



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

ReMarks and ReMindrs

December 31, 2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Tomorrow we begin 2022, a new year. Perhaps this new year will bring along with it new opportunities, new hope, new outlook. Of course, there will also be new resolutions! But how long will they last? I will make pork and sauerkraut. Because. I will write or type 2021 for at least another month. Winter will settle in, but the daylight will be getting a minute longer each day (that may or may not be an accurate statement). The tree comes down and the room seems larger! The first snowfall is always so exciting! So enjoy these new days of this new year. There's a puzzle corner in our library – come get a puzzle to work. When you are done, bring it back and get another. Check out some of the books we have here. Think about joining a committee like Property, Outreach, Altar Guild. There's WELCA and Adult Bible Class. What about being a lay reader, help with being an usher at a service or try your hand at operating the computer or camera for livestreaming our service? It's a brand new year!

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!

Lenny Rafalko, along with Heather and Alex Schmitt are featured in this month's Greater Philadelphia ALS podcast, which highlights the October 9th "Walk to Defeat ALS" held at Cedar Crest College. The podcast is regularly co-hosted by our own Lenny Rafalko, who was diagnosed with ALS in July of 2019, and has become a patient advocate for those patients and caregivers living with ALS. Co-hosting is Jessie, a social worker who works with the ALS Community.

Heather Schmitt and her son Alex were among the guests interviewed for their work with our Youth Outreach's "Team Lenny's Light" which brought together 42 youth and adult members of St Marks, as well as family and friends of Lenny. The Team ended up raising over \$7,500 - the third highest total of all the teams in the walk.

The podcast can be found by searching for "Roots Radio ALS", and listening to Episode 6.

On the night of Dec. 10 and early morning of Dec. 11, an outbreak of at least 30 tornadoes swept through six states. So far, 88 people are reported dead across five states, at least 75 of them in Kentucky. Homes and businesses were destroyed, and in some areas electricity and water systems will take weeks to repair. Lutheran Disaster Response is collaborating with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and other partners in the area to assess the damage and develop immediate and longterm response plans.

Given the initial damage assessments, recovery will likely take years, and Lutheran Disaster Response is prepared to accompany survivors until the response is complete. Your gifts will support tornado survivors. Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response for tornados will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by tornadoes now and during the long road of recovery. Together, we can provide immediate and long-lasting support. Give today to support this response and others like it. If you wish to donate, you can send your gift to St. Mark's and it will be sent to Lutheran Disaster Response.

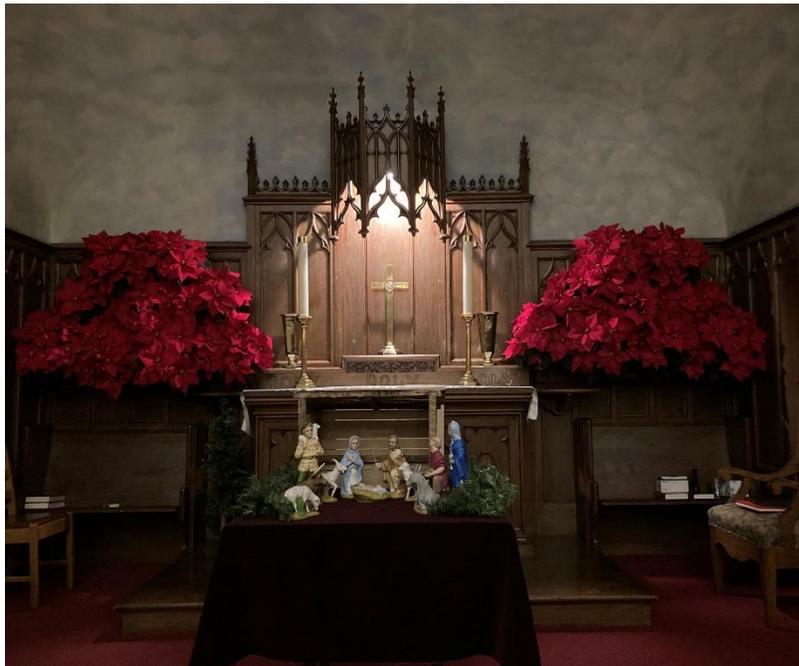
Scroll down for some photos taken at our Christmas Eve service. Thanks, Maribeth, for sharing this!

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 Mathews, Dr. Robert Mathews, Kenneth Miller, 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.





Avalyn Keller – lay reader



Andrea Schmitt - soloist



Bill Folk, Jeff Ney, Judy Love

