

Saint Luke's

United Church of Christ of Trappe

January 2016 Newsletter



Rev. Dr. Kris Peterson – Interim Pastor

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Worship Schedule

Blended Service 9:30 AM

3rd Sunday of Mo. Healing Service 9:30 AM

Sunday school 3rd Sunday of the month.

From the Interim Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Soon it will be 2016 . . .

At the beginning of each year, I inevitably find myself thinking about the past year and about what lies ahead. There's a sense of energy and hope of newness and anticipation. The beginning of the new year is a time for starting over, beginning again, a time to wipe the slate clean, a time for us to be better, do better, think better and live better than we did the previous year. And what do we do to make this happen? We make lists—calling them resolutions—and we resolve to be a better person—a better husband, a better father, a better mother, a better wife, a better brother, a better sister, a better friend.

In 2016 . . . I'm going to go on a diet. I'm going to cut down on those yummy vanilla cappuccinos at WAWA. In 2016 I'm going to go to the gym more often. I'm going to spend more time out in nature. In 2016 I'm going to read more books, I'm going to pray more, I'm going to journal more. I'm going to get my pastor's article in on time. I'm going to eat less chocolate from Corie's desk. I'm going to clean up all the piles around the house. In 2016 I'm going to finish all my little projects. I'm going to try to get along with my mother . . . In 2016 . . . I'm going to do this better, I'm going to do that better, I'm going to do more of this, I'm going to do less of that. In 2016 . . . I'm going to try to be better . . . I'm going to try to be better . . . I'm going to try to be better. . . My life starts sounding like a broken record—a message that keeps spinning over and over and over and over again.

I suspect many of you will be making your own New Year's resolutions, from losing weight to staying on an exercise program to developing more spiritual discipline to being more kind and generous. We all make them or at least feel that we "should" make them.

As we celebrate Christmas, I'm reminded of the words of St. Paul in his letter to the Galatians: "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law in order to redeem those who were under the law." The Apostle Paul is getting serious here with the Church about God having sent Jesus to do for us what we cannot do by ourselves. Though we try. . . We work hard at trying to fill our lives with worth. We work hard at trying to fill our days with value. We work hard at trying to fill our relationships with life and vitality. Paul reminds us that it was at just the right time that God sent Jesus to us, to bring value and worth to us as God's own beloved people.

As we continue in these twelve days of Christmas, there is a bottom line: God has made the Ultimate Resolution for us. And that resolution is that God . . . Emmanuel . . . IS truly God with us. Truly one of us. . . truly one with us. God has resolved to come to us and encounter us, and because of that, our lives are never the same again.

New Year's resolutions? I'd suggest that we throw out the resolutions and instead throw ourselves into the manger of the Savior and find there God's compassion, God's kindness, God's patience, God's forgiveness, God's awesome and amazing grace. For all the ways that time goes by and the ways things change or remain the same, it is enough to know that the One who is born as a baby in a manger resolves to be born again and again in each one of us.

Blessings on the Journey . . .

January Scripture Readings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
January 3	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalms 147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:1-14
January 10	Isaiah 43:1-7	Psalms 29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
January 17	Isaiah 62:1-5	Psalms 36:5-10	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
January 24	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Psalms 19	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21
January 31	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalms 71:1-6	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30
February 7	Exodus 34:29-35	Psalms 99	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	Luke 9:28-36, 37-43

EVERYONE INVITED...

Everyone is invited to stay after church on **January 3, 2016** to take down the Christmas decorations.
MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!!!

WOMENS WHITE ELEPHANT BREAKFAST



Check out the bulletin board and sign-up for **Saturday, January 9, 2016** our Annual Women's White Elephant Breakfast at O'Grady's in Phoenixville. Remember this is the place to re-gift or bring a gift under \$10.00. Get out all those gifts that someone else thought you might like and re-gift them at the Annual Women's White Elephant Breakfast.

We will meet again at **O'Grady's Restaurant on Route 724 in Phoenixville on Saturday, January 9, 2016 at 10:00am**. Come and join us for a fun filled morning, good food to fill our tummies and great friends to share in the holiday cheer. See you there!!!

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

At least once a year, Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (John 17:21). Hearts are touched as Christians come together to pray for their unity. Congregations and parishes all over the world exchange preachers or arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated between January 18-25 between the feasts of St. Peter and St. Paul. The theme for 2016 is "Called to Proclaim the Mighty Acts of The Lord", taken from 1 Peter 2:9. The Collegeville-Trappe Ministerium is sponsoring a **community service of Christian Unity on January 17 at 3:00pm at Evansburg United Methodist Church**. Come and pray that we may all be one!



ANNUAL FINANCE MEETING

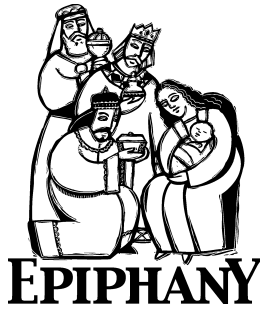
Our Annual January Finance Meeting to vote on the 2016 budget will be held on **Sunday, January 24, 2016** after the Blended Worship Service at 9:30 am. We need to hear your opinions and concerns for our upcoming year. Please mark your calendars for this important meeting.

January 10 Fred Litchert
Madeline Kelly
January 12 Ryan Ruckle
January 17 Skylynn Moore
January 19 Kyle Pry
January 20 Tom Lloyd
Sue Kelly



January 21 Chad Moore
January 24 Cheryl Carpenter
January 25 Keely Davidson
January 27 Kathy Narrigan
January 28 Bev Spaid
January 31 John Kimmich

EPIPHANY



The word *epiphany* comes from a Greek noun meaning “shining forth,” “manifestation,” or “revelation.” In the church year the season of Epiphany celebrates the many ways through signs, miracles, and preaching that Jesus’ identity as Messiah and Savior of the world is revealed.

Epiphany Day, January 6, falls on the twelfth day after Christmas and signals the conclusion of the twelve days of the Christmas season. It commemorates the arrival of the Magi in Bethlehem to worship the Messiah, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Since the earliest days of the church, these wise men have been considered to be representatives of all the peoples of the earth. By means of a miraculous star, God showed them that Jesus was born to be not only the King of the Jews, but the Lord and Savior of all nations.

The Baptism of our Lord is the first Sunday after Epiphany. This important festival is the observance of Jesus’ baptism by John the Baptist. The words of the Father and the appearance of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove as Jesus came out of the waters revealed Him to be God’s true Son.

The Transfiguration of our Lord, the last Sunday after the Epiphany, is a celebration of the moment that Christ, in the company of Moses and Elijah, literally shined His glorious divine nature on Peter, James, and John, leaving them dazed and awestruck. This event, the greatest of Christ’s epiphanies until His triumphant resurrection, serves as the dramatic conclusion of the Epiphany season. Transfiguration Sunday stands in vivid contrast to what takes place just a few days later - Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

In between the two Sundays that mark the Lord’s baptism and transfiguration, the church concentrates on several of the other incidents from Scripture that show how Jesus manifested God’s love to the world through his ministry of preaching, miracles, and healings. What is common to each of these epiphanies is that they make known the identity and mission of Jesus Christ and the all-encompassing and ever-widening sphere of God’s love and compassion.

YEAR END GIVING

Please be aware that the Church Treasurers **MUST** have your **year end pledges by December 31st** or your pledge will not be entered on your year end statement.

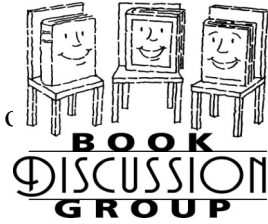
2016 GIVING ENVELOPES

The 2016 Offering Envelopes will be in Narthex starting Sunday, December 20th. Please check for your envelopes before the end of the year. Thank you for your cooperation with this task.

TRANSITION UPDATE

On December 17th members of The Search Committee along with members of Church Council met with Rev. Sharon Morris, Associate Conference Minister for an overview of the search process. On Sunday, December 20th, the Search Committee was commissioned for their task of conducting the search for the next pastor at St. Luke’s. The members of the Search Committee are: Dave Carl, Carrie Krentz, Nancy Leneweaver, Jim Narrigan, Bonnie Neiman and Becci Richardson. The preparation of the Local Church Profile is the first major task facing the committee. Please pray for the members of the committee that the Holy Spirit guide them in their discernment.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB



Please come and join us on **Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 6:00pm** to discuss the book "The Corpse That Walked" by Roy Winsor. You must purchase your copy of the book or get it at a Library. We will then pick a new book to read for our next meeting in February.

Thank God for... is a column for you to contribute outstanding achievements by our members in and out of the church or any other moment you want to Thank God for.... Please consider letting us know about your Thank God moment.



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

*"For surely I know the plans I have for you...
To give you a future with hope." Jeremiah 29:11*

"Trust in the Promise" was the Stewardship theme for the United church of Christ. It is a timely theme for St. Luke's as the search process to call a new pastor begins soon. On Stewardship Sunday in November, members of the congregation were invited to share "My Hope for the Future." Responses included the following:

- ◆ a more trusting relationship with God
- ◆ my children are where they are meant to be in life
- ◆ to have a home in a year
- ◆ that tomorrow's children have clean water, fresh air and whole food
- ◆ health to all who need God's healing
- ◆ that St. Luke's will grow with many young and active families
- ◆ that god continues to watch and guide my children
- ◆ the safety of all the members of our military
- ◆ pain to go away
- ◆ to get a job
- ◆ good health, happiness, friendship, love
- ◆ benign biopsy
- ◆ that I continue to give/receive love
- ◆ peace in our world

In the beginning of the new year, we do not know how we will be challenged or surprised in the months to come. But we know we can trust in God's promises that wherever the journey leads, God will be faithful in this promise to companion us every step of the way.

“2020 VISION”

PENN SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE UCC

Vision— a unified portion of the Body of Christ moving in a collaborative direction to effect for God and for good the lives of all people living in Southeast Pennsylvania and beyond.

Mission— strengthen local churches and pastors by making the seven Associations of the Penn Southeast Conference agencies of connection and accountability.

Objectives-- Keeping Jesus and the gospel at the heart of everything we do, by 2020 we will create an ethos of expectation, experimentation and transformation by:

1. offering 4 on-going Conference-wide vitality training experiences annually.
2. offering 3 spiritual retreat opportunities for clergy (i.e. Women's Retreat, Men's Retreat, Clergy and Spouses Retreat) annually.
3. annual training events instituting the Manual on Ministry as the normative practice for Church and Ministry committee work in the Conference;
4. offering web connection capacity for at least ½ of the conference meetings hosted at the conference office.
5. turning our churches inside out to focus on local community transformation as much as church tradition, growth and discipleship. We want to see 5 cities or towns being positively affected by the presence of a UCC congregation as measured by the quality of life standards (i.e. education, housing/homelessness, crime reduction, employment opportunities, health/wellness) of those communities;
6. preparing for the birth of six new vital spiritual communities through recruitment of excellent entrepreneurial leaders to lead the effort, recruiting partner churches to provide support and infrastructure, and raising funding to adequately empower the movement;
7. increasing OCWM pledges from the 169 churches of the Penn SE Conference 2% each year through 2020;
8. remembering that church growth is a byproduct of a vital spiritual community, we will connect local congregations to training, inspirational experiences, networking opportunities and congregational coaches with the goal of increasing active participation in 80 of our churches by 10%.
9. developing an expectation of pastoral excellence among the Authorized Pastors of the conference,

- By providing a clergy coach to each pastor for the first year at the beginning of a new ministry.
 - every pastor in the conference will be in an accountability and support group with three other clergy;
10. financially supporting people called to Authorized ministry by establishing (via a conference wide campaign) a \$4 million endowment fund for PSEC clergy that will:
 - Assist authorized pastors currently serving in local ministry settings with the reduction of debt related to seminary education.
 - Finance 50% of all seminary related training costs for highly qualified leaders seeking ordination to parish ministry.
 11. creating a Member In Discernment Academy to standardize the training of potential clergy in the essential practices of ministry excellence in the Penn SE Conference;
 12. identifying and resourcing at least 5 congregations who want to experiment with new ministry models and collaborative partnerships;
 13. developing a strategy and beginning conversations with 5 congregations nearing the end of their life together to explore the investment of their legacy gifts in the starting of new ministries in the conference;
 14. identifying at least two social justice issues impacting the communities in our conference, offering prophetic witness through op-ed pieces, protest rallies, social media campaigns, member education and all other effective means for the advancement of just and generous Christian values;
 15. strengthening the covenantal connections between local churches, Associations and the Conference as evidenced by a 20% increase in attendance at Conference sponsored events, especially Annual Meeting;
 16. reshaping the Annual Meeting experience to communicate our ethos of expectation, experimentation and transformation.
 17. laying a foundation for at least two ministry hubs in ethnically diverse urban-centers of the conference;

Together, we now shift the narrative of Mainline decline to a story of hope for a generative future. We are the model for those seeking transformation in their denominational settings across this nation. We believe in the God of resurrection, and in God we place our faith and hope.

Let us begin...

Approved, PSEC Conference Consistory, September 29, 2015, for submission to Conference Associations for acceptance and implementation.

ST LUKE'S AND GEIGER MEMORIAL CHURCH CONNECTION

About 20 years ago, while working for the Academy of Pediatrics, I had to lead a workshop at 26th and Lehigh Ave. in Philadelphia. Knowing it was a dangerous neighborhood I didn't take my purse. I took my driver's license and a ten dollar bill. As fate would have it I parked next to Geiger Memorial church. After the workshop I got in my van and a man started yelling from the sidewalks that I had a flat tire. He offered to change the tire for me. My van had been my husband's work van and steel shelving had been permanently installed over the floor door to the spare tire and jack compartment. We could not access the jack or the spare tire. My helper was familiar with Geiger Memorial and knew Pastor DeBenedetto. We went to the church and Pastor Ben lent us the church van jack. After the tire was off, the church secretary, who just celebrated her 102nd birthday in November 2015, drove me and my flat to a tire repair shop. After getting the news that the tire could not be repaired, I explained that I only had ten dollars. The shop owner said he'd see what he could find. He offered me a used tire for \$10.00. Back to the church where my new friend was waiting to put the new "OLD" tire on my van. Having no money to give to my helper I went back into Geiger to return the jack and get information to send something to my tire changing friend for his efforts. Everyone at the church was so friendly and caring, a horrible situation was turned into a pleasant adventure. When I got home I told the story to my husband, "What kind of a tire can you get for \$10?" was his response. The next day he took my van to a local tire shop. "That is the best tire on the van!" was their comment. George immediately bought four new tires. That was the beginning of St. Luke's relationship with Geiger Memorial Church.

Last month I continued my church related car troubles. This time at St. Luke's. I had gone over to help the Salvation Army gather the Christmas gifts we had collected. When I went to leave I had a dead battery. This time Corie was my hero. She called AAA and Jack Nolan junior was there in 15 minutes. He diagnosed a dead battery that needed to be replaced. Unfortunately AAA doesn't carry the battery for my car so my car was jump started and I was given directions to Wynn Volvo and given orders "Do not turn the car off!" When I arrived at Wynn Volvo without an appointment I was taken very good care of by Bob. Everything was covered by my warranty and he even took my car to the car wash. Corie, Jack and Bob are my new wonderful heroes.

Dottie Snader

SUNDAY SCHOOL

During the Season of Epiphany we celebrate the Good News of God's love for all people revealed in Jesus Christ. On January 17th the Sunday School, led by Sue Gregory will explore the question "What is a Missionary" and hear about Japan. Our missionary Martha Mensendiek will be sending her greetings and sharing with the students her life in Japan.

FACILITIES AND USE COORDINATOR

We are looking for someone who would be able to be in charge of setting up and tearing down of Moyer Hall for events. If interested please see Sam Kurtz III.

A NOTE FROM PETER DETERLINE

"Thanks again. What an amazing, welcoming congregation. Always a pleasure to be here.
Many Blessings." Peter Deterline





January Sunday Leader Schedule



Church Access Volunteers - Volunteers are needed to open and close the church on Sundays. Please see **Janet Kimmich** to schedule and review tasks.

9:30 Blended Service

	<u>Lav Reader</u>	<u>Children's Time</u>	<u>Nursery</u>
January 3	Sue Linkenhoker	Scott Koehler	Sue Kelly
January 10	Scott Koehler	Nancy Leneweaver	Nancy Leneweaver
January 17	Bev Spaid	Pastor Kris	Kim Gray
January 24	Brenda Koehler	Becci Richardson	Brenda Koehler
January 31	Sue Kelly	Sue Kelly	Carrie Krentz
February 7	Becci Richardson	Scott Koehler	Sue Kelly

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 February Newsletter is January 22nd and mailing is January 26th.





JANUARY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 NEW YEAR'S Day	2
3 SUNDAY COMMUNION 9:30 Blended Service 10:30 Undeorate/ take down trees	4 7:00 Cemetery 7:00 Boy Scouts	5 10:45 Brt Spt - MH 4:30 Drama Kids 7:00 Church & Ministry	6 10:45 Brt Spt - MH 7:00 Orchestra 7:00 Endowment	7 12:30 Games 7:00 Choir 7:00 Finance 7:30 Gamblers	8	9 10:00 Women's White Elephant Breakfast
10 9:30 Blended service	11 7:00 Boy Scouts	12 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Brt Spt - MH 4:30 Drama Kids 7:30 Council	13 9:00 MOPS 11:30 Brt Spt - MH 6:00 Book Club 7:00 Orchestra	14 7:00 Choir 7:00 Toastmasters 7:30 Gamblers	15	16
17 HEALING SERV. 9:30 Blended Service 4:00 Girl Scouts #7080	18 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:30 Property	19 11:30 Brt Spt - MH 4:30 Drama Kids 6:30 Worship and Music	20 11:30 Brt Spt - MH 7:00 Orchestra 7:00 Green bar 7:00 College Woods	21 7:00 Choir 7:30 Gamblers	22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	23 11:00 Private Birthday Party 4:00 Boy Scout Honors
24 9:30 Blended Service 10:30 Congregational Finance Meeting	25 7:00 Boy Scouts	26 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Brt Spt - MH 4:00 Missions 4:30 Drama Kids NEWSLETTER MAILING	27 9:00 Men's Breakfast 11:30 Brt Spt - MH 7:00 Orchestra	28 7 Choir 7:00 Toastmasters 7:30 Gamblers	29	30
31 9:30 Blended Service						

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

January Newsletter

**Dated Material-
Deliver Promptly**



St. Luke's Mission Statement

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