



DECEMBER 9, 2018

LWLC
LIVING WORD
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastoral Ponderings...

The season of Advent is our yearly reminder about waiting. Unfortunately, if there is anything that we are not good at, it's waiting. We are an impatient people! We are all about immediate gratification... We hate waiting in line - always trying to pick the shortest and fastest one. Fast food is great - not necessarily because it tastes so good, but because you get it fast and can be on your way. We prefer email, texting, Twitter, Facebook, Snap Chat, Instagram and other programs and apps over phone calls and snail-mail - because they are quick and you don't even need to drive to the Post Office. Even guaranteed second day delivery is pushing it - we accept it because it's much faster than *standard* delivery (and if you are an Amazon Prime member it's free), but free *overnight* delivery would be even better.

And yet, there can be a spiritual purpose to waiting - such as in "waiting for the Lord" because He sent His Son Jesus "when the time was right", and because we know that all good things will happen "in His time". When we are waiting (patiently and prayerfully) there are always spiritual lessons to be learned. And one of those lessons just might be that, even though we may not see it at the moment, God is working out his will!

This is the message of Peter in 2 Peter 3:8-9:

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

The bottom line is that our timing is not God's timing. What seems like a long time to you and me is just the blink of an eye to God.

And so, here we are in the midst of Advent ... again! And we wait and watch for Christ's coming. We start to think, "It's been 2,000 years already, and look at the shape the world is in. Why is God taking so long?"

The answer to that question is actually quite simple - God has a spiritual purpose for the apparent delay. God is patient, and He does not want anyone to perish, but everyone to

come to repentance! So, if that is the Lord's spiritual purpose, then Advent is not meant to be a time of *sitting* and waiting - Advent is a reminder that we should be preparing ourselves (and the world) for His coming again by turning to God in repentance, and calling the world to do the same.

May God give us the patience to wait, and the persistence to witness, so that none should perish when He comes to us again!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Sunday School Children will present their program "THE GREATEST GIFT" As the sermon on Sunday, December 16th.

Christmas Eve Worship service is scheduled for 7:00 on December 24th.

NEWS CONCERNING OUR CONGREGATION

(FROM: 7/26/18 TO 12/3/18)

BY: SADIE KOSER

The Helping Hands Group met at the church on Tuesday, August 2nd to thoroughly clean the street level of the building. The pews were cleaned and polished, the windows were washed (inside and outside), the sacristy, narthex, Pastor's office, finance office, nursery and the restroom, along with all the furniture that was dusted and waxed!

The 6 workers had a total of 23 hours of the labor of love! The helpers were Ann Burkey, Sondra Cave, Lori Squires, the Young couple (Peggy/Moon) and yours truly! Our appreciation to those 5 dedicated workers!

The men's and women's restrooms each had a commode replaced on Friday, August 10th by a plumber with the labor and clean-up being done by Dick and Frank, the Keller/Pirolozzi duo. These two commodes did not operate properly and parts were worn out with age.

Our thanks to Dick and Frank for seeing this job completed with updating a major shut-off valve problem.

Our appreciation to Gene Cave for donating the garden hose to the church that he used for watering the new grass around the new block section of the bulletinboard. However, he didn't have to water too often with the rain we had in August! Gene/Sondra even went out of town for 5 days being confident that it would be watered by Mother Nature...and he was right! The grass looks great.

Pastor Mark, Susan and Dante went on vacation a week in August. The members of the congregation filling in for Sunday, the 19th, were Paul Eriksson, being the presiding minister and having the sermon; with Phyllis Alban as the assisting minister and also giving the children's message; Tanya Palmer had the children's church in the absence of Kathy Rosenberger. Hannah and Karl Eriksson were acolyte and crucifer.. Thanks to our

Thanks to our talented substitutes for doing great!

The Helping Hands Group have completed the 2nd phase of the thorough cleaning of the church building. On Thursday, August 23rd the volunteers scrubbed and polished every chair /table in the fellowship hall. Windows were washed (both sides) with Joe McIntosh doing the floor scrubbing, followed by Moon Young doing the waxing.

Meanwhile Dick Keller was on the parking lot, spray painting some of the chairs that now look like new. Other helpers were Paula McIntosh, Sondra Cave, Peggy Young and the person typing this. (Sadie). These 7 volunteers had a total of 29 hours on this cleaning project! My thanks to those who volunteered that day to work on the fellowship hall!

The church picnic, preceded by the worship service was held on Sunday, August 26th, in Constitution Park. It was attended by 72 persons. Sadie gave the opening prayer, Paula McIntosh was the assisting minister with the reader being Tanya Palmer. Becky McIntyre was the bread baker. Pat Keller, Andi Liller and Tanya had the children's class and they made a wind motion ornament.

Pastor Mark gave the invocation prior to the picnic. Hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken, drinks and paper products were provided by the church with covered dishes brought by the attendees. Jim/Lori Squires provided the fryer for the delicious French fries again this year. The grill chefs were Mike Alban, Dave Larrick, Scott Liller and Moon Young.

We sincerely thank Andi/Scott for being the coordinators of our great picnic again this year!

Becky McIntyre created 15 beautiful cellophane wrapped gifts with the Rosenberger sisters (Gracie and Caitie) who made a unique shell wreath for the ticket drawing. The congregation brought bagged gifts for the auction. Vicki

Larrick does a great job as our auctioneer each year. The coveted surprise gift of a man's yellow shoe was won this year by Stacey McIntosh. This humorous gift, created by Vicki at our first picnic, has surfaced each year at our picnic!

From the two fundraisers a total of \$645, was raised towards the wall/garden surrounding the outdoor bulletinboard!!

Sympathy is extended to the family of William "Bill" Sutherland who passed away unexpectedly on Monday, August 27th at the age of 73. Bill is the brother-in-law of Mary K. Fanelli, Cindy being her sister and she worshipped with us the week prior to his untimely death.

Bill is survived by 6 children, 10 siblings, 14 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. The funeral was held at Boal Funeral Home (Westernport) with interment in Potomac Memorial Gardens, Keyser. Pastor Mark officiated at his service which was held on Saturday, September 1st.

The theme in the ladies restroom is about the beginning of school and the start of the football season. The wall wreath was a circle of pencils with school supplies on top of them (eraser, scissors, glue, etc.). On the round table was a bright scarf that contains everything pertaining to school, over the floor length white cloth.

Centered on the table is a vase featuring white flowers with blue flowers interspersed on the left side and red flowers the same on the right. There was a miniature football on each side. These outstanding creations were made by Sondra Cave who does a fantastic job as being our talented decorator for the restroom. Thank you, Sondra, for being a great designer!

A baby shower was held for Michelle and Clint Larrick

following the worship hour on September 9th. Andi Liller, assisted by Pat Keller, designed and decorated the hall. A plush toy was atop a circle of diapers for the centerpieces.

The gift table featured a wall hanging, made by Rich Keller, with a poem painted ...'Read me a story, Tuck me in tight, Say a sweet prayer and Kiss me good night.'

The refreshment table consisted of delicious sandwiches, made by Becky McIntyre and meatballs by Andi with a variety of treats. The utensils were in the bed of a small dump truck, napkins were printed "It's A Boy". Andi also made a white photo. frame, trimmed in blue ribbon, which held a clothesline with miniature clothes hanging from it.

The dessert table had a clothesline above which held baby clothes and were given to the couple by Andi/Scott. Blue and white iced cupcakes with a blue chocolate sucker were on a tier stand.

Mike McIntosh held a Bible charades game for everyone to participate. The Baby ABC game was won by Kim Henson. All the guests were given a blue and white miniature bag filled with numerous small gifts from the Liller couple.

Michelle is the daughter of Larry/Lois Turner and Clint is the son of Dave/Vicki Larrick. The Larrick heir is due October 9th with details later in this newsletter when the birth happens!

At last....the entire church building has had a thorough cleaning and a few of the Helping Hands are to be commended for doing this job. Thursday, September 13th Peggy/Moon Young, Paula McIntosh, Lori Squires and I put the finishing touches to the bathrooms, halls and kitchen. If it wasn't noticed....even the white vinyl and wood outside entrance to the fellowship hall was cleaned.

Helping Hands is not a membership club, but

volunteers from our congregation, Perhaps at the Spring cleaning we'll have more volunteers and we can get the job done in a much faster time. My appreciation to these 4 dedicated members.

We're grateful to Kay Chaney who put the fall touches to the fellowship hall, all the other rooms downstairs and the main entrance floral planter. The fall arrangements tell us that it's now autumn as of September 23rd! Also, Sondra Cove has decorated the women's restrooms in the autumn motif with a wreath and table flowers with appropriate cloth.

Pastor Mark and Susan were in Vermont for some R&R the week of September 17th including Sunday, the 23rd. Those participating in his absence were Carol Lantz, presiding minister; Mike McIntosh, opening prayer; Stacey McIntosh, assisting minister; Becky McIntyre, children's message; and Andi Liller, sermon.!

Congratulations Carl/Kathy Rosenberger on the birth of their 14th grandchild! Mike/Kristen Carter, Catonsville, announced the birth of a son, Finley Joseph, on September 20th. Finley tipped the scales at 8 pounds-13 ounces! The new heir has 2 sisters...Eliza, age 6 and Maris, age 2. Congrats is extended to the Carter family.

Pastor Mark put out a plea for Sunday School teachers in his announcements for several Sundays and the congregation responded! When the classes began after the Labor Day weekend, everything was in place...thanks to Kathy Rosenberger who is in charge of both the operation of Children's Church and Sunday School.

Prior to the start of classes, Kathy provided a lasagna dinner, with all the trimmings, for the teachers. At this time their program was discussed.

The volunteer teachers are Lori Eriksson, Kim Henson, Vicki Larrick, Tanya Palmer, Mike/Stacey McIntosh and Pastor Mark. The teachers will rotate the Sundays. Our sincere appreciation to the volunteers who stepped up for this very important task!

The last Sunday in September, the Prayer of Dedication For the Quilts was observed with 54 quilts being blest. They were divided between Salvation Army, Children's Cancer Organization and a couple who does a volunteer service for the needy. The Salvation Army received 34 of the quilts.

This LWLC Quilt ministry began in September 2011 under the direction of Phyllis Alban. At this time the quilters have made and distributed 548 quilts! The group meets on one Saturday a month and have their lunch together in the fellowship hall. If you would like to join the men/women...DO IT...even if you don't sew...there are other jobs to putting together a beautiful quilt!

The beautiful floral fans with the inscription "God Is God-All The Time" that was located in the pew racks, have been given by Andi/Scott Liller. With the changing temperatures, some have used them even in the fall!

The lovely quilt, made by Andi Liller, with tickets being sold for over a month was won by Bobby Huff and given to Brenda Shumaker! The winning ticket was pulled by Bryson Troutman, one of our youths. The quilt netted \$940.00, which was a fundraiser for Kim Jackson, organist/choir director, who continues getting cancer treatments.. Andi presented the check to Kim on Sunday, October 14th.

Pastor Mark received a surprise prior to his children's sermon on the same Sunday when the children approached the altar with a double poster. The front said "Thank you, Pastor Mark." The inside was a written note to him...You are a... SWEETHEART and so KIND. We thought about a trip to New YORK or even an ORBIT around the MILKY WAY. You are always there to pick up the (Reese) PIECES and answer our GOOD & PLENTY questions. Sometimes we act like AIRHEADS and NERDS, but you have made MOUNDS and MOUNDS of difference in our lives. Thanks for making us SMARTIES and getting us in DOUBLEMINT condition for Jesus. You deserve \$100 GRAND every PAYDAY. Hugs from the children of LWLC.

Annabeth, Carolyn, William, Patrick, Hannah, Karl, Hunter, Liam, Handley, Beckette, Adaline, Issac, Cohen, Branson, Bryson, Mason, Everly, Dante, Gracie, Caitie.

NOTE: Beside each name was a HERSHEY KISS. All the words in capital letters are candy bars/gum and the product was actually in place of the word!

Following the worship service everyone went to the fellowship hall to celebrate Pastor Mark's 35 years in the ministry and pastor appreciation Sunday. The cake was script written 'Thank You Pastor Mark for 35 Years!' Another cake was iced in the fall colors with other light refreshments and drinks being served.

Caitlin Squires attended the 3CMA's (City Council Communications and Marketing Association) 30th anniversary conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin September 5th-7th. Caitlin photographed and designed a campaign that was used for public safety recruitment through Facebook.

Caitlin won the Silver Circle Award (second place) in Social Media: Best Use of Facebook category. Some of the judge's comments were: "Clear vision and appropriate

solution. Great measurement. Great images and appropriate solution. Great measurement. Great images and slogans!"

Caitlin, the second daughter of Jim/Lori, was recently promoted to the Communications Manager for the City of Winchester, VA! Congratulations on both news release, Caitlin!!

Jessica Squires and Alec Long became engaged on September 9th with plans for their wedding to be held in August 2020! Jessica is the eldest daughter of Jim and Lori. She is a 5th grade teacher at Potomac Intermediate School, Martinsburg, WV. Alec, son of Greg and Marsha Long, Hagerstown, is employed by Meritus Hospital in Hagerstown. Congratulations!!

Our congratulations to Michelle and Clint Larrick on the birth of a son on October 8th. Their heir tipped the scales at 7 pounds-14 ounces and they named him Grant Harry. The proud grandparents are Vicki/Dave Larrick and Lois/Larry Turner. This is the first grandchild for both sides of grandparents. Best regards to everyone!

Our appreciation to the Keller/Pirolozzi duo (Dick/Frank) who installed a garden hose hanger on the wall of the furnace room. The holder was donated by a member of LWLC.

Sunday, October 28th, 46 members of the congregation enjoyed a brunch after church. The menu was sausage gravy, sausage, bacon, pancakes, baked egg casserole, fried potatoes, brunch cake and drinks.

Mike's right hand man was the other Mike(Alban) with wife, Stacey and Mother, Paula, as helpers. The free-will offering totaled \$209., which was applied to the garden wall balance. Several asked then when the next brunch would be held! We're grateful to Mike for being our chef!

The last piano has been demolished and is gone from the storage room...THANKS to Jim Squires who dismantled it with a powerful saw!! Jim also disposed of it except for the very heavy large piece of metal. Dick/Frank took that section to be recycled. They have been removing junk from the furnace room to be recycled. Incidentally, this is the second piano and the organ that had to be dismantled since the church was purchased due to age and poor condition. We really appreciated Jim for taking care of this unsightly piano.

Our thanks to the Squires couple (Jim/Lori) for being our gardeners for this grass cutting for the year. They made their last cut the day prior to the very early snow that hit our area on November 15th.

Now to that 8 inch snow....Scott Liller removed it from the parking lot the next day. We hope he doesn't have to do this job too many times this winter!

Sunday, November 11th our church celebrated Veteran's Day with pictures of some of our veterans on display at the altar. Andi Liller had a patriotic theme table for the pictures. Those having a photo were Dick/Rich Keller, Gene/Daniel Cave, Bob/Scott Chaney, Moon Young, Kenny Koser, Frank Pirolazzi (which no-one could identify), Bobby Huff, Mike Alban, Bob McIntyre and Carl Rosenberger.

After the service they received a delicious Hershey bar wrapped in a handmade flag drawing inscribed with 'GOD BLESS AMERICA' which was created by Becky McIntyre.

That same Sunday, Pastor Mark was serving at the prison. Those participating in the worship service were: Greg Lewis, presiding minister, Becky McIntyre, opening prayer, Stacey McIntosh, assisting minister; Phyllis Alban, children's message and Mike McIntosh, sermon.

Kay Chaney removed the fall floral arrangements throughout the church building, replacing them with the Christmas decor. They consisted of small poinsettias on the hall tables and vases of red and white poinsettias on the window sills. She also carried the same theme at the front entrance radiator and planter. Meanwhile Sondra Cave has completed the ladies restroom with a beautiful wall wreath and a large vase of Christmas flowers on the round table with a contrasting cloth. Thanks Kay and Sondra for decorating the building for the appropriate seasons for the seasons of the year.

Andi/Scott, with the assistance of Dick/Pat, have again created a beautiful altar and decorate tree for us to enjoy during the Advent and Christmas season and into 2019.

We sincerely appreciate the Liller couple for being our elves, in making our Sanctuary so beautiful as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, who is the reason for the season!

A HUGE THANK YOU to the members and friends who filled 40 Christmas bags for the

Salvation Army to give to children on their list. This was 10 more bags than was filled in the past. This is one way that shows what a giving congregation we have. They were dedicated at the altar on the Sunday, December 2nd and delivered to the head quarters the following day.

Our Mineral County School of Practical Nursing, Mineral County Technical Center held the class of 2018 graduation ceremony at the Keyser Presbyterian Church on Saturday, December, 1st. Among the 19 graduates was Kayla Chaney, daughter of Scott and granddaughter of Bob and Kay. Kayla is the mother of 2 1/2 year old Bryce Weakley and had to really study to combine this with all her other daily chores. Congratulations, Kayla!

After the state test she has accepted a position at Lion's Manor Nursing Home and Hunt Club Clinic.

I want to sincerely thank those who have helped me in the cleaning of the building and the composing of the newsletter during 2018. I wish each of you a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY, HEALTHY 2019 ...especially to Marilyn Adam who puts it all together on the computer!

BIRTHDAYS

Since we haven't had a newsletter for so many months, it would mean so many names to list for the Birthdays, so I decided to just include those that are coming up soon.

DECEMBER 5 - Kayla Chaney

5 - Morgan Chaney

DECEMBER 6 - Timothy Martin

DECEMBER 11 - Mildred Deter

11 - Wanda Lewis

DECEMBER 15 - Susan Weems

15 - Pat Counihan

DECEMBER 20 - Gene Cave

20 - Charlene VanMeter

DECEMBER 23 - Dante Dill

23 - Adam Weems

DECEMBER 25 - Wayne Smith

25 - Lynn Zeller

DECEMBER 25 - BABY JESUS

DECEMBER 27 - David Larrick

DECEMBER 30 - Mike Alban

DECEMBER 31 - Jane Arthur

JANUARY - 9 - Carol Lantz

- 9 - Jim Squires

JANUARY - 13 - Joyce Smith

JANUARY - 18 - Rich Keller

JANUARY - 22 - Mark Jackson

- 22 - Bonnie Keller

JANUARY - 24 - William Hughes

- 24 - Louise Gilpin

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!

THANK YOU & APPRECIATION NOTES

Dear Friends at Living Word Lutheran Church,

You have overwhelmed me with your concern and kindnesses during this rough time and I can't thank you enough. I still have a long road ahead, but am handling it pretty well.

I've been a member of St. Paul's for almost 70 years and would find it very difficult to leave, but changes are ahead, so who knows what the future holds? If I ever leave there, I'll be heading your way. Lynn can't say enough good about all of you.

Please accept my thanks and appreciation for all the cards and expressions of concern. God bless you all and know you're very special to me.

Sincerely, Linda Zeller

Dear Congregation,

On behalf of the children of Allegany County and the In Home Services Unit of the Allegany County Department of Social Services, please accept our sincerest thank you for your recent donation of \$200. to Safe and Snug, Warming the Hearts and Hands of Children.

Safe and Snug gave out over 660 coats during last year's 17th campaign. Coats for 2018 will be purchased through local stores (and donated by churches, businesses and individuals), and your donation will help ensure all children stay warm in the coming winters months.

Thank you from all of us at In Home Services for your generosity.

Sincerely, Marlene S. Comer, Coordinator

NEWS CONCERNING OUR YOUNGER GENERATION

FROM: 7/26/18 TO 12/3/18

BY: SADIE KOSER

The American Legion Auxiliary, Farrady Unit 24, sponsored the American Legion Auxiliary Essay Contest for 2018. The theme was "WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROMOTE AMERICANISM IN YOUR SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY?"

The Hughes sisters, daughters of Kristi and Ray, were winner! Carolyn placed second in group 1, while the group 2 first place winner was Annabeth! Carolyn is a member of the fifth grade at Frost Elementary and Annabeth attends Mt. Savage Middle School where she is in the seventh grade.

Congratulations to the Hughes sisters!

The Ellerslie Soccer Team also has a member that attends LWLC...HANDLEY ROBB!! We congratulate Handley and his teammates. He is the son of Patrick/Kasey, grandson of Terry/Peggy and great grandson of Pat.

The Oldtown Soccer Team also has a member that attends LWLC...KARL ERIKSSON! His team made it all the way to the quarter finals. Congratulations to Karl and his team. He is the son of Paul/Lori.

The Mt. Savage School recently announced its honor roll for the first marking period of the year. Making the Straight A honor roll for the 7th grade was Annabeth Hughes, daughter of Kristi and Ray.

At the same school, in the 6th grade Hannah Eriksson made the A/B honor roll list. Hannah is the daughter of Paul and Lori

November 2nd & 3rd was an exciting time for William and Patrick Hughes, who traveled to Pittsburgh with their mother, Kristi. Both boys are

members of Frostburg's Cub Scout Pack 24. They were also in the company of Boy Scout Troop 24.

Their destination was the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

They arrived at 7 p.m. on Friday at the Museum and the boys had an evening of fun activities including hands on learning in Discovery Basecamp, creation of encased T-Rex fossil to show how fossils are shipped from excavation sites...AND they got to take it home! They also enjoyed a scavenger hunt, a live animal educational session and a pizza party. The Pack didn't bed down until after 11:00 PM, amongst the exhibits! The Hughes brothers and mother slept by the polar bears and walruses!!

After a healthy breakfast, the Pack got an hour in the "Dinosaurs in their Time" before the entire museum opened to the public. The pack stayed most of the day enjoying the museum. This was a once in a lifetime experience they will never forget.

Frost Elementary School recently announced the Principal's Choice Award winners for the first nine-week marking period of the year. Listed among grade 3 was the name of William Hughes who is following his sisters footsteps in making this list! Carolyn made the prestigious list again and is a member of the 5th grade!

Allegheny High School recently announced their honor roll listing, first marking period and Jordan Chaney made the A/B honor list. Jordan is a member of the 9th grade, the daughter of Steve/Lisa and granddaughters of Bob/Kay