

The Spirit

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

301 N. Third Street

Millville, New Jersey

December, 2019

FROM
THE
PASTOR

December Greetings to you!

We have entered the season of Advent which prepares us for the birth of the Christ Child. One of my favorite songs of the season is "Mary Did You Know?" "A song sings it: 'Mary, did you know, that your baby boy is Lord of all creation? ... This sleeping child you're holding is the great 'I am!'

How could anyone have known? Who could have guessed it? That the Almighty, Eternal God would in God's wisdom and mercy, quietly come into our world in the frailty of a baby! Born in the small town of Bethlehem in a distant corner of the Roman Empire, he would be named 'Jesus.' The name means, 'he will save,' save his people from their sins. He would be called 'Emmanuel' – it means, 'God is with us.'

We can be sure that God is with us. When God chooses to come among us, there's no telling where. God comes everywhere and anywhere, especially among the humble, in the simplest circumstances. We celebrate this birth with a renewed awareness that the holiest places in the world may be very close to us. And so we welcome the stranger, serve the poor, visit the lonely, and attend to whatever the least of these may require. We remember, too, that words alone cannot adequately respond to this holy birth. The central truth of the Christian faith is that the word became flesh, becoming vulnerable, just as we are.

May the peace of God and the joy of the season illumine your heart and lead you to the heart of God, who has chosen to become one of us as Emmanuel — God with us. God wants to know our sorrows and brokenness. More to the point, God knows our hopes, dreams and prayers for our own selves and for the world.

Be filled with the anticipation of Advent and the light of Christ come into the world through God as one of us.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Bernhardt

"THE VIRGIN WILL
conceive
and
GIVE BIRTH
to a
son,
AND THEY WILL
call him
IMMANUEL"
(which means "God with us").
MATTHEW 1:23, NIV



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**December 13th, 6:00 pm
Downtown Millville**

Enjoy the music of the season and the festivities down on High Street. Groups of Carolers will be formed and offer sounds of the season. Connect with your family and friends at St. Paul's and gather a group to be a part of this!

Childrens Craft Corner

At St Paul's Lutheran Church Millville
On 3rd and Mulberry
Sunday December 1st
Immediately following 11am worship



Air Dry Clay
Ornaments:
Create a
one-of-a-kind
memorable
ornament this year
using paints, ribbon
and clay

Have you remembered your church in your will?

*Blue Christmas Worship
December 19th, 2019, 7:00 pm*



Blue Christmas service is a worship service that acknowledges Christmas is a time of loneliness, sorrow, alienation, and sadness for many people. This service offers a way for people to claim those feelings and still feel surrounded by the compassionate love of God.



Christmas Choir Festival

Be prepared to be wowed by choirs from Millville and the surrounding area which come together on Sunday, December 8th, at 7:00 pm for an evening of beautiful song and instrumental music. Mark your calendar and come out to First Presbyterian Church, 2nd and Pine Sts, Millville. St. Paul's choir will participate.

Not only will there be seasonal beautiful music, there will be a time of fellowship and food following the concert. All are invited to this special event. Invite a friend!

A Reminder of our Advent Collections:

White athletic socks for nursing homes.

Books for our Little Free Library.
Decorating will occur during our Advent Luncheons

Items for Cornerstone Women's Center:

December 1: New clothes size 9, 12, 18, 24 months & 2T
December 8: Baby Food and Cereal
December 15: Diapers size 4, 5, & 6
December 22: Baby Bath Towels – neutral colors



**Help Decorate the Sanctuary!
Friday, December 6th,
5:30 pm
Pizza following the
decorating.
Join us and bring a friend!**

We would like to send out our newsletter electronically to those who have an email. If your newsletter was mailed and you have an email please contact us!

Neighborhood Worship and Food Distribution

Last month we were able to distribute 30 Turkeys and 20 double bags of "Thanksgiving Meal fixins" to those who attend our Neighborhood Worship. Many thanks to the Tri County Rotary for donating all of the food including the Turkeys. They also organized filling the bags. We are grateful for this partnership as we share in service together.

We also recently opened our clothes closet and our neighbors were invited to "shop." Thanks to all who donated and offered their time to sort and organize.



A Word of Thanks . . .

As our year comes to a close this month I would like to thank all who have offered their time and talents to the ministry of Christ at St. Paul's. We have served together to reach out to our community in ways which enrich the lives of those in need and offer them some tangible needs. This year we offered "Neighborhood Bible Camp" and began our clothes closet which involved many folks donating clothes and helping to sort and organize. We have hosted community meetings as a part of Millville's plan for center city and we have made a commitment to be a part of that plan. A huge community event is coming up in the Spring which we will host in our parking lot. We have partnered with Tri County Rotary for our Thanksgiving event. We have also shared our space with Caitlin Geisser and her Triple Threat Theatre Group.

Many thanks as well to those who are dedicated to making sure our worship space is prepared, our communion elements are ready, our fellowship time includes beautiful decorations and delicious treats, our building is safe and kept up in a manner that we can be proud of, and the tedious work of our office tasks are completed.

Please know that you are loved and appreciated for all you do. I look forward to another year of serving together in ministry where we are called to love God and love Neighbor.

Pastor Bernhardt





*Christmas Eve Celebration Worship
with Holy Communion and
Candle lighting*

7:00 pm December 24th

**special gathering music offered before worship*
*beginning at 6:30 pm**

All are welcome! Bring a friend!

All are Welcome! Invite a friend!

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
301 N. Third Street
Millville, NJ 08332

Worship Times

Traditional Worship
Sunday Morning
11:00 a.m.

Neighborhood Worship
followed by
food distribution
12:45 p.m.

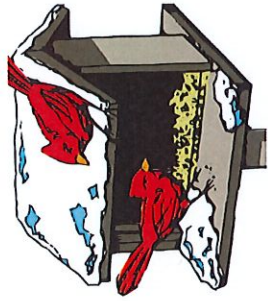
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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

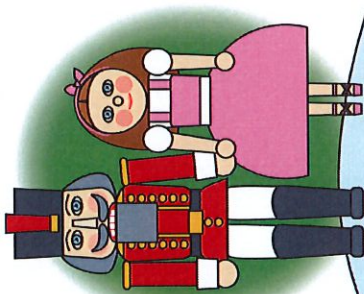
december

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:45 am Choir Rehearsal 11 am Worship with Communion Story Time with Pastor Advent Soup Lunch Children's Christmas Craft 12:45pm Neighborhood Worship	2	3	4	5 1:30pm Chair Yoga	6 5:30 pm—Pizza!	7
8 9:45 am Choir Rehearsal 11 am Worship with Communion Advent Soup Lunch 12:45pm Neighborhood Worship 7:00 pm Choir Festival, First Presbyterian Church, 2nd & Pine Sts.	9	10 7 pm Congregation Council	11	12 1:30 pm Chair Yoga	13 6:00 pm City of Millville Winter Festival Downtown - Caroling	14
15 9:45 am Choir Rehearsal 11AM Worship with Communion Parament Dedication/Blessing Advent Soup Lunch 12:45 pm Neighborhood Worship	16	17	18 12 Noon Ladies Luncheon	19 1:30 pm Chair Yoga 7:00 pm Blue Christmas Service	20	21 
22 9:45 am Choir Rehearsal 11AM Worship with Communion New Members received Advent Soup Lunch 12:45 pm Neighborhood Worship	23	24 Christmas Eve 7:00 pm Worship with music beginning at 6:30 pm	25 	26 1:30 pm Chair Yoga	27	28
29 11AM Worship with Communion Will include carol sing. No Neighborhood Worship today.	30	31 				



Lisa Piper December 2
 LaRue Cheeseman December 3
 Christine Kelly December 6
 Matthew Mingin December 9
 Ryan Schischkin December 10
 Newell Branin Jr. December 19
 Tracy Butcher December 22
 Shelby Myers
 Dr. Jill Mortenson December 31



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Kellie & Andy Slade December 3
 Keith & Karen Bernhardt December 16
 Bob & Diana Russell December 21
 Brian & Daneen Barr December 27



Melissa Mosley
 Salvatore Longo
 Robert Bailey
 Dolores
 Donald Connally
 Elwood Moore
 Charles Chew
 Donna Oliver
 Karen Locker
 Janice Dunn
 Jan Barrett Henry
 James Banks
 Vertie Kunkle
 Grace O'Neal
 Marlene D'Ambra
 Pamela Spahn
 Orville Zienker
 Judy Bisaquino
 Jayla Jones
 Pitman Family
 Michael Rome family
 Thomas Gaither family
 Debra & Michael Iacovelli
 Mary & Walter Garton

Laurie
 Mary Louise Bailey
 Jeanene Vail
 Virginia Richards
 Dee Gilmore
 Abigail Post
 Sheryl Scull
 Mark Abbamonte
 Betty Smith
 Betty Hodge
 Edward Dean
 Helen Sloan
 Ken Stenberg
 Judy Wettstein
 Alessio Scutto
 Kevin Garton
 John Schneider
 Tania Wright
 Dr. Larry Miller

Members of the Armed Forces called to keep our country safe.

GREETERS SCHEDULE

Dec. 1 – Linda Branim
 Dec. 8 – Gretchen Bruner
 Dec. 15 – Donna Jemison
 Dec. 22 – Bob & Diana Russell
 Dec. 24 – Gretchen Bruner & Gabe Mitchell
 Dec. 29 – Doris Bowen

Poinsettia Order Form

\$10 each



Name: _____

In memory of: _____

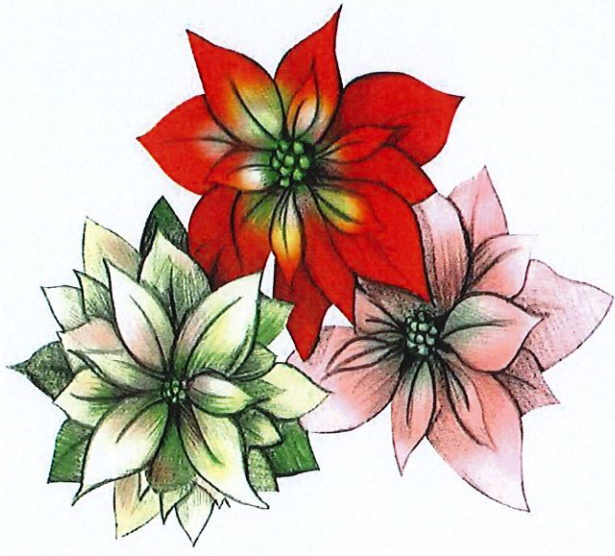
In honor of: _____

Please submit by December 15th

of Plants: _____ Amount: _____

Poinsettia Order Form

\$10 each



Name: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Please submit by December 15th

of Plants: _____ Amount: _____