

PARADISE LUTHERAN CHURCH
3241 CHURCH ROAD
—THOMASVILLE, PA 17364
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December 2018/January 2019



December 2018
January 2019
The “Holtzschwamm Hotline”



PARADISE LUTHERAN CHURCH

(717) 259-9547

www.paradiselutheran.weebly.com

Wednesday Holy Communion 7:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship, Holy Communion

at 8 and 10:15 a.m.

Sunday School at 9 a.m.

Who's Who?

Staff, contact info., council members

Church office: (717) 259-9547 (phone and fax)

Website: www.paradiselutheran.weebly.com

Interim Pastor: Reverend Douglas E. Johnson

Cell: (515) 321-4582

Email: pastor.paradiselutheran@gmail.com

Minister of Music: Allison Trump

(home) 630-8824; paradiseorganist@yahoo.com

Secretary: Julie Maher

Email: secretary.paradiselutheran@gmail.com

Bookkeeper: Kris Gabel

Email: finance.paradiselutheran@gmail.com

Treasurer: Donna Shaffer

Sexton: Vicki Boone

Council President: Ray Grudi (717) 887-7592

Council Members, Liaison Committees

Vice President/Endowment: Marty Rexroth

Secretary: Jamie Markle

Property: Bill Sterner

Stewardship: Verla Gosnell

Social Ministry: Dean Bentzel

Evangelism: Barbie Becker

Worship and Music: Chris Davis

Christian Education: Elaine Thomas

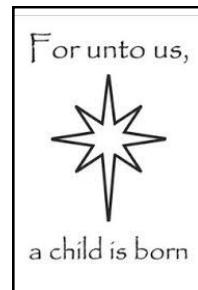
Social Activities: Linda Eisenhart

Youth: Greg Harrell

Finance: Ike Hileman

For December only; new members/officers to be elected after printing; watch the February Hotline for more complete information! Here's who we have so far for the Ballot:

Council: Steve Gochenauer, Randy Myers, Bill Snyder, Larry Rinehart, Linda Eisenhart, Tom Hoover, Michele Becker.



(People at Paradise, continued)

Deb Ruth

235 Perry Drive
York, PA 17408

Helen Schroll

1339 Grandview Road
Spring Grove, PA 17362

Mary Shaberly

The Brethren Home
Room 3953
2990 Carlisle Pike
New Oxford, PA 17350

Darlene Sheffer

36 Camelot Arms
York, PA 17402

Dean Zeigler

327 North Pine Avenue, Apt. 6B
Spring Grove, PA 17362



December anniversaries

If we miss your anniversary or make an error, please let us know!

12/05 David and Erika Reindollar, 9 years

January anniversaries

1/1 Kent and Amy Buhrman, 13 years
1/4 Karl and Peggy Mincemoyer, 33 years
1/6 Larry and Sue McConnell, 12 years



Christmas 2018 Donation to ...

World Hunger

Harvest of Hope Food Pantry

Lutheran Disaster Response — California wildfire victims

New Life for Girls

Youth Gathering fund

Name: _____

Amount paid: \$ _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Please place this form and your donation in the mail, the offering plate, or the office basket. Information received by 12/16 will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Thank you!

Thank you FROM:

Union Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg for the food pantry donation;

Linda Eisenhart for the generosity and thoughtfulness of the Friends of Paradise each year. She says she feels quite blessed to have such a great group of individuals with whom to share food and fun each month!

Julie Maher for the faithful servants who fold the bulletins each week, the newsletters each month, and handle assorted other projects. Thanks for your good work and good care for each other, and for being flexible in scheduling!

PEOPLE AT PARADISE

Neal, Linda, and Devyn Riley wish everyone a blessed Christmas and best wishes for the New Year. They say they miss their Paradise family! Also, a reminder to anyone headed to Florida or other points south for the winter, please stop in Myrtle Beach and visit them!

Sending Christmas cards to members who need a lift? Here's a list to help you in your efforts.

Betty Altland

327 North Pine Avenue,
Apt. 12B
Spring Grove, PA 17362

Helen Bosserman

Providence Place
3377 Fox Run Road
Dover, PA 17315

Kathryn Boyer

1139 KBS Road
Thomasville, PA 17364

Lenny Gardner

5195 West Canal Road
Dover, PA 17315

Janet Hansen

804 Stonegate Court
York, PA 17408

Roy Miller

1371 Chami Drive
Spring Grove, PA 17362

Jean Myers

Stonebridge Health and Rehab Center
Room 22W
102 Chandra Drive
Duncannon, PA 17020

INTERIM PASTOR'S PAGE

"Who needs the ELCA? We do!"

This is the last in a series of three articles focusing on the reasons we need the church in all three of its expressions: the congregation, the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). This article focuses on the ELCA. Note that the offerings we give support the ministry of all three expressions of this church. They go to support the ministry of our congregation, and then we pass along a portion to the wider church – we call this Mission Support. Our Mission Support is passed on to the Lower Susquehanna Synod (this year that will total over \$14,000) to support its ministries. The synod passes on the greater portion of our Mission Support to the ELCA to fund its ministries.

What are those ministries? And why are they important? They are the types of ministries that no single congregation could provide, but that are essential to

the health and vitality of the church. Here are some of the things our Mission Support dollars have been enabling in 2018:

† We provided funding to plant 357 new congregations in areas of the country that have no Lutheran witness.

† We supported 230 missionaries in more than 48 countries.

† We supported the work of seven ELCA seminaries to prepare future rostered leaders for our congregations.

BTW – the pastor that we call here at Paradise in the coming months will have been trained at one of these seminaries. It's great

to know that whoever we call will be well educated and solidly prepared!

† We supported more than 300 Lutheran social ministry organizations (like our local SpiriTTrust) across the country through Lutheran Services in America. These organizations together impact the lives of 1 in 50 Americans each year!

† We reached out with love and care to people impacted by disasters – flooding, hurricanes and tornados, and right now, wildfires – through Lutheran Disaster Response.

† We helped feed the hungry



both here and abroad through the work of ELCA World Hunger.

† We support Augsburg/Fortress Publishing House – the publication arm of the ELCA. Right now our Sunday School children are using curriculum resources and age-appropriate versions of the Bible that come from Augsburg.

Notice that these are all incredibly important ministries. They are all things that we as an individual congregation could not provide alone. And yet we need them, and we benefit directly from many of them.

So...who needs the ELCA?

WE DO! Let's give thanks to God that we are part of such a vibrant and effective branch of Christ's mission in the world. In fact, let's give thanks to God for all three expressions of this church.

Have a Blessed Holiday Season!

† Pastor Doug



AROUND THE CHURCH

The Breakfast Club will meet at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 4, at Cross Keys Diner. **NO gathering** in January or February; stay home—warm and dry and safe.



The Paradise Book Club



will meet on Thursday, December 13, (NOTE DATE CHANGE) at Pat Zech's house in York. **We'll meet at the church to carpool at 6:30 p.m.** The book: "1225 Christmas Tree Lane" by Debbie Macomber, and Pat's handling the refreshments.

Our January pick? For the meeting on January 3, read "Driving Miss Norma" by Tim Bauerschmidt. Heidi's all set to do the snacks. Meet at the church at 7 p.m.

(Thank you, continued)

Andrew Maher for his expertise in re-upholstering the piano bench in the choir room. Stop in and see it! Such luxury!



Everyone who set up, prepped, served, cashiered, ate, tended the stands, bought delicacies, cleaned up, and tore down tables for the Bazaar. Great teamwork!

Tom Kinard for picking up apples from Brown's Orchard each week for the backpack program; *Tom Kinard, Bill Pero, and Linda Eisenhart* for all their work with the backpack program;

Linda Eisenhart for fixing the kitchen cooler door, disassembling the oven and cleaning the gas jets (so that they'd light properly, imagine!), reconnecting a kitchen drain, and getting the water test completed for the kitchen inspection. Sheesh, talk about a "jack of all trades"!!

The Kitchen Angels for assuring that we passed our kitchen inspection with flying colors!

Linda Eisenhart for her leadership and involvement in a myriad of activities at Paradise and beyond; you always help us to focus on serving others;

Allison Trump, Minister of Music Extraordinaire, for all the extra work she puts in over the holiday season, picking music to relate to the scriptures (which she does all year long, too), coordinating performers and performances, arranging music for the Tone Chimes choir, practicing with all the choirs (sometimes four or more groups on a Sunday morning!), not to mention playing the piano and organ for worship services (some of those postludes are amazing) — well done, good and faithful and talented musical servant!!

All those who faithfully serve Jesus by serving others — paid or not — through worship, teaching, leading, preaching, mentoring, counseling, cooking, grounds-keeping, hands-on maintenance, singing, playing, bookkeeping, offering counting, cleaning, folding and collating, organizing, caring for children, donating — you know who you are!! We so appreciate your service and give thanks to God for each of you. Christmas blessings to all!



(Social Activities, continued)

New Year's meal! Till then, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Happy Groundhog Day, and Happy Valentine's Day!! ☺

Look ahead to February! Come and help prepare soup for "Souper" Bowl Sunday! We will start slicing and dicing and throwing things in the pots around 9 a.m. on Saturday, February 2, to make vegetable beef, chicken corn, ham and bean soups. Join us in the kitchen for some fellowship while we stir the pots!

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of Renna Weaver
Given by
Carol Weaver and family



In memory of Larry Schroll
Given by Mary Louise Frey

In memory of Raymond Stambaugh
Given by
Ken and Jean Stambaugh
George and Elaine Thomas
Mary Louise Frey
Angie and Nathan Cheek

be
KIND
TO OTHERS.

THANK YOU!

Thank you TO:

Our awesome trumpeter *Ben Kreitz* for his solo "Old One Hundredth"
Reformation Brass players (*Ben Kreitz, Andrew Maher, Wayne Trump, Sr.*). Excellent job, gentlemen!
Grace Notes and Sanctuary Choir for their Reformation Sunday anthem AND to our auxiliary choir members *Becci Stair and Andrew Maher*;
Julie Maher for her "jazzy" solo "Deep River"
Kay Brady for taking over for Allison during her vacation days — wonderful job!

(Around the Church, continued)

EBACC Craft Show! Head to the East Berlin Area Community Center on Saturday, December 1, for local crafts and goodies. If you could stop by the church's stand and help out for an hour, that'd be great.

ONE SERVICE at 9 a.m. on Sunday, December 9, with our annual congregational meeting to follow. We will elect Council and other representatives, and discuss and act on the proposed 2019 Budget. Please don't miss this important day in your church life.



Laurel gathering!! Join the bunch on December 2.

Please bring your nippers and gloves. Also, some of the "regulars" aren't able to participate this year, so please consider helping out this time! **We'll fashion the laurel into roping on Monday, December 10, starting at 6 p.m.** in the Fellowship Room. Join in the fun!



Decorating and un-decorating:

stay after the congregational meeting for a few minutes on December 9 to put up the sanctuary Christmas tree. Then we'll trim the church to within an inch of its life on Saturday, December 15, starting 9 a.m., and then put it all away on Saturday, January 5, 2019, starting around 9 a.m. BYOHC... bring your own hot chocolate!



(Around the Church, continued again)

Endowment fund contributions are always welcome. Think of the Paradise of the future and make your donation now, while you're thinking of it. It may be in honor of or in memory of someone, if you like.

Remember our seminary student Alex Witt? We are happy to report that she's been ordained, having received a call to serve Our Savior Lutheran Church in Williamsburg, Virginia! Thanks be to God, and congrats to Alex!

The deadline for the next Hotline: January 15 for the **February 2019** issue. Please put your info. in the basket outside the office or e-mail paradise.lutheran@verizon.net. Thanks.

Women's retreat is set for April 5-6, 2019, at Camp Kirkenwald. Don't forget to let Verla Gosnell know if you're planning to attend, and make sure you're setting aside your registration fee (a little at a time?) so it's ready for you to pay when required. The more women we have going, the lower the cost per person will be, so invite a friend... or two!!



The December website is sponsored by Deanna Krout and family, in memory of Larry Krout.



January's website is sponsored by **Dale and Barb Musser** in memory of their parents, Robert Zellers and Rosella Buchmyer, and Gordon and Helen Musser. **February, March, May, September, and October 2019** are available to sponsor; \$20 per month. Our website is www.paradiselutheran.weebly.com.

(Social Ministry, continued)

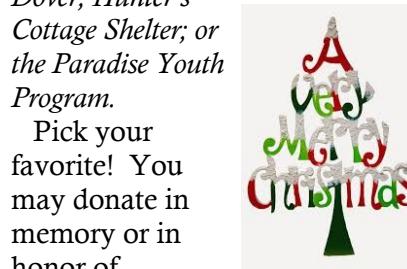
Mittens, mittens, who has the mittens?!

Donations of mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats (all sizes) for the

Mitten Tree will be divided between **New Life for Girls** and **Bell Socialization Services**. The missions envelopes on the same tree will benefit the *Manow School in Tanzania; New Life for Girls in Dover; Hunter's Cottage Shelter; or the Paradise Youth Program*.

Pick your favorite! You may donate in memory or in honor of someone.

January is Paradise's month to stock the Harvest of Hope food pantry. Grocery bags with attached shopping lists are in the narthex for your convenience. Shop, please, and bring your bags and items back and place them in front of the altar. Many, many thanks! The food pantry clients appreciate your donations to help them provide for their families.



Numbers updates:

Project Share — Giant receipts:
12 receipts collected = \$12
donated to Project Share to feed others! Thank you.

Eight blankets donated for Blanket Sunday.

CROP Walk: 89 walkers, \$4,098 collected; \$1,024.50 donated to the East Berlin Food Pantry.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Friends of Paradise (our group for senior and not-on-your-life senior citizens; they meet the second Tuesday of most months, 10 a.m.)

[Thanks to Linda Eisenhart for this information and for serving as coordinator]

Wonderful time at Hoss's in November —

great group of 34! It WAS all fun and games... and eating, of course!! December 5 will be our bus trip to Sight and Sound for the spectacular production of "Jesus."



No Friends of Paradise meetings in January or February. Return in March for the (late)

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Harvest of Hope Food Pantry:

Still need 6 volunteers for Monday, December 17, from 1 to 6 p.m. to pack and distribute Christmas meals. At noon, lunch will be served *for the volunteers!* Two to three volunteers are also needed for December 18, from 4:15 to 7 p.m. for the regular pantry hours/duties. See Linda Eisenhart. Thank you!

The Jesse Tree will be in the sanctuary during Advent. Pick a name off the tree — a shut-in from Paradise or a child from the Head Start program. Shut-ins appreciate a visit; call to arrange a convenient time. Shop for the children (suggested limit \$35) and place the wrapped gifts in a book bag, duffle bag, gift bag, or other reusable bag with the child's gift tag stapled on the outside of the bag. Please see that your gifts are under the Jesse Tree by Sunday, December 9. Thanks so much, Paradise people, for caring and sharing so abundantly! We thank God for you!

New Mission added!!

Hunter's Cottage is a home where the homeless population who can't immediately go back

into the community can reside for 30-45 days to receive medical respite care, help with finding housing, financial support, and community resources. It's also a long-term care boarding home for those who can no longer live independently. There are currently 16 residents (9 male, 7 female). We are looking to provide some personal comfort items for the residents during the holidays. Many have next to nothing of their own, having had their belongings stolen on the streets. In the narthex is a display of suggested items for them. Please consider helping this group of less fortunate individuals with donations of **washcloths, towels, socks, pump hand soap, blanket throws, coffee mugs, razors, toothpaste/brushes, Q-tips, bath soap, hand lotion**. Please bring your donations to the narthex by December 16. Many thanks!

Harvest of Hope Pantry

needs:

Dec.: peanut butter, jelly
Jan.: ramen noodles and meal helpers
Feb.: macaroni, baked beans

Place your donations in the box outside the church office. Thanks so much!

Stewardship for Advent and Christmas

Many of us cherish everything about the Christmas season -- except those incessant advertisements telling us to buy this and buy that. We ask, "Where's Jesus in all this commercialism?" This is the right question. Though it asks us to examine every aspect of our lives, stewardship particularly challenges us to question the role money plays in our personal lives and our culture.

Christmas presents are wonderful expressions of love that makes both giver and recipient feel good. At the same time, we want to be wary of advertising's lure to make us overspend, or to think that the cost of our gift is proportionate to our love. Most of all, we need to be sure that the main point of our Christmas is not the gifts we give, but the gift we receive from God – Jesus.

Here are some ideas:

- ✓ Challenge yourself to spend less for presents this year. Set a budget and stick to it;
- ✓ Attend worship regularly in Advent and Christmas;
- ✓ Give some handmade presents: a scarf or hat, a photo album, a batch of fudge, a card, a poem;



- ✓ Prayerfully read Advent daily devotions (Richard Rohr's "Preparing for Christmas" is amazing!);
- ✓ Give your time: a concert together, a shared meal, a day at a museum, a walk in the woods;
- ✓ Use an Advent calendar to help you remember all that God has given you;
- ✓ Give service: wash a loved one's car, help clean the garage, paint a room, babysit for an evening;
- ✓ Play Christmas music that has religious themes (More "Silent Night," less "Frosty the Snowman");

- ✓ Instead of buying a present, make a donation to a charitable organization in honor of your loved one (check out ELCA Good Gifts!);
- ✓ Make a generous year-end contribution to your congregation. Our thoughtful practices for Advent and Christmas not only make for good stewardship of our time, talents, relationships and money, they also help us to draw near to Our Lord and experience God's greatest gift to us.

--Rob Blezard, assistant to the LSS Bishop

TREASURER'S INFORMATION

How was October? Check these numbers...

	October needs for God's Mission	Your gifts in October	Difference
Current	\$18,195.00	\$14,201.94	—\$3,993.06
Benevolence	\$1,167.00	\$996.00	—\$171.00
Action 2000	\$2,274.00	\$4,804.50	+\$2,530.50 Mortgage!
	Our needs, to date	Total gifts, to date	Difference
Current	\$157,841.45	\$150,973.32	—\$6,868.13

Interest paid 2018: \$4,341.36

Principal paid 2018: \$18,814.64

Building debt principal owed:

\$131,796.52

October Special Offering for Spring Grove backpack program: \$155.00



Special Offering Envelope —

December's envelope will go toward
our Benevolence contribution to the synod.
January's envelope: our Endowment Fund.
Thank you for your generosity.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

What's happening at worship?

*From Allison Trump,
Minister of Music —
Christmas Eve Concerts —*

Participants are still needed for our Christmas Eve concerts before the 7 and 10 p.m. worship services. If you are interested, please see Allison ASAP!



Jazz up your Christmas! Once again, the Christmas Jazz Ensemble will reunite on Sunday, December 30, 2018, for our **ONE service (9 a.m.)**. If you are interested in participating, please see Allison for a book. We'll practice on Saturday, December 29, at 10:30 a.m.



Pageant! "Company's Coming" on Sunday, December 30, at the ONE SERVICE at 9 a.m.

Rehearsal schedule in the box below! Please plan to attend this special presentation!

At-a-Glance Choir Schedule

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!

Praise Team: right after early church on Sundays, December 2, 16, 23; January 6, 13, 20, 27;

Sanctuary Choir: 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays, December 12 and 19; and January 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30;

Grace Notes: 9:40 a.m. Sundays, December 2; January 6, 13, and 20;

Tone Chimes: 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, December 12 and 19; No Tone Chimes rehearsals in January!

Younger Choirs: 9 a.m. during Sunday School December 2, 16, 23; January 6, 13, 20, and 27;

Pageant: Sundays, December 2, 16, 23 immediately after late worship; *dress rehearsal Saturday, December 29, 9 a.m.*

Jazz Ensemble: 10:30 a.m. Saturday, December 29;

NO REHEARSALS between December 3 and 9: Allison's vacation! **No rehearsals December 30: Pageant!!**