

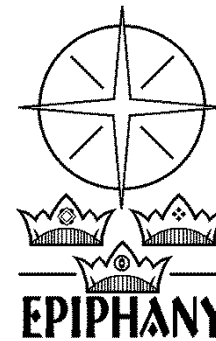
The Adventurer

Ascension Lutheran Church

Rev. Steven R. Bowser

Office: 464-5683

Fax: 464-2626



JANUARY 2012



Our God is in the heavens; he does whatever he pleases. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell.

They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat.

*Those who make them are like them; so are all who trust in them.
(Psalm 115:3-8)*

When I was in high school, I had the opportunity to go to Italy on a school sponsored trip with about a dozen high spirited 10th grade friends. (I'll let you sort out the details of that in your imagination.) Nearly 40 years later, Italy remains one of the most vivid and impressive places I've been fortunate to see. We visited the Colosseum in Rome, and walked through the subdued beauty of Florence, which struck me as one of the most beautiful places

Saturday: 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion

Sunday: 8:15 a.m. & 10:45 Holy Communion

9:30 a.m. Sunday Church School

Office Phone: 464-5683

Summer Schedule – Memorial Day thru Labor Day – 8:15 & 10:00 a.m.

Email: office@ascensionws.org

Website: www.Ascensionws.org

Staff

Rev. Steven R. Bowser, Pastor

Thomas E. Mercer, Director of Music

Dave Hamric, Youth Director

Ann Witman, Church Secretary

Michele Colvin, Membership Secretary

Jack & Liz Shultz, Sextons

on earth. Beyond the natural beauty of the land, were countless displays of artwork in the many churches and museums we visited. These included paintings and sculpture from the great Italian masters of the Renaissance, which seemed to be everywhere as we made our way through the Vatican, Rome, and Florence.

There was however one disappointment, or perhaps better said, one experience that didn't quite match the hype and expectation. It was visiting the famous sculpture of Michelangelo's 'David'. No matter how skilled the artist, even for the great Michelangelo, there was something about the eyes which always brought the artistic effort down to earth. At the end of the day, eyes of stone are eyes of stone, no matter how much skill is behind their creation. In Psalm 115, the psalmist suggests that 'eyes of stone' are something to watch out for, particularly in those areas of life that elicit our devotion.

The Epiphany season was at one time the 'Old Christmas'. It was a time when the Incarnation of the Word was celebrated as God's fundamental act of bringing the light of His Son, into the darkness of a fallen world. Epiphany was a big deal. Over time, Christmas began to eclipse Epiphany in both the imagination and liturgy of the Church, until it is seen today, (if seen at all), as a kind of January 'holding pattern' to get us to Lent. It is unfortunate this all important time of 'seeing' and 'perceiving' the work of God in Christ, is no longer seen as mattering much at all.

The lessons for Epiphany this year, testify to Jesus in his baptism, teaching, and particularly his acts of healing and exorcism. But as is always the case, some see and hear with eyes of faith, while others have ears that do not hear, and eyes which do not see.

Our lessons this year speak of the temptations to idolatry we all wrestle with both internally and communally, and warn us as the psalmist does, that what we make and trust returns to us accordingly.

Every new year brings new life and new possibilities, or perhaps more faithfully said, God offers each new day to the possibilities known in relationship with him. The upcoming year, like every year, will bring changes to our life together, and in those changes we are called to be faithful to God's new beginnings. Each new month, week and day, are a time to remember we are 'living stones' and not statuary, who are brought together by His grace as the habitation of the Holy Spirit.

As we begin a new year together, and journey through the Epiphany season, let us heed carefully the words of the psalmist concerning the many forms of idolatry to which we are susceptible. May the Lord our God, and not our substitutes for him, continue to be the One who shapes and guides us. Let us pray that we will be granted ears who continue to hear, mouths that continue to speak, and that the Lord will continue to allow us to see, with eyes not made of stones.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bowser

FINANCE REPORT

November 30, 2011



Operating/Benevolence Accounts

Receipts

Unified Offerings	333,829.60
Building Fund Envelopes	68,161.00
Flowers, Bulletins	2,417.50
Interest Income – Checking	82.97
Miscellaneous	6,689.33
Confirmation Camp	4,200.00
World Hunger Appeal	825.00
Camping Retreats	240.00
LWR Comfort Relief/Kits	800.00
Homeless Ministries Lancaster city	.00
Bridge of Hope	50.00
Disaster Relief	675.00
Servant Event	698.00
Parish Benevolence	.00
Thrivent Choice	1,596.00
LCCC Food Bank	21.00
Winterfest	870.00
Youth/Alive, Alive	1,536.00
Memorial Garden	50.00
Other - Japan Earthquake/Tsunami	1050.00
Other - Sunscreen in Sanctuary	500.00
Other – Haiti 2011	570.00
Other – Africa Drought	300.00
Other – Thrivent Matching	800.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$425,961.40

Expenditures

Benevolence Payments	\$33,295.00
Operating/Current Amount	<u>385,493.27</u>

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$418,788.27

Receipt/Expenses

Balance for the Month & Year as of 11/30/11 \$ + 7,173.13

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ray D'Agostino, President

Lee Mills, Vice President

Linda Shoemaker, Secretary

Rev. David Klepper, Recording Secretary

Ray Witmer, Treasurer

Kent Brusstar

Gretchen Clark

Walt Dauber

Gail Hamilton

Judy Hinson

Edward Patches

Mark Sellers

Bonnie Shockey

Lonnie Stein

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Michael Kuntz
Lonnie Stein | 16 Stephen Linde
Jeanette Stillman |
| 2 Katherine Dauber
Ruth Molzahn | 17 Claire Globisch
Sundae Lausch
Janet Leaman
Donna Schwebel |
| 3 Jo-elle Daveler | |
| 4 Justin Munro | 20 Michael Ariano
Carol Benning
Mikayla Benning
William Dittman |
| 5 Delaney Baker
Delores Grant
Judy Mills | 21 Janet Yost |
| 6 David Lewis
Wilma Ramsden | 22 Jeffrey Myers |
| 7 Justin Gaukler
Evan Mize | 24 Emily Hobbs
Livia Lenhoff
Richard Wilson |
| 8 Kayla Shultz | 25 Josiah Reigner
Tina Shockey
Richard Wilson |
| 9 Kevin Schwebel | 28 Sarah Bowser
Betty McCardle
Douglas McNaul
Corey Mowrer
Andrew Patrick |
| 10 Pete Jacobs
Jessie Shoemaker
Tanner Stefanick
Mackenzie Zeigler | 30 Jeanne Caggiano
Anthony D'Agostino
Ray Reichenbach
Jesse Storm |
| 11 Lisa Halsey
Darren Hamric | 31 Rebekah Linde
Andrew Mintzer |
| 12 Peter Crain
Mildred Dietz | |
| 13 Matthew Rossos | |
| 14 Ray Witmer | |
| 15 Zachary Falk
Jim Mulligan
Jared Stephan | |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WIDOWS' & SENIOR SINGLES LUNCHEON – The next luncheon will be held on January 18th at Lyndon City Line Diner, 1370 Manheim Pike, Lancaster. If you cannot sign the sheet, please call Edith Hiller at 291-0210 by January 16th. **Reminder: Please bring a non-perishable food item for the food cart.**

WELCA NOTES - Why not make a New Year's resolution to join WELCA. We would love to have you. Our January meeting will consist of a Bible Study on Judith and the assembling of Valentine boxes for Red Rose Manor. We look forward to seeing you Tuesday, January 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in the 3rd/4th grade classroom.

10:45 USHERS NEEDED – Axel Linde is trying to locate some happy volunteers who want to serve as ushers for the late service. If you are interested or just want to know more about it, please contact him at 529-6963 or axellinde@epix.net.

THE 2012 ALTAR FLOWER & BULLETIN SPONSOR SHEET is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. The cost is \$20 per vase/bulletin. Don't forget to circle whether it's "in memory of" or "in honor of". Also, the **left** side of the sign-up sheet is for **altar flower** sponsors and the **right** side of the sheet is for **bulletin** sponsors. Please make sure you mark the correct side.



Wanda Epstein

New Address



Dorothy M. Bracken – A funeral service was held on November 30th in Broomall, PA. A memorial service was held on December 14th at Willow Valley.

Kitty Johnston - A memorial service was held on December 15th at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Lancaster.

We extend sympathy to the family and friends of Dorothy and Frances.

ALL INCLUSIVE CARIBBEAN GETAWAY

It's not too late to sign up for the 2012 mission trip to Haiti.

For more information, contact Kelly Moore.

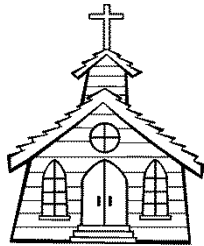


JANUARY

- 6-8 Winterfest**
- 15 Youth Night – 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.**
- 22 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering Meeting – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Youth who are attending the Gathering will work on finishing the covenant. Parents willing to help plan and organize fundraisers should also attend.**
- 29 Spaghetti lunch following the congregational meeting. Youth should sign up on the bulletin board to help prepare, serve, and clean up.**

In order to better distribute information, parents and youth who currently do not receive email information about youth activities can send their email contact to Dave Hamric at daveh@ascensionws.org. Youth can also request to be added to the *Ascension Youth Ministries – Willow Street, PA* facebook page by going to the group page or send a friend request to Dave.

ANNUAL



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2012

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:00 a.m.

MEETING – 11:15 – 12:00 in the Sanctuary

SPAGHETTI LUNCH – 12:00 noon

In the Social Hall

The youth will be hosting a spaghetti lunch. Adults are needed to help in the kitchen and bake desserts or bring drinks. If you are willing to donate an item, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex. Youth and adult volunteers should sign up on the youth bulletin board.

The youth will also provide childcare during the meeting.

“I give thanks to my God always for you...”

(St. Paul – 1 Corinthians 1:4)

Many of you will recognize the above quote from St. Paul as the text of my sermon on November 26-27, 2011. Now I am quoting that same verse to begin this hearty and deep-felt thanks to you members of Ascension for the tremendous, extra-ordinary “retirement reception” on Sunday, November 27.

We (Barbara and I and our family) were truly amazed, flabbergasted even, at the great outpouring of gracious remarks, the musical presentations, the gifts, and the huge number of people in attendance. I am humbled at your response to us – and even a little embarrassed that you went to such lengths to show your love and the love of Christ working among us.

“Thank you” just does not seem enough. And yet, God makes it clear that our thanks to Him in word and deed are all He wants from us for His gift in Jesus whose birth we celebrate in this season. That thanks to God never seems to me to be adequate when it is the great Gift of God Himself in the flesh of the baby Jesus who gave His life for us on the Cross.

It is in that spirit of feeling inadequate that I say to all of you – **thank you not just for the gifts you poured out on us on Sunday, but especially for the gifts of yourselves which you gave to Barbara and me for three wonderful years of serving our Lord and one another in our ministries together.**

This is not a farewell. It is more – God bless you until we are together again in the coming years.

Yours in Service to Christ and His Church,

Pastor Dave and Barbara Klepper



Thank you to everyone who participated in making Pastor Klepper's last Sunday with us so special. He was truly touched and appreciative by the special care and attention given to him and the family. Ascension's talent was so wonderful to see, but what was greater was the feeling of genuine affection and well wishes for a dear friend and mentor in Pastor Klepper. Many thanks to the following individuals in making the occasion so special:

Planning Committee

Gretchen Clark	Judy Mills
Dawn Patrick	Lonnie Stein

Program

Carol Atherholt	Memory D'Agostino
Janae D'Agostino	Tom Mercer
Susan Mull	Dawn Patrick
Mikayla Patrick	Delaney Klepper
Riley Klepper	Justin White

Food, set-up, cleanup

Anthony D'Agostino	Dee Grant
Pat Eshleman	Darren Hamric
Edith Hiller	Judy Hinson
Lee Mills	Cindy Rossos
Tina Stauffer	Brenda Witmer
Jared Zimmerman	The children's parents