

Highfield Happenings

December
2022



Join us for a night in a...



Presented by Gregg LeMay

All are welcome to attend a Christmas Recital at Hebron Lutheran Church – 201 Main Street— on Friday, December 2, 2022 at 6:30PM!

A reception will immediately follow with cookies and desserts in the church social hall.

Gregg LeMay will be performing several invigorating pieces of music, sharing his gifts of piano, organ, and voice, to help us all experience the anticipation of the Advent season. A joint choir of Hebron and St. Paul's Highfield will also be performing.

Please come and enjoy a night of peace and joy!

Gregg and Hebron Lutheran are asking any who comes to the recital to please consider bringing items for the Five Forces Homeless Heroes Stocking Project. They are asking for donations of FULL-SIZE shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush holders, wash cloths, soap, plastic soap holders, socks, gloves, drawstring backpacks or \$10 gift cards to Walmart or Giant Eagle. The HHSP works with the Veterans Leadership Program of Western PA to help provide supply stockings to the 2500+ homeless Veterans in the area during the Christmas holiday.

If you have any questions, please call Hebron's church office at 724-842-0801.

St. Paul's Highfield Lutheran Church
 Congregation of the Southwestern PA Synod
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 1595 Dime Road, Vandergrift, PA 15690
 Phone: 724.567.7462
 Email: hifiels@comcast.net
 www.stpaulshighfield.org



Vision Statement

Spreading the good news of
 Jesus Christ by living out our
 faith in worship, support, and
 service to all people.

Mission Statement

SPHLC—
 Spiritual People Helping Lead
 others to Christ

Parish Staff

Reverend Ryan N. Pusch— Pastor
 215 Main Street

Leechburg, PA 15656

St. Paul's Church Office: 724-567-7462

Hebron Church Office: 724-842-0801

Cell phone: 262-707-3038

Email address: rpusch001@luthersem.edu

Gregg LeMay—Organist

724-567-7462

Clarence Brown—Financial Secretary

724-567-5571

Nicole Ashbaugh—Sexton

724-842-7376

Janine Ballish—Secretary / Treasurer

724-567-7462

Office hours: Wednesdays and Fridays
 9:00 am-3:00 pm

*Hours are subject to change for holidays,
 etc.*

*If you have questions
 or concerns, please
 discuss them with
 one of the members
 listed below.*

Leland Brown—President

Sandy Rossi—Vice President

Rebecca Cappel—Secretary

Wally Daugherty Clarence Brown

Gail Holm

Nicole Ashbaugh

Judy Grinder

Amy Rossi



From Hebron:

Pauline Bish Velma Knell

Nancy Fondrk

From St. Paul's Highfield:

Leland Brown Bonnie Shuster,
 Bailey Neale



Confirmation Bible—On Sunday, November 13, we commemorated Nick Geltz, Waylon Collini and Sheena Walton as they begin their Confirmation Instruction. The Bible we presented to them is a reminder of their Confirmation Instruction time. Kolten Geltz is in his second year of instruction and will be confirmed next year.

The altar flowers for November were given by Nicole, Scott, Scotty, Sarah Ashbaugh and Jane Broda in memory of Pete Broda, Mike Broda and Loved Ones.

Thank you to all the “helpers” for our Election Day Hoagie/Soup

Sale—the soup makers, the hoagie makers, the sellers and the supporters!



All voices are invited to participate in our Joint Choir. We rehearse on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm and after Sunday worship. Please call Gregg LeMay with any questions (508-542-7746)

Annual Meeting Results—

- 1) Congratulations to our newly elected council members: Bill McGinnis and Pam Neale; and re-elected member Nicole Ashbaugh. A special thanks to Becky Cappel (whose term has expired) and to Wally Daugherty (who is unable to complete his term) for their dedication to SPH. Gail Holm has been appointed by council to complete Wally Daugherty's term for one year.
- 2) The 2023 Budget was approved by 41 Yes votes and 0 No votes.
- 3) Congratulations to Becky Cappel who was voted to serve on Joint Council for a two-year term; and re-elected member Leland Brown. Many thanks to Bonnie Shuster for her time and dedication on Joint Council.

Helping Hands News

Christmas: A box will be placed in the entrance for the collection of small items such as deodorant, lo-

tion, toothpaste, combs, brushes, puzzles books etc. for the residents of Pine View Personal Care Home. Thank you for your support!

Christmas Party: All ladies are invited to join us on Monday, December 19 at NOON. Please bring a covered dish to share.

Annual Meeting Date: Sunday, January 15, 2023

- To approve reports of the ministries of 2022 and any other action necessary for mission in 2023. All committees are required to submit a report. Please have them in the office by December 18. Please plan on attending, your presence is important!

Calendar of Causes—Each month we will raise up a social ministry supported within our Synod or a local cause. The loose offering collected the first Sunday of the month will go to this cause. Also, envelopes are located in the narthex for you to make a donation at any time during the month.

November's cause is Bethesda & Glade Run Lutheran Services. These two organizations provide promising futures for children, youth, and families through individualized mental and behavioral health services provided in a residential, school or community setting.

We are supporting Christopher's Light Annual Toy Drive.



They are in need of toys for ages newborn-12, and warm hats/gloves and socks. No need to wrap. There is a collection box in the narthex.

Christmas Eve/Day Worship Schedule

December 24

6:00 pm @ Hebron

8:00 pm @ SPH

December 25

8:30 am @ Hebron

No Service @ SPH



*We honor all of those baptized since last
All Saints' Sunday*

Mikayla Colleen Golka

*With reverence and affection we remember and
give thanks before you, O everlasting God, to
all our departed Brothers and Sisters in Christ
who have died since last All Saints' Sunday:*

Eileen K. Shoemaker
November 26, 2021

Charlotte A. Held
December 26, 2021

Carole Ann Miller
January 19, 2022

George W. Duddy
January 31, 2022

Gary L. Shoemaker
July 13, 2022

Robert "Bob" Bednarik
July 23, 2022

Shirley Pittman
September 25, 2022

*We also thank you for our loved ones who have a
special place in our hearts because of their
presence in our lives, who now rest
from their labors:*

Bonny Byers, *daughter*
Candy Byers, *daughter*
Brenda Byers, *daughter-in-law*
Cheryl Ament, *stepdaughter*
"Skip" McGuire, *husband*
(submitted by Evelyn McGuire)

Harry H. Hepler, Jr.
Kathryn Hepler
Kathie (Hepler) Best
Donald Hepler
(submitted by Sandy Raypush)

Bob Slicker
Russell & Jane McDermott
Leonard & Wilda Slicker
Sam Slicker
Janet Duffy
Tom McDermott
Mickey Thomas
Bob Shirley
(submitted by Mary Jane Slicker)

Gertrude Black
E. Stanley Hawk
Helen Summerhill
(submitted by Sandi Summerhill)

Layrd Clark
Gladys Clark
Leo Collini
Mini Collini
Anthony Collini
(submitted by Aldo Collini)

Matthew Ramer
Ryan Mooney
Zach Bright
(submitted by Glenn & Mary Jane Ramer)

Jim Ferguson
Brian Ferguson
(submitted by Judy Ferguson)

(Continued on page 5)

Gaynell Porter
Tim Porter
Bob Bednarik
(submitted by Bonnie Shuster)

Rocco & Fran Cappo
Reverend Emil Lavcek & Ilan Lavcek
(submitted by Rebecca Cappo)

Robert R. Hutton, *husband*
Paul R. & Mary V. Muffley, *parents*
Mary Ellen Strother, *sister*
Earle & Merle Muffley, *twin brothers*
(submitted by Pauline Hutton)

Ruby Clark
Virginia Clark
Candy Byers
Gladys Clark
(submitted Jane Geltz)

In loving memory to all who are now in God's care
(submitted by Valjean Warner)

Ray Murray
Don Shields
Hazel & Glenn Davis
Chuck & Leonor Murray
Vernon & Ruth Shields
John Phillips
(submitted by Linda Murray)

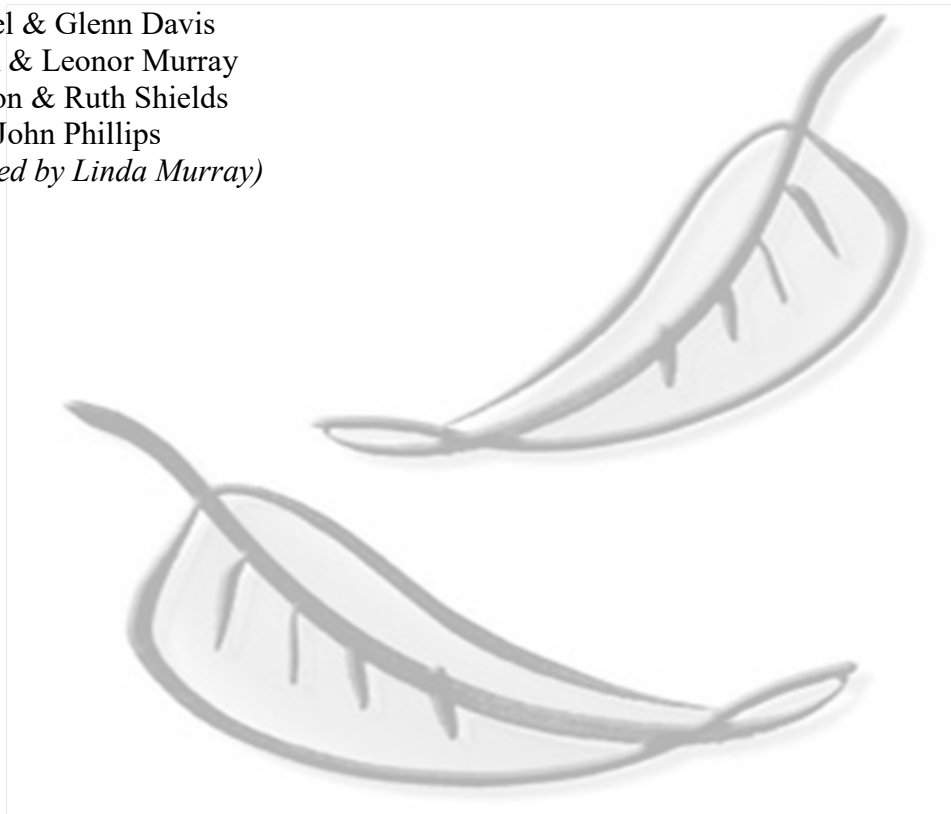
Valjean Summerhill
Albert Summerhill
Shirley Artman
Joe Shick
Scott Faith
(submitted by Jenny Summerhill)

Andrew Parks
Pete Lookabaugh
Betsy Parks
(submitted by Dorothy Lookabaugh)

Leland & Glaphy Moore
Lisle & Dorothy Rupert
Ralph & Betty Maskrey
(submitted by Cheri Rupert)

In Memory of:
Paul & Nellie Rupert, *parents*
James Stoner
Steve Rishel
(submitted by Betty Rishel)

Ken & Nina Brown
(submitted by Clarence Brown)



STEWARDSHIP

Contributions



GIVING VS. BUDGET FIGURES 2022

NEED \$1,484.04 WEEKLY TO BREAK EVEN

	CURRENT DEPOSIT	NEEDED	OVER / (SHORT)	YTD OVER/(SHORT)	ATTENDANCE
January	\$5,752.00	\$7,420.20	\$(1,668.20)	\$(1,668.20)	142 / & Online
February	\$6,355.00	\$5,936.16	\$418.44	\$(1,249.36)	147 / & Online
March	\$7,024.00	\$5,936.16	\$1,087.84	\$(161.52)	211 / & Online
April	\$7,672.89	\$5,936.16	\$1,736.73	\$1,575.21	222 / & Online
May	\$7,284.00	\$7,420.20	\$(136.20)	\$1,439.01	220 / & Online
June	\$5,665.00	\$5,936.16	\$(271.16)	\$1,167.85	187 / & Online
July	\$6,414.24	\$7,420.20	\$(1,005.96)	\$161.89	152 / & Online
August	\$5,863.00	\$5,936.16	\$(73.16)	\$88.73	167 / & Online
September	\$4,734.00	\$5,936.16	\$(1,202.16)	\$(1,113.43)	154 / & Online
October	\$6,340.00	\$7,420.20	\$(1,080.00)	\$(2,193.63)	191 / & Online

The above totals do not include any designated giving for specific ministries.

They only include the money given to support the 2022 budget.

If you have any questions, please call me ~ *Janine Ballish, Treasurer*

Monetary gifts to Candles, Funeral dinners,
Food Bank and Undesignated was given in
memory of
Bob Bednarik

HAVE YOURSELF A HOLY LITTLE CHRISTMAS

The “Christmas season” seems to begin earlier every year. Some stores had Christmas stuff on the shelves weeks before Halloween. What madness! We go dashing through the stores to the beat of *Jingle Bells*; and we go “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree” until we crash from exhaustion.

Revelry and gift-giving are fine and fun, but if we’re not careful they can snowball out of control. Stewarding a Holy and meaningful Christmas means balancing the commercial with the spiritual. Here are some tips:

Observe Advent: The four weeks *before* Christmas Day comprise the Advent Season, a time to *prepare* for Christmas through prayer, song, worship, and spiritual disciplines. Lean into the spirit of Advent. Advent devotionals can help (I recommend Richard Rohr’s *Preparing for Christmas*).

Observe the Christmas season: The church calendar lists the *season* of Christmas from Dec. 24 to the feast of Epiphany on Jan. 6. Until the 20th century, these 12 Days of Christmas were the time for celebration and partying. Make them special in your life and family.

Cut the consumerism: Limit your shopping and spending by setting a strict budget or gifting the people in your life with homemade presents, favors, or ways to spend time together.

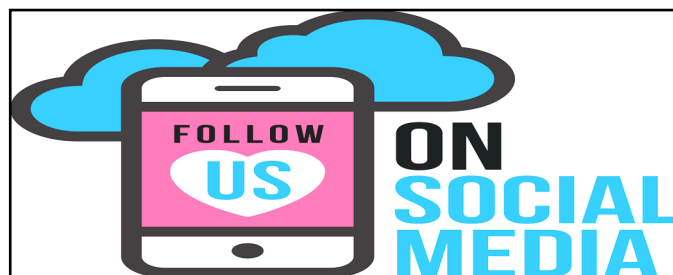
Party hardly: For some, Christmas is an excuse to overeat and drink to excess. Moderate your consumption.

Most importantly, pray: Ask God to help you and your family craft a meaningful and joyful Advent and Christmas. Ask God to send you wisdom, resources, and people who can journey through the spiritual season with you.

By carefully stewarding your faith life, Advent and Christmas can be a time for real spiritual growth.

--Rob Blezard

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Besides in person, you can join us for a live stream on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am on:



St. Paul’s Highfield Lutheran Church



zoom

By phone, dial 646-558-8656
Enter the meeting ID number 619 676 1687, followed by the pound sign (#) twice



@ ST. PAUL’S HIGHFIELD

Don’t forget to include our confined members in your prayers. Names, addresses, and birthdays are listed below.

Lou, Jean & Linda Bozzarelli (July 9, February 27, October 2)
112 Oregon Avenue
Vandergrift, PA 15690

LaRue Ciuca
1147 Crawford Avenue
Vandergrift, PA 15690

Martha Abarbanell (May 31)
1166 Pleasant View Drive
Vandergrift, PA 15690

Alice Moses (July 10)
Concordia Lutheran
Ministries
615 North Pike Road
Room #208A
Cabot, PA 16023

Wally Daugherty (October 21)
Concordia Lutheran Health
& Human Care
Personal Care Room#204
615 North Pike Road
Cabot, PA 16023

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Advent is, like Lent, a season of preparation. We prepare for Christ's "Coming" (the meaning of Advent in Latin) in remembering his birth in Bethle-

hem, and his promise of coming again at the end of all things. In both senses, we are anticipating a radical change in our lives and in the world by God's incarnate presence among us. Therefore, we use the term "Emanuel" at this time of the year especially, which in Hebrew means "God with us." There are many important parts of the nativity story that we'll remember together: how Mary and Joseph were homeless as they sought a place to rest and prepare for the birth of Jesus. How the first to learn about the birth of the Messiah were not kings or governors, but lowly shepherds in the hills. How when the Magi visited Jesus from far away, they brought him not only kingly gifts of gold and frankincense incense, but also myrrh, an aromatic resin made into incense or oil that was used in the process of preparing the dead for burial in the ancient world. Even at his birth, his crucifixion is foreshadowed by this gift. For as we anticipate his birth and dwelling among us, we also remember his death and the promise of the resurrection.

One way that we'll be remembering this story and anticipating Christ's coming is through music. Both through the music we will sing together during Sunday worship, as well as a special event coming up in just a few weeks on **December 2nd at 6:30pm, Winter Wonderland, a Christmas Recital**. Our musical director, Gregg LeMay, has organized a recital to help us to get into the spirit of Advent and come together to enjoy some of the many wonderful musical pieces that we associate with this time of year. Gregg will be playing both sacred music as well as some secular Christmas music that everyone will recognize. The recital will also feature some shared pieces with other musicians, and our churches' joint choir will be

singing an anthem at the recital. I've been singing along with this choir for the past few weeks, and it's so nice to be part of a choir again- I missed it a lot! Hebron's sanctuary will also feature special decorations to help us to be fully immersed in the season. After the concert, we'll be gathering in Hebron's social hall for fellowship and refreshments. To connect this recital with Christ's mission in the world, we'll be gathering items for the **Five Forces Homeless Heroes Stocking Project**, which is collecting personal care items for homeless veterans around western Pennsylvania. Monetary donations will also be accepted. We're hoping that this recital tradition will continue each year rotating between our two churches. Please spread the word about this exciting opportunity to come together and listen to the beautiful music of Advent and Christmas.

But as always, the best way to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming is to join us in worship on Sunday mornings throughout Advent, as we light the candles on the wreath and remember the longing of the people of God for Christ to show us the way of peace. We will have our usual **"Blue Christmas" Service at St Paul's Highfield on the winter solstice, Wednesday, December 21st at 6pm** for anyone who is missing their loved ones at this time of the year. And we will of course have our **Candlelight Christmas Eve services this year- 6pm at Hebron and 8pm at St Paul's Highfield**. Since it lands on a Sunday this year, we'll just have **one worship service on Christmas morning, at Hebron, at 8:30am**.

In anticipation of Christ's Coming,

 Pastor Ryan

Gifts may be given to CURRENT, Building Maintenance Fund, VBS, Food Bank, Scholarship Fund, Community Outreach Fund, Helping Hands, Pastor's Discretionary Fund, Video Fund, or Dresses & Britches.

MEMORIAL FUND:

[illegible]

TOTAL ENCLOSED:\$

Submitted by

We will be gathering to put the final touches on our Christmas decorations for the upcoming Christmas services on Sunday, December 18, after worship service. With enough people there, it will not take too long to get everything done. The tree will be up. Chrismons need to be placed, candles need to be put out, the crèche³ needs to be placed, etc. COME AND HELP!

Once again we will be hosting a Blue Christmas service, on Wednesday, December 21, beginning at 6:00 p.m.. This service is a time of quiet remembrance of those in your lives who have died, for those relationships that are no longer there, and for those who are having a difficult time with depression, estrangement, or any other feelings of loneliness during the season. We will sing some songs, listen to scripture and brief messages, pray and silently reflect. It will also be a time for those who might like to talk with one of the pastors present. Following the service, there will be a time of fellowship.

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on Christmas Eve, December 24 at 8:00 PM. It will be a service of carols, children's story, the reading of the Nativity Story and Holy Communion. Plan now to attend with your entire family to make this night a special time to begin the celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We will be having special music beginning around 7:30 PM. Be here to hear our talented members offer their special musical gifts to the Christ child.



St. Paul's Epiphany Lutheran Church
1595 Dime Road
Vandegrift, PA 15690

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Vandegrift PA
Permit No. 31

Join us for worship

Sunday Mornings

10:30 am in person and online (Facebook & Zoom)

Blue Christmas Worship Service

Wednesday, December 21, 6:00 pm

Christmas Eve Worship Service

Saturday, December 24, 8:00 pm

All are welcome to join us

