

FROM PASTOR REBECCA

Dear sisters and brothers,

With the holidays approaching, our lives can feel overwhelming and extra busy, at least they do here at church. So I wanted to give you all a bit of a gift that you can choose to do or not do this season. It is found on page 15 of the newsletter and it is a Living Joyfully Advent Calendar. It includes some easy, simple things you can do each day to help you prepare for Christmas; and a way for you to take some time out of each day to see the joy at work in your life and in the world. Part of the reason we use the color blue now at church for Advent instead of purple, is that we recognize that Advent is an invitation for us to hope once again, even and especially when it is difficult. So whether or not you choose to adopt this calendar this Advent, is up to you. But I want to encourage you to find some times and some spaces to breathe over the next few months. Because the truth is, this is not a time to kill ourselves with being perfect, but rather it is a time to recognize that it is exactly because we aren't that God came to live and walk among us.



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Meeting called to order at 7:06. Present: Pastor Rebecca, Dave Freund, Bob Barzycki, Eileen Kiener, Mike Freas, John Kling, Debbie LaBounty, Denise Myers and Alex Suto. Absent: Don Fuerst.

Pastor's report: 2 hospital visits, 0 funerals, 2 upcoming Baptisms and 18 pastoral visits. Went for training on Coordinator of candidacy position. Met with the bishop on NYS sexual harassment law implications and what that means for the synod and individual congregations. A letter will be sent out with sample policy to all congregations. Pastor will travel to Utica to discuss implementation of these policies in their area. The POP newsletter deadline is fast approaching and submissions are due soon. December 3rd will be our second quarterly planning meeting and all are encouraged to attend. Her intern supervision begins this month. Giving statements and letter were sent out. FoPoP included a post card soliciting opinions on the single service. Comments continue to come in and will be reviewed by FoPoP and info forwarded to the Council. Marion Wolbert has decided to retire from the Baptismal banner committee. Looking for a volunteer to take over. Church cleaning and decorating set for December 8 at 9 am. All are welcome to help. Pastor will be traveling to for the Thanksgiving holiday and on a staycation the following week. Deacon Paul Moon will do the Sunday service and Pastor Deb Turley is available for emergencies. A motion to accept the report was made by Denise and seconded by Bob. Carried.

Unfinished business: Audits: Debi Donogher hopes to have them all finished by March 31, 2019. Organ update: deposit check has been cashed and delivery is expected in mid-December. Membership Conversation: council members awaiting report on the single service comment cards. Printer/copier: 4 bids were reviewed by the council. A lightly used one from BizHub was the winner with a price of \$2000. First year of maintenance is free and 25000/year copies included. Overage charge of .08/copy applies. NYS Sexual Harassment Law: each non-profit is required to have a

Keeping You Informed continued . . .

policy in place, report forms available and yearly employee training. A proposal was made by Eileen to temporarily adopt the NYS policy as our own, pending re-evaluation of any changes made by the state. Seconded by Mike. Carried.

New business: Cantalician Center: the Cantalician has chosen to terminate their lease at the end of November. A proposal has been made by the owners of a daycare to become a new tenant using the nursery space at a fee of \$140 per week. A state inspection is pending which will determine if any modifications need to be made to the space before certification. Motion to hold Congregational Budget meeting on 12/23 after the 9:30 service made by Debbie and seconded by Bob. Carried. Tithe.ly is a website for on line giving. The cost is 2.9% plus 30 cents per transaction. The donor can cover the cost if they want to. This will be added to the Congregational Budget meeting to see if there is any interest in the program. The board of managers has been inactive for some time where in the past they have held 3-4 meetings per year. May need to be re-organized and members re-elected. Annual disbursements to the general fund have not been made in 2 years. Motion by Dave to authorize the treasurer to withdraw \$2600 and transfer it from the annuity to the general fund. Seconded by Eileen. Carried.



IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

The family and friends of Gerry Miller

Please remember in your prayers:

Michelle Wutz	Love Kullerkupp	Sherry Cruz (H)
Barbara Hudack	Jessica Wood	Shelly Hill Tuturino
Joyce DeMarco Brunner	Edward Miller	Willie Rose
Jim Ryan	Gay Gambin	Lyla Grace Stanley & family
Doug Luengen (H)	Dick Smith (H)	Kristen Edwards
Jim Haas	Brynn & parents	Bob Rogers
Barb Dittenhauser (H)	Keith Nosbisch	Marisa Moon
Ruth Boehringer (H)	Gisela Koehler (H)	Sherley Piechocki
Dona Grzybek (GGN)	Arlene Falgiano (BW)	Andrew Lotocki
Conrad Walters, Jr. (H)	Nicole Weitzsacker	Regina Rogers
Cheryl Hinkle (H)	John Elias (H)	Bert Dunn Sr.
Selma Kullerkupp (H)	Florence Kowalewski	Michael Paasch
Rev. Jeff Leeman	David Okel	Jean Hess (H)
Grace Lichtenberger (H)	Velma Meyer (ACEA)	Janet Koch (H)
Doreen Brumbaugh (H)	Jack Kling (H)	Donna Emser Jacobs (H)
Ed Baumann (H)	Norma Roberts (H)	Stephanie Maisch & family
Kris Carter	Russell Neu	Tim O'Connor
Gary Gerevics	Trish Rollison	Barb Brandel
Angie Watson & family	Nicky Swinline	Matthew Wolbert
Sally Mix	Ric Slagor	Jessica Dysard (H)

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop

The Rev. John Macholz, Upstate New York Synod Bishop

ELCZ Bishop Stephen Dube; ELCZA Bishop N. Shava

Episcopal Bishop: The Rev. Dr. R. William Franklin

Robert Dittenhauser, USAF; Edward Hoak,

Suzanne Kingsbury, USAF; Sr.Chief Gregory Krumholtz, USN, Daniel

McBurney, Air Force; Steven Kaun, USAF- in Iraq,

Adam McCormick, USAF, Andrew Parr, USAFTSGT Special Forces,

All public servants and those in authority

Key:

H = Home

BW – Beechwood Continuing Care

ECMC—Erie County Medical Center

GFSN—Greenfield Skilled Nursing

MCY—Mercy Hospital

MFS—Millard Fillmore Suburban

SJ—St. Joseph Hospital

SRS—Sisters Hospital

EL—Elderwood at Lakewood

ACEA – Absolut Care, East Aurora

ACOP – Absolut Care, Orchard Park

BGH—Buffalo General Hospital

TC– Tennyson Court

GFR—Greenfield Rehab.

GGN—Garden Gate Nursing, Cheektowaga

NLH—Niagara Lutheran Home

SHC—Seneca Health Care Center

RPCI—Roswell Park Cancer Institute

W&C—Women & Children's

CHURCH DECORATING AND CLEANING

On Saturday, December 8 at 9:00 a.m., all are invited to assist in decorating & helping to clean the church in preparation for Christmas. Many hands make light work!

PAGAENT WORSHIP SERVICE & ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

On December 23 at 9:30 a.m., we will have our annual Christmas Pageant. Afterwards, we will have our Annual Budget Meeting for the approval of the proposed 2019 budget. All voting members of the congregation are asked to attend this meeting. Copies of the budget will be made available beforehand for you to view. At this meeting we will be electing 2 representatives for the upcoming synod and conference assemblies. We need one male and one female lay representative. Let Pastor Rebecca know if you are interested. Following this will be a conversation about the potential electronic giving for our congregation. Please set aside the morning to participate in all these events.

ANGEL TREE

This year we will help to provide school supplies to those in need through the Tri-Community Food Pantry. Tri-Community is asking for us to collect monetary donations that will be used to purchase the supplies. The angel tree will have a variety of envelopes with dollar amounts ranging from \$3.00 to \$15.00 notated on the front. Feel free to take as many envelopes as you see fit, fill it with the proper dollar amount, and place them in the offertory plate during service. This money will be collected and donated with cards from SCS.



TAIZE WORSHIP

Our Taize worship services are normally held on the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. There will be a Taize service on December 6, but no service in January. These services are a quiet and peaceful way to relax for all ages in what can be a very hectic time. So consider joining us this year and bringing a friend. You won't be disappointed!

LEADERSHIP/PLANNING GROUP

Our leadership and planning group will meet to plan the next quarter of the year and activities on December 5th at 7:30 p.m. here at church. Everyone is invited to join us as review the last quarter and dream about the next one. All help and voices are needed!

BLUE CHRISTMAS

A Blue Christmas Service will be held on Thursday, December 27th at 7:00 p.m. at POP. This special service is for those who have lost a loved one in the last year or for anyone who finds the holidays to be a hard time because of a past loss or other experience. Refreshments will be served following the service. All are welcome.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES

On December 24th Christmas Eve Family Service will take place that evening at 7:30 p.m., followed by the Festival Service at 11:00 p.m. On December 30th we will have a service of Lessons & Carols followed by caroling to our shut-in members. All members and friends are welcome!

COUNCIL THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who has helped with and led our various fundraisers throughout the year!

SERVERS IN WORSHIP – DECEMBER, 2018

December 2, 2018

Acolyte: Makaela Day
Lectors: Frieda Hacic
Altar Guild: Monica & Marione Smith
Communion Assistants: Sherry Cruz
Ushers: Michelle & Glenn Kraebel
Flowers: Fuerst & Parr

December 9, 2018

Acolyte: Ella Cooper
Lectors: Eileen Kiener
Altar Guild: Donna Danner
Communion Assistants: Chelsea Slagor
Ushers: Ken & Don Fuerst
Flowers: Brandel & Moon

December 16, 2018

Acolyte: Rachael Fuerst
Lector: Bob Barzycki
Altar Guild: Lisa Marrano
Communion Assistant: Lisa Marrano
Ushers: Dan Freund & Chelsea Gill
Flowers: Smith & Day

December 23, 2018

Acolyte: Bailey Barzycki
Lector: Debbie LaBounty
Altar Guild: Jan & Dave Freund
Communion Assistant: Susan Karlinski
Ushers: Debbie & Scott LaBounty
Flowers: Karlinski & LaBounty

December 24, 2018—Christmas Eve

Acolytes: David Day (7:30)
Lectors: Paul Moon (7:30), Glenn Kraebel (11:00)
Altar Guild: Jan & Dave Freund
Communion Assistants: Paul Moon (7:30), Michelle Kraebel (11:00)
Ushers: Don & Ken Fuerst (7:30), Debbie & Scott LaBounty (11:00)

December 30, 2018

Acolyte: Bailey Barzycki
Lector: Lessons & Carols
Altar Guild: Michelle & Glenn Kraebel
Communion Assistants: Sandy King
Ushers: Paul Moon & Chelsea Slagor
Flowers: Alex Suto (2)

SERVERS IN WORSHIP—JANUARY, 2019

January 6, 2019

Acolyte: Bailey Barzycki
Lectors: Sandy King
Altar Guild: Donna Danner
Communion Assistants: Susan Karlinski
Ushers: Glenn & Michelle Kraebel
Flowers: 2 BOUQUETS AVAILABLE

January 13, 2019

Acolyte: Ella Cooper
Lectors: Sherry Cruz
Altar Guild: Susan Karlinski
Communion Assistants: Sandy King
Ushers: Don Fuerst & Chelsea Slagor
Flowers: 2 BOUQUETS AVAILABLE

January 20, 2019

Acolyte: David Day
Lectors: Dave Day
Altar Guild: Glenn & Michelle Kraebel
Communion Assistants: Glenn Kraebel
Ushers: Al & Barb Dittenhauser
Flowers: 2 BOUQUETS AVAILABLE

January 27, 2019

Acolyte: Rachael Fuerst
Lector: Monica Smith
Altar Guild: Jan & Dave Freund
Communion Assistant: Michelle Kraebel
Ushers: Paul Moon & Chelsea Gill
Flowers: 2 BOUQUETS AVAILABLE

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS:

Birthdays:

- 3 James Wolbert
- Robert Barzycki
- 5 Jordan Bluman
- Scott LaBounty
- 6 Otto Hellenbach
- 9 Linda Marshman
- Christopher Lewandowski
- Ariana G. Safi
- Evan T. Safi
- 10 Hedy Bellomo
- Ronan Espinosa
- Peter Koehneke
- 12 Alex Rosenberg
- 13 Conrad Walters, III
- 16 Sherry Cruz
- 17 Velma Zink
- Jessica Dysard
- 18 Suzanne Kingsbury
- 19 Amy Smith
- Abigail Doyle
- Eleanor Dysard
- 21 Lisa Marrano
- 26 The Rev. Marie C. Jerge
- 27 Rhonda Badzinski
- 28 Nathaniel Freund
- 29 Kenneth Horbett
- Kathryn Booth
- 30 Sarah Nowak



Anniversaries:

David & Amy Day, December 19, 2003
Timothy & Heather Barcy, December 31, 2014

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS: Birthdays:

- 3 Katelyn Baran
- 4 Anthony C. Marrano
- 5 Jacob Zink
Rachel Dunn
- 6 Pastor Rebecca Mentzer
- 7 Cheryl Wolbert
- 9 Randi Dunkleman
- 11 Frieda Hacic
- 12 Barb Dittenhauser
- 14 Rachel Badzinski
Lynne O'Brien
- 15 Glenn Kraebel, Jr.
Elizabeth Freas
- 16 Robin Lewandowski
- 17 Joyce Smith
- 18 Meghan Coyne
David Day
- 22 Amy Day
- 25 Julia Elias
- 26 Carol Podpora
- 27 Jeanette Hess
Joseph Jackson
- 28 Barbara Brandel
- 29 Donald Kisker
Chelsea Gill
Robert Marshman
- 31 Logan Gonzalez
Elyse Fuerst
John Kling III



Anniversaries:

- Jeff & Monica Smith, January 8, 1983
- Lynne & Alan O'Brien, January 14, 1968
- Dick & Marione Smith, January 31, 1959

DIRECTORY ADDRESS UPDATES

Davis, Kendra 109 Settlers Farm Rd, Monroe, CT 06468

Freas, Elizabeth 4594 Logans Lane, Hamburg, NY 14075

Hess, Jeanette 11784 Rapids Rd., Akron, NY 14001

Karpinski, Denise 87 Annamarie Ter., Cheektowaga, NY 14225

McBurney, Karen 73 Annamarie Ter., Cheektowaga, NY 14225

Wolbert, Jamie 80 Middlesex Rd., Lower, Rochester, NY 14610

*Updated directories are available for you in the narthex. Please take one.

LEADERSHIP RETREAT

A leadership retreat for members of council and other congregational leaders will take place on Saturday, January 12th beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Shrine Center. The Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson will be our guests as she helps us to think through how we might use our gifts and assets to grow our community and what kinds of people might currently be missing from our leadership group.



BUFFALO NIGHT

Buffalo Night is tentatively scheduled for January 26, 2018. Please watch the bulletin for information about this event.

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

Sunday School continues for kids age 3 through grade 6. Join us at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings for an opportunity to learn, grow, build community, and ask the questions of our faith. We are always welcoming to visitors and new members. Also, please join us on Sunday, December 23rd as we lead the congregation in the Christmas Pageant at 9:30 a.m.

GIFT (Generations in Faith Together)

This is all-ages, cross-generational time for learning and conversation at Prince of Peace held on the first Sunday of each month during the SCS hour (10:30 a.m.). Join us because faith and learning changes lives. All kids, parents, adults and friends are welcome!

ADULT EDUCATION

The adult class gathers in the kitchen at 10:30 a.m. each week as we continue our study on the book of Colossians (or whatever else may be on our minds!). Come for one, or join us for all of them as we talk about the intersection of faith and life.

LEAVE A LEGACY

Give a gift that lasts beyond a lifetime. The easiest ways to impact the future of your church are: remember us in your will, include us in your retirement plan, purchase life insurance, or set up a trust fund. Need help getting started? Contact any member of the church council!

THRIVENT

Please remember if you are a member of Thrivent Financial, you have choice dollars to direct to any non-profit of your choice. Login to the website to direct them or speak with Pastor Rebecca for help.

2019 ENVELOPES

Envelopes will again be available in church this year. To save on postage costs, they are not being mailed (unless by request). They will be put in the hall the week before Christmas. Please look through the boxes to find yours. If you do not find them, please call the office at 685-2216 or call Jeff Smith, the Financial Secretary at 474-1384. **Also, please have all 2018 offerings into church by the end of December.** Thanks!

FLOWER CHART FOR 2019

The 2019 flower chart will be put up shortly. Please look over the dates and choose when you wish to honor or remember your loved ones. The cost is \$20 per vase, and there are 2 available each week. The envelopes are just below the chart. If you turn in your envelope the Sunday before you purchase flowers, we will be happy to list the name or names of your loved ones in the bulletin.

CURRENT COLLECTIONS

Our clothing shed is in the back near the garage. Paper recyclables can be dropped off in the bin located near the clothing shed. Soda can tabs are collected in the kitchen. These benefit the Ronald McDonald House. The collection of cans & bottles benefits our youth group. Please drop bottles and cans off at church and remember to separate out plastic and glass! Our food collection to benefit the Tri-Community Food Pantry continues. Please put non-perishable goods in the bin in the narthex.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE: US WILDFIRE

Wildfires are raging across California, destroying thousands of homes and wiping out the town of Paradise, located south of Sacramento. Lutheran Disaster Response is working to respond to this fire. Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response will be used to help those affected by wildfires until the response is complete. Forms for gift giving will be in the church office along with at the usher stand in the narthex. Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support.

WELCA/WOMEN OF THE ELCA

On Saturday, September 22nd, four of our WELCA members attended the Niagara Frontier and Southwestern Conferences Fall Program at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ellicottville. The event entitled "Unwrapping our Spiritual Gifts" included discussions on discovering our individual spirituality and celebrating the Holy Spirit in worship and fellowship as women of faith. The guest speaker was Pete Hill, a member of the Cayuga Nation/Heron Clan, whose topic was exploring Native American spirituality. An enjoyable and informative day was had by all.

As you already know, our annual Bake and Craft Sale was held on Sunday, November 4th. Our WELCA ladies outdid themselves with all the great homemade goodies. We also saw how "crafty" our ladies are based on the handmade crafts and Christmas ornaments we had available. Thanks to our fellow church members who supported our sale, it was a very successful event. Our last meeting for 2018 will be held on Monday, December 10th. There will be no meeting in January 2019.

Hard to believe another year is almost over. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Prince of Peace family not only for supporting our recent Bake and Craft Sale, but also for your continued support of our community outreach project with Lancaster Manor this year. To all my fellow WELCA members, I would be remiss if I didn't thank you for your assistance this year with baking, crafting, delivering donated items, and especially your friendship to help make my job as president of our group so much fun. So on behalf of all our WELCA members, we would like to wish all of you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2019!!!!



JOYFULLY LIVING ADVENT CALENDAR

2 Call or text a friend and tell them one thing you appreciate about them.	3 Take a friend to tea, leave the phone.	4 Play a game from your childhood or with a little person.	5 List what you are thankful for.	6 Say hi to the person behind the counter.	7 Share an encouraging word with a friend in need.	8 Light a candle for something that breaks your heart.
9 Smile at people you see, even if you don't know them.	10 Take a walk and enjoy the xmas lights.	11 Listen to some music that makes you smile.	12 Enjoy your favorite comfort food.	13 Read a story out loud to someone.	14 Notice the really small things.	15 Take a break from all screens
16 Read Mary's song: Luke 1:46-55.	17 Thank someone who has given you advice	18 Write down a memory of God's faithfulness.	19 Call or visit someone who is lonely.	20 Pray for someone else.	21 Breathe and listen for God.	22 Color a picture for a child in your life.
23 How is God with you?	24 Where have you experienced Joy this season	25 What was hard about this calendar and what was life-giving?				



WEBSITE: WWW.POPDEPEW.ORG

E-MAIL ADDRESS: OFFICE@POPDEPEW.ORG

PASTOR'S EMAIL: PASTOR@POPDEPEW.ORG

Be sure to check out our website and Facebook page. Pastor Rebecca will often post devotions for you on the Facebook Group Page, so look for us or contact the office if you have trouble.

FALL/WINTER SCHEDULE CONTINUES

Worship takes place each Sunday at 9:30 a.m., with Sunday Church School and Adult Faith Formation meeting at 10:30 a.m. each week. GIFT (Generations in Faith Together) takes place on the first Sunday of each month.

MERRY CHRISTMAS! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Pastor Rebecca, the Congregation Council and Staff wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year

WEATHER CLOSING INFORMATION

Please watch WGRZ-channel 2 or WKBW-channel 7 for snow closing information.

PRINTS OF PEACE DEADLINE

Articles for the February, March issue of Prints of Peace Newsletter are due by Monday, January 14. Please leave your articles in the office or e-mail them to office@popdepew.org.

Please remember to check the website, Facebook page, bulletin board, and weekly bulletin for more upcoming events and things happening in our area.