



January, 2015

Some thoughts from your pastor...

The story of the Epiphany from the Gospel of Matthew (2:1-12), which ends our Christmas season and takes us into the next, is an account of three men (referred to as magi, kings, or wise men) who were searching for answers. They were persons of faith who watched for signs of and thoughtfully considered God's activity in the world. When they noticed a new, apparently different star in the night sky they referenced their faith resources, talked with each other at length and decided that God was about to do something great. With still many questions they embarked on a search to see more fully what God was up to by following the light of that star. We know the end of the story...they found their answer, as the star led to the Christ child.

I believe that they are for us a great example. As people of faith we should always be on the lookout for God's activity in our lives. We certainly, like they did in their own time, live in a complicated and ever changing world. With the ever widening communication resources we have, we are exposed to all sorts of happenings, not just close by but on a global basis. If you are like me, many of these things certainly generate questions about what God is up to, what other forces are at acting in the world and how I/we are called to respond as a faithful followers of the Lord.

We are all blessed to have individual resources, especially the Scriptures, which we can use to help sort out our own beliefs and thoughts on even most complicated and perplexing of questions and issues that arise in our lives and world. I also have experienced that often God powerfully reveals answers for us when we share in prayerful conversation one with another as companions in Christ, even on the most difficult of concerns.

So, I extend to you an invitation to join me on the **fourth** Sunday of the month, between our worship services (9:15-10:15), to do just that by sharing in ***Conversations in Christ***. We'll start on Sunday, January 25th. Simply come with those questions which have appeared in your heart, mind and spirit from living our complex lives as people of faith. Come, like those three so long ago, joining one another in being seekers following the Light. Come with a willingness to faithfully listen and share to and with each other and God. Together, I am certain, we will see what the Lord may have for us to discover on our journey in today's wonderful and intriguing world that will fill our lives with satisfaction and joy.



Peace,



CHURCH COUNCIL

Officers

Julie Boscia

President.....610-398-2859

Darlene Wenhold

VicePresident...610-366-2008

Darrell Correll

Treasurer.....610-435-8210

Shirley Schleicher

Secretary.....610-395-4461

Members

Jason Barnett

Jeff Berdahl

Justin Grim

Ken Gross

Bill Hendricks

Amelia Jensen

Irene Johnson

Michael Kerschner

Kevin Murphy

Terry Naugle

John Weremedic

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January

Second Sunday of Christmas (1/4)

8:00 – WOV Worship Service

10:30 – GIA Worship Service w/comm.
Church Council Installation

Baptism of Our Lord (1/11)

8:00 - ELW Worship Service w/comm.

10:30 – ELW Worship Service

Second Sunday after Epiphany (1/18)

8:00 – ELW Worship Service

10:30 – ELW Worship Service w/comm.

Third Sunday after Epiphany (1/25)

8:00 – GIA Worship Service w/comm.

10:30 – WOV Worship Service

Don't forget – just one service at 9:15 on December 28th.

Jordan Lutheran Church

Office Hrs. M-F, 9:00-4:00

CONTACT INFO

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STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Jimmy Lee Werley

Visitation Pastor: Rev. Jerel Gade

Administrator: Monica Unangst

Christian Ed.: Jamie Edelman

Organist/Choir: David Diehl

Asst Organist: Janice Kistler

Bell Choir: Greg Grove

Inc/Exp Coord: Marlene Peters

Canon Choir: Janice Kistler

Cherub Choir: Marlene Peters

Sexton: Ernest Gessitz

DEADLINES

Newsletter – 15th of the month
prior to publication

Bulletin – 10 a.m. Thursdays

HOSPITAL CODE 256



Christmas Eve Services

All are Candlelight Services with Holy Communion

6:00 (family)

8:00

10:30

The following parishioners recently volunteered their time and talents to enhance our Sunday worship services:

Altar Guild

Jane Suhocki, Irene Johnson,
Kathy Leonard

Lectors

Jenny Barr, Barbara Godshall, Jennifer Seidel, David Godshall, Ted DuBois, Russ Dalrymple, Sue Weber, Ingrid Martz

Ushers

Sonny & Lucille Laudenslager, Kevin & Judy Murphy, Bruce & Lousie Stettler, Jensen Family, Jenny Stettler, Anthony DiMaggio, Dominick Di Maggio

Bell Tollers

Russ Dalrymple, Anna Martz, Ted DuBois, Bruce Stettler, Dan Stark, Nick Wertman, Dan Stark, Rich Boyer, Bruce Stettler

Acolytes

Samantha Klotz, Dominick DiMaggio, Jamie Silvonek, Kyle Heston, Summer Kozy, Logan Edelman, Keely Schofield

Communion Assistants

Lynn Daniels, Karen Boardman, Russ Dalrymple, Melanie Werley

Pantry Volunteers

Darrell Correll, Carolyn Flemish, Sharon & Terry Naugle, Marian Peifley, Sue Tough, Carol Zwarych

Pantry Needs for January: mac and cheese, canned pasta, spaghetti, and pasta sauce

Many thanks to the congregation for contributing gifts or gift cards to the children of our pantry families or The Lutheran Home of Topton.

“Today I choose life. Every morning when I wake up I can choose joy, happiness, negativity, pain... To feel the freedom that comes from being able to continue to make mistakes and choices ~ today I choose to feel life, not to deny my humanity but embrace it.”

-Kevyn Aucoin



Bell Toller Schedule for January

Jan. 4th

8:00 – Ted DuBois
10:30 – Mike Wertman

Jan. 11th

8:00 – Russ Dalrymple
10:30 – Chris Boscia

Jan. 18th

8:00 – Dan Stark
10:30 – Bruce Stettler

Jan. 25th

8:00 – Ted DuBois
10:30 – Chris Boscia

2015 SPONSORSHIPS

Altar Flowers: 1/ 4, 11, 25; 2/1, 8, 15, 22; 3/1, 8; 4/5, 12, 19, 26

Pulpit Flowers: 1/ 4, 25; 2/1, 8, 15, 22; 3/1, 8, 15, 22, 29; 4/12, 19, 26

Bulletins: (2 weekly) East Penn Press Ad: Call for available months

HOW TO RESERVE YOUR SPONSORSHIP: Contact Donna Hahn at 610-395-0613 with your choice of date(s) and sponsorship(s). Altar or pulpit flowers are \$35. No need to order flowers - they will be provided weekly by our contracted florist. Checks may be made payable to JELC and either mailed or dropped in the offering plate. You are asked to pick them up by 11:30 am on Sunday if you would like to take them home. Any flowers not picked up by that time will be given to shut-ins.

SPONSORSHIP POLICY: Flowers and other sponsorships may be reserved no earlier than one year from the chosen date. If you wish to reserve the same weekend for the following year, you may do so the day after the current year's sponsorship. No dates will be held; the first request for a date within the one year limit) will be taken regardless of the previous year's sponsor.



A Tail of Two Monkeys



Our story begins with **Mortimer, the Mortgage Monkey**. He's been living at Jordan ever since 1992, the year our congregation was blessed with the wonderful Family Center that continues to help us celebrate God and connect with the people in our community to this very day. Mortimer is trying to climb down his palm tree as our congregation continues to pay down the Family Center mortgage. It's been a long journey, but our congregation is finally within striking distance to have the entire mortgage paid off, thanks to proceeds provided by the sale of the parsonage earlier this year and the many years of abundant giving that our congregation has contributed to the building fund.

When we kicked off this recent campaign at the 8:00 and 10:30 services at the end of October, the mortgage balance was close to \$80,000. As of December 1st, the new balance was around \$50,000, thanks to all of those in our congregation who have already contributed to the cause! If you missed the kick-off, **here's some information on how you can help Mortimer make his way down the tree and pay off our Family Center mortgage once and for all:**

1. Grab any giving envelope available in the sanctuary pews, or bring in your own, and write something on the outside designating your contribution toward the campaign. Many in the congregation have been having fun with this and have come up with some pretty good slogans: "Monkey Business", "Bye-Bye Monkey", and "Down with Mortimer", just to name a few!
2. Mail in your donation with a note designating your contribution toward the campaign:

Jordan Evangelical Lutheran Church
5103 Snowdrift Road
Orefield, PA 18069

...so now we know about Mortimer, but what is all of this talk about two monkeys?

Well, it's time to introduce **Millie, the Mission Monkey**. She's been living at Jordan ever since the Church was founded in 1734, over 280 years ago! She represents all of the reasons our church is here to live out our mission statement: **Celebrating God Connecting People**. Now more than ever, our congregation needs to come together to find new ways to live out our mission and grow Jordan's ministries. As Mortimer climbs down his tree, we need to help Millie climb up hers! Getting Mortimer off our back should help free us to focus on the important questions Millie is asking: What new ministries should we be starting? How can we celebrate God and connect people in everything that we do? How do we reach out to our community and grow our congregation to better serve the Lord in the future?

We will be running our monkey campaign through the end of January 2015. As you graciously look at your giving through the Christmas season and into the new year, please consider helping Jordan to finally get the mortgage monkey off our back and move our mission into the new millennium!

Second Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 25th

Following the 10:30 service

Annual reports will be reviewed and other congregational business conducted.

Church emails are sent to every member who has shared their email address with us. Even if you notified us that you prefer to receive your newsletter by USPS, you will also receive one by email if we have your address on file. Feel free to delete it if you wish! Don't forget to keep the church office up to date if your address/email address changes!

Some Reminders

2014 Contributions: Any contributions you wish to be credited to 2014 must be in the church office **by noon on Wednesday, December 31st**. The last deposit will be made that afternoon, after the delivery of the U.S. mail. Contributions received in 2014 cannot be credited to 2015, nor can contributions received in 2015 be credited to 2014.

Annual Reports: Please have your annual committee reports into the church office by Jan. 11th. Reports will be distributed one week prior to the Second Congregational Meeting on Jan. 25th. All groups are encouraged to submit a report to gain a better overview of all activities at Jordan.

Winter Weather Cancellations: In the event that church services must be cancelled due to inclement weather, you can keep informed by: (1) calling the church office to hear a recorded message regarding the status of the services, or (2) listen to these radio stations - 99.9 The Hawk, or WAEB-FM 790, or (3) watch WFMZ TV or check their website, or (4) check www.waeb.com (Operation Snowflake), or (5) check the Jordan Facebook page.

The Church office will be closed Dec. 25, & 26 and Jan. 1 & 2.

Treasurer's Report for November 2014

	Month	YTD
Income		
Operating Income	\$47,525.16	\$379,760.48
Bldg Fund/Mtg.	8,213.05	41,053.55
Benevolence	2,117.50	21,607.50
Debt Reduction	10,985.00	23,194.00
Total Income	\$68,840.71	\$465,615.53
Expenses		
Administration	\$ 723.26	\$ 15,400.13
Ministries	1,290.74	19,531.92
Payroll	21,132.40	234,186.39
Property	3,447.06	83,086.27
Bldg Fund/Mtg.	12,403.00	108,652.67
Benevolence	2,700.00	29,700.00
Total Expenses	\$41,696.46	\$490,557.38
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 27,144.25	\$(24,941.85)

Council Highlights, December 2014

- New council members were welcomed: Kevin Murphy and Justin Grim
- Thanks to Jeff Laudenslager for serving on council for three years
- 2015 council officers: Julie Boscia, President; Darlene Wenhold, Vice President; Darrell Correll, Treasurer; Shirley Schleicher, Secretary
- Planning a meeting on Jan. 10th for council members and committee chairs



Jordan Evangelical Lutheran Church



We welcome our new sexton, Erich Gessitz, who will begin working at Jordan on January 2nd. Erich lives in Orefield and is the father of four sons. He is a carpenter by trade and has previously worked as a sexton. When you see Erich around the church, say "hello" and make him welcome!

Cemetery Association News

Annual Lotholders Meeting January 18th

*15 minutes following the conclusion of the 10:30 a.m. service
Anyone with questions or wanting information is welcome to attend.*

Quarterly Board Meeting January 28th 8:00 a.m. in the Choir Room

Audio CD's of Sunday services will be available in the Memory Room after the 10:30 service, and during the summer in the narthex. (Due to the length of the services, Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday will not be available.) For more information contact Dale Hahn (610-504-3046) or John Weremedic (610-844-1255).

Memorial Fund Donations

In memory of Marilyn Beaver

Brian & Debra Ann Lesko
Herb & Anna Bieber
Joseph & Carolyn Flemish
Shirley Schleicher
Richard & Joan Brownell
Catherine Bogarosh
George Seyfried
Leona M. Groman
Lakeview High School Faculty & Staff
Loretta Malloy
Esther Peters
Mollie Rex & family
Bonnie Rex
Reuben Smoyer
Allen & Susan Fatzinger

In memory of Heather Hamm

Lucille & David Hamm
Cheryl L. Flynn Brantley
Ray & Shirley Hamm
John & Carol Kuhns
Monica Unangst
Geraldine Fenstermaker
Judy Grim
Quigley Chevrolet
Brandy Bortz

In memory of Enos Miller

Dorothy S. Miller
Margaret Goodwin
Lydia Corby
Linda Grantz
Donald G. Roberts
Fay Henninger
Joan Bauer
Shirley Miller
Barbara & Darrell Baus
Bryan Family Trust
June C. Satkowski
John & Doris Drabic

In memory of Annabel Helfrich

Annabell Merkle

In memory of Enos Miller (con'd)

Madeline & Richard Bingell
John & Carol Kuhns
John Bishop
William H. Meckes
Roy & Annie Kern
Joseph & Theresa Kranyecz
Linda & James Vanhorn
M/M William Jones
Thomas Mordaunt
Fellowship Community Courts
Residence
Paula Margonie
Marie & Barbara Gurskey