) for more information.

**Laurel House Valentine's Day Project**

The *Giving In Service Team* would like your support for our Valentine's Day Project for **Laurel House**. We will collect items for the mothers and children of Laurel House which provides shelter and care for abused women and children of Montgomery County. Please check out the display in the narthex during January and February and pick up a wish list of items needed for Laurel House. Consider adding one or two of these items to your shopping list. **Please drop off your gifts by Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.**

Dear Grace Family,

Thank you very much for the thoughtful basket of goodies. It was greatly appreciated and warmed my heart. Our family home is in Harvey's Lake, but my heart will be thinking of you all at Grace and the many ways each and every one of you has impacted our lives over the years. We have great memories and wish you success in the new building and cherished new memories to come. I know i/we are welcomed anytime and will try to visit when we can.

Thank you again and God Bless each of you - Kurt, Lisa Veit and Family



**The Reverend David Lutcher**  
**dclutcher@comcast.net**  
**(h) 215-723-5754**

**Office Phone: 215-855-4676**  
**Church Office Secretary**  
**Patti Kennedy**  
**pattikennedy2@verizon.net**

**Stepping Stones -**  
**Glenda Wismer**  
**steppingstonesoffice@**  
**verizon.net**

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**PO Box 57**  
**40 N. Main St.**  
**Hatfield, PA 19440-2905**

*Address Service Requested*

## **Parish News Holiday 2016**

Dec 3, 2016—Advent Activity Dinner  
Dec 4, 2016—Annual Budget Meeting  
Dec 24, 2016— 3 Christmas Eve Services  
Dec 25, 2016—One Service at 4 pm  
Jan 28, 2017—Annual Meeting at 5pm



**See More Important Information Inside**