



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

ReMarks and ReMindern

December 15, 2020

ANGELS, WE NEED ANGELS!

This Sunday will be the 4th Sunday of Advent. Angels will begin showing up to shepherds. Soon angels will be sweetly singing throughout the plains. Please, if you can, send a photo of an angel to <https://tinyurl.com/StMarksPhotos> Your photos add so much to our worship service.

CHURCH WEBSITE

Our website address is: www.stmarkspennsburg.com If you visit the website, you will find links to click on for our recorded Sunday service, as well as the website bulletin and the Remarks & Reminders.

FRUIT BASKETS

The fruit baskets have all been delivered. They were ordered and put together by Redner's this year and were so beautiful! I have received calls and cards here at the church office thanking all of you for these baskets. Here is a note that Pastor Fluck brought in the other day:

Dear friends at St. Mark's:

Several weeks before Christmas I was the recipient of an impressive basket of fruit from our Church. I want to extend deepest appreciation to all involved in its sending. I trust all of you are keeping well in this time of pandemic. My hope and prayer is that 2021 will enable us to return to some semblance of normality. Keep safe! God bless you all!

Pr. William A. Fluck

A WORD ABOUT ROUTINE, RITUALS & SIMPLICITY

A while ago, Pastor Bartlett shared an article with me about those three words – routine, ritual and simplicity. I would like to share part of it now with you. It's by a mother who is also a pastor. At her church office one day with her 8 year old son, they saw someone coming in the door. She asked her son to put

on his mask. He replied he couldn't find, but not to worry – he would just hold his breath. Well, she found the mask, but his comment stayed with her all day.

The pandemic changed the ordinary routines of life for them. Like most parents, she wanted to make things easier for him. Holding his breath was definitely not what she wanted for him. A change of focus was needed for them, and maybe others like you.

Begin by adding meaning to your existing routines. When getting the kids, or yourself, ready for bed, stop and say “Thank you, God, for this day”. In the morning while you are sipping your coffee or tea, take a few minutes and list your blessings. See if these become routine after a week.

Create rituals. It can be as simple as lighting a candle. Read the words of the nativity story in Luke 2 – read them out loud. Then on a clear night, take a nighttime star walk. So much of the Christmas story is guided by stars and walking. Ritual is about creating a sense of ceremony and celebration.

Simplify. You don't need stacks of books or a drawer overflowing with craft items. Just some simple ideas that fit into your family. Maybe it's making something new for Christmas or maybe it's just spending time making cookies. Simplicity gives you new perspective. God created all things including the tree now decorating your home. May its branches remind you of the shelter and shade God provides. May its trunk remind you of God's strength. May the lights bring you peace as you remember God's gift this season, the gift of baby Jesus.

This year Christmas will be different than any we have experienced. Give yourself and your family the gift of routine, ritual and simplicity so you can experience the holidays without holding your breath.

Excerpts from an article by Traci Smith – used with permission.

The Christian Century

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The annual winter Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by St. Mark's is scheduled for Tuesday, January 5, 2:00-7:00 PM. The drive will once again be held at the East Greenville Fire Company, 401 Washington Street, East Greenville, to allow for maximum social distancing space. Many thanks to East Greenville Fire Company for generously donating their social hall! Thanks also to those who already signed up for donation appointments. We still have 21 donor slots to fill including 6 reserved for Power Red donors. All Covid safety protocols will be

followed. It is never too early to reserve your donation slot! A few minutes of your time can be worth a lifetime to another. Please contact Maribeth Reigner at 215-679-8563 to schedule an appointment or register online at www.redcrossblood.org. Thank you!

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Lillie Bosler, Lisa Clark, Jack Cross, Marilyn Donis, Randy Dotter, Andrew Erb, Renae Fosbenner, Marie Grubb, Catherine Gruber, David Haines, Paul Hausmann, Harold Hieter, Marie Jones, Dennis Laubach, Merle Leh, Barbara Lehmann, Kenneth Miller, Deb Mullen, Barbara Opachinski, Lenny Rafalko and Harold Schultz.

Please call or email me with any changes or additions. The church office phone is 215-679-9015. Email address is: stmarks@stmarkspennsburg.com