**2021 THRIVENT POP**

**TAB CHALLENGE!**

The Thrivent pop tab collection is underway! Many thanks go out to all those who have already brought in bags or containers of pop tabs for 2021 spring challenge. Keep ‘em coming!

If you would like a container to have at home for your collection, grab one from the pew outside Pastor Deal’s office. Once you have some collected, you may bring your container back and dump its contents into the larger containers in both the main hallway and narthex. Collected tabs may also be left in the secretary’s office or given directly to Marie Flaugher who is coordinating our efforts.

The Thrivent pop tab challenge is a competition to submit the greatest amount (in weight) of pop tabs. Metal rings from canned foods such as pet foods are also acceptable. Last year, Sts. Peter & Paul’s finished in the top three with a collection of 62 pounds.

This project benefits the Ronald McDonald House.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Marie Flaugher at 724-301-8278.

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**Word of Hope: 1-888-217-8679**

The only 24/7 CONFIDENTIAL Hotline that is distinctly Lutheran, bringing healing found in Christ, to those whose hearts have been broken by abortion.

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**LIKE & FOLLOW our Church’s Facebook page (Saints Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church)!**

Remember to like, comment, and share to help us reach as many people as possible.

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**Be sure to check out our church’s website** [**www.saintspeterandpaul.net**](http://www.saintspeterandpaul.net) **for current service bulletins, newsletters, an up-dated church calendar and more!**

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**Scrip/Gift Card Program** The next date for turning in SCRIP/Gift Card orders and payments is **Sunday, December 6th**. Please make all checks out to Sts. Peter & Paul’s. Order forms for this program may be found on the table in the narthex as well in the main hallway. Both orders and payments may be placed in the offering plate.

How does the Scrip/Gift Card Program work? Participants indicate on their order form the gift card(s) and the dollar amounts desired. Matt Berent collects and processes the orders and payments and participants receive desired cards one to two weeks later.

What’s the catch? There really isn’t one! You receive the full value of the card ordered and the company which provides us with the cards gives a percentage of the order to the church. This percentage varies from gift card to gift card.

So, if unsure what to give someone for Christmas and thinking of a gift card (which *always* fits), give this program a try!

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Forms for submitting **resolutions, nominations for SELC circuit visitors, nominations for SELC district president and vice presidents, and nominations for member of the SELC board of directors and Lutheran Haven trustees** are in a packet on the table in our library. Completed form are to be submitted to Jonathan Baisch by December 4th for consideration at our next Voters’ Assembly meeting and may be placed in his library mailbox.

**xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx**

Join us **Saturday, December 19th** beginning at 11 am to help decorate our church for Christmas!

A light lunch will be served afterwards.

Come join in the fun!

**Homebound Members & Friends**

***Please keep the following people in your prayers:***

Helen Bender

920 Pleasantview Dr.

New Castle, PA 16101

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Mary Ann Krajci, John XXIII

2250 Shenango Valley Freeway

Hermitage, PA 16148

724-981-3200

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Robert Murchek

394 Fisher Hill St.

Sharon, PA 16146-5801

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Marion Roberts

287 East 2nd St. Apt. #103

Hummelstown, PA 17036

724-893-4570 (This is a corrected phone number!)

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**CELEBRATING IN DECEMBER!**

**Birthdays**

Rev. Jacob Deal 12- 4

Marie Flaugher 12-5

Jennifer Voytik 12- 5

Brittany Nelson 12-10

Rebekah Baisch 12-13

Rev. Edward Kucera 12-13

Joan Rice 12-16

Bill Wolf 12-16

Debbie Zurawsky 12-17

Viola Sakony 12-19

Robin Hawthorne 12-22

Titus Deal 12-23

Sandy Andree 12-24

Shelley Gansca 12-24

Tom Zachar 12-24

Jean Tomko 12-28

**Anniversaries:**

Ralph & Judie Dorman 12-9

Anson & Henrietta Holcroft 12-18

\*If birthdays or anniversaries have been omitted, please let the church office know. Thank You!



**LIVE ALTAR FLOWERS AVAILABLE**

For those wishing to sponsor live altar flowers and not be responsible for picking them up and delivering them to the church, arrangements have been made with Cottage Gardens in Hermitage.

Sponsors will be able to select the types of flowers they wish. Prices per vase vary accordingly. Options are…

* Lilies, roses, mix of flowers: $40 each vase
* Carnations, mums, gerbera daisies, mix of flowers: $35 each vase
* Carnations, mums, daisies, alstroemeria, mix of flowers: $30 each vase
* Colors can be a special request or seasonal arrangements can be designed to match the season’s prettiest colors and flowers.

There is a delivery charge of $7.00. Flowers will be delivered Saturdays prior to the Divine Service. Sponsors are encouraged to remove the flowers from the altar following Sunday’s service and take them home.

If you would like to sponsor flowers, sign the sheet posted in the narthex. Please pre-pay for your arrangements and delivery by placing the corresponding amount in a pew envelope and putting it in the offering plate. Any checks should be made out to the church. Please be sure to indicate desired wording for the service bulletin on your pew envelope.

You can still opt to provide your own flowers. Be sure to indicate this when signing up on the sponsor sheet.

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**To listen to Pastor Deal’s sermons, phone 724-347-3620 and press Option 6.**

**Current sermons will be available by Sunday evening.**

**Services are currently being live-streamed on Sunday mornings. Check out our Facebook page (Saints Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church) for the youtu.be link.**

**“Stock the Food Pantry Sunday” is December 15th!**

***Let us remember those in need!***

Your financial contributions to this outreach mission will be greatly appreciated!

(At this time, we are unable to accept direct donations of food products.)

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**Sts. Peter & Paul’s Food Pantry is able to assist those in need of emergency food!**

If you or someone you know is in need of emergency food during this time, please contact John Dyll (724-734-7016). Our food pantry operates through the Community Food Warehouse of Mercer County and distributes food the second and fourth Thursdays of each month beginning at 9 am.

Please consider “lending a hand up” to those in need.

‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’ Matthew 25:40

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**Thank You for Serving in December:**

**Assisting Elder:** Bob Sulek

**Altarware:** (Before service) Diane Riefstahl; (After service) Cheryl Fedele & Clara Krivosh.

**Note:** Our greeting and ushering programs are temporarily suspended at this time.

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**REMINDER:** Please let the church office know of any changes to your address, phone, cell phone or your e-mail address!

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**IMPORTANT MEETING DATES**

**Voters’ Assembly:** Sun., Dec. 6th following worship.

**Auditors:** Sun., Dec. 15th following worship.

**Bible Memory Verses from November:**

**For Adults:**

**Nov. 1:** *Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 7:21)*

**Nov. 8:** *For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. (1 Thessalonians 4:14)*

**Nov. 15:** *The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)*

**Nov. 22:** *But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. (1Thessalonians 5:8)*

**Nov 29:** *I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)*

**For Children:**

**Nov. 1:** *An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. (2 Timothy 2:5)*

**Nov. 8:** *The one who endures to the end will be saved. (Matthew 24:13)*

**Nov. 15:** *We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:10)*

**Nov. 22:** *Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning. (Luke 12:35)*

**Nov. 29:**  *Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he. (Zechariah 9:9)*

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Order forms and payments for **2020 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS** will be accepted through Sunday, December 6th. This date is different from that noted on the initial order form. Prices have increased since last year: 1 plant branched ($7.00); 3 plants branched ($15.00). A variety of colors are offered.

Orders and payments may be placed in a pew envelope and placed in the offering plate. Please speak with Diane if you should have any questions.

FROM YOUR ALTAR GUILD:

Chrismons for Christmas!

At this time of year, families begin decorating for Christmas. Boxes are brought down from the attic, under the stairs, and other storage areas in the home. Out, come the Santas, elves, reindeer, and bright and colorful ornaments for the Christmas tree. Many ornaments hold sentimental value, a fond reminder of the past. Often some have to be replaced after being packed away and reused year after year. They are a comfort as you enjoy them once again.

When you enter our sanctuary during the Christmas season, the trees you see by the altar each year have simple, two-color ornaments adorning them called CHRISMONS. These ornaments will only be displayed in white and gold so as to symbolize Christ’s purity and majesty. They sparkle and shine because of their meaning!

This year the church’s trees will be adorned with new Chrismons as those used in the past are sadly worn out. Eighty different symbols will be displayed. We are deeply grateful to our anonymous donors who made this beautiful purchase for us to enjoy!

With so many different symbols, it is difficult to select just a few to picture and describe. The following are some of the most commonly recognized with a brief explanation of each.

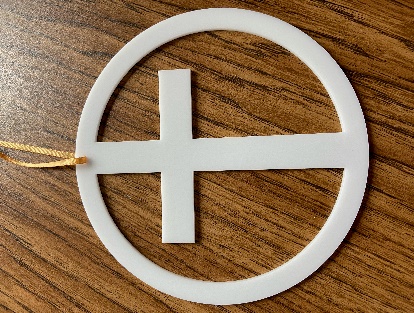
The **Chi-Rho** looks like the letter ‘P’ with an ‘X’ on top of it. These two letters are the first two letters of the Greek word ‘Christos’ which translates as ‘Christ’ in English.



The **White Rose** is a symbol for purity and can represent Mary, the mother of our Lord.

The **Crown** symbolizes that Jesus is King, the ruler over heaven

and earth.



The **Cross** reminds us that Jesus Christ died for us all on a cross.



The **Fish** is one of the oldest Christian symbols. The letters, from the Greek word for fish (ichthus), stand for Jesus (I), Christ (X), God (Q), Son (Y), Savior (S). Some of Jesus' disciples were fishermen.



The **Trefoil** represents the Christian 'Trinity' of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.  It is three equal circles intertwined to form a whole.



The **Dove** is the symbol of peace and the Holy Spirit. It is shown pointing down to represent the Holy Spirit that appeared as a Dove when Jesus was baptized.

Enjoy these beautiful reminders of our faith throughout this Christmas season.

**“Keep me in your prayers”**

How often have people asked you to “keep them in your prayers”? Or, perhaps, it is a request you have yourself made of others. We all know the power of prayer. We bring our intercessions to the Lord all while asking that His will be done. As Saint Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 2: 1-3, “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior.”

There is a sense of power when prayers are shared by a group of people. That is why we weekly pray the “Prayer of the Church”, a prayer which is shared by all who believe as we do. We do personalize this prayer to include those who are grieving, ill, and unable to attend services in person as well as those among us celebrating birthdays and/or anniversaries. So, together we bring our prayers before the Lord even for people we may not personally know but for whom our brothers and sisters in Christ care.

There are times when our prayer list becomes quite lengthy and cumbersome. But should that matter? After all, these are individuals who are important to someone in our church family.

So rather than putting an “expiration date” on those names we include on our prayer list or in the Prayer of the Church, we will now keep them on the list until (1) the one who initiated the inclusion requests it to end; or (2) the person being prayed for asks to be removed from the list; or (3) our Lord calls him/her home.

To have someone added to the prayer list, please give his/her name in writing to the church secretary or Pastor Deal. If you wish to share information about the person such as his/her relationship to you, you may do so. If you don’t want this information shared with others, please specify that. Also, please make certain to include your name. Chances are if someone you care for is hurting, so are you. Additionally, make any requests for removing a name in writing as well. We always have the best intentions to remember to do things asked of us verbally, but you know how that often goes…

**Mission Outreach Project…**

**International Christian Literature Distributors, Inc.** focuses on getting the Bible and study materials to learn the Bible into the hands of Christian leaders in the least-fortunate places of the world. They supply churches and schools of Bible learning throughout the English speaking world. Your old Portals of Prayer, seasonal devotions, and other materials are greatly appreciated. For more information about ICLD, check out their website: [www.icld.org](http://www.icld.org/). **Please recycle these items by dropping them in the basket in the hallway by the offices. Thank you!**

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Help yourself to the **free Christmas cards** which have been donated by congregation members for your use. These cards are in a box placed on the table in the narthex. If you wish, consider a donation to the Food Pantry in appreciation.

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Join us for a special

**Bible Study “Open Forum”**

led by Pastor Baisch,

Sunday, December 27th

following worship.

An “open forum” is an opportunity to ask theological questions which have been on your mind or to bring up points for discussion.

We are very grateful to Pastor Baisch for volunteering to lead this special Bible Study session.

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**WELCOME NA!**

Church elders and trustees have approved the usage of our Fellowship Hall by Narcotics Anonymous. Currently, meetings will be held Wednesday evenings beginning at 7 pm.

**NOVEMBER MEMORIAL**

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

**(Bulletins November 1-29, 2020)**

**In Loving Memory of Germaine Tatusko, Jean Tomko’s Sister:** *Dorothy & James Dutko.*

**In Loving Memory of Grandmother, Mary Peto, and Husband, Larry Parker:** *Patty Parker.*

**In Loving Memory of Dan Davis:**  *Barber’s Chemicals, Inc, John E. Chieco, Anne Colt, Mark Gabriel, Joan Rice (Major Repair), and Diane Riefstahl.*

**In Loving Memory of Virginia Lehman:** *Anne Colt, Mark Gabriel, Anson & Hank Holcroft, Clara Krivosh, Joan Rice (Missions), and Diane Riefstahl*

**In Loving Memory of Mary Chmielewski:** *Anne Colt, Dolores Fee, Mark Gabriel, Anson & Hank Holcroft, Ruth Meszaros (Major Repair), Joan Rice, Diane Riefstahl, and Viola Sakony.*

**In Loving Memory of Aunt, Mary Chmielewski:** *Nancy Robertson.*

**In Loving Memory of Mother, Jennie Hoyney:** *Pat Voytik (Food Pantry).*

**In Loving Memory of Husband, Don:** *Pat Voytik (Major Repairs).*

**In Loving Memory of All Loved Ones:** *Pat Voytik.*

**In Loving Memory of Good Friend, Betty Knauff:** *Ruth & Ernie Meszaros (Missions).*

**In Loving Memory of Nephew, John E. Tomko:** *Anne & Ed Colt.*

**With Prayers for Continued Good Health for Daughter, Tina Jozwiakowski:** *Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Chlpka (Food Pantry).*

**In Loving Memory of Mother, Betty Petro, Nov. 26, 1919 to Nov. 28, 2009:** *Michael A. Petro and Patty Parker.*

**Our Stewardship of Treasures for the Lord:** In order to do the Lord’s work, we need $2,487.81 each week to meet our 2020 budget for general purposes and $39.62 for missions.

**Sun. Oct. 25, 2020:**

General Offering: $1635.90

SELC Missions: $10.00

Online Giving (10/21): $55.00

Other: $51.00

**Sat., Oct. 31, 2020**

General Offering: $3,218.00

SELC Missions: $25.00

Other: $200.00

**Sun., Nov. 1, 2020:**

General Offering: $1723.80

SELC Missions: $210.00

Online Giving (10/28): $55.00

Other: $95.00

**Sat., Nov. 7 & Sun., Nov. 8, 2020:**

General Offering: $1441.00

SELC Missions: $30.00

Online Giving (11/04): $55.00

Other: $60.00

**Sat., Nov. 14 & Sun., Nov. 15, 2020:**

General Offering: $905.00

SELC Missions: $60.00

Online Giving (11/12): $55.00

Scrip Deposit: $2,095.00

Other: $10.00

**Sat., Nov. 21 & Sun., Nov. 22, 2020:**

General Offering: $1,055.00

SELC Missions: $0.00

Online Giving (11/18/20): $55.00

Other: $791.00

***Remember, you now have the option of on-line giving! Check out https://www.saintspeterandpaul.net/online-giving.***

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**VOTERS’ ASSEMBLY MEETING**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH**

**Beginning 10 minutes after the end of the Divine Service.**

TRUSTEES’ UP-DATE

The trustees are responsible for the physical upkeep of our church property. Their responsibilities range from inspecting the property and grounds, making necessary repairs, and recommending to the members work which is beyond their capabilities. In short, they are among the “unsung” heroes of our church.

Currently our trustees are working on several projects. Here is a brief insight into some of the on-going endeavors:

**Roof quotes**: The roof has many leaks. We are seeking quotes to have the roof replaced in 2021. Quotes, as of this writing, are in hand and will be reviewed by the Trustees.

If there are any members of the congregation who have roofing experience, please feel free to let the Trustees know as we could use your knowledge in reviewing the quotes.

One company, while surveying the roof in order to give a replacement quote, fixed several leaks in October. It appears that the repairs are holding as no rain water has leaked onto Pastor Deal’s head during worship since.

**Glass Block window** replacement was approved by the voters.  There are 10 windows which need replaced.  Down payment for the work has been submitted and work at this time is scheduled for early January 2021.  If, the contractor’s schedule opens up, he will try to move the replacement work forward.

A new **boiler pump motor** has been approved for purchase and will be bought and installed in the near future.  This will assure the church stays warm in the winter and no one will have to go down to the boiler room and hit it to get it working.

**Snow Plowing** has been scheduled for the winter season.  We have explained to the contractor that sidewalk safety is a priority.

**Mold remediation.** The men’s and women’s restrooms back behind the youth room have been sprayed to eliminate mold. Also, the preschool teacher’s office space and janitors’ closet have been sprayed for mold and, then, painted.

These are the big projects we are currently working on.   Not included are all the day-to-day items Bob Sulek works on to keep the church held together.

Finally, we are still in need of an additional trustee. If interested or have questions, please feel free to speak with a current trustee to find out what all is involved.

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**A note from Pastor Deal:** *Please let me know if you or a loved one are in the hospital or have a special need. Also, please ask the hospital to call me or the church office. I wish to visit those who may be hurting.*

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Thank you to all those who participated in the Sacramental Wine Tasting and Selection held November 15th following worship!

A good time was had by all!

Remember the following in Prayer…

**~The Mourning:** *The friends and families of Betty Knauff (Nov. 5th) and her husband, Regis (Nov. 19th). Also, the friends and families of John Tomko (Nov. 5th) and John Zachar (Nov. 22nd).*

**~The Hurting and Healing:** *Sue BenderCA, Darlene Berent, Lois BortnerCA, Richard Brandes, Kim, Darlene Cesta, Susan Davies, Tim Dudash, Joseph Fleet, Marie Haenftling, Neale & Melissa Huston, Donna Kennedy, Jess Lavoie, Paul Lucas****CA****, Sandy Marshall, Ernie Meszaros, Mike Moats, Rhonda Moats, Tom MulliganCA, David Nelson, Juanita Rentschler, Richard ReuningCA, Marty Scott, Dan Spanos (John Dyll’s grandson), Traudi Sulek, Martin Weisenborn, Angela WeserCA, and Millie Zachar.*

**~The Homebound:**  *Helen Bender, Mary Ann Krajci, Robert Murchek, and Marion Roberts.*

**~Serving in the Military:**  *Curtis Sinewe and Joshua Solyan.*

**~Community & World Needs:**  *Those suffering from or affected by the coronavirus; those suffering from loss and dislocation because weather disasters; those suffering from addiction and their families; Local, State, and National Government Leaders; safety for all Police Officers, Firefighters, & First Responders; the unemployed; our Fourth Quarter Local Mission: Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries (PALM).*

*\*CA represents cancer.*

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**If you do not have an email account or do not receive emails from the church but wish to be notified of significant information concerning your fellow church members (such as births or deaths), please put a note in the Secretary’s mail slot asking to receive a phone call. Every attempt will be made to phone you within 24 hours of an email being sent out.**

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**Church Office Hours and Deadlines for December:**

**During Advent, the secretary’s office hours will be Mondays (8:30-4:30) and Wednesdays (8:30-5:30). Pastor Deal will also be in the office Mondays and Wednesdays unless ministering off-site. At this time, he will be working from home Tuesdays and Thursdays.**

**During the weeks of Christmas and New Year’s, the secretary’s office will be opened Mondays and Tuesdays (8:30-4:30). Please make certain to submit any items for the bulletin by noon Monday of each week for the following Sunday.**

**Submission of items for the January newsletter will be due Monday, December 21st.**

**If you need to enter the Church, please call ahead to be sure someone is here to let you in. Thank you.**

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**Recently, we received notice that our church was the recipient of Thrivent Choice dollars. Thank you, Michael Flaugher, for directing your dollars to our church.**

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Copies of the **2020 Advent devotions, “Now, At the Last, and Unto Eternity”**, are available on the shelf in the narthex and on the windowsill by the library in the main hall. Feel free to take one for a friend.

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The last few months have seen several of our friends and church family members called home to be with the Lord. It is never easy to say “good-bye” to those whom we love, but we should take great comfort in knowing, that because of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross for our sins, they are now enjoying their heavenly reward.

So, for the time being, we grieve the passings of Betty & Regis Knauff, John Tomko, and Virginia Lehman as well as fellow members of Sts. Peter & Paul’s: Dan Davis, Mary Chmielewski, and John Zachar. Remember though, it’s not “good-bye”, but “until we meet again”.

The obituaries for Dan, Mary, and John follow.

**Obituary for Daniel E. Davis**

Daniel E. Davis, 89, formerly of Greenville, died peacefully on Oct. 22, 2020. He lived the last years of his life at Avalon Springs Place where he was cared for with skill and kindness.

Dan was born on Nov. 15, 1930, in Sharpsville.

Dan proudly served in the Navy aboard the USS Bryce Canyon as an electronics mate from May 21, 1951, to March 2, 1955. After his honorable discharge, he married his first wife, Ruth and became a loving father to three children.

He owned the ARCO station on Walnut Street in Sharpsville for several years before joining Barber's Chemicals, where he delivered chemicals to water treatment facilities.

Dan had a memorable sense of humor and smirk. He would often remark, "some men get the key to the executive bathroom, I have the keys to the whole d\*\*\* sewage treatment plant."

Dan loved a good road trip to local historical sites and also had a habit of making the appropriate animal sounds when driving past farm animals. This habit lives on in his children who spontaneously "moo" when they spot a cow.

Dan married his wife Shirley in 1985. He was devoted to Shirley, and delighted in becoming dad to another set of (grown) children.

Dan is survived and loved by his children, Rachel Kinser (Bill), Jeff Davis (Sharon), and Meg Wheeler (Diana Karas), Susan Kovacik (Alan), John "Butch" Goblinger (Tina), Keith Goblinger (Nancy) and Gary Goblinger, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded by his sister and brother-in-law, Phyllis and James Cattron; brother, Bobby Davis; and his soulmate Shirley.

Donations may be made in memory of Dan Davis to Mercer County Historical Society, 119 Pitt St., Mercer, PA 16137 or Saints Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, 699 Stambaugh Avenue 16146.

**Obituary for Mary Chmielewski**

Our Savior Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Let us remember with thanksgiving what God has done through His servant Mary.

Mary Chmielewski was born in Farrell, PA on February 3, 1928 to Andrew and Anna Zipay. She was reborn as a child of God in the waters of Holy Baptism on March 4, 1928. On April 6, 1941, she was confirmed in the Christian faith and was fed the life-giving body and blood of Jesus. She was united in holy marriage to Joseph Justin Chmielewski on June 3, 1950 and blessed with fifty-four years of married life together. God also blessed them with the gift of children: Maria (Carl) Marks and June (Jerome) Thomas. On October 25, 2020, God called Mary home to heaven. She is survived by her daughters Maria and June; grandchildren Stephen (Erin) Marks, Casonddra Thomas, and Selena Thomas; and great-grandchild, Stephen Marks, Jr. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

The Lord gives and the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord. We give thanks to God our Father through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for our sister Mary.

**Obituary for John Zachar**

John Zachar, 91, of Sharon went to be with his Lord Sunday afternoon, November 22, 2020. “The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away.”

Mr. Zachar was born January 27, 1929, in Sharon, one of six children to John and Mary (Muha) Zachar. A lifelong city resident, he graduated from Sharon High School in 1947.

For 38 years, John was employed by the Sharon Transformer Div. of the Westinghouse Electric Corp.

John was a faithful, lifelong, and active member of Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sharon, where he served as the Sunday School Superintendent for 40 years. He also served as a church elder, a trustee, head usher, financial secretary, volunteered with the church food pantry, and sang in the church choir. “To God be the Glory.”

John’s favorite hobby was picking mushrooms. He loved the outdoors and gardening. For many years, he served as a Little League manager, and had a real love for children.

He is survived by a brother, Edward Zachar and his wife, Mildred, Niles, OH. John had many nieces and nephews who were a beautiful part of his life. He was very thankful and proud of each and every one of them.

**Advent Mid-week Services**

**Wednesdays, Dec. 2, 9, and 16**

**Noon and 7 pm**

**Christmas Eve Service**

**Thursday, Dec. 24, 2020**

**8 pm**

**Christmas Day Divine Service**

**Friday, Dec. 25, 2020**

**10 am**

**Bible Study “Open Forum”**

**with Pastor Baisch**

**Sunday, Dec. 27, 2020**

**Following worship**

**New Year’s Eve Service**

**Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020**

**4 pm**

John especially wanted to thank Gail, for her love and kindness, “my angel.” He loved his dog, Ginger, who was the love of his life.

John was preceded in death by his parents; an infant brother, John; a brother Joseph Zachar

and his wife, Irene; two sisters, Ann Zachar and Mildred Zipay; and a brother-in-law, George Zipay.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be directed to Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, 699 Stambaugh Ave., Sharon, PA 16146.



**Who’s Ready for a New Year?**

Advent marks the beginning of a new church year. Although many have already hurried into the Christmas season with decorating, shopping, and baking underway, Advent is a reminder to “slow down” and prepare oneself for the true meaning of Christmas.

This year’s Advent theme, “Now, At the Last, and Unto Eternity”, helps us regain our Christian focus.

A few things in our church reflect this period of preparation for Christmas. Flowers will not adorn our altar until Christmas Eve; and the Advent wreath will be lit one candle at a time, reminding us to be patient. The “Gloria in Excelsis” will be omitted during the Divine Service until we gloriously sing it again Christmas Day.

So, join us this month and prepare for the coming of our Lord. Advent mid-week services are offered at noon and 7 pm for three weeks December 2nd, 9th, and 16th. Bible Study is offered following worship Sunday mornings.

**CALENDAR LISTINGS FOR**

**DECEMBER 2020**

**Wednesday, December 2, 2020**

Noon: Mid-week Advent Service

7 pm: Mid-week Advent Service

**Friday, December 4, 2020**

Pastor’s day off

**Saturday, December 5, 2020**

5 pm: Divine Service

**Sunday, December 6, 2020**

**Populus Zion**

10 am: Divine Worship

11:30 am: Voters’ Assembly meeting

Following: Bible Study

7 pm: AA

**Wednesday, December 9, 2020**

Noon: Mid-week Advent Service

7 pm: Mid-week Advent Service

TBA: NA

**Thursday, December 10, 2020**

9 am: Food pantry

**Friday, December 11, 2020**

Pastor’s day off

**Saturday, December 12, 2020**

5 pm: Divine Service

**Sunday, December 13, 2020**

**Gaudete**

10 am: Divine Worship

11:30 am: Bible Study

7 pm: AA

**Wednesday, December 16, 2020**

Noon: Mid-week Advent Service

7 pm: Mid-week Advent Service

TBA: NA

**Friday, December 18, 2020**

Pastor’s day off

**Saturday, December 19, 2020**

11 am: church Christmas decorating

5 pm: Divine Service

**Sunday, December 20, 2020**

**Rorate Coeli**

10 am: Divine Worship

Following: Bible Study

7 pm: AA

**Wednesday, December 23, 2020**

9 am: Food pantry

TBA: NA

**Thursday, December 24, 2020**

**Christmas Eve**

8 pm: Christmas Eve service

**Friday, December 25, 2020**

**Christmas Day**

10 am: Divine Service

**Sunday, December 27, 2020**

**St. John, Apostle and Evangelist**

10 am: Divine Worship

Following: Bible Study w/Pastor Baisch

7 pm: AA

**Thursday, December 31, 2020**

4 pm: New Year’s Eve service

**Best Wishes for a**

**Blessed Christmas**

**to All!**

