



The Concord

The Newsletter of New Hope Lutheran Church

December 2012



New Hope Evangelical
Lutheran Church
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Pastor:

Rev. Martin J. Galbraith

Council Officers:

President:

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Council Members:

Kathy Carter,

Mike Mazur,

Fran McCandless,

Gale Majors,

Helen Meeder,

Michelle Riggi-Smith

Church
Council



It used to be that the Gospel reading for the First Sunday of Advent was... (anybody remember?) the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem—on Palm Sunday.

As a child, the story of Palm Sunday right before Christmas was very confusing to me. Chronologically, it doesn't fit. That is perhaps a main reason why the lectionary was changed, and our readings in worship for Advent are different now.

Because of this confusion I felt, I am personally glad they made the change, but... the Palm Sunday reading, believe it or not, makes some sense. Not chronologically—not at all! But it makes sense in terms of the theme.

The theme of Palm Sunday is anticipation—Jesus is coming. The king, the Messiah, is coming. God's kingdom, God's will, God's way, is coming. In the Palm Sunday story, Jesus is coming into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. In Advent, we remember the time when God's coming was a prophetic hope, when Christ's coming was the forerunner's call to prepare, an angel's promise, or as a yet-to-be-born child in Mary's womb. But the theme of God's coming is present in both the Palm Sunday story and our current Advent readings.

Every time we pray the Lord's Prayer, we pray that God's kingdom comes, that God's will is done. We pray, in other words, for God to come! Our world knows so much hurt and grief—we need for God to come. And the biblical stories assure us that God has come in the past, that God is present and comes to us now, that God will come in the future, that eternity will be a celebration of God's full and complete coming into our world and our lives.

Advent (which means, coming) may be my personal favorite season of the church year, because its themes are (or should be) so important to our Christian lives. Do you realize that, each day of your life, God comes to you? (In other words, each day is an Advent.) God comes in water; in bread and wine; in Scriptures read and heard, proclaimed and pondered; in a neighbor's hurt or need and in loving words or deeds. Every day, every encounter, could be a chance to let God and God's love come to us and come into the world through us. Each moment could be pregnant with God breaking into our lives. Our world knows so much hurt, but in God's coming there is so much hope!

Blessed Advent. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, may we see the many wonderful ways that God so often comes to us with love.

Pastor Martin



December Anniversaries

- 10 Scott & Stephanie Rieger (1994)
- 11 Don & Jeanne Barto (1954)
- 12 Bill (B.J.) & Kristan Herrington (2003)
- 24 Rich & Darla Lucas (1991)



Congratulations and best wishes to these very special couples!

We share these birthday and anniversary lists with the congregation to remember and celebrate these special dates through prayer, telephone calls, cards, and/or other appropriate greetings.

Omissions of birthdays or anniversaries are not intentional. If you are missed, please let the office know as soon as possible. Thank you!

December Birthdays

- 1 Brandon Smart
- 2 Ella Shoup
Marilyn Winkle
- 3 Deneen Sims
- 4 Debi Baacke
Jonie Hogue
- 5 Dr. Nancy Alberts
Kyle Kopac
Cheryl Lesczynski
- 6 Taylor Burns
Bill Hartenbach
- 7 Don Filbert
- 8 Chase Winkle
- 9 Hunter Grossman
Leah Viscuso
- 10 Nevaeh Hoover
Hunter Sulkowski
- 11 Jimmy Fessler
- 13 Steven Leasure, Jr.
- 15 Sally Conley
- 16 Nancy Gorski
- 18 Kathy Carter
Jean Tolbert
- 20 Sarah Stachura
- 21 Steve Banyas
Madison Roscoe
Carol Ruckert
- 22 Bob Sprague
- 23 Zachary Moss
Jeff Ruckert
- 25 Leo Parrish
- 26 Frankie Mihelic
Betty Viscuso
- 27 Tina Davis
Emma Sims
- 28 Krysti Renner
- 29 Skyliie Harden
William Hay
Gretchen Law
Mike Mazur
Michael Viscuso
- 30 Evan Blinn
- 31 Ava Price



WATCH THE BULLETINS OF NOVEMBER 25 AND DECEMBER 2, FOR THE POINSETTIA ORDER FORM:

Christmas will be here soon and so will the beautiful red and white poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Each 6" pot will be wrapped with foil and come with care instructions. The cost of each plant is \$8.00, which should be paid with your order. The order deadline has been extended until December 9th. Please place your order form and payment in the white envelopes, provided in the envelope holder on the back of each pew, and place it in the offering plates or in the secretary's mailbox in the credenza or on the office door. Don't forget to mark the order form with how many flowers of each color you are ordering, along with the names you are placing In Honor or In Memory of.



In addition to correspondence with Guadalupe, our sponsored child (you can see her picture and a brief bio on the Youth Group's bulletin board), and coming off of serving dinner at the Beaver Falls Salvation Army soup kitchen on November 25th, the Youth Group has the following things planned:

- Sunday, December 2nd.....regular Youth Group meeting
- Sunday, December 9th, 5-8 p.m.....Lutheran Youth Organization's Sunday Night Live at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Etna (Bring \$5.00 and a hot beverage item (cocoa, coffee, tea) to donate to a local food pantry.)
- Saturday, Dec. 15th & Sunday, Dec. 16th.....collection for We Care Food Pantry (at all 3 worship services)
- Sunday, December 23rd, 9:30 a.m.....participating in the Sunday School Christmas program
- Monday, December 24th, 6 p.m.....participating in the Family Christmas Eve service
- Sunday, January 6th, 12:30 p.m.....Planning meeting

K.F.C. Singers:

Our children's choir for ages 3-12 meets on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-6:30 in the church sanctuary. Our goal is to sing once a month and at all special services. If your child likes to have fun and sing, please come and join us.



God Squad:

Are you 3 years old? Are you in Pre-K thru grade 6? Then you are welcome to join us on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 for "God Squad." We have bible stories, games, crafts, and great snacks!

In order to accommodate all the meetings being held at New Hope, please be advised that beginning in December, KFC Singers and God Squad will not meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Should there be any changes to this schedule, we will let you know.



NEWS ABOUT SATURDAY NIGHT

SUNDAY SCHOOL—Since December is such a busy month with programs, pageants, extra worship services, etc., we have decided not to hold Saturday Night Sunday School for the following Saturdays in December: the 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th. Normal classes will resume on Saturday, January 5, 2013.

Sunday School for all ages meets on Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m.

Monday afternoon Bible Study meets at 1:30 p.m.

ATTENTION ALL 7TH & 8TH GRADERS



Confirmation classes for 7th and 8th graders are still being held Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

DECEMBER GATHERINGS & COMMITTEE MEETING

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held Sunday, December 2, immediately following the 9:30 am worship.

THRIVENT WILL BE MAKING LUMINARIES to display on Christmas Eve. It's so easy, even Pastor Martin can do it!! If you are able to help, we will meet on Wednesday, December 5th, at 10 am at the Stange House kitchen.

LUNCH BUNCH will meet Wednesday, December 5th at 1:00 pm at the Candlelight Lounge.

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet Sunday, December 9th at 12:30 pm.

PRAYER SHAWL will meet at church at 6:30 pm on Monday, December 10, 2012. We will be making more fleece blankets. As winter approaches, please be mindful of the weather. If you have a question about whether there will be a meeting, please call Roberta at 724-775-1717 to check.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE will meet on December 10th. We are still looking for someone to fill our chairperson position. If you, or someone you know, would be interested, please see Pastor Martin or any council member

CHRISTMAS CAROLING—We are planning a Christmas Caroling event for our shut-ins on Sunday, December 16th. We will meet at the church at 1:00 pm. Please consider joining us for this most meaningful and uplifting day.

BOOK CLUB will meet at Panera in Cranberry on December 17th at 7:00 pm. We will be reading "*The Bridge*" by Karen Kingsbury during December, and in January will be reading "*A Light Between Oceans*" by M. L. Stedman.

WELCA will meet Tuesday, December 18th at 7:00 pm.

ADVENT CONSPIRACY DINNER will be held on Wednesday, December 19th at 6:00 pm. Please be sure to sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board.

ADULT NIGHT OUT—This year we are having a Stuffed Chicken Dinner—cost is \$8.00 per person, and will be held on Friday, December 21st at 6:30 pm, at the church. We will also have a \$10 unisex grab-bag. Dinner will be catered by "Beyond Parsley" and includes stuffed chicken breast, mashed potatoes with gravy, glazed carrots, tossed salad, with rolls and butter. You are welcome to bring an appetizer or dessert. **Please sign up on the bulletin board and pay the \$8.00 per person for the dinner to Janet Fishovitz or Roberta Herrington by December 9th.**

GRIEF SHARE meets every Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm at church. At our December 12th and 19th meetings we will be discussing "How to Survive the Holidays".

BREAKFAST BUFFET—Our Breakfast Buffet for December will be held on Saturday the 22nd from 8:00 am until 11:00 am. Please join us and bring a hearty appetite.

SOCIAL CONCERNS will meet after the Breakfast Buffet on December 22nd at 11:15 am.

CHOIR PRACTICE is Thursdays at 7:00 pm.

FAIR TRADE FELLOWSHIP HOUR—Council has given approval for Social Concerns to offer Fair Trade products to the congregation. As most are aware we have been serving Fair Trade coffee and tea at our Breakfast Buffet. Several people have asked how they could purchase the coffee. We will have coffee, tea, coca, chocolate bars and geobars (snackbars) available to purchase during the fellowship hour on Sundays' and also at the monthly breakfast buffets. Please note: This is not a fundraiser for our church, nor are any church funds used to purchase these products. Buying fairly traded products helps small farmers in developing countries to receive fair and equitable payment for their crops.

Additionally, we would like to serve fair trade coffee during our Fellowship hour. Rather than donating coffee, as has been done in the past, we are asking you to consider donating monetarily to a "coffee fund". Social Concerns will order the fair trade coffee. Donations can be given to Pastor Martin, Fran or Mike Mazur.

COMING IN JANUARY—Medic Rescue will be teaching a CPR, and First Aid course—on Saturday, January 12, 2013. The course will be about 4 hours long and will begin at 8:00 am. The cost of the course will be determined by the number of participants. If we have 20 participants the cost would be \$14.00 per participant. Fifteen participants would be \$18.00 per participant. The more participants the less the cost per person. Registration will begin at 7:30 am and breakfast will be served until 8:00 am. A sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board. Please sign up by January 5, 2013.

LUTHERLYN WINTER EVENTS—Please check the bulletin for Winter Retreats and activities at Lutherlyn for 2013. Please see Debbie for copies of the registration form for the Winter Retreat being held February 1-3.

FOOD COLLECTION—Our Youth Group is collecting non-perishable food items for the We Care Food Pantry at Baden United Methodist Church. If you'd like to contribute, you can bring your items in any time the first couple weeks of December, but our big emphasis will be at worship on the 15th and 16th. We will then deliver our collection on Monday, December 17th. Thank you for your generous support.

Breakfast Buffet

December 22, 2012 From 8:00 - 11:00 AM

Cost: Adults—\$6.00; Children ages 6-12—\$3.00; Children Under 6—Free

Social Concerns needs YOUR HELP. We are seeking five volunteers to work the December 22nd Breakfast Buffet. We need people to help prepare, cook, and cleanup. No special skills are required, (other than the ability to use a stove without catching yourself, or others, on fire!!). It's really not hard and you might even have fun doing it! We appreciate any and all volunteers, so please sign the sheet on the bulletin board if you are willing to help. Most importantly, please come and have breakfast, bring your family, neighbors, and friends. We look forward to seeing you. The December beneficiary of the buffet is the Hearth and Ladle in Ambridge. THANK YOU.

WORSHIP NEWS

On Sunday, December 2nd (the First Sunday of Advent) we will have only one service, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Following worship, all confirmed members are asked to stay for our congregational meeting to approve our budget for 2013.

Blue Christmas Service: Christmas is supposed to be a merry and joyful time—often it is... but not always. Especially for those who are grieving a loss, the celebrations of Christmas can sometimes make their grief and loss seem even more overwhelming. A “Blue Christmas” service seeks to be honest about this sadness, yet still point us towards the hope that the Christ-Child brings, even in our grief. If this sounds like a service that could be helpful to you (or to someone you know — offer to pick them up and go with them!), then you might find the “Blue Christmas” service at Rehoboth Lutheran Church inspiring. Pastor Martin will have a part in the service — join us at Rehoboth on Sunday, December 16th at 3:00 PM.

Advent Conspiracy: Last year we were introduced to the Advent Conspiracy — a plot to refocus ourselves on Christ for the Advent and Christmas seasons by spending a little less on unnecessary and unneeded Christmas gifts (and perhaps replacing these gifts with something more personal or even hand-made) so that we can give to more meaningful things. Join us for this year's Advent Conspiracy event on Wednesday, December 19th. The evening begins with a soups-and-desserts dinner at 6:00 PM, followed by worship and program. This year's Advent Conspiracy offering will go towards our ELCA's Good Gifts program to buy textbooks for school children. (Textbooks for a single child cost about \$15.00, and for a classroom costs about \$300).

Christmas Eve Candle-light Worship:

6:00 PM — Family Service
8:30 PM — Traditional Service
11:00 PM — Traditional Service

On Sunday, December 30th (the First Sunday of Christmas) we will have only one service, beginning at 9:30 AM. It will be a service of Christmas Lessons and Carols.

LETTERS OF THANKS—We have received letters of thanks from Glade Run and Habitat for Humanity of Beaver County for New Hope's support for these organizations. These letters have been posted on the bulletin board of everyone to read.



2012

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Sat

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| | | | | | | 1 4:30 pm Advent Event 6:30 pm Worship |
| 2 9:30 am Worship Congregational Meeting Youth Group Meeting | 3 9:00-11:30 am Preschool 1:30 pm Bible Study 7 pm Cub Scouts at Stange House | 4 9:00-11:30 am Preschool 6:00 pm KFC Singers 6:30 pm God Squad | 5 9:00-11:30 am Preschool 10:00 am Luminary Making 1:00 pm Lunch Bunch 7:00 pm Grief Share | 6 9:00-11:30 am Preschool 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Choir Practice | 7 9:00-11:30 am Preschool | 8 6:30 pm Worship |
| 9 8 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 12:30 pm Council 5-8 pm LYO/SNL Emmanuel LC Etna | 10 9:00-11:30 am Preschool 1:30 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl 7:00 pm Property | 11 9:00-11:30 am Preschool 6:00 pm KFC Singers 6:30 pm God Squad | 12 9:00-11:30 am Preschool 7:00 pm Grief Share—How to Survive the Holidays | 13 10:00 am Preschool Program 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Choir Practice | 14 9:00-11:30 am Preschool | 15 6:30 pm Worship Food Collection Hall Rental |
| 16 8 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 11 am Worship Food Collection 1:00 pm Caroling 3:00 pm Blue Christmas at Rehoboth LC | 17 9:00-11:30 am Preschool 1:30 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 Book Club at Panera 7:00 Preschool Pageant | 18 9:00-11:30 am Preschool 7:00 pm WELCA | 19 9:00-11:30 am Preschool 6:00 pm Advent Conspiracy Dinner & Service 7:00 pm Grief Share—How to Survive the Holidays | 20 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Choir Practice | 21 6:30 pm Adult Night Out at New Hope | 22 8-11:00 am Breakfast Buffet 11:15 am Social Concerns Comm. 6:30 pm Worship Worship |
| 23 8 am Worship 9:30 Sunday School Program 11 am Worship 30 9:30 am Christmas Lessons & Carols | 24 Christmas Eve 6 PM Family Svc. 8:30 PM Traditional 11PM Traditional 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE | 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS | 26 7:00 pm Grief Share | 27 | 28 | 29 6:30 pm Worship |

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Time Dated Material



Saturday Evening Worship - 6:30 pm
Sunday Worship - 8:00 am
Sunday Christian Education - 9:30 am
Sunday Worship - 11:00 am

