



## *THE CHURCH WINDOW* December 2017

### On Advent

During this month of December, we are entering the season of the church year called Advent. The color of the church paraments (altar colors) become a beautiful light blue - the color of a clear blue sky - the color of looking up with hope and expectation. The season of Advent reminds us that we are living in an in-between time. We are reminded of our hope in Christ's triumphant return. While, at the same time, we are preparing to celebrate the birth of Christ in Bethlehem. We live during a time of Christ's already having been and a time of His having not-yet-arrived.

Living in this in-between time can make us feel as though Christ is delayed in His "Second Coming". And so, we may be tempted into a sense of complacency. Therefore, we are continually reminded in Advent to keep awake. Christ is not delayed. Jesus still lives among us. Whenever we share in the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion - whenever we hear or read the scriptures - during these times the Word of God is among us filling our hearts, minds, and spirits with the living presence of Christ. So, our Lord Jesus is quite active among us in these in-between times as well.

During this season, we hear the constant drum beat of the world. We hear the constant noise of the world trying to sell us this and sell us that. The Christmas lists and Christmas parties and Christmas events, in addition to all of our everyday work and necessities that need to be dealt with - all of these

pressures exhaust our hearts and minds and spirits. This season can deaden our hearing and deaden our spirits. And yet, God is reminding us of the One who is to come - the One who is coming even now - to bring us true life and joy and true peace. Our Lord brings to us true and lasting peace even in the midst of a world filled with noise and busy-ness.

This Advent, we are reminded that Jesus is Emanuel: God with us. Jesus is near us and among us, as close as the person rubbing elbows with us. Keep awake! For the Lord may come to us in the harried sales clerk who waits on us at the department store; or in the shivering Salvation Army bell-ringer; in the uninvited guest who drops in as you've just settled down for a much deserved rest; in the many poor who cannot afford oil for their homes or toys for their children. Jesus may come to us in the familiar face of a friend who is missing a loved one during this season.

In this season, we are called to prepare room in our hearts and space in our lives for the coming of the Lord. As He comes to us in this day and the next, may our Lord grant us the grace to recognize His presence and share our abundance and our lives with all the people around us who bring Him.

Amen, come Lord Jesus.

In the Spirit of Advent,  
The Spirit of Christ,  
Pastor Steve

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN OUR PRAYERS

**Homewood:** Eileen Grothey, Clyde Frock, Julia Mummert and Phyllis Frock

**The Brethren Home:** Shelva Laughman

**Hanover Hall:** Mildred Raubenstine

**At Home:** Karen Brown, Robyn Duppins, Eric Collins, Cindy, Lisa Galloway, Lori Shaffer, Jim Krumrine, Daryl Raubenstine, Shelley Saltzgiver, Larry Bixler, Cynthia Waters, Angie Britcher, Anita, Frieda, Mary Marrero, Marlene Redding, Harold Krumrine, Harold Bachman, Gladys Wildasin, Deb Sponseller, Cindy Graybill, Lindsey Crawford, Joyce Johnson, Kyle Wildeson, Leiland Smtih, Jimmy Bryan, Jeff Butler, Amber Shaw, Barb Butler, Isabella Taylor, Tammy Hall, and Katlyn Stremmel, Mara Small, Doug Deviny, Danielle Stislicki, Kaz Krysiak, Alan Sterner, Marleigh Myers, Frank George, Paul Chronister, Hannah Engle, Christina Hawn, Hope & Wesley, Jay & Dottie Waybright, Sharon Krumrine, Ruth Gunnell, Joe Moxley, Donald Sterner, Helen Renner, Sarah Iafrate, Lisa Dickensheets, Ned Sterner, Chasidy Gladfelter, Benjamin Summers, Donna Spaide, Kim Shultz, Vicki Creamer, Faye Gobrecht and Cole Stremmel.

**In the military service:** Ryan Baummer, Marcus Gobrecht, Shea Mumma, Mark Reeve, Joshua Mummert, Alex Berwager and Doug Shaffer

## PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

<b>Worship Assistant</b>	<b>Scripture Reader</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Screen Presenter</b>
3 – Ruth Neiderer	Shelley Saltzgiver	Abbey Jemison	Heather Bair
10 – Donald Sterner	Allen Gobrecht	Sam Jemison	Ruth Neiderer
17 – Emily Beyer	HOPE	Kylie Iafrate	Pat Gobrecht
24 am – Glenn Gobrecht	Faye Gobrecht	Olivia Wetzel	Liz Mickley
24 pm – Erin Gobrecht	Pat Berwager	Cade Baumgardner	Kim Trone
31 – Shelley Saltzgiver	Trisha Weaver	Carson Trone	Judy Mummert
<b>Worship Sound</b>	<b>Children's Message</b>	<b>Children's Time</b>	
3 – Barry Berwager	Pastor Steve	Lindsey Crawford and Karen Cramer	
10 – Shaun Saltzgiver	Chris Myers	Chris Myers and Diane Buvia	
17 – Brad Neiderer	Glenn Gobrecht	Ruth Neiderer and Heather Bair	
24 am – Barry Berwager	Faye Gobrecht	Eileen Becker and Kim Becker	
24 pm – Shaun Saltzgiver	Larry Brumgard	Kelly Kuhn and Deb Leppo	
31 – Barry Berwager	Pat Berwager	Wendy Fritz and Kelly Kuhn	

**Greeter Ministry:**    **December** – Toni Null                      **January** – Dave and Carrie Hoff

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SPONSOR IN DECEMBER

**Sunday bulletins @ \$10.00/Sunday**

All Dates are Open

**Altar Flowers:** If you are interested in sponsoring altar flowers for a worship service, see guideline paper in hallway or contact Ruth Neiderer. The flowers can be sponsored any Sunday



**POINSETTIAS** may be purchased to beautify the church during the Christmas season. Multi-bloom 6" pots may be purchased for \$10.50 or, instead of a flower, anyone interested may give a donation in any amount to the Hanover Cold Weather Shelter. Order/Donation forms and payment for poinsettias are due by the morning of **Friday, Dec. 1, 2017**. Forms are available, in the hallway. There will also be a large envelope there to collect your order form/payment. Donations for the shelter will be collected through December 24<sup>th</sup>. Poinsettias may be taken home after the Christmas Eve Service, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>.



**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 12/01 – Evelyn Mechtly
- 12/03 – Edna Sterner
- 12/05 – James Neiderer
- 12/06 – Mary Ann Canouse
- 12/08 – Mary Helwig
- 12/09 – Evelyn Spotts
- 12/11 – Phyllis Feltch
- 12/13 – Darrell Raunbenstine
- 12/14 – Eileen Grothey\*
- 12/19 – Arlene Harner
- 12/21 – Allen Gobrecht
- 12/21 – Patricia Wentz
- 12/24 – Glenn Gobrecht
- 12/26 – Alan Sterner
- 12/30 – Ron Hnat

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 1/03 – Mary Gobrecht
- 1/06 – Donald Sterner
- 1/07 – Diane Myers
- 1/16 – Barry Baney
- 1/21 – Gloria Markle
- 1/21 – Marlene Shilling
- 1/24 – Jeanne Bechtel
- 1/27 – Diane Buvia
- 1/28 – Gladys Shank

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY**

- 2/02 – Leurena Myers
- 2/15 – Wanda Gerber
- 2/15 – Patricia Gobrecht
- 2/16 – Jacqueline Redding
- 2/22 – Debra Mumma
- 2/24 – Julia Mummert
- 2/26 – David Schnell
- 2/26 – Carroll Wilson

\*shut in

**GETTING READY** On Saturday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 – 10:30 am we will be getting ready for the Birth of Jesus. We are decorating the church. *All ages invited.* See Ruth if you want more information.



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS** will be presented by our Sunday School children, and all the musical groups in our church. This will happen at 9:00 am during the worship service on that Sunday. We welcome all to join us for this special presentation.

**WELCA CHRISTMAS LUNCH** (Women of the Lutheran Church in America) will be hosting a Christmas lunch on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm for our members who live at Homewood. If you can attend or help with soup, sandwiches, cheese, snacks, cookies or drinks, please sign up in the hallway, or tell Eileen Becker, Edna Sterner or Marlene Shilling. We also need other eaters, wheelchair pushers and conversation helpers.



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

**You are invited to worship 9:00AM**

**Dec. 3** First Sunday of Advent – **HOPE**

Christmas Anticipation  
Music by Children and Choirs

**Dec. 10** Second Sunday of Advent – **PEACE**

**Dec 17** Third Sunday of Advent – **LOVE**

**Dec 24** Fourth Sunday of Advent – **JOY**



**SANTA** will be visiting St. Bartholomew's on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Come on by for a visit! Refreshments will be served.



**ST. BARTHOLMEW'S UNITED CHURCH (ELCA)  
INVITES YOU TO WORSHIP**

December 24<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm – **Family Service**  
10:00 pm – **Christmas Organ Concert**  
10:30 pm – **Candlelight Service**

1204 GRAND VALLEY RD, HANOVER, PA  
717-632-1952

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



**Join us to get God's House  
ready for the New Year.**

Un-decorating, Purging Clutter,  
Cleaning and some Organizing!

**Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 9:00 am**

**ON REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**, December 31<sup>st</sup>, during the 9:00 am worship service, you will have an opportunity to light a candle in memory or in honor of a loved one. Please light the candle when you arrive or during the prelude. The greeter will hand you a prayer request, complete it and place in container when you light the candle. Your request will be included in the prayers.



**BABY ITEMS FOR THE COLD WEATHER SHELTER** During the month of December we will be collecting diapers and baby items to be donated to the Cold Weather Shelter. These are much needed and can be distributed all year. Donations can be placed in the collection box in the overflow room at the back of the church. If you have any questions, please see Amy Wetzel.

**CARDS FOR VETERANS** We are again showing our appreciation to our Veterans at the VA Hospital in Lebanon. Please feel free to choose a card from the overflow room or bring in your own. Handmade cards from your kiddos are also welcome. Please be sure not to seal your envelope & they ask for children to only sign their first names. (Cards in the overflow room have been donated by Amy Wetzel.) Please take a minute to write a Veteran a message in one of the cards & place it in the Veterans Cards Box. Cards will be available from November 26<sup>th</sup> through December 3<sup>rd</sup>.





**THANK YOU!** Your generous donations raised \$685 for THON with October's Special Envelope Offering.

**HELPING HANDS MINISTRY** This ministry provides care, support and many services to our church family who are in need. If you are in need of assistance, please read the list of services posted on our bulletin boards. Examples of services provided are small home repairs, limited yard work, picking up prescriptions, transportation to appointments and much more. All you need to do is contact the church secretary if you or another member needs assistance. If you are interested in being a volunteer for this ministry, see Judy Mummert.

**HANOVER AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES NEEDS IN DECEMBER**

**PAL** Salad Dressing, Pineapple, Coffee (no flavored) & creamer, Hot Chocolate, Scalloped Potatoes

**CLOTHING BANK** Men's Socks, Warm gloves, (all sizes - no knit), Child Pull-Ups (4/5), Wipes

**CHANGING LIVES SHELTER** Sweats M/F-M/L/XL, Warm gloves, (all sizes - no knit), Blankets (no crochet)

**RUTH'S HARVEST** *All single serving please!* Entrees, Pudding, Cereal, Fruit Cups, Non-refrigerated Milk

**Weekly Prayer Requests:**

Week of Dec.3: HACC Volunteers

Week of Dec.17: Building Committee

Week of Dec.10: Board of Directors

Week of Dec.24: Shelter Staff/Volunteers

**REPORT FROM CHURCH COUNCIL**

*(October 12, 2017 & November 9, 2017)*

Approval given for Pastor Steve to give a Christian Meditation and Centering Prayer. Approval given for \$50. to be donated to the Hanover Lutheran Conference to help pay for refreshments provided during their reformation service. Approved donation of \$500 to New Hope Ministries for their Thanksgiving Blessings baskets. Declined approval of 3-month deadline to keep people on the prayer list. Motion approved for there not to be a special envelope offering for the month of December. Approval given for Worship committee recommendation that all future communions be continuous communion, with the exception of intinction as needed. Request from member to replace halogen lights with LED lighting given to Property committee to price. Recommendation made that no one use our ballfield on Sundays – council would like to think about this at least until next meeting. Need board members for HACC. Decision made to discontinue ad in Dex Media approved. Thank you notes received from: SpiriTrust Lutheran, Hoffman Home for Youth, Seminary, New Hope and Gideons. *Complete copies of minutes are available in the hallway.*

**Treasurer's Report** – October's Beginning Balance: \$14,484.90. Ending Balance: \$16,122.21 (Voided check from September changed beginning balance.)

**CONGRATULATIONS!** To the newly elected council members for 2018: Carl Bachman, Chuck Bock, David Hoff and Kim Trone. Thank you to everyone who was willing to run for Council. Thank you also to those outgoing members of council: Cheri Amoss King, Dale Greer, Ron Hnat and Sonya Kuhn.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER** In case our worship needs to be cancelled due to weather conditions, the cancellation announcement can be found on our web page at [www.stbart-hanoverpa.org](http://www.stbart-hanoverpa.org). An email will also be sent to everyone that currently receives the Newsletter by email. If you miss these announcements, you may call any council member for information or the Pastor at 717-476-9171.



**Monroe S.E. Gobrecht Memorial Award** Any youth members of St. Bartholomew's who are attending or will be attending post-secondary education are reminded that a minimum of 10 hours of volunteer service are required. (A minimum of those 5 hours of service need to be helping with worship services.) There are other requirements that need to be met for this scholarship award. Youth members should have documentation of service hours and should NOT wait until the last minute. There are MANY opportunities to volunteer throughout the year at church.

## Remember Our Shut-ins

Ida Butler  
2990 Hanover Pike  
Hanover, PA 17331

Mr. Clyde Frock #1118  
Homewood at Plum Creek  
425 Westminster Ave.  
Hanover, PA 17331

Mrs. Phyllis Frock  
Homewood at Plum Creek  
Hanover, PA 17331

Mrs. Eileen Grothey  
Homewood at Plum Creek  
100 Homewood Way  
Hanover, PA 17331

Shelva Laughman  
Cross Keys Village  
The Brethren Home  
2990 Carlisle Pike  
New Oxford, PA 17350

Julia Mummert  
Homewood at Plum Creek  
425 Westminster Ave.  
Hanover, PA 17331

Leurenna Myers  
198 Second Avenue  
Hanover, PA 17331

Mary Pheabus  
972 ½ Baltimore Street  
Hanover, PA 17331

Mildred Raubenstine  
480 Old Westminster Rd.  
Hanover, PA 17331



**AERO OIL CREDIT** Aero Oil has agreed to credit St. Bartholomew's three cents on the gallon for every gallon of oil that our members use from their company. If you use Aero Oil, please let them know that you are a member of St. Bartholomew's United Church (ELCA).



**GO GREEN** Our newsletter is available online. If you would like to "go green" and receive the newsletter and calendar via email, please contact the church office at 717 632-1952 or by email at [stbartchurch@comcast.net](mailto:stbartchurch@comcast.net). Thanks!

**ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S UNITED CHURCH (ELCA)**

**1204 Grand Valley Road Hanover, PA 17331**

**Telephone: (717)632-1952 Fax: (717)633-9267**

E-mail address: [stbartchurch@comcast.net](mailto:stbartchurch@comcast.net)

Website: [www.stbart-hanoverpa.org](http://www.stbart-hanoverpa.org)

**Rev. Steven E. Thomas, Pastor**

Cell phone: 476-9171

E-mail address: [3pastorsteve7@gmail.com](mailto:3pastorsteve7@gmail.com)

Office hours: Wednesdays – 9:30-11:30 a.m.

**Mrs. Beth Cronney, Office Administrator**

Office hours: Tues, Weds and Fri 8:30 am – 2:30 pm

**Mrs. Marlene Shilling, Music Coordinator**

**Ms. Erin Gobrecht, Bell Choir Director**

**Ms. Erin Gobrecht, H.O.P.E. Coordinator**

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

**Worship on Sunday – 9:00 a.m.**

**Sunday School classes for all ages – 10:30 a.m.**

**H.O.P.E. Worship *He Offers Peace Everyday***

Contemporary Style Worship 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month – 9:00 a.m.

***Opportunities to serve the Lord!***

Adult Choir and Bells meet every Wednesday

Council meets the second Thursday of each month

Women of the Church meet the last Tuesday of the month

Join the Church/Sunday School orchestra

Membership with the congregation is not required

for participation in any programs of the church.

**2017 Council Members**

Cheri Amoss King Wendy Fritz Allen Gobrecht

Amy Gobrecht Dale Greer Ron Hnat

Roger Krumrine Sonya Kuhn David Schnell