

# The Pastor's Page

December 2018  
"The Season of Waiting"



Grace and peace to you!

Advent is a season of waiting. The word "advent" is from the Latin *adventus*; it means "arrival" or an awaited coming. It is a time for us to prepare our lives for the coming of Christ—and for the fulfillment of God's promises for the redemption and resurrection of all things.

I always find it ironic that the season of waiting passes by so quickly. After Thanksgiving, time slips into high gear and we quickly sail into Christmas. There's so much to do in order to prepare for Christmas: the shopping, the decorating, the planning. Before we know it, Advent and Christmas have come and gone once again. Personally, I wish Advent would last a little bit longer!

It's difficult to focus on *waiting* during the busiest time of the year. It's difficult to embrace *hope* in a season where the pains and sorrows of life are intensified. I always say, "if it hurts, it hurts more at Christmas."

Yet, the reason why we celebrate Christmas is because God looked upon the pain and suffering of God's creation—and was born into it. All who cry out for redemption and release will wait no longer. Jesus Christ is born for you. He joins himself to us as he vanquishes death and reconciles humanity to God. God has heard our cries and the groanings of creation. Jesus Christ is born.

He takes on flesh not just in the words of the Gospel, but in the Body of the Baptized. Together, we feast upon the word and the sacraments. Together, we share his love with one another and with the neighbors. Together, we proclaim his goodness through our service to all in need. Still, we await the day when we will see Christ face-to-face. In the meantime, Christ makes his presence real in the life and mission of his Church.

This begs the question: who is waiting for God's deliverance? Where are God's children crying out for bread, for companionship, for healing, for forgiveness? Where are God's children held captive to exploitation, war, and violence? Is God real? Is God listening? Will God come to save us?

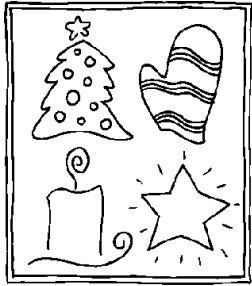
The birth of Christ is God's resounding YES! The challenge in this hectic time is to remember that without Christ, there is absolutely NOTHING to celebrate. Christmas will come and go, but our need for him is endless. Now more than ever, we turn our attention to receiving him in Word and Sacrament; to welcoming him in the stranger; to bearing witness to him in our words and deeds. Our mission field is wherever God's children are waiting for redemption and release.

Darkness, desperation, and despair are dispelled wherever Jesus shows up—and wherever his people are there to proclaim, "Jesus loves you, and so do I." Your waiting is not in vain.

In Christian love,

+ Pastor Jim

## WE WISH HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:



DECEMBER

- 1 – Lindsay Smythe
- 3 – Kimberly Munko
- 3 – Alexander Klazon
- 4-Nicole Green
- 4- Jenna Zannotti
- 5-Paul King
- 9-John Hogan
- 13 – Lacey Hileman
- 14-Lauren Marziale
- 19-Michael Zimmerman
- 20-Ben Belfield
- 21 – Jeff Smeal
- 21-Amanda Zimmerman West
- 21-Christina Zimmerman Gestner
- 28 – Richard Muth
- 29 – Doreen Smeal

## Celebrating

*An Anniversary This Month*

- 7-Bill & Betty Kepple
- 12 – James & Susan Antoniono
- 24-Andrea & Mark McCool

## Baptismal Anniversaries

- 1 - Joseph Munko Jr
- 1 – Clint Graham
- 2 - Lois Fulton
- 6 – Beverly Woodside
- 7 – Joshua Hey
- 8 – Sandy Rubright
- 12 - Robert Cribbs
- 12 – Logan Cribbs
- 15 – Lindsay Smythe
- 26 – Renae Blystone
- 27 – Emory Bonadio
- 31 – Tifanie Gagen



### Electronic Giving



First Lutheran Church is now accepting online giving. Go to our website, [servinggodgracefully.net](http://servinggodgracefully.net) then click on **give on line** Follow the directions.

Check out Pastor Jim's **BLOG** page, <http://jamesarter3.blogspot.com> where you can read his sermons and Bible studies!

### Office Angels

Thank you to all who come in to assemble the newsletter. More volunteers are welcome

## Worship Assistants

### Acolytes

- 12/2 Spencer Libengood
- 12/9 Victoria Hogan
- 12/16 Elsa Zalenski
- 12/23 Olivia Smythe
- 12/24 **Volunteer needed!**
- 12/30 Katie Muth

### Assisting Ministers

- 12/2 Victoria Hogan
- 12/9 Jason Delp
- 12/16 Katie Muth
- 12/23 Andi McCool
- 12/24 Margaret McKallip
- 12/30 Clint Graham

### Altar Guild

- 12/2 Diane Kuhn & Janis Hill
- 12/9 Cheryl Nelson & Sandy Smythe
- 12/16 Debbie Smail & Terra Kardos
- 12/23 Lois Bowser & Chris Fuller
- 12/24 Kathy Munko & Janis Hill
- 12/30 Carolyn Shaffer & Cheryl Nelson

### Head Usher

Len Kalmar

### Oil

Given in memory of Rod McKelvey  
by Jackie McKelvey

## Newsletter Deadline December 16



## Blood Pressure check

The **third Sunday** of every month, we will be checking Blood Pressure in the **Nursery**. If you are interested in a monthly record of your blood pressure, please join us immediately after church service. Those taking B/Ps are Sandy Smythe, Andrea McCool, and Amada Graham.



## Clothing Closet

We will be open **every month** on the third Saturday. The next sale date is **December 15**. If you would like to volunteer on one of the sale dates, please contact Janice King. Sorting on Wednesdays 9 AM - Noon

## Prayer Ministry

We have a special place set up in the area behind the organ console. The 3 windows are set up for different prayer needs. There is a place for **public prayers** (situations and people that anyone can know about and pray for), there is a box for more **private prayers** and another box for prayers that **just Pastor Jim** would see and pray for. If anyone would like to be personally prayed with; we will be available on Sunday mornings.

## Bible Study

The Bible studies meet the second Wednesday **December 12** from 9AM – 10 AM and 6PM -7PM.



Come join us for Breakfast at King's Family Restaurant in Leechburg on **December 8!** We will meet at 9 AM on the **second Saturday of every month.** This is a time for fellowship, a short devotion and prayer. Everyone is invited to attend!



## Office Hours

The secretary is in the office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
724-845-7518

### Pastor James Arter

Tuesday – 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM  
Wednesday and Thursday – 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
Or by appointment

### Contact Information

Pastor James Arter, 930 Wildlife Lodge Road,  
Apt. 302, Lower Burrell, PA 15068  
Phone 724-212-7240  
[pr.jim@comcast.net](mailto:pr.jim@comcast.net)

### Ink Cartridges

**Thank you** to all who have brought in ink cartridges. Please continue to bring them in. This helps save considerably on our office supplies!



VISIT  
OUR  
WEB  
SITE

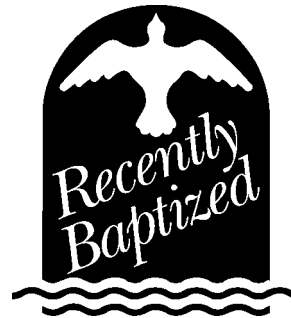
Like us on **Facebook** and stay connected with all that's happening in our church!

[www.facebook.com/servinggodgracefully](http://www.facebook.com/servinggodgracefully)

### Wanted - E-mail addresses



Do you have an e-mail address you would like to share with the office? This would be used to send reminders and possibly items mailed by first class mail. You can send it to [felc@windstream.net](mailto:felc@windstream.net)

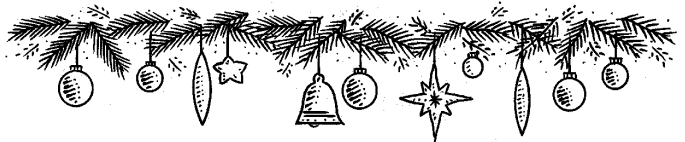


On Sunday, November 18, **Henry John Szarek** was baptized. Hank is the son of Alicia and Matt Szarek and grandson of John & Debbie Smail. Also baptized that same day was Michelle Baldesberger, niece of

John & Debbie Smail!

### New members

On Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup> we also welcomed two new members to our Church family, Pete Williamson by transfer and Mark McCool by profession of faith. Welcome to ALL!



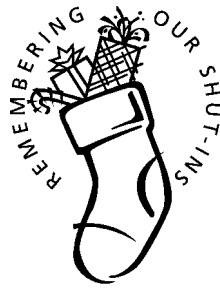
### Congratulations New Council Members

John Smail, Doreen Smeal & Terra Kardos have been elected to serve on our Church Council. Thank you and congratulations!

### Congregational Meeting

The second part of the Congregational meeting will be held after our 10:30 AM Worship on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>.

# Advent



Our congregation has used a Jesse Tree since 1981 as a way to help others for Christmas. This year we will be continuing this tradition by collecting gifts for our **home bound** members and for **residents in Concordia**.

Watch the bulletins for more details.



Don't forget our homebound

Everyone likes to be remembered with a card. Here is a list of our home bound members and friends.

**Al Carter**, 160 Marwood Rd, Apt. 3206  
Cabot, PA 16023

**Fred Fitzgibbon**, 330 Main St. Apt 5F  
Leechburg, PA 15656

**Susan Fredrick**, 21 Jessica Lane  
Leechburg, PA 15656 (Daughter of Jane Neely)

**Lillian Gabelli**, Quality Life Services of Apollo  
Room 135, 151 Goodview Drive,  
Apollo, PA 15613-8527

**Patrick Greenawalt**, Quality Life Services of  
Apollo Room 207, 151 Goodview Drive,  
Apollo, PA 15613-8527

**Betty & Bill Kepple**, 310 Lillian Road,  
Leechburg, PA 15656

**June Klingensmith**, 427 Pennsylvania Ave  
Verona PA, 15147-3824

**Tim & Karen McGuire**, 2694 River Road  
Vandergrift, PA 15690

**Marjorie Miller**, Fairport Baptist Home,  
4646 Nine Mile Road, Fairport, NY 14450

**Nancy Nawrocki**, Concordia Lutheran  
Ministries, 134 Marwood Rd. Room 2106  
Cabot, PA 16023

**Melville Reed**, 300 Indian Hill Rd,  
Leechburg, PA 15656

**Eleanor Shaffer**, Pine View Personal Care  
Home, 1113 Pine View Rd  
Vandergrift, PA 15690-6136

**Cathy "Cat" West**, 104 W. Adams Ave  
Vandergrift, PA 15690

**Florence Wyrick**, Golden Living Center  
4142 Monroeville Blvd, Monroeville, PA 15146

**Karen Zimmerman**  
**Ufemio Biagoni** (Karen's dad)  
372 ½ Lincoln Ave, Leechburg, PA 15656

**Betty Stover** (friend of Margaret McKallip)  
Concordia Lutheran Ministries



## WELCA

The November meeting of WELCA will be held on December 4 at 1:00 PM at Hebron Lutheran Church.  
ALL women are invited to attend.



Our annual Congregation Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> after our 10:30 Worship. Come and enjoy some good food and great fellowship!

## Year-end reports

A reminder to all committee chairmen, end of the year reports need to be into the office by January 13, 2019.

# Christmas around the World



Come join the children on an imaginary trip around the world, learn of customs from other countries, sing some Christmas Carols and listen to the children sing the songs they are working so hard to learn. This is always a great time!



**Monday,  
December 24  
Music at 6:30 PM  
Worship at 7:00 PM**

Please note the time change. We hope this is more convenient for all of our members!

## Thank You!

I send my thanks for all the wonderful thoughts, prayers, cards and food that I received during my recovery. My church family is special.

*Deb Smail*



## Congratulations!

Taken from the *Leader Times*; West Shamokin's **Kenny Muth** Reaches PIAA Cross Country state finals in Hershey on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. He is also on the West Shamokin's soccer team that won the District VI championship and went on to the state championship game.

## Sight & Sound's "Jesus"

Forks Zion is organizing a bus trip to Lancaster to see Sight & Sound's "Jesus" on April 8 – 10, 2019. Cost is \$219 per person, double occupancy. For more information and reservations, contact Sandy Hess at Forks Zion. (724) 845-6627

## Newsletter Deadline

The newsletter deadline is December 16<sup>th</sup>! The newsletter will go out BEFORE Christmas and will be for January AND February! Please try to plan ahead!

## Meditation Garden

We will have a presentation by a Master Gardener on a proposed meditation garden. If you are interested in hearing more, please join us on December 4 at 6:00 PM



## Abiding Memorials:

### **In Memory of Eileen Eshelman:**

Given by Tom & Sandy Smythe  
Mary Beth Girardi  
Jeff & Doreen Smeal  
Clothing Closet  
Don Aber  
Ralph & Diane Kuhn  
Chris Fuller  
Lois Bowser

### **In Memory of Robert Suveges:**

Given by David McCracken

### **In Memory of Robert Fulton:**

Given by Sara Rupert

### **In Memory of Pastor Jim's Grandparents:**

Given by Ron Kilgore

## Abiding Gifts

### **In Honor of pastors Jim & Elizabeth Arter:**

Given by Ron Kilgore

### **In Honor of the Funeral Luncheon Kitchen Ladies:**

Given by Lois Fulton

## Live Nativity

Join Concordia's Sixth Annual Live Nativity, December 16, 148 Marwood Rd., Cabot Performances at 4:40, 5:15 & 6:00 PM. Fliers in the Rotunda