

ZION'S HEAVENLY

Look for:

- *Worship Schedule
- *Acolyte Schedule
- *Music Schedule
- *Announcements
- *Youth Group News



- *Exciting Events
 - *Monthly Calendar of Events
 - *Birthday Calendar
 - *Synod News
- And Much, Much More!**

HAPPENINGS

A decorative border of blue and white snowflakes of various sizes surrounds the word "JANUARY".

JANUARY

NEWSLETTER



Photo by Gayle Mateyak

*232 Years of worshipping the
Lord with each other....*

**ZION'S STONE CHURCH OF
WEST PENN TOWNSHIP**
A Federated ELCA & UCC Church

45 Cemetery Rd
New Ringgold, PA 17960

570-386-5111 (& Fax)

www.zionstchurch.org

Rev. Russell Campbell, Pastor
Cell # 610-737-2634
zionstch@ptd.net
revarc@ptd.net

Come Worship with Us!

9:00am – Sunday Worship Service

(1st Sunday of the month Altar Communion)

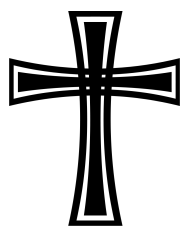
10:15am – Sunday School

5:00pm – 1st & 3rd Saturday Night Worship Services

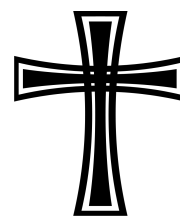
(1st Saturday Night of the month we will have communion)

(No Meal Until Further Notice)

As of April 2005,
Zion's Stone Church Lutheran Congregation and Zion's Stone Church United
Church of Christ Congregation enter into a shared ministry. Keeping both
heritages in the Sunday Worship Service each week.



CHURCH STAFF...



PASTOR: Rev. Russell Campbell

Office Hours:

Wednesday and Thursday 10:00am – 4:00pm

Cell Phone # 610-737-2634

Pastor's Home Email: revarc@ptd.net

Pastor's Church Email: zionstch@ptd.net

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR/TREASURER:

Charlotte Fritz Office Hours:

Charlotte is currently working from home.
You can still email or call office at prompt #4.

Charlotte's Office Email: zscofc@ptd.net
(Please use this email for information for Charlotte.)

CHURCH SECRETARY:

Brenda Osenbach Office Hours:

Brenda will be in the office from 8:00am – 12:00am Mon – Thurs.

Brenda's Office Email: zscbrenda@ptd.net

(Please use this email for all bulletin information,
newsletter and other information for Brenda.)

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE NUMBER:

**570-386-5111 – When calling use
prompt #2 for the Pastor, prompt #3
for Brenda, & prompt #4 for Charlotte**

Check us out on Facebook!

Thanks to Sarah Martinez
for being our Facebook Coordinator!

Zion's Stone Website
www.zionstonechurch.org

MUSIC DIRECTOR/ORGANIST:

Erin Zelinski – 570-205-3511

**CARD CARE
COORDINATOR:**

L.C. Dean: 570-449-0677

SEXTON(S):

Fred (& Donna) Gimbi - Home # 570-386-2888

Fred's Cell #570-573-7642





Christian Sympathies go to...

Dean, Linnea, Alex and Spencer Meiser, Kate Towers, Jimmy Towers, Eileen Meiser, Nancy Meiser, Darren, Laura, Madison and Rowan Meiser, Devin, Melissa & Emma Meiser, and Family & Friends on the death of Dean & Linnea's Son Eoin Towers, who entered into eternal life on Saturday, December 18th, 2021.

Christian Sympathies go to...

Dwain, Pam and Kyle Hoppes & Family and Friends on the death of Dwain's Brother David "Pap" Hoppes who entered into eternal life on December 6, 2021.



Christian Sympathies go to ...

Gary and Jean Marie Zehner & Family and Friends on the death of Gary's Brother Francis E. "Peck" Zehner who entered into eternal life on December 20, 2021.





Baby Congratulations to...

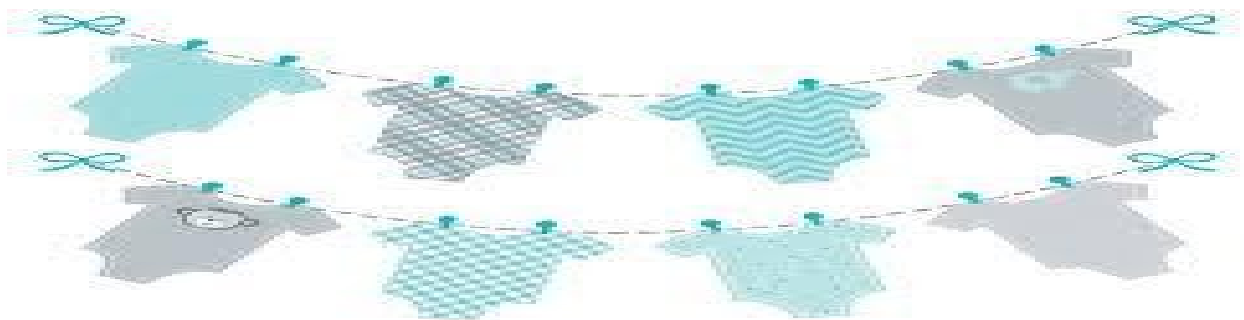
Missy and Mike Hunsicker on the birth of their Son, Cameron David Hunsicker, born Thursday, December 9th, 2021. 8lb. 11oz. and 21in. long. He is welcomed home by big brother Cole.

Baby Congratulations to...

Mary and Dennis Troxell on the birth of their Grandson, Kolton Evan Greene, born on Monday, December 13th, 2021. Kolton's parents are Taylor Troxell and Bryce Greene.

Baby Congratulations to...

Dustin and Aimee Kern on the birth of their Son, Tanner Daniel Kern, born on Saturday, December 18th, 2021. Baby Tanner is welcomed home by big Sister Adelyn.



WORSHIP – JANUARY 2022

Sunday, January 2ND, 2022 - 2nd Christmas

9:00am - Worship Service w/Holy Communion (altar)

Sermon Title: “Seeking a Guiding Light”

Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, January 9th, 2022 – Baptism of Our Lord

9:00am - Worship Service

Sermon Title: “I’ve Got a Name”

Isaiah 43:1-7 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sunday, January 16th, 2022 – 2nd Epiphany

9:00am - Worship Service

Sermon Title: “Changes Keep on Changing”

Isaiah 62:1-5 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11

Sunday, January 23rd, 2022 – 3rd Epiphany

9:00am - Worship Service

Sermon Title: “Don’t Worry, Be Happy”

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

Sunday, January 30th, 2022 – 4th Epiphany

9:00am – Worship Service

Sermon Title: “How to Win Friends and Influence People”

Jeremiah 1:4-10 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30

NEWSLETTER SUBMITTALS...

Please help the office be efficient by having all newsletter submittals emailed to the church office (or placed in the newsletter submittal boxes) by the newsletter deadline, the third Sunday of each month.

If you would like your wedding announcement or if you have a loved one who has entered into eternal life, thank you messages, etc., please contact the office by the newsletter deadline or we may not be able to publish your information until next month. *Thank You!*

ALTAR FLOWER & BULLETIN SPONSORSHIPS...

If you are interest in sponsoring altar flowers or bulletins, please call the office at (570) 386-5111 before 12 pm on Wednesday. **Leave a message** with your telephone number and the exact wording you would like to see printed in the bulletins. We still have Sundays available for the months ahead. Bulletins and altar flowers are available. Please call the office every time you want to sponsor them.



***Please do not put your request in the envelopes,
because it may not be seen until it is too late.
YOU MUST CALL THE OFFICE.***



COST OF SPONSORSHIP:

ALTAR FLOWERS \$25.00

Rosebud: \$10.00

Make checks payable to

Bulletin: \$10.00

Zion's Stone Church. *Thank You!*

LECTORS are needed for every Sunday.

Please sign your name on the calendar in Narthex

CHURCH/AUDITORIUM FUNCTIONS ARE CURRENTLY NOT BEING SCHEDULED

Please call the church office at (570) 386-5111. If you or someone you know is planning a wedding at Zion's Stone Church, please contact Pastor Russ. You will have to adhere to CDC guidelines until further notice.

**Do you have a new Address or Telephone
&/or Cell Phone Number?**

Please notify the office either through email (zscofc@ptd.net) or phone (570-386-5111) with your new information. This way we can keep in touch with you and provide you with important information regarding the church. Thank you!

(All the clip Art printed in this newsletter was taken from google clip art.)



Photo taken by Gayle Mateyak

SPECIAL THANK YOU...

(The church receives thank you letters from other organizations that we support through Benevolence giving throughout the year.)

Special Thanks... to everyone who donated Gift Cards for Bethany Children's Home. We would also like to thank the Fritz Family, Darryl, Charlotte and Gabe for delivering the cards.

Friends at Zions... Taking a moment to thank you for the wonderful gift bag. You could just feel the love and thoughtfulness put into these bags! We are so blessed. Merry Christmas! Lee Bittner & Family.

Thank you... for the gift from the outreach group of Zion's Church. It was nice to read Zion's Heavenly Booklet. The fleece throws will keep us warm! Again thank you, Marlin & I appreciate the gesture! P.S. Thanks to Pastor Campbell for giving us communion! Marlin and Sandy Zehner.

Dear Outreach Committee... & Zion's Stone Church Members, thank you so much for the Christmas goodie bag I received. Your thoughtfulness is so much appreciated! God bless! DelRoy Haas.

Dear Zion's Church Family... Thank you for the Christmas gifts and treats. I appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity. It was so nice to be remembered at this time of year. God Bless You! Russell Hauck

Thanks so much to Zion's for the wonderful Xmas bags of surprises! We are already using the throws to keep warm and have enjoyed the goodies and look forward to doing the many activities. It was so very kind and thoughtful of you and is much appreciated. May all of you have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year! God's blessings upon you.
David & Beverly Knoebel.

Please welcome via letter of transfer...New Members of Zion's Stone Church... Dr. Rosalee Rehrig and her Son Chase, and Mrs. Connie Gruver

Also by Reactivation of membership... please welcome Edith Lushia

Worshipping Together

***Masks are no longer required and are optional and the board still asks that if you are not feeling well or have concerns about attending the service in person, you're encouraged to stay home and continue to watch the service on Facebook & YouTube. The areas of the church used for worship will be cleaned and disinfected prior to the next week's service. You may call Pastor Russ on his cell phone or the church office and leave a message or email them. Auditorium rentals are still not available.

2021 WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FIGURES...

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| November 6, 2021 – 16 | December 4, 2021 - 10 |
| November 7, 2021 – 102 | December 5, 2021 - 119 |
| November 14, 2021 – 110 | December 12, 2021 - 123 |
| November 20, 2021 – 10 | December 18, 2021 - 13 |
| November 21, 2021 – 94 | December 19, 2021 - 117 |
| November 28, 2021 – 124 | December 24, 4pm - |
| | December 24, 7pm - |
| | December 26, 2021 - |

FINANCIAL REPORT

2021 November

Current Giving:

Total Income Budgeted for 2021-----\$ 213,228.25

Total Benevolence income for 2021 -----\$ 11,700.00

Total Income plus Benevolence -----\$ 224,928.25

Monthly
Income & Benevolence

\$ 13,309.34

Gain/(Loss)

\$ -4,813.74

Monthly Budgeted
Income & Benevolence
(\$ 4,325.54 – per week)
(\$ 18,744.02 – per month)

Thank you for your continued support of Zion's Stone Church!



Thank you to Choir Director,
Erin (Raymond) Zeliniski
for sharing her musical
talents with us during the
Worship services!



We would like to thank the families and friends of the following past members for their donations towards the purchase of the new carillons. Funds were used from the memorial accounts. The new carillons will be dedicated on Sunday, January 9th at the 9:00am Worship Service. Equipment has been delayed.

Gene Raymond
Neil Kershner
Mary Lou Helfrich
Maryliss Schaefer
Helen Miller
Richard Oswald
Minnie Kershner

Betty Kershner
Ellis Beibleheimer
Robert Knittle
Marion Shellhamer
Kenneth Steigerwalt
Ann Marie Sassaman
John Webb

THURSDAY MORNINGS

& THURSDAY NIGHTS

w/The Rev. Russell Campbell

| | |
|---------|---------------------|
| Jan. 6 | No Bible Study |
| Jan. 13 | Study of Revelation |
| Jan. 20 | Study of Revelation |
| Jan. 27 | Study of Revelation |

*Morning Bible Study starting at 10:00am
Evening Bible Study will start at 6:30pm.*

(will notify to cancel if inclement weather)

Bring your own Bible that you can write in!

SATURDAY WORSHIP SERVICES...

w/The Rev. Russell Campbell

No Worship Service Jan. 1, 2022 (Pastor Vacation)

Next Worship Service is Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022 at 5:00pm

No light meals offered at this time.

Holy Communion offered first

Saturday of each month.





Sunday School News...

Start the year with a resolution to study God's word and we can help you keep it. We have classes for ALL ages and everyone is welcome!! Join us in 2022 as we explore the Bible every week in Sunday school from 10:15am to 11:15am.

***Your word is a lamp to my feet and
a light to my path. Psalm 119:105***



YOUTH GROUP NEWS...

Due to COVID-19, Youth Group meetings will be postponed until January 9, 2022! Anyone in grades 6-12 are welcome to join! Bring a friend when we start back up again! If anyone needs to talk with us, the advisors are all available. We will continue to pray for you all and we miss you so much! Next Youth Group Meeting will be held on:

Sunday, January 9, 2022 at 7:00pm (till 9:00pm)!

We are looking forward to seeing you! Masks optional!

2022 Offering Envelopes

will be available for pick up (starting on December 5th). Due to COVID-19 the offering envelopes will be in the Auditorium but will be handed out to each person so that only one person is touching the envelopes (see Charlotte Fritz). There are two ways to pick up your envelopes. 1st way is you can get your envelopes **AFTER** the worship services (starting December 5th - till 10:30am) since Charlotte will be taking attendance before the worship service. The 2nd way is to stop by the office

Monday - Thursday from 8:30am – 11:30am
(after December 5th).

Please call Brenda first so she can have them ready. You can also call and have her put them in a bag on the door if you will be later than 11:30am on Monday - Thursdays in December. **Please do not just take your offering envelopes off the table.** There will be a form to sign when you receive your envelopes. You will still be able to take along your family/neighbor envelopes.

If you are not able to come to church to pick up your offering envelopes, they will be mailed to you in January/February.

Thank you for your patience and understanding!



Please remember! The bylaws of Zion's Stone Church require that to be an active member you must take communion at least one time during the calendar year and give an offering at least once. Beginning January 2, 2022 you will also be required to take communion in the Sanctuary on Sunday morning, in the Social Hall on the first Saturday of each month (when offered), or on special Holy Days when communion is offered. This does not apply to shut-ins. If you live out of the area all you have to do is send or email a copy of your communion card from your place of worship. At least once per year, take communion and give an offering to Zion's Stone Church. Thank you!

2021 Offering Statements

2021 offering statements will be available starting after Jan. 23, 2022. If we are closed due to covid-19, your statements will be mailed to you. Once you receive your 2021 offering statements, please look them over and notify Charlotte Fritz if there are any errors/corrections that you may find by Feb. 27, 2022. After Feb. 27, 2022 all statements will stand as printed. As always thank you for your continued support of the ministry of Zion's Stone Church.

If you have not sent in an offering, or you are planning on mailing in an offering for 2021, please mail them no later then Dec. 19, 2021 so that they can be processed and added to your 2021 statement. Please do not wait until Dec. 31 to mail in your offering, unless you don't care what year it goes into, because it may be add to your 2022 statement. Charlotte will be on vacation at the end of December so please try to get your offerings in on time. Thank you for your understanding and support!

PLEASE DO NOT USE 2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES IN 2022!

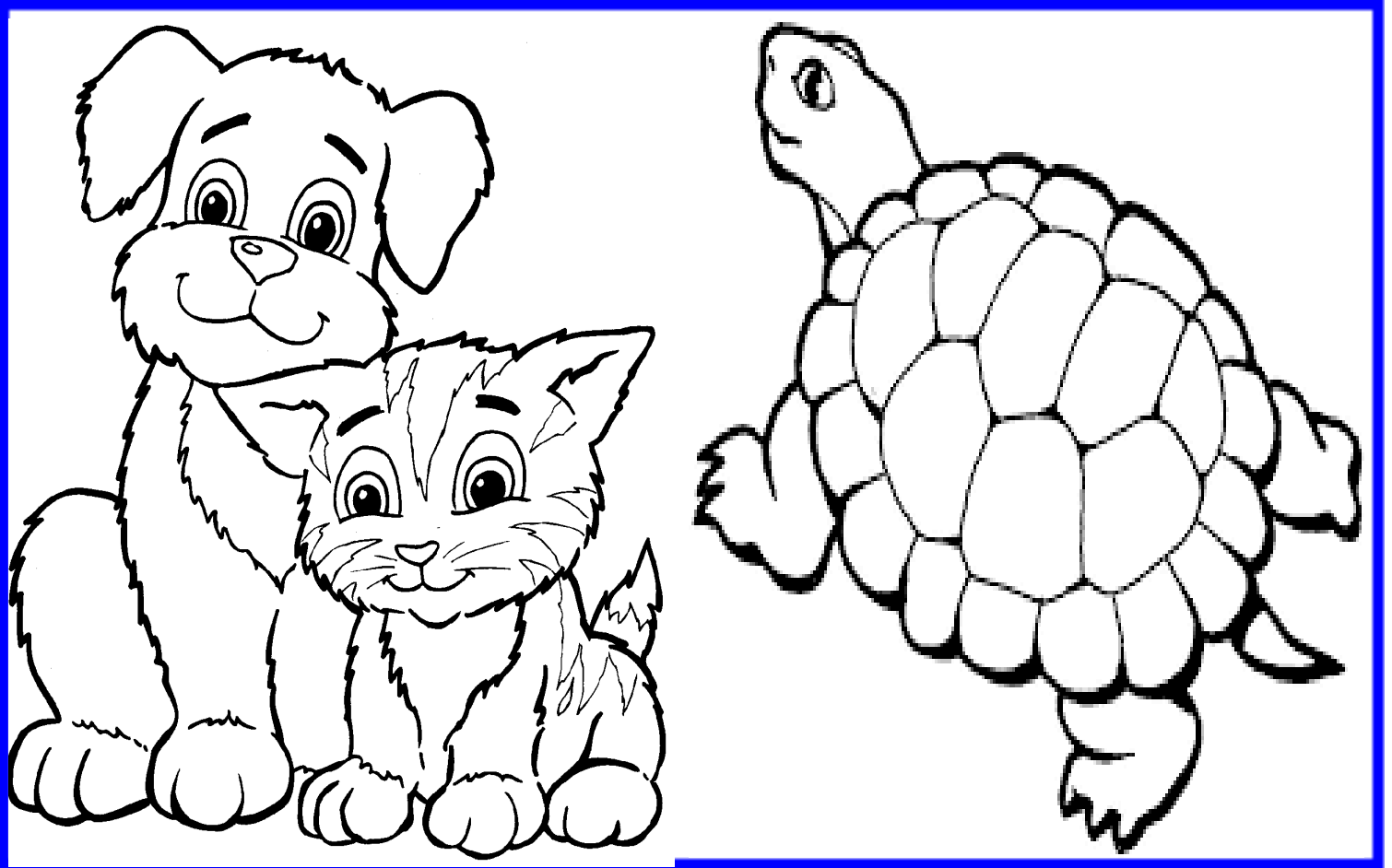
(throw away any unused 2021 offering envelopes)!!!!!!

Numbers change from year to year.

Thank You!!



ZION'S COLORING CORNER



COOL2BKIDS.COM



Coloring-Page.net

PNEC NEWS....

Penn Northeast Conference UCC, 431 Delaware Ave., Palmerton, PA 18071

www.pnec.org 610-826-3113; 610-826-5464 FAX

Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates bonnieb@pnec.org

Rev. Gilberto Garcia Rodriguez hispanicucc@rcn.com

Rev. Christian Creyer christianc@pnec.org

Barbara Jennings barbaraj@pnec.org

Patty Rehrig pattyr@pnec.org

Letter from Bonnie

Dear Friends,

It's Advent. Churches are celebrating the anticipation of the anniversary of the birth of Jesus. Youth and children are planning pageants and special programs. Special worship services are in the works, and we are preparing for multiple worship opportunities on Christmas Eve, and in some cases on Christmas Day.

Amid this liturgical season, we are also racing around to purchase and wrap gifts for family, plan family gatherings, decorate our homes, and move into the season with joy. The reality is that for some people, there is nothing joyful about this season. People who are in pain, who are grieving, who are isolated, who are marginalized or excluded, all these people are having trouble with the season.

The Advent Candles of Hope and Peace have been lit. This week we will add the Rose candle of Joy. The last week of Advent we will add Love. Then we will be ready to celebrate the birthday of the Babe who came to teach us how to love one another, how to open our hearts and minds to include those on the margins, and to share what we have with one another.

Sometimes we are better at following the teachings of Jesus than at other times. Sometimes we get caught up in the divisiveness and hate in the world, in the concepts of scarcity, and the anxiety of life in these days. What might happen if we simply opened our hearts and minds, opened our spirits, and listened for the voice of God to comfort and to lead us? What might happen if we stop and be still for a moment, breathing in the wonder of creation, the love that is shared with us, and the hope God wants us to encounter and express?

I recently participated in a worship service where reading from Marcia McFee's worship design studio. I share with you some of that text now. "In this moment we open the doors of our lives to the call of the Spirit inviting us to become more than we can ask or imagine...In this moment we open the doors of our hearts, filling it with the compassion of Christ for those who are struggling..."[1]

This Advent I am committed to opening my life, opening my heart, opening my spirit, and sharing the hope, peace, joy and love of the season, and of my faith. Will you join me?

Blessings, Bonnie



SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

JANUARY 2022 • ISSUE 1 • VOLUME 30

Covid-19 Update & Guidelines

The Latest Situation: The Covid-19 pandemic continues to generate fear, concern, confusion and division across the country and within our own Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. The most recent developments – some troubling, some hopeful – include:

- The rise of new variants, especially “omicron”;
- The ongoing and in many cases, increasing numbers of new cases;
- The continued reluctance and refusal of some to get vaccinated, or to wear masks;
- On the good side: the increased opportunities for testing, for boosters, and for vaccines for all ages.

Here in our Synod, I now encourage us to use another trustworthy source of information to help guide our decisions concerning the pandemic: the “Covid Act Now Coalition.” This non-profit, web-based resource brings together non-partisan experts in medicine, law, and public policy, to provide objective data and analysis. Their website is being consulted as a reliable source by synods and congregations across the ELCA. From their site, we can see clearly that things are still very threatening here in NE Penn: all 14 of our counties have threat levels of “VERY HIGH” or “SEVERE” – Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, and Schuylkill all are in that worst category. Additionally, the vaccination rate is at or below 60% for 7 of those 14 counties. Most of these numbers are worse than the data for many of our neighboring synods, including the Southeastern Penn Synod, whose leaders have nonetheless chosen to put in place stricter guidelines than we have. I believe we can become safer and return to “normal” sooner if we follow their lead.

Dr. Luther Shows The Way:

Almost exactly 500 years ago – in November 1520 – Martin Luther published one of his most ground-breaking treatises: “On the Freedom of a Christian.” He begins the document with this famous declaration: “A Christian is the most free lord of all, subject to none. And a Christian is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to everyone.”

He goes on to describe how God, through Christ’s sacrificial love for us on the cross, has granted us the grace and the freedom to make our own decisions; but this freedom does not release us to disregard the truth, or our call to care and concern for our neighbor. Luther writes: “Therefore [Christians] should be guided in all [their] works by this thought and contemplate this one thing alone, that [they] may serve and benefit others in all that [they do], considering nothing except the need and the advantage of [the] neighbor.”

So “what does this mean?” The inconvenience of mask wearing; and even the threat of temporary cold-and-flu reactions to vaccinations – these are simply the sacrifices we are called to make, as “the dutiful servants of all, subject to everyone.” It is within this traditionally and theologically Lutheran framing that we maintain our vigilance; and update our guidelines here.

Covid-19 Continued...**Latest Synod Recommendations:**

As we prepare for the larger crowds of Christmas Eve – and with Lent, Holy Week and Easter not far away – I am recommending the starting, the continuation, or the resumption, of any and all common-sense and good-neighbor precautions, including:

- Proof of vaccination or a negative test for all indoor events
 - Indoor masking
- Good air circulation, including open windows where feasible
- Social distancing, frequent washing and other effective protocols

Furthermore – at their January 15 meeting, I am encouraging our Synod Council to discuss and decide upon further appropriate actions, which may include mandates that all Synod-sponsored indoor events require masking, proof of vaccination, and/or proof of a negative test. As the duly elected governing body of this Synod, your Synod Council has the right and responsibility to make these decisions for Synod gatherings. When it comes to our individual worshipping communities, our authority is more limited; Synod Council (and myself) can only make clear and strong recommendations – based on the best science, on good conscience and on our common love for our neighbors, especially those who are most vulnerable. In other words, all congregations have the “freedom of a Christian” to decide for themselves how they will choose to act – or refuse to act. I invite us all to follow our baptismal call and Lutheran heritage, to follow God’s will and God’s love for all.

In God’s Love,
Bishop Christopher deForest

MISSION SUPPORT 2022



Send in your mission support commitments for 2022. You can find the form on the synod website, under the resources tab.

**boundless
god beyond measure**

**JULY 24-28, 2022
MINNEAPOLIS, MN
REGISTER NOW AT ELCA.ORG**

Save the date **SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2022**
June 10-11
Reading

Calendar of Events January 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---|
| | | | | Charlotte Vacation Thru Jan 2 | Happy New Year! | 1 No Saturday Worship Pastor Vac |
| 2 9am Worship w/HC (Altar) 10:15 am Sun School | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 No Bible Study | 7 | 8 |
| 9 9am Worship Yng ppl Time 10:15am SS Yth Grp7-9pm | 10 | 11 | 12 Board Meeting 7:00pm | 13 Bible Study 10:00am 6:30pm | 14 | 15 5:00pm Worship Service |
| 16 9am Worship Install Board 10:15am SS Newsletter Deadline | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Bible Study 10:00am 6:30pm | 21 | 22 |
| 23 9am Worship 10:15am Sun School | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Bible Study 10:00am 6:30pm | 28 | 29 |
| 30 9am Worship w/Healing Service 10:15am Sun School | 31 Financial Statements Due | | | | | |



January 2022 Birthday Calendar



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 Johnny Hamm Sylvie Hauck Amanda Hill Pat Lorah Rick Zelinski | 3 Ronald Rega Jr Janice Steigerwalt | 4 | 5 | 6 Amy Buchman Amy Hehn Dean Ruch | 7 Kate Frank | 8 Linda Schaeffer |
| 9 Kathy Kromer | 10 Charles Cravolta | 11 Marie Gursky Amelia Ristila Chad Weaver | 12 | 13 Nadine Belsak | 14 Debra Hill Brian Ruch Mary Troxell Kathy Tyson | 15 Taylor Fritz |
| 16 | 17 Gabe Gustafson | 18 Paul Greene | 19 Gerald Oswald Hannah Davenport | 20 Chris Loughman Doug Miller Sr | 21 Nancy Osenbach Austin Troxell | 22 Lizzy Lehman |
| 23 Miranda Amey Kerry Gursky Rick Johannides | 24 Kris Bellhorn Anthony Ciavaglia Janet Faix James Kemmerer Renee Miller JeanMarie Zehner | 25 Ronald Troxell Karen Wood Susan Zeigler | 26 Hunter Moyer | 27 Lisa Sharpe | 28 | 29 Mary Faenza Elizabeth Davenport |
| 30 Pamela Hoppes | 31 Doris Kressley | | | | | |