



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

ReMarks and ReMindors

December 17, 2021

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR RUSS

An Update about COVID-19 and Masks

Bishop Davenport recently sent an update to congregations and rostered ministers in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod with an update about the pandemic. In that update, Bishop Davenport noted that numbers of cases are where they were in last year's 'winter surge,' even though many of us are vaccinated now, when we weren't last year, and that those numbers are continuing to increase dramatically.

The council at St. Mark's is in the process of re-evaluating our response to the pandemic, and looking at what precautions are appropriate in order for us to continue to gather in worship safely. As we continue in that process, we'll keep everyone updated with more information.

For now, though, if you're planning to come to our in-person worship gatherings, we strongly encourage you to wear a mask, especially if you haven't yet been vaccinated. In addition to the physical precautions of masks, distancing, and vaccination, I'd urge you to pray – for an end to the pandemic, for strength and hope for health-care workers and public health officials, for safety and health for all of God's people, and for God's kingdom to come on earth.

In the hope of Christ's coming,
Pastor Russ

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Are you ready? One week from today is Christmas Eve! Have you marked your calendars with the new worship service times for Christmas Eve? We will be holding services at 4:00 PM and 8:00 PM. Holy Communion will be offered at both services. The Sunday after Christmas we will hold one service at 10:15AM. From there, we just speed on into year 2022. If you ordered poinsettias, they will be available for pick up after the Christmas Eve services.

YOUTH OUTREACH

We need your help to set out luminaries at 5PM on Christmas Eve and to take them in at 9PM. And don't forget, Wednesday, Dec. 29th, you will be meeting here at church at 3:30PM for your Christmas celebration and trip to the zoo.

The following note to you was received here at church:

The family of Kenny Mohr would like to thank Pastor Russ, Pastor Paul and Pastor Chuck, Karen, Sally, Joan and Judy for a beautiful service.

Thank you to all the ladies who worked in the kitchen. Thank you for all who baked for the luncheon.

*Thank you to my church family for all the cards, food, flowers and support. And to the Outreach Group, thank you for the fruit basket and to the Youth Outreach for the card. We are so blessed at St. Mark's. Thanks again,
Diane.*

THINGS TO KNOW

The annual winter Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Mark's will take place on Tuesday, Jan 4th from 2:00PM to 7:00PM. It's never too early or late to schedule your donation time. New donors are welcome and needed! Please contact Maribeth Reigner at 215-679-8563. A few minutes from you can be worth a lifetime to a recipient. Thanks!

The flower chart for 2022 is hanging in the narthex. Please take a minute to check that the information already filled in is correct. This information was taken from the 2020 chart. If any changes need to be made, please contact Bonnie at 215-280-4861. There are quite a few open dates if you would like to sponsor altar flowers. **Please note that Jan. 2nd is open. If you are interested in this date, please call Bonnie or the church office**

We are receiving many calls and cards thanking us for the fruit baskets. Heartfelt thanks expressing how much your thoughtfulness meant to them. Thank you to all who made this possible – from your donations to the people who delivered the baskets last Saturday – you have made the holidays bright and cheery!

Harold Hieter has moved to Phoebe Richland – Meadow Glen Room 232, 108 South Main Street, Richlandtown, PA 18955. His daughter, Sue, said he will be there for the foreseeable future. Harold's new phone # is 267-371-4972. He would love to hear from you!

The Thrift Shop on 4th Street in Pennsburg is in need of volunteers. Stop in or call Fred at 215-679-6555 if you can help with moving items, pricing, etc.

Sadly, two members of our church passed away recently: Carolyn Smith and Betty Press. Further information has not yet been received.

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Elsie Antonio, Ed Bieler, Lillie Bosler, Lisa Clark, Jack Cross, Barbara Diehl, Marilyn Donis, Andrew Erb, Marie Grubb, John Gruver, David Haines, Peggy Haines, Harold Hieter, Lisa Krause, Mitchell Kulp, Marie Jones, Dennis Laubach, Barbara Lehmann, Pat Matthews, Kenneth Miller, Thomas Mohr, Sylvie Moll-Peugh, Deb Mullen, Barbara Opachinski, Lenny Rafalko June Reigner, Mary Jane Schaeffer, Patsy Wampole and Charlene Wilson.

Please call the church office (215-679-9015) with any changes/additions.