



The Window into the heart of

Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church
Volume 5, Number 4, Holiday 2019

The Gathering: A Fresh Expression in Worship

A new modern worship service is coming to Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church. On December 1, the first Sunday of Advent, *The Gathering* will be launched. All are invited to this fresh expression and experience in worship taking place on Sundays from 8:30 to 9:30 am in Asbury Center.

The primary preacher for the service will be current Assistant to the Pastor Scott Miller. By the time *The Gathering* is launched, Bishop Cynthia Moore Koikoi will have appointed him as a part-time local pastor, serving as an associate pastor at MLUMC. He and Pastor Tom Strandburg will coordinate the service's message with Pastor Tom's sermons. In this way Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church will have a unified voice glorifying God during three services each Sunday.

The music for *The Gathering* will be arranged and performed in a modern style, different from the church's more traditional music. Singer and keyboardist B.J. Collins and church member Keith Moorhouse on drums will lead the music. Eric Palmer on guitar, vocalist Michelle Duralia and other musicians are providing support.

Those attending can begin this fresh expression of worship with a fresh cup of coffee or tea. Worshippers are invited to gather at 8:15 in Asbury Center for pre-worship refreshments.

The Gathering will run at the same time as the traditional 8:30 service in Sanner Chapel, but it is not replacing that service.

Rev. Scott Miller, Primary Preacher for *The Gathering*



Born in Irwin, PA, Rev. Scott Miller began his life-long association with the United Methodist Church at Charter Oak in Greensburg, PA. It was during a particularly moving moment at CAT Camp at Jumonville in the late 1980s when he first considered entering the ministry. Scott's family moved to S. Carolina, where he completed high school and college, earning a Master's Degree.

Back in W. PA, Scott found a job at U.S. Bank in the Technology Division, where he is still employed. Exploring his call to ministry, he completed requirements to become a Certified Candidate and graduated from Pastor Licensing School in April, 2018.

Scott is a 20+ year member of Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church. He and his wife Natalie and daughter Madeline live in the Pittsburgh area. He is also a step father to three adult children.



Church members John Esaias and Keith Moorhouse with keyboardist and lead singer B.J. Collins at a service preview

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The Benefits of Giving

"Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

This fall, I have been preaching on the theme, "Six Practices of Faithful Followers." We've been considering six actions which, if habitually practiced in our lives, will result in spiritual growth for ourselves, and a better world for us all. We soon will have completed all six:

1. Talk to God through prayer.
2. Be present with and for others.
3. Give generously.
4. Serve with humility.
5. Share your faith.
6. Show your gratitude.

All six of these practices are interrelated. I believe that there is a particularly strong connection between #3 and #6. We show our gratitude by the manner in which we give. We're entering a time of the year when "giving" is a major theme. This month it's Thanksgiving, and next month it's Christmas. Both holidays have something to do with giving and receiving good gifts. At Thanksgiving, we give thanks to God, who is ultimately the giver of all that we receive. The Scriptures are clear that the best way to respond to God's generosity is through some generous giving of our own.

Where would our church be today without our forbearers in the faith, whose generous response to God's love has laid the foundation for our faith today? History and Scripture are both very clear — if you want to grow spiritually, you must be generous in your giving to the Lord. This is the best way to give our thanks. "Each of you must give," says Paul, "as each of you has made up your mind." God wants us to grow in trust. God wants us to learn to give. Now is the time of the year to make our pledge of support for God's work through our local church. Please see the instructions elsewhere in this newsletter for making your own pledge. God wants us to risk growth in grace through giving back to God in proportion to God's giving to us. In all areas of your life — your time, your talent, and your finances — if you are currently giving at the five percent level, can you increase it to seven percent? If you are giving at one percent, can you increase to two or three percent? Growth is the hope in the heart of God for you and me! The question for each of us to ask is this: What is the next rung on the spiritual ladder for me? Giving is an act of trust, a goal of trust for you and for me. As we grow in our giving to God, our faith deepens, and we open up new opportunities for spiritual advancement in the years ahead. Do you want to really give thanks this season, and move to a higher level in your spiritual life? Giving is the key which unlocks the door to spiritual growth for each one of us.

Let's give and grow together!

Pastor Tom

Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

The Window

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Faithful Followers:

A commitment to Christ through giving generously to Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church

On Sunday, November 17, congregation members were invited to return their 2020 Estimate of Giving Card during worship. If you were not able to attend on Commitment Sunday, you can pledge online. Go to the Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church website, www.mlumc.org, under "Giving" and then "Pledge." You will see easy-to-follow instructions on how to make a commitment. You also can return your commitment card in person at another time or by mail. Additional cards and brochures are available on the narthex literature tables.

No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. *Matthew 6:24 (NIV)*



Thanksgiving Day Meal Ministries A 37-Year Tradition - Still Going Strong!

Bethany Ev. Lutheran Church Prepare & Serve Dine-in Guests



Enjoy a FREE Thanksgiving Dinner

Bethany Ev. Lutheran Church
3104 West Liberty Avenue
Dormont (Pittsburgh 15216)
Dinner served from
1pm to 5pm
Thanksgiving Day
November 28, 2019

For information, or to request
Free Delivery, call 412-531-9363
(All delivery orders must be placed
by Tuesday, November 26)

MLUMC - Prepare, Assemble & Deliver to People's Homes



Delivering meals to homeless, lonely & homebound community members.

Turkeys, kitchen workers, drivers and clean-team volunteers are needed for the annual Thanksgiving Day meal. We need:

Donated turkeys—cooked turkeys, unstuffed, and cooked turkey breasts. Please carve the turkey if you can and save the juices for gravy. Also need boxes of stuffing, pies and cans of sweet potatoes.

Kitchen workers—day workers to work with and assemble meals, arriving Wed. Nov. 27 @ 9 am and Thurs. between 8 am and 2 pm.

Drivers— to deliver Thanksgiving meals, arriving as early as 11:30 am, last shift @ 3 pm

Clean-team volunteers
—kitchen cleanup workers arriving at 2 pm.



Approximately 1,000 meals served last year - 500 dine-in at Bethany ELCA, 500 delivered from Mt. Lebanon UMC.
For more info, contact **Rob Spicher** at 412-720-4589 or robert.spicher@pnc.com.



Weekday Ministries Child Care Center

by Mettelise Ziegler, WDM Director

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." ACTS 4:12

Safety

Jesus saves us from sin, death and the devil. He also saves us *for* something. He saves us *for* a life that He himself sustains, protects and guides.

We live in a scary world where bad things happen, even though Jesus is with us. We must be prepared without constantly being afraid. That is why we apply for clearances, take courses in health care and emergency evacuation procedures. We cooperate with the local fire department, use an alarm system and screen visitors who come to the door. We lock the doors behind us. We cannot trust that everyone is a safe person, so we do not prop doors open and walk away.

We cannot live in fear. We walk by faith. We teach children that God is present all the time and that He is stronger than anyone or anything else.

Jesus saved us for a life of sharing. For Thanksgiving, the children are collecting non-perishable food items for the food pantry. Many of the items will be presented as an offering at their chapel service with Pastor Strandburg on the 12th.



Jesus saved us for a life of devotion. The children will be observing Advent activities in which they look forward to the coming of Jesus as the Messiah. They will dress as actors in the Christmas story. They will learn many the traditional songs and hear the accounts from the Bible.

Jesus saved us for a life of fellowship. Two of the classes will be creating gingerbread houses for the PPG contest they won last year. A center-wide pajama day with a special hot lunch in celebration of Christmas ending with Happy Birthday Jesus cake will conclude our year on a hopeful, celebratory note.



Volunteers are needed to help with lighting Advent candles each Sunday during Advent and during Christmas Eve services. No special skills are required! Candle lighters can be families (including children), couples, or friends. If you are interested, please contact Kim Rhoton with a date and service preference.



Volunteers are also needed to assist behind the scenes and to participate in the annual **Christmas Tableaux**, scheduled for December 15 at the 10:45 service. Children and teens are needed to play the parts of angels, shepherds, and kings. Adults are needed to help the participants get into costumes and enter the sanctuary on cue. Participants and adult helpers must be available for a rehearsal on Wednesday, December 11 at 6:30p.m. in the sanctuary. Please contact Kim Rhoton to volunteer or with questions – krhoton@mlumc.org

Teddy Bear Sunday, December 8

Teddy Bear Sunday will be on Sunday, December 8, when the congregation is invited to bring in a new small to medium size teddy bear for our church outreach. Faith Circle will be collecting and distributing the teddy bears to local community services such as Mt. Lebanon Hospice, our church's food pantry, local police and ambulance services, Power organization for Women, Asbury Place, Asbury Heights and more. Thank you for your support in this special outreach.



In addition to delicious cookies, vendors will be selling popular gift items, including Christmas crafts, jewelry, woodworking items, handmade soap, scarves, purses and other unique merchandise.

From the United Methodist Women:



**Join us for
the Annual
Christmas
Cookie Sale,**

**Gift Bazaar & British Tea Room
Saturday, December 14
9 am – 2 pm at the church**

Avoid the stress and busy-ness of the season and do your holiday shopping in one convenient and festive location. Come for the iced cutout sugar cookies, buttery shortbread, spicy gingerbread, and all types of homemade cookies that the UMW will be selling by the pound. Shop early as the cookies sell out quickly.

After you've shopped, drop into our British tearoom and enjoy a hot cuppa and buttery scones, as well as soup and bread served by our own



British tea maven Barbara Watson and the Dames In Action. Soup and bread are available after 11 am.

All proceeds from cookies, tearoom, and vendor space rental benefit UMW projects and missions supporting women, children and youth.



We're Looking for a Few Good Cookie Bakers

Actually, we're looking for a lot of good cookie bakers, so get your ingredients ready for this year's *Christmas Cookie, Tea & Gift Bazaar* sponsored by members of the United Methodist Women. Please consider:

- Baking a batch or multiple batches of your favorite Christmas cookies
- Bringing the cookies to the church kitchen on Thurs., Dec. 12, 9 am to 8 pm or on Fri., Dec. 13 before 10 am.
- Attend the *Christmas Cookie & Gift Bazaar*, 9 am to 2 pm at the church, December 14 and find the perfect gifts for friends and family.

Youth Ministries at Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church

Youth Group is a time for students to explore their faith, to ask questions, and to grow in community with their peers. Weekly meetings offer support and mentorship for students in grades 6-12. Some activities are combined, while others are more specific to middle school and high school age groups. We encourage students to join us each week as we learn together how to put our faith into action. Youth Group meets Sunday evenings from 5 to 6:30 pm. The youth also meet on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. after the Terrific Tuesday meal for discussion, games, and more!

Sunday, November 24 Youth Group, 5 - 6:30 pm

Friendsgiving Dinner, Games/Activities
Middle School/High School Groups

Sunday, December 1, No Youth Group

Sunday, December 8, Parents' Afternoon Out, 12-4 pm

Babysitting with lunch provided for children. Parents, take time out for brunch or for Christmas shopping while your children hangout here with our youth at MLUMC. There will also be adult supervision!

Donations are accepted with proceeds benefiting youth ministries at MLUMC. Please RSVP to jlombardi@mlumc.org to reserve a spot for your children.

Sunday, December 15, 5-8 pm Church Wide Community Christmas Caroling (see next page)

Sunday, December 22, Youth Christmas Party 5-7 pm

Pizza, games/activities, gift exchange, more games/activities, circle prayer



Youth Director Jim Lombardi sharing his cutting edge technique at the Youth Group Pumpkin Carving Contest.

Looking ahead to 2020, a few things in the works include the Winterjam Concert at PPG Paints Arena and a Martin Luther King Day of Service, both in January, and a Jumonville Retreat in February, the exact date TBD.



The Youth Group's nature hike trip to Raccoon State Park with Youth Director Jim Lombardi and chaperones Alan Chesleigh and Noel Slater.

Thank you! I would like to take this opportunity to thank MLUMC for the warm welcome extended to me and my family. Since arriving at the church as Youth Director in early October, many of you have gone out of your way to say hello and to ease my transition into the church community. I am honored to be part of God's plan here at Mt. Lebanon UMC!

Jim Lombardi, Youth Director

Community Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 15 5 - 8 pm

Join church members, friends and the Community Events and Outreach Committee on Sunday, December 15 for Christmas caroling at the homes in the church neighborhood. This is a fun event that requires no special singing talent, just the willingness to spread good cheer to those who live near MLUMC! The evening begins with dinner at 5 pm in The Welcome Center, then caroling at 6 pm, and back to the church by 8 pm to warm up with cookies and hot cocoa. Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight.

Register with Kim Rhoton, krhoton@mlumc.org.



Volunteer Opportunities at the Allegheny County

If you've ever thought about volunteering at the Allegheny County Jail, here are some excellent opportunities: sing Christmas carols with the inmates, wrap presents and/or donate needed items.

Advent Lessons & Carols Services

Dates:

Wed. Dec. 4 and/or Thurs. Dec. 5

Time: 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Restrictions:

All volunteers must be 21 or older

RSVP:

To register, email Marci at marci.burkhart@alleghenycounty.us with your name as it appears on your photo ID

The services will consist of readings, prayers, and carols sung by volunteers. Volunteers from multiple churches will sing together from caroling sheets provided by the Chaplain's Office. No rehearsal is necessary...just come and sing! Volunteers may choose to come to one service or to both.

Packaging & Delivering Christmas Gifts

Date: Thurs. Dec. 12

Time Slots:

8 am - 12:30 pm (packaging)

5:30 - 9 pm (delivering)

Restrictions:

All volunteers must be 21 or older

RSVP:

To register, email Marci at marci.burkhart@alleghenycounty.us with your name as it appears on your photo ID

The jail needs volunteers to help pack and deliver inmate Christmas Care packages. Christmas is an especially rough time for inmates who are separated from their families and traditional holiday activities. Being remembered by caring volunteers can make a huge difference.

Donating Needed Items

Restrictions: Donor must sign up on the Approved Donor List

More info:

Email Marci at marci.burkhart@alleghenycounty.us to become an approved donor

The Chaplain's Office provides paperback books, toiletries, calendars, and religious literature to inmates and sweat suits to inmates being released. The Chaplain's Office is always in need of these items for the inmates.

Church Financial Information

by Rob Spicher, Finance Committee Chair

One of the recommendations from our Church stewardship consultant, Scott McKenzie, is more transparency regarding financial matters. The Finance Committee has implemented this recommendation, and began to share quarterly financial information in The Window. To continue this information sharing, summarized below are the Church's 2018 actual financial results, 2019 budget, and 9 month 2019 actual financial results.

As the figures below indicate, 2019 revenues through 9 months were not sufficient to cover expenses. The shortfall worsened in the 3rd quarter due to a drop in stewardship during July and August. Although not unusual, this summer revenue shortfall strained cash flow and challenged timely payment of all bills. Please try to keep your giving current, even when you are not physically in the pews on a given Sunday. Also of note is the status of our Connectional Contribution giving. Although ahead of what had been given last year at this time, we are well short of where we need to be to meet the Conference's ask. Note per the chart below that monies contributed YTD have been from sources other than the Church's general budget. The Finance Committee will continue to discuss ways to address this matter within the context of the Church's overall financial position.

It had been some time since the Church finances were put through an internal review, let alone an external audit. An internal review was completed in July by Anna Jefferies and Joe Catalano (Church members with no involvement in the Church's business or financial activities). Their review, inclusive of several recommendations, was presented to the Finance Committee in August. Said recommendations are now being implemented. Once they are completed, the process of selecting an external auditor to engage in a 2020 audit will begin. Look for information on the planned 2020 audit in a future edition of The Window.

Any questions regarding the actual and budget information shown below should be directed to Rob Spicher (Finance Committee Chair) or Virginia Katinsky (Business Administrator and Treasurer). Both can be reached by calling the Church office (412-531-7131).

	2018	% of	2019	% of	2019	% of
Church Budget	Actuals	Expenses	Budget	Expenses	9 Month Actuals	Expenses
Revenue:	\$691,714	94.3%	\$705,490	89.4%	\$504,307	90.9%
Expenses:						
Personnel	\$389,985	53.2%	\$418,619	53.1%	\$313,098	56.4%
Programs & Facilities	160,067	21.8%	162,785	20.6%	119,629	21.6%
Utilities & Taxes	95,650	13.0%	98,223	12.5%	73,343	13.2%
Insurance	34,382	4.7%	36,953	4.7%	28,438	5.1%
Connectional Contribution to WPA UM Conference*	53,519	7.3%	72,157	9.1%	20,467	3.7%
Total Expenses	\$733,603	100%	\$788,737	100%	\$554,975	100%
Total Net Income (Loss)	(\$41,889)		(\$83,247)		(\$50,668)	
* \$75,296 requested in 2018; did not pay \$21,777; 2019 YTD contribution has come from unrestricted endowment interest and special gifts.						
Net losses are covered by cash on hand, special gifts received, and reserves.						

2019 – An Active Year for Community Events and Outreach

The Community Events and Outreach Committee is in the “home stretch” of its 2019 schedule. And what a year it has been!

Formed approximately 3 years ago, the Committee will have hosted 16 events this year. The events include 4 community meals at our church (2 Fish Fries, Summer Barbecue, Fall Festival), 2 holiday meals served in conjunction with neighboring churches (Thanksgiving, Christmas), 6 dinners at East End Cooperative Ministries (East Liberty transitional housing shelter), 3 programs on suicide awareness and prevention (LGBTQA Youth, Military Veterans, Depression), and the church’s annual neighborhood caroling.

The mission and vision of the Committee is to help MLUMC remain a working church through fellowship and hospitality in our church and the Pittsburgh area. The Committee’s work has touched many, including the Committee members and volunteers who make these events happen. If you have not volunteered for or participated in an event, make a resolution to do so in 2020. And, for those who have been part of the Committee’s 2019 success story, thank you for your contributions of time, talent, and testimony.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Committee chair Rob Spicher at robert.spicher@pnc.com or 412-720-4589.



Poinsettia and Food Pantry Fund Christmas Memorials

Make a donation to the Food Pantry or purchase a poinsettia in honor or memory of friends or loved ones. The red poinsettias cost \$8.50 and will be on display Sunday, December 22 and during the Christmas Eve candlelight services. You may pick up your plant after the 10 pm Christmas Eve service or after Christmas Day. Spread the cheer by volunteering to deliver the poinsettias to shut-ins, or ask the church to deliver. You can mail your order to the church or drop it in a Sunday collection basket. The deadline for ordering flowers is Sunday, December 1.

Christmas Memorials 2019 Order Deadline Sunday, Dec. 1.

Make check payable to MLUMC. Mark the memo line *Poinsettia* or *Food Pantry*.

Donation to MLUMC Food Pantry \$_____ Given in (circle) “memory” or “honor” of :

Number of poinsettias _____ @ \$8.50 each = _____ Given in (circle) “memory” or “honor” of :

☐ I will pick up ☐ I will deliver to a shut-in ☐ Church to deliver to a shut-in

Donor Name _____ Phone _____

Holiday Special Events

Thurs. Nov. 28 *Thanksgiving Meal Preps and Delivery* - 8 am to 3 pm Asbury Center

Wed. Dec. 4 and Thurs. Dec. 5 *Lessons & Carols @ Allegheny Co. Jail* - 5:30 pm

Sun. Dec. 8 *Teddy Bear Sunday* - both services, teddy bear & stuffed animal donations for children's charities.

Sun. Dec. 8 *Lessons & Carols* - MLUMC, St. Bernard's & Our Lady of Grace's Choirs 4 PM St. Bernard's

Sat. Dec. 14 *Cookie Sale, British Tea & Gift Bazaar* - 9 am Wesley Hall and Asbury Ctr.

Sun. Dec. 15 *Nativity Scene Tableaux with Lessons & Carols, music by Chancel Choir* 10:45 service

Sun. Dec. 15 *Dinner & Christmas Caroling* - 5 pm Asbury Center and the neighborhood

Tues. Dec. 24 *Christmas Eve Candlelight Services*

Service for Children & Families 5 pm

Traditional Christmas Eve Services with Chancel Choir, harp and oboe 8 and 10 pm

Wiggle room for children provided at 5 and 8 pm services

Sun. Dec. 29 *Morning Worship* - 10:45 am only in Sanctuary

November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17 8:30 AM Worship Sanner 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 11:45 AM Youth Choir 5 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM BSA Eagle Rev. 7 PM Suicide Prevent	18 7 PM Chapel Bells 7:30 PM Community Events & Outreach	19 6 PM Terrific Tues 7 PM BSA #23	20 7 PM Cub Scout Pack 7 PM Trustees	21 6:30 PM Promise Bells 7:30 PM Choir	22	23
24 8:30 AM Worship Sanner 930 Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 7 PM Do No Harm 7 PM BSA #23 Leadership	25 7 PM Chapel Bells	26 7 PM BSA #23 7 PM BSA Board Review	27 Community Thanksgiving meal preps Cub Scout meetings	28 THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED Thanksgiving Meal Prep & Delivery	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30

Thanksgiving Meal Prep - Thanksgiving Meal Prep

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 AM Worship Sanner & THE GATHERING 930 Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 11:45 AM Youth Choir	2 7 PM Chapel Bells I 7 PM Church Council	3 6 PM Terrific Tues 7 PM BSA #23	4 5:30 PM Lessons & Carols @ the AC Jail	5 5:30 PM Lessons & Carols @ the AC Jail 8:30 AM N.Side Lunch Preps 9 AM Hands & Heart Noon TNT Asbury Hgths 6:30 PM Promise Bells 7:30 PM Choir	6	7 Food pantry w/Food Lift Free Mkt
8 Teddy Bear Sun. 8:30 AM Worship Sanner & THE GATHERING 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Parents' Aft Out 7 PM Do No Harm 4 PM Lessons & Carols @ St. Bernard's	9 7 PM Chapel Bells	10 10 AM Weekday Ministries Chapel 6 PM Terrific Tues 7 PM BSA #23 7 PM BSA Reviews 7 PM Cub Scout Planning	11 6 PM Finance Dinner & Meeting 7 PM Cub Scout Packs	12 AC Jail Packing/ Delivering Gifts 6:30 PM Promise Bells 7 PM Education 7:30 PM Choir	13 7 PM Arrow of Light	14 9 AM UMW Cookie Sale, Gift Bazaar & British Tea Room
15 8:30 AM Worship Sanner & THE GATHERING 930 Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 10:45 Tableaux 11:45 Youth Choir 5 PM Christmas Caroling 6:30 PM BSA Eagle Bld	16 7 PM Chapel Bells 7:30 PM Community Events & Outreac	17 7 PM BSA #23	18 7 PM Cub Scouts 7 PM Trustees	19 6:30 PM Promise Bells 7:30 PM Choir	20	21 Food Pantry w/Food Lift Free Mkt
22 8:30 AM Worship Sanner & THE GATHERING 930 Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 11:45 AM Youth Choir 5 PM Youth Party 7 PM Do No Harm	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: 5 PM Children & Families 8 & 10 PM Traditional OFFICE CLOSED	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSE	26	27	28
29 10:45 AM Worship Sanctuary ONLY	30	31	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR OFFICE CLOSED	2	3	4

Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church

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MLUMC'S Wholistic Health Outreach Ministry on Family Stress

Love wisdom like a sister; make insight a beloved member of your family. PROVERBS 7:4 NLT

Many families have troubled relationships because of behavior, beliefs, illness, financial worries, or disappointments in life choices. These cause additional stress at holiday events when members struggle with their feelings, force holiday merriment, and create unattainable expectations. If there are bad feelings between family members, don't ignore the emotion but don't dwell on it either. Try to understand the situation and determine a less stressful time than holidays to address the problems.



The Music of Advent & Christmas

Sunday, December 8, the handbells will add to our 10:45 am worship experience.

Sunday, December 8, at 4 pm at St. Bernard's Church, Pastor Tom Strandburg and the Chancel Choir will join the clergy and musicians of St. Bernard's and Our Lady of Grace to celebrate Advent Lessons and Carols, a service of scripture readings and carols. The service will be shorter this year.

Sunday, December 15 during the 10:45 am service the story of the Birth of Jesus will be portrayed with costumed participants while church attendees sing carols and hear lovely music by the Chancel Choir.

Tuesday, December 24 during the 8 and 10 pm services, harpist Julia Scott and oboist Renate Sakins will accompany the Chancel Choir's moving seasonal music.