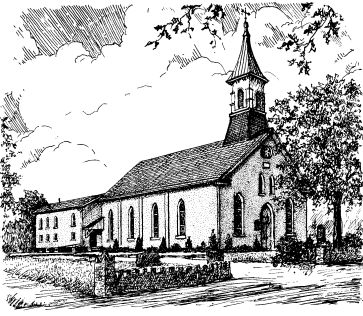


United Church of Christ of Trappe

December 2023 Newsletter

**Worship Schedule**

Rev. Gary Dierolf, Supply Pastor

Office – 610-489-4933

Office email - administrator@stlukestrappe.org

www.stlukestrappe.org

© 484-575-6477

Blended Service 9:00 AM

3rd Sunday of Mo. Healing Service 9:00 AM

4th Sunday of Mo. Children's Sermon 9:00 AM

PASTORS MESSAGE

The second chapter of Matthew tells the story of the magi who travelled from the east toward Jerusalem and ultimately Bethlehem after witnessing the appearance of a star that they knew to be a proclamation of the arrival of the Messiah. We know that the star went on before them and came to rest over the very spot where the infant Jesus could be found. That incredible star that they followed for so many miles, indeed, had led them to both the place and the moment where they could encounter the Son of God. They knew that their journey had been worth it as they worshipped him and offered gifts of great value.

As we journey through this season of advent, leading to the incredible joy that is Christmas, I would invite us to give thought to the metaphorical stars that we follow. We know just how easy it can be for the busyness of the season to become overwhelming, pulling our attention, our time, our energy, and our resources in so many different directions. As people of faith, the star that matters most is not that of celebrity or politics. It is not those of rampant consumerism or holiday obligations. Rather, the star that we seek and follow is the one that bears the light of Jesus' love for each of us.

The magi so long ago were able to look upon the countless stars in the night sky and find the special one that led them to Jesus. May we do the same this season, turning our gaze upon the promise, the hope, the joy, the peace, and the love that we know through our precious Savior. May you and all those that you love enjoy a safe and Merry Christmas as well as a joyous New Year!

Be blessed! Pastor Gary

December Scripture Readings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Dec. 3	Isaiah 64:1-9	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37
Dec. 10	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
Dec. 17	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Psalm 126	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
Dec. 24	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 2:22-40
Dec. 31	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Psalm 148	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:22-40

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

Spring Ford Diner on Thursday, December 14th. See you there at 9:00am at the round table to check up on everyone.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Meet at Grace's Café on Wednesday, December 27th at 9:00am. Join us to catch up on things that are happening.

Reminder: There is a slight change in the timing of worship

8:50 - announcement slides

8:55 - welcome, announcements, joys and concerns

9:00 - beginning of worship service

A NOTE FROM THE OXENHAM FAMILY

On behalf of Mitzie's daughters, Sarah, Lauren, and myself, and of course Mitzie's entire family.

We so appreciate the Love, support, and all the calls, cards, donations, and visits from St. Luke's community.

We are so blessed to be surrounded by such Love and kindness. We will never forget our years at St. Luke's and will cherish the long friendships that will last forever.

I am so sorry that we were unable to attend the lighting of the candle. We would also like to say a special Thank You to, Bev Spaid for doing the honors of lighting the candle for us.

+++++

Alert!!! Someone tried to SCAM one of our members. She received a text from "Reverend Dierolf" asking her to purchase gift cards for him because he was too busy to get them himself. She, fortunately, called Reverend Dierolf and asked him if he actually wanted her to do that. He did not. The person texting was trying to SCAM her. If you ever receive a text or email message like the one she did, **CALL** the person directly to determine if it's a scam or not, the phone number is in the text message.

Dec. 2	Becky Duncan
Dec. 4	Joshua Leneweaver
Dec. 6	Melanie Prudom
	Carol Clarke
Dec. 9	Chase Salerno
Dec. 10	Kendall Davidson



Dec. 14	Joshua Gray
Dec. 16	Sarah Brand
Dec. 17	Rev/ Gary Dierolf
Dec. 22	Walt Daller IV
Dec. 28	Amy Conrad

A Word About Worship

What is Advent?

Advent Season is a very special time of year that sometimes gets lost in the bright lights of the Christmas season it precedes. The word *advent* comes from the Latin term *adventus* meaning "arrival" or "coming." Originally, however, it was not the coming of the Christ Child that was anticipated, but the Second Coming of Christ.

Sometimes, these days in the secular world, Advent season has mostly become a time of joy-filled, anticipation Christmas: A time to prolong the season. In the Christian world, it should also be a time of annual preparation for the second coming of Christ.

The Advent season invites us to step away from what can be a frenzied time of parties and shopping to consider how we commemorate the birth of Jesus, one of the holiest times in Christian faith. It is also a time to re-commit and re-evaluate how our lives reflect the readiness of Christ's next arrival.

The parament color of the Advent Season is blue or purple the color that is also used during the Lenten Season. These colors represent penance, sacrifice and preparation.

Advent is a time for faith communities and families to remember, through prayer, reflections, special music, and good deeds what the true meaning of Jesus' birth. Christians can use this time to quiet the deafening noise of the worldly commercialized Christmas and take time to listen for the baby Jesus. We can prepare ourselves for His coming by rededicating ourselves for His service.





December Sunday Leader Schedule



Church Access Volunteers - Volunteers are needed to open and close the church on Sundays. Please see **Nancy Claycomb** to schedule and review tasks. If you wish to be an usher/greeter please see **Brenda Kurtz** or sign the sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

9:00 Service

	<u>Lay Leader</u>	<u>Children's Time</u>	<u>Nursery</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
Dec. 3	Sue Linkenhoker			
Dec.10	Bev Spaid			
Dec. 17	Kathy Narrigan			
Dec. 24	Tom Lloyd			
Dec. 31	Jim Narrigan			
Jan. 7	Corie Bowers			

Sunday Leader Scheduling Note

If you are unable to serve on your assigned day, **please find a replacement** by switching dates with someone on the schedule and contact the church office as soon as possible so we may make note of the change. **If you are unable to find a replacement, please contact the church office and we will be happy to do so.**

Articles for the Sunday bulletin are due in the church office by Wednesday. Newsletter deadline for the January Newsletter is December 22nd and mailing is December 27th.

PRAYER LIST

People in need of prayers: The Daller Family, Wanamaker Family, Nick Iacorinno, The Family of Amy Miller, Boyer Family, Richardson Family.

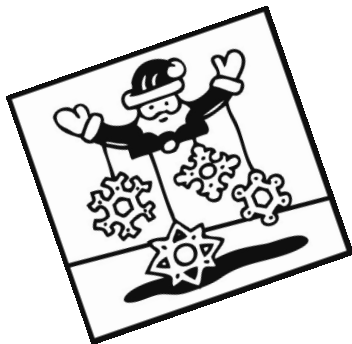
People with on-going conditions and prayer needs: Barbara and Mark Nieweg, Casey S., Eli and Ella Vivian, The Kimmich Family, Jack Murphy, Nancy Lewis, Rod Bowers, The Evans Family, Tim Heiser and Tricia White Heiser.



=====

SOMETHING NEW TO THE NEWSLETTER!!!

1. What two things can you never eat for breakfast?
2. What is orange and sounds like a parrot?
3. What do Alexander the Great and Winnie the Pooh have in common?
4. How much dirt is there in a hole that measures two feet by three feet by four feet?
5. What animal turns about 200 times around its axis after it dies?
6. What starts with an E, ends with an E and only has one letter in it?

(Answers next page: No Peeking)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 10:00 Decorate church
3 9:00 Communion Service in Sanctuary w/ Rev. Gary Dierolf	4 7:00 Troop 113	5 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Finance	6 7:30 Orchestra	7 7:00 Toastmasters 7:00 Troop 39 7:30 GANON	8 7:30 Audubon Symphony Holiday Concert	9
10 9:00 Service in Sanctuary w/ Rev. Gary Dierolf 10:00 Coffee Hr	11 7:00 Missions 7:30 Church Life 7:00 Troop 113	12 10:00 Bible Study 6:30 Elders 7:30 Council	13 7:30 Orchestra	14 9:00 Women's Breakfast 7:00 Troop 39 7:30 GANON	15	16
17 9:00 Service in Sanctuary w/ Rev. Gary Dierolf	18 7:00 Troop 113 7:30 Property	19	20 7:30 Orchestra	21 7:00 Troop 39 7:00 Toastmasters 7:30 GANON	22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	23
24 9:00 am Christmas Eve Communion ALSO 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25  CHRISTMAS	26	27 9:00 Men's Breakfast 7:30 Orchestra NEWSLETTER MAILING	28 7:00 Troop 39 7:30 GANON	29	30
31 9:00 Service in Sanctuary w/ Rev. Gary Dierolf 						

Riddle answers:

1. Lunch and Dinner
2. A Carrot
3. The same middle name
4. There is no dirt, it's a hole
5. A roast chicken
6. An envelope

ST. LUKE'S U.C.C. OF TRAPPE
200 WEST MAIN STREET
COLLEGEVILLE PA 19426-2007

December Newsletter

**Dated Material-
Deliver Promptly**

*"...they will call him
Immanuel"
— which means,
"God with us."*



Matthew 1:23

St. Luke's Mission Statement

**Centered in God,
guided by His Word,
we share Christ's love with all.**