

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
PO Box 97
Morgantown, PA 19543

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH NEWSLETTER—DECEMBER 2016



Christmas Season Services

Christmas Eve Service-7pm

Behold, the dwelling of God is with mankind. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them, and be their God.

—Revelation 21:3

Come join us in worship as we celebrate the birth of Christ.
Meghan Brown will be joining us again on the organ.

Christmas Day Service-9:30am

Alleluia! To us a child is born: come let us adore him. Alleluia!

Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year, and we will be celebrating with a combined service at 9:30am. There will be a reading of St. Chrysostom's Christmas homily.

Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is
coming at an unexpected hour.
-Matthew 24:44

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas and this transformation began well before Advent. Christmas decorations start to make an appearance before Thanksgiving, and it's not unheard of for Christmas goodies to pop up in stores right after Halloween. In some ways this almost fanatical anticipation of Christmas fits well into the season of Advent, the season that we wait and prepare for the birth of the Christ-child. We eagerly await the day we can finally celebrate Christmas and prepare for that day by decorating our homes, planning for meals, and buying gifts for others.

Yet it's helpful to remember, in the midst of our excitement, that Advent is an important season in its own right. It gives us an opportunity to be contemplative, to think upon a time where the light of the world had yet to come to earth in human form—to think upon our lives and how different our lives would be had we not been transformed by the salvation Christ has achieved for us and to remember that Christ will one day come again and establish God's kingdom here on earth. Advent is a time where we can more fully appreciate the blessings of this life, and consider what we may want our lives to look like in the future.

This consideration not only applies to us as individuals, but to our entire church community. The season of Advent is a very appropriate time to consider our church life together—to think upon how we have been blessed by Christ and how we might be a blessing to others in turn. It is a time when we can eagerly await and prepare for what God has in store for us next. To this end, we will be meeting at 9:30am every Sunday of Advent for a time of discussion and contemplation. We will look back on the church's past to inform our present time and our future, looking for those things which define and excite us about our church and our community. We will then use this information to discuss what God might be calling this community to be and to do in the years ahead. Please come and add your gifts, your knowledge, and your voice to this discussion, as we eagerly prepare for the coming of our savior and discover where he might be leading us.

Peace,

Megan



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jessica Beebe
- 19 Doris Gring
- 30 D.D. Krawlzik



Mark Your Calendar

- Every Sunday—9:30am—Advent Forum
- Sunday, Dec. 4—Children’s Church—9:30am
- Sunday, Dec. 18—decorating the church
- Sat., Dec. 24—Christmas Eve Service—7:00pm
- Sunday, Dec. 25—Christmas Day Service—9:30am

Zerbe Sisters "Adopt a Resident"

Please have your gift, in a Christmas bag with the card attached, to the church by Sunday, Dec. 11.



TWIN VALLEY FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for all the support in November. The Twin Valley Food Pantry served **186** families - (accounting for **759** people). I want to let everyone know that this is the most clients we have ever served (again) in the HISTORY of the TVFP (since it opened at Morgantown UMC or at Conestoga Mennonite Church). We also had approximately **110+** volunteers from across our community supporting the evening. We distributed approximately **22,500** pounds of food, personal health and hygiene items – thanks to all the donors across the community for their financial contributions or for coordinating a food drive. We were able to give every family a **TURKEY** again this year — and it was really appreciated. Your generosity continues to be amazing and coming together as a community is such a blessing for everyone. Thank you all for the hundreds of volunteer hours each month making this important community mission possible.

Please have your donations to the church by Sunday, Dec. 18.
The distribution date is Dec. 20.

December 4

8:30am
 9:30—Children’s Church
 10:30am
 Reader.....Ken Harclerode
 Intercessor.....Helen Harclerode
 Chalice.....Liz Beebe/Stalnakar
 Ushers.....Jim & Arlene Hathaway
 Nursery.....Doris Gring
 Refreshments.....Stalnakar
 Healing.....Barbara Goodling
 Altar.....Jill Weise
 Counters.....Goodlings

December 18

8:30am
 10:30am
 Reader.....Amy Smith
 Intercessor.....Terry McEwen
 Chalice.....Ken & Helen Harclerode
 Ushers.....Stan & Sally Stalnakar
 Nursery.....Liz Beebe
 Refreshments.....Cook/McEwen
 Healing.....Barbara Goodling
 Altar.....Jackie Laverty
 Counters.....Stalnakar

December 11

8:30am
 10:30am
 Reader.....Evans Goodling
 Intercessor.....D.D. Krawlzik
 Chalice.....Evans & Barbara Goodling
 Ushers.....Ken & Helen Harclerode
 Nursery.....Doris Gring
 Refreshments.....Cunningham/Price
 Healing.....Barbara Goodling
 Altar.....Jill Weise
 Counters.....Janet McColgan/Jen Cunningham

**December 25
Christmas Day**

9:30am



Have any burning questions about the Episcopal Church, the history of Christianity, or the bible? Email Megan at priest@saintthomasepiscopal.org and your question may be chosen as the subject of a newsletter article.