

DECEMBER 2024

NEWSLETTER

St. Andrew's Net

ST. ANDREW EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

REV. BEN LANDER

201 S. Main St.

Muncy, PA 17756

570-546-3591

www.standrewlutheranmuncy.org

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Worship : 9:15 am

Sunday School : 10:30 am

COFFEE TIME BEFORE & AFTER
SERVICES

Communion: First Sundays of the month
and Special Sundays throughout the year.





From The Pastor's Desk

The Advent/ Christmas season is a season full of traditions. One of the traditions in our household is that we decorate for Christmas the day after Thanksgiving. It is always heart-warming to watch the excitement and anticipation as our children help set up the Christmas tree and hang beautiful ornaments on it, or place their stockings on the banister, or hang dazzling lights all over the house. But my favorite decorations are the nativity sets that beautifully depict the birth of our Lord and Savior and remind us of the true reason we celebrate.

I wonder, though, if we don't sometimes lose sight of that and place Jesus on the shelf like any other piece of décor to be absorbed into the background and forgotten until it's time to take Him down and dust Him off. It's easy to be distracted with all of the hustle and bustle that this time of year brings: shopping, wrapping, baking, visiting friends and family – none of which are bad per se – but do we have the same urgency and excitement to worship Christ as we do these things?

When Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. The greatest event since creation to come upon the world had just occurred: our King, our Lord, our Savior and Messiah had just arrived in the flesh...and nobody had any room for Him. In today's culture, we have busied ourselves and filled our lives with so much "stuff" that many people still don't have room for Him; Jesus becomes an afterthought. "I'll read my Bible if I get the time." "I'll pray when I need something." "I'll give to the church if I have a few bucks left over." "I'll come to church if I don't have anything better to do on a Sunday morning."

Now, I know I'm probably preaching to the choir. Those of you reading this newsletter are probably among the faithfully committed Christians, which is why I would like to encourage you to shine all the brighter this Advent and Christmas season. We know what it looks like when a house is decorated for Christmas; we can drive past and see all of the colorful lights on display. Similarly, Jesus said "you are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither does someone light a lamp and place it under a bowl. Instead, they place it on its stand and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16).

Jesus Christ is the True Light that illuminates the dark corners of the human heart and fills us with His radiance so that we would walk as children of the light (Ephesians 5:8). This Christmas, don't place your light under a bowl, but display it proudly on the mantle of your heart for all the world to see. Then, perhaps, every heart will begin to prepare Him room because they cannot help but be drawn to the light of Christ within us.

Christ's peace and love to you this Christmas,

Pastor Ben



December Outreach - Pastoral Fund

Pastor Ben will use the donated funds to serve our Parishioners in need and in other various ways! You can help us be the hands and feet of Jesus. Thank you so much for your generosity!

*Thinking
of You*



December Care Cards

Our December Care Cards will be going to Bobbie-Jo Kline and Penny Wettlauffer. We have cards available in the Narthex or you can use your own. Please sign an encouraging note or thoughtful message and give them to the office to be mailed. Thank you!

Annual Donation Tree

Parish Life Committee will be collecting hats, gloves, mittens, scarves & socks on December 1st & 8th to be donated to the Son light House for distribution. Please help decorate our warm accessories Christmas tree!





Christmas Cantata

The Chancel Choir will be raising their voices in singing “Swaddling Clothes” by Mike Harland and John Rowsey on Sunday, December 15th. It’s a wonderful time to spread the message of Christmas joy to our newborn King!

West Branch Chorale

Four of our members will be singing in the West Branch Chorales upcoming concert, “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”, on Sunday, December 1st at Pleasant View Wesleyan Church in Muncy at 3pm and Monday, December 2nd at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Williamsport at 7pm. Please come out and support our choir members.





Touch a Heart Tags

Gift tags are available and will need to be returned by December 15th for collection. Please take one or more!

Parent's Night Out

Friday, December 13th we invite parents to drop their children off from 6-8pm for Parent's Night Out! Activities and snacks will be provided for children while parents enjoy some time out Christmas shopping or just relaxing. Registration slips are available in the Narthex.



Christmas Family Fun Day

DATE: December 15

TIME: 3:30pm

Christian Education and Parish Life are planning a Family Fun Day! We will have: Children's Games, Cookie Auction, Christmas Caroling, a Light Supper and Cookies & Cocoa for dessert! Please sign-up in the Narthex!



Cookie & Candy Plates

The Women of St. Andrew will be meeting on Tuesday, December 17th at 2:00pm to put together cookie and candy plates for our shut-ins. Donations of treats and time are welcome. Thank you!

Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

@ 7:00pm

Communion and Candlelight Service



Monthly Women's Bible Study

Our once a month Women's Bible Study will be starting back up on January 04 at 8am. Please keep an eye out for more information. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex.



Anniversaries

December 29 - Dean & Joy Barto

December 25, 2024

hello
December



Birthdays

- December 01 - Karen Krum
- December 05 - Atira McArdle
- December 08 - John Myers
- December 13 - Terri Stermole
- December 14 - Noelle Bloom
- December 19 - Robert Gillen
- December 22 - Erik Houser
- December 23 - Faith Haddon



December 31, 2024-January 01, 2025



Sunday School Teachers

December 01 - Terri Stermole
December 08 - Joy Barto
December 15 - Karen Krum
December 22 - Darlene Waldron
December 29 - Kay Myers

Greeters

December 01 - Need Greeter
December 08 - Luanne Libbey
December 15 - Larry & Sharon Barnard
December 22 - Need Greeter
December 24 - Need Greeter
December 29 - Need Greeter

Lectors

December 01 - Sheila Morehart
December 08 - Steve Haddon
December 15 - No Lector - Christmas Cantata
December 22 - Amy Brinser
December 24 - Erik Houser
December 29 - Larry Barnard

Acolytes

December 01 - Lila Styer
December 08 - Levi Lander
December 15 - Teagan Brinser
December 22 - Gina Styer
December 24 - Sam Haddon
December 29 - Levi Lander

Communion Assistants

December 01 - Michele Styer
December 24 - Troy Detweiler

Altar Flower Delivery

Darlene Waldron