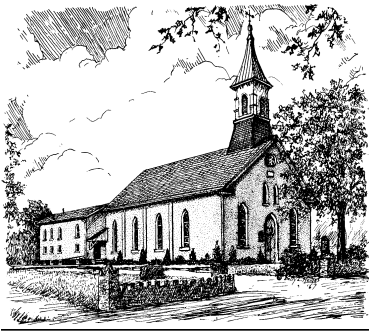


Saint Luke's

United Church of Christ of Trappe

December 2015 Newsletter



Rev. Dr. Kris Peterson – Interim Pastor

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Worship Schedule

Blended Service 9:30AM

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

Sunday school 3rd Sunday of the month.

From the Interim Pastor

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

During Advent, in my last interim parish, Brooke who was four ran into my office all excited. She began to tell me about all the things she was doing to get ready for Christmas... she helped her parents pick out their Christmas tree, her mom let her frost Christmas cookies, she helped decorate the outside of their house. She talked about the presents she wanted. She described the coming weeks in detail and ended by telling me what Christmas was all about. "Baby Jesus is going to be born and we have to get ready. Did you know that he will sleep in a manger?"

We begin Advent, the four weeks before Christmas on November 29 and prepare for the birth of our Savior. God will become human and come to us as a baby. Brooke embodied everything we understand about Advent. Her eyes were full of hope. Her voice had the sound of anticipation. She spoke of preparations, everything she would be doing to get ready for Christmas. Brooke reminded me of how this season is a time of waiting and watching and preparing.

The signs are everywhere in our culture that "it is that time of year." Eggnog is in the grocery stores, Christmas tree lots are going up, Christmas cards have overtaken entire aisles at Hallmark. The malls are playing Rudolf The Red-Nosed Reindeer, three to four Christmas catalogs are arriving daily. Yes it's that time of the year.

In the church we will also be preparing...decorating the church, singing the carols, lighting the candles on the Advent Wreath. Most important of all we will be preparing our hearts and minds to receive the Christ child and the Good News He brings. That is why we have this season of Advent...a time when we slow down to reflect, to listen to God and to pray. We all need Advent. Amidst all the cultural trappings of Christmas we need time to be still and remember who we are celebrating.

As a little girl named Brooke reminded me, a place for Jesus in the manger of my own heart is what Advent is all about.

Blessings on your Advent journey,
Pastor Kris

December Scripture Readings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Dec. 6	Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 1:68-79	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
Dec. 13	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Isaiah 12:2-6	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
Dec. 20	Micah 5:2-5a	Psalm 80:1-7	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45, 46-55
Dec. 24	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14, 15-20
Dec. 27	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	Psalm 148	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52
Jan. 3	Isaiah 9:2b-3; 6-7	Psalm 147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:1-9, 14

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP



First Week in Advent

Sunday, November 29, 9:30 Service.

On this first week in Advent, God is “coming” towards us. In the past in the life of Jesus, in the present in hearing the Word, in the future in life everlasting. We light the first candle on our Advent Wreath and hope flickers in the world.

Second Week in Advent

Sunday, December 6, 9:30 Holy Communion Service.

This weekend we hear John the Baptist preaching, baptizing and urging us to prepare for the coming Christ. The second candle on the Advent Wreath joins the light of the first while we long for peace in the world.



Third Week in Advent

Sunday, December 13, 9:30 Service.

We gather to hear John the Baptist urging us to accept the incredible present God gives us Now. The third candle on the wreath joins the first two and joy grows.

Fourth Week in Advent

Sunday, December 20, 9:30 Service.

This week we hear the story from Luke about Mary visiting her cousin Elizabeth. Now all four candles are lit on the Advent Wreath as we anticipate the love of God revealed in Jesus.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDELIGHT SERVICE

Thursday, December 24, 7:00 Service

Tonight God moves into our neighborhood and nothing is ever the same again. Jesus is born! We see the light and darkness will never overcome it. Invite friends, family and neighbors to come and sing with the angels, “Joy To The World.”

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 27, 9:30 Service

On this Sunday we gather for a Service of Lessons and Carols. We hear the words of the prophets. We sing of God’s promises. We place our hope in Emmanuel—God with us.



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.



Thank God for the members of St. Luke's newly formed Search committee.
Thanks to those who volunteered last month at Geiger MBC in Philadelphia.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Please join us in decorating the window sills and the trees on Saturday, December 5th at 11:00am. Lunch will be served after we have done all our decorating. There is a sign—up sheet on bulletin board.
Come one come all, we need lots of help.



COVENTRY SINGERS

This years Christmas concert "The Coventry Singers Sing Gloria" features Vivald's Gloria with orchestra accompaniment. The concert also includes Franz Biebl's "Ave Maria", John Rutter's "Angel Carol", Moses Hogan's "Glory, Glory, Glory To The Newborn King", as well as arrangements of familiar Christmas carols. The concert takes place Sunday, December 6th at 3:00pm in St. John's Lutheran Church, 355 St. John's Circle, Phoenixville. (Last year the concert was at St. Luke's). The concert is free and open to the public. There will be a freewill offering.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The Christmas season isn't bright and shining for everyone. For some people who are grieving the loss of loved ones, experiencing broken relationships, or suffering other hardships and sadness, the season can truly be "blue." This year St. Luke's will hold a **"Blue Christmas" or "Quiet Christmas" service on Saturday, December 12 at 5 pm.**

The "Blue Christmas" service will be a time to come together for quiet reflection. Through prayer, scripture reading and music we will be comforted by God's presence in the midst of loss. The coming of God's Son shines light into our darkness. Everyone is welcome.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

In October the Sunday School led by Scott Koehler gathered to learn about music in the church. At the end of the worship service the youth sang one of the songs they learned accompanied by instruments.

In November the Sunday School led by Sue Gregory focused on Thanksgiving and God's many blessings. The meaning of Advent will be the theme for December. Sunday School meets the third Sunday of the month after The Children's Sermon.

December 1 Edwin Thorpe
December 2 Becky Duncan
December 4 Johua Leneweaver
December 6 Melanie Prudom
December 10 Kendell Davidson
December 12 Dave Carl



December 14 Josh Gray
December 16 Sarah Brand
December 22 Carrie Krentz
Walt Daller IV
Jessica Russell
December 24 Harry Neiman
December 28 Amy Conrad



GAME DAY IS HAPPENING

Join us the first Thursday of every month to play GAMES. We will be full of Christmas cheer and jingling bells. We will pick out a game when we know how many people are here. Bring a brown bag lunch (no left over turkey) and we will eat together and then play the afternoon away. We have been having so much fun at these gatherings our sides hurt by the time we are done. Please consider joining us for a fun afternoon. It takes the blues away even if the weather is not cooperating!!!

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

Join the ladies of the church for a get together breakfast on the 2nd Thursday of each month. This month (December 10) we will be at The Spring-Ford Diner in Spring City. We meet at 9:00 am, just tell them you are with St. Luke's Church.

HEADS UP—plan for the White Elephant Breakfast in January at O'Grady's.



AUDUBON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Come and listen to the Audubon Symphony Orchestra on Friday, December 11th at 8:00pm.



WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Please come and join us on **Wednesday, December 9, 2015 at 6:00pm** to discuss the book "The Life We Bury" by Allen Eskens. You must purchase your own copy of the book or get it at a Library. We will then pick a new book to read for our next meeting in January.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Do you want to get into the Christmas spirit and spread some Christmas cheer to others? Then please join us on **Sunday, December 21st** as we go caroling to our homebound members. We will leave the church at **1:00pm** and will end at the Kimmichs home for refreshments. You will make our homebound members smile and give them some Christmas cheer. **So please sign up** on the bulletin board.



Christmas
Caroling

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Join the men of the church for a get together breakfast, the 4th Wednesday of each month at 9 am at Café 29 in Collegeville. Come and converse with everyone and find out what is happening in someone else's world.



PASSING OF THE PEACE

Christian worship is filled with profound actions: heads bowed in prayer, arms raised in praise, standing in reverence during a Scripture reading, giving an offering. One ancient and significant gesture in worship is the passing of the peace. Passing the peace is a tradition rooted in Scripture that embodies our identity as peacemakers (Math. 5:9, 2 Cor. 5:20) and trains our hearts, hands and tongues in the ways of peace.

From the beginning Christians have exercised this practice. “Peace be with you” is a greeting Jesus himself used with his disciples (Luke 24:36, John 20:19,26). The apostle Paul opened each of his letters with the words “Grace and peace be with you” (Rom. 1:7, 1 Cor. 1:3, 2 Cor. 1:2).

At St. Luke’s we pass the peace after hearing the words of assurance. We leave the comfort of our seat, turn to our neighbors and speak the words, “The peace of Christ be with you” and receive in turn, “And also with you”. The gesture is simple, but the meaning is profound. When we extend our hand to another, we identify with Jesus, who extended his life to the point of death to make peace with humanity (Col. 1:20-21). Through the passing of the peace we symbolize our unity (Eph. 2:14-21). Likewise, when we regularly pass the peace we practice God’s call to make every effort to maintain the bond of peace (Eph. 4:3).

With that said, sharing God’s peace is not simply offering a friendly “hello” to those sitting around us. Sharing God’s peace is not a time for catching up on news with one’s neighbor or for reminding someone about an upcoming meeting. Sharing God’s peace does not require each person to offer a sign of God’s peace to every other person present. It does ask that we intentionally include those who are guests in this ritual of the church.

Christians are people who seek reconciliation with one another and are called to be peacemakers. Making peace with our neighbors and family members is a daily action in our lives. Sharing God’s peace is a daily opportunity. “The peace of Christ be with you...”

TRANSITION UPDATE

Recently members of the Pastoral Search Committee were announced to the congregation. Members include Dave Carl, Carrie Krentz, Nancy Leneweaver, Jim Narrigan, Bonnie Neiman and Becci Richardson. On December 17th the Search Committee along with the Church Council will meet with Rev. Sharon Morris, Associate Conference Minister to review the process. Leadership of the committee - chairperson, secretary and chaplain will be selected. The preparation of the Local Church Profile is the first major task of the committee. Thank you to all church members who completed the three congregational questionnaires which are part of the Profile. A special thank-you to Melanie Prudom who collated the results.

The Search Committee will be installed in December. Please keep the committee members and St. Luke’s in your prayers during this transition process.

MISSION TRIP

On November 17 six members of St. Luke’s - Kathy Narrigan, Dottie Snader, Eve Dietrich, Midge Litchert and Cherie Carpenter participated in a mission trip to Geiger Memorial Brethren Church in Philadelphia. They helped assemble Thanksgiving food baskets which will be distributed to needy families.

Another opportunity for service will be held on Friday, December 4th. We will gather at 9:00am in the church parking lot. That day we will be wrapping presents for needy children in their neighborhood. A sign-up sheet is on the Missions bulletin board in the Narthex.



December Sunday Leader Schedule



Church Access Volunteers - Volunteers are needed to open and close the church on Sundays. Please see **The Worship Committee** to schedule and review tasks. Also Ushers are needed, see **Janet Kimmich** or sign up on the bulletin board.

9:30 Blended Services

	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Children's Time</u>	<u>Nursery</u>
December 6	Kathy Narrigan	Pastor Kris	Kim Gray
December 13	Tom Lloyd	Nancy Leneweaver	Nancy Leneweaver
December 20	Jim Narrigan	Scott Koehler	Leah Leneweaver
December 27	Corie Bowers	Sue Kelly	Brenda Koehler
January 3, 2016	Sue Linkenhoker	Becci Richardson	Carrie Krentz

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 January Newsletter is December 18th and mailing is December 23rd.

The Historical Society of Trappe, Collegeville, Perkiomen Valley, Inc.



A Walk through History

*Holiday
Candlelight
Tour*

The Henry Muhlenberg House
201 W. Main Street, Trappe
Sunday, December 6, 2015 4:00-7:00pm

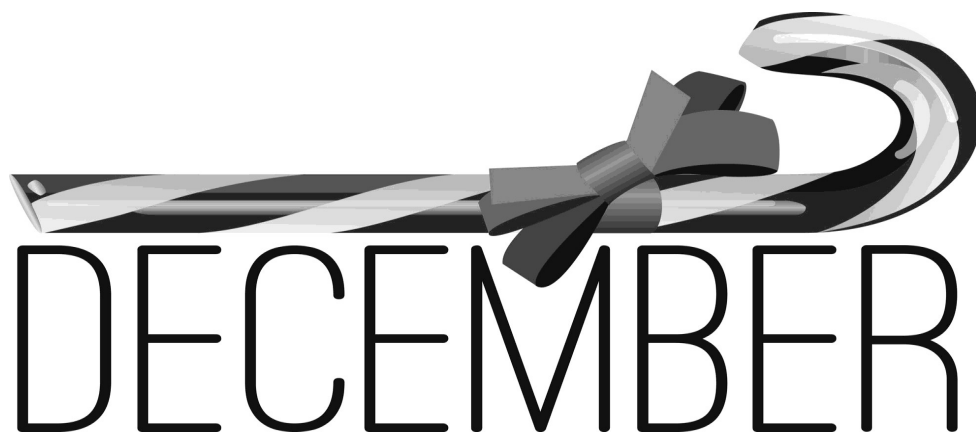
Start your self-guided tour at the Visitors Center, enjoy holiday refreshments, and find unique items in the Gift Shop!



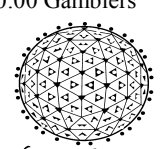
(Located across from St. Luke's Church where parking is available)

Reservations Not Required

Donations Appreciated: \$4.00 adult \$2.00 under age 12

Happy Holidays! Peace on Earth! Merry Christmas!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:15 MOPS Stering 11:30 B. Spot—MH 1:00 LMM 5:30 Drama Kids 7:30 Church and Ministry	2 11:30 B. Spot—MH 6:30 LMM 7:00 Christian Ed. 7:00 Endowment 7:00 Orchestra	3 12:30 Games 7:00 Choir 7:00 Finance 7:00 Toastmasters 7:30 Gamblers	4 10 & 11 LMM 8:00 Audubon Symphony Conct.	5 9:00 Property Work Day 11:00 Hanging of the Greens w/ Lunch
6 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:30 Blended Service 4-7 Candlelight Tour Muhlenberg House	7 10:15 LMM 7:00 Cemetery 7:00 Boy Scouts	8 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 B. Spot—MH 1:00 LMM 5:30 Drama Kids 7:30 Council	9 9:00 MOPS 11:30 B. Spot—MH 6:00 Book Club 6:30 LMM 7:00 Orchestra	10 9:00 Women's Breakfast 7:00 Choir 7:30 Gamblers	11 10 & 11 LMM 8:00 Audubon Symphony Conct.	12 5:00 Blue Christmas Service
13 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:30 Blended Service	14 10:15 LMM 7:00 Boy Scouts	15 11:30 B. Spot—MH 1:00 LMM 5:30 Drama Kids 6:30 Worship & Music	16 11:30 B. Spot—MH 6:30 LMM 7:00 Greenbar 7:00 College Wds. HO	17 9:00 MOPS Christmas Party 7:00 Choir 7:00 Toastmasters 7:30 Gamblers 7:30 Mtg w/Rev. Sharon Morris	18 10 & 11 LMM NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	19
20 HEALING SERVICE 9:30 Blended Service 1:00 Christmas Caroling	21 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:30 Property	22 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 B. Spot—MH 5:30 Drama Kids	23 9:00 Men's Breakfast 10:30 B. Spot—MH NEWSLETTER MAILING	24 10:00 Gamblers 7:00 Candlelight Service Christmas Eve Worship 	25  <i>The Miracle of Christmas</i>	26
27 9:30 Blended Service Lessons and Carols	28 7:00 Boy Scouts	29 5:30 Drama Kids	30	31 10:00 Gamblers  <i>New Year's Eve</i>		

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

December Newsletter

**Dated Material-
Deliver Promptly**



St. Luke's Mission Statement

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