**Sts. Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church LC-MS**

Monthly Newsletter --- February 2021

699 Stambaugh Avenue, Sharon, PA 16146

Phone: 724.347.3620 (Opt. 2, Pastor Deal; Opt. 3, Office)

E-mail: church@saintspeterandpaul.net [www.saintspeterandpaul.net](http://www.saintspeterandpaul.net)

“THE ROCK and THE SWORD”

“Built upon the Rock of Christ and wielding the

Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.”

**Pastor Deal’s article** will be published separately this month and should be available soon.

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

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

**Due to copyright issues, we are no longer live-streaming / recording our worship services.**

**Thank You for Serving in February:**

**Assisting Elder:** TBD

**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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**Join us Tuesday, February 2nd at 6 pm**

**for a Vespers Service**

**celebrating the**

**Purification of Mary**

**and the Presentation of Our Lord.**

**Scrip/Gift Card Program** The next date for turning in SCRIP/Gift Card orders and payments is **Sunday, February 7th**. 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 prior to the service.

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Please help us **RECYCLE!** A bin has been placed next to the parking lot doors for used bulletins. Please help us keep our sanctuary neat by either taking home your service bulletins or disposing of them here.

Additionally, there is a basket by the secretary’s office for donations of already-read Christian materials. These materials are shipped periodically to ICLD (International Christian Literature Distributors, Inc.) who, in turn, send them to Christians in third-world countries.

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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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**Preschool Up-date:**

At the December 6, 2021 Voters’ Assembly Meeting, it was decided by the voters to permanently close our preschool. Members of the 2020 preschool board were charged with handling the closing and deciding what to do with remaining preschool items.

 To date, the board has sorted through the preschool items with the help of Ana Deal and Catherine Carr. Items which are outmoded, well-worn, or for which there would be little use have been discarded. Teaching tools and furniture have been retained and stored. Items for which we have no use, but which are still in good shape have been designated for donation to other preschools or facilities in our area. We are still in the process of consolidating and inventorying remaining items.

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**“Stock the Food Pantry Sunday”**

**is Feb. 14th!**

**Let’s “show some love”**

**to 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

**2021 THRIVENT POP**

**TAB CHALLENGE!**

Keep bringing in your pop tabs for the 2021 Thrivent Pop Tab Challenge! Tabs may be placed in the containers found in the narthex or main hallway or given to the church secretary.

 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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**Homebound Members & Friends**

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

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 FEBRUARY!**

**Birthdays**

Brad Solyan Feb. 3

Beverly Chlpka Feb. 4

Traudi Sulek Feb. 28

**Anniversary**

Joe & Beverly Chlpka Feb. 10

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

 

**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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**ATTENTION AUDITORS!**

**2021 auditors are reminded that there will be an audit of deposits following worship Sunday, February 14th. If unable to attend, please phone Bev Chlpka at 724-962-4806**.

**2021 ALTAR FLOWER SIGN UP SHEET**

If wishing to sponsor altar flowers on available dates in 2021, you have two options:

1. Select a provider of your choice. You are then responsible for bringing the flowers to the church, arranging them, and disposing of them following Sunday’s service. Flowers are to either be brought in Saturday by 4:30 pm or Sunday by 9:30 am. This option gives you full control as to cost and style of flowers.
2. 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.

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 2021 Flower Sponsor 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.

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Submissions for the March issue of “The Rock and the Sword” newsletter are due to the secretary by February 22nd.

FROM YOUR ALTAR GUILD:

**GLORY DAYS**

What does it mean if you want to relive your “glory days”? Is it the desire to return to your youth? Or were your “glory days” a time in adulthood when you felt invincible and all you attempted went well for you?

Each of us should desire to live in the “glory days” of our Lord. Although Sundays are typically considered to be “the Lord’s Day”, aren’t *all* days “the Lord’s Days”? We should not simply reserve each Sunday as our day of worship, prayer, and Bible study; rather, we should devote time each day to such. Each day should be a celebration of the resurrection of our Lord.

As Lutherans, we designate “Matins” as our morning worship and “Vespers” as our evening worship. Both provide us with psalms and readings for our use. If you keep a copy of The Lutheran Service Book (LSB) in your home, you can refer to these services each day. If you don’t have a copy of the LSB, daily devotions can be found online or in print (i.e., Portals of Prayer). Open your Bible and study the promises made to each of us by our God!

Remember that each day should be a celebration of our Lord’s “glory days” True, they are not all days of jubilation, but each leads us to the great promise of eternal life. So, if you want to relive “glory days”, study the most glorious of all: those of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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Altar Guild update:

* It’s not too late to join the Altar Guild! There are many ways to serve. Speak with Diane if you would like more information.
* The next Altar Guild meeting will be following worship Sunday, February 28th in the Fellowship Hall.
* Work is continuing on the refurbishment of our paraments and the making of other new altar linens. Currently, we have six new purificators for use during Holy Communion as well as a new fair linen which will lie atop the altar parament.

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**Copies of the 2020 Annual Report are available in the narthex.**

**Bible Memory Verses from January:**

**For Adults:**

Jan. 3: *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

*Matthew 11:28-30*

Jan. 10: *The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1*

Jan. 17: *But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 2 Corinthians 12:9*

Jan. 24: *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.  Galatians 2:20*

Jan. 31: *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.  1 John 4:7*

**For Children:**

Jan. 3: *For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. Psalm 91:11*

Jan. 10: *We have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. John 1:14*

Jan. 17: *The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. John 1:17*

Jan. 24: *God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:6*

There will be an important **Voters’ Assembly Meeting** 10 minutes after the end of worship Sunday, February 7th in the Sanctuary. Please join us!

Jan. 31: *We do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. Daniel 9:8*



**REMINDER: 2021 MEETING DATES**

Church Council: All meetings are held Monday evenings beginning at 7 pm.

January 18 July 19

April 26 November 15

Quarterly Audits: All meetings are held directly after the Divine Service.

January 17 July 18

April 25 October 24

Voters’ Assembly Meetings: All meetings begin 10 minutes following the conclusion of the Divine Service.

February 7 August 8

May 16 December 5



*Sincere “Congratulations” are extended to*

***Alyxis Kimmel & Jesse Riffle***

*who became engaged recently!*

*May God bless your up-coming nuptials!*



**Sunday Morning Bible Study** is currently studying the Augsburg Confessions. This Bible Study is open to all ages.

 Please note that, as of February 7th, Bible Study will begin at 8:45 am *prior* to the Divine Service. This change is being made to better accommodate those who have post-service responsibilities.

 If you should have a topic which you would like considered for Bible Study *or* are possibly interested in a midweek Bible Study, please speak with Pastor Deal.



Sincere sympathy is extended to the friends and families of **Darlene Eugene Berent**, mother of member Matt Berent, who passed away Thursday, December 24, 2020, **Katherine Helen Bender**, mother of member Susan Bender, who passed away Sunday, December 27, 2020 and **Mary Ann Krajci**, who passed away Saturday, January 23, 2021, a life-long member of Sts. Peter & Paul’s and mother of member Chris Nelson and sister of member Millie Zachar.

 May those who mourn their passings find comfort in the promise of eternal life with our Lord and Savior.

Obituaries for these women follow.

**Darlene Eugene Berent**

Darlene Eugene (nee Smith) Berent, 85, of Highland Michigan, passed away Thursday, Dec 24, 2020, after battling complications from surgery. In his wisdom, Jesus welcomed her home, where she was reunited with her soulmate, John Berent, who preceded her in death 2 years ago.

Darlene was born September 11, 1935, in Winnipeg, Canada, and grew up in the Elmwood neighborhood of Winnipeg, where she was salutatorian of her Lord Selkirk High School senior class. She was quite athletic, and for a number of years held the provincial record in Manitoba for the 60 yard dash and softball throw. She won a 50% scholarship to attend University of Manitoba, but God had different plans.
At age 18 she moved to Chicago, Illinois, and worked as a secretary at the Lutheran Aid Society. It was there that she met John at a Chicago ballroom, when she was dating one of John’s friends. But they were drawn together, beginning a 63 year journey of love, caring, and family.

They were married April 28, 1956, and very quickly began their family of 3 boys and 1 girl in John’s hometown of Detroit, soon moving to a new home in Madison Heights. Throughout her children’s schooling, Darlene was actively involved in their lives; as a room mother, a volunteer, the loudest cheerleader at all sporting events, and pseudo-Mom to many of the neighborhood kids. She was a loving and generous Mom, who taught her kids that family always comes first, traditions are a wonderful legacy, and any adversity and sorrows can be faced with the support of family and friends.
Darlene was a force of nature, who raised four strong, independent children, each of whom sought their own path, guided by her powerful encouragement and example. It is because of Darlene that the family is so closely knit today. Family or friend, she greeted everyone with a smile, and created fabulous family meals and an endless array of homemade Christmas cookies. She loved hosting parties and events, and thrived in the role of Hostess.

Darlene was active in the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, holding a variety of offices first at the Madison Heights Club, then at the State level, culminating in her role as GFWC Michigan State President from 1980-1982, and Convention Chair in 2012 and 2019. She was designated Michigan Woman of Achievement in 2005, GFWC Woman of the Year in 2011, and Jennie Award winner in 2016. She was also deeply involved in Democrat politics, at the local, state, and national level. She attended the Democrat National Convention in 1992. Although primarily a stay-at-home Mom, once her kids were grown, she worked for many years for the UAW at their Region 1 Headquarters.

An inveterate traveler, Darlene and John visited over 80 countries, and spent time on all 7 continents. Darlene also set a wonderful example with her charitable involvement. Girlstown, Gateway Counseling Center, The Kasey Foundation, the Lutheran Church, John Dewan Foundation, as well as the general GFWC charities, all benefitted from her leadership. For several decades she would don an Easter Bunny suit and visit senior citizen centers and children’s hospital wards, passing out candy and treats, and bringing a smile to those in need.

In addition to her husband, Darlene was preceded in death by her mother, Lillian; father, Edward; sister, Florence Pietracci; and granddaughter, Kasey.

She is survived by a brother, Sid Smith (Sharon), a sister, Frances Adolph; 3 sons, Daniel (Barbara), Bryan (Allison), Matt (Cathy), and daughter Sandra; and grandchildren, Stephanie Studt (Daniel), Christopher Berent, Brookelle Gragg, Nicholas Berent, Travis Gragg, Erica Berent, Cassidy Gragg, Mason Clark (Michelle), and Leah Schulenburg (Matthew); great-grandchildren Liliana Schulenburg, Solomon Schulenburg, Eleanor Clark and Harrison Clark, and numerous loving relatives and friends.

An opportunity to pay last respects, immediately followed by a funeral service and celebration of life will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2020, at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 2040 S. Commerce Road, Walled Lake. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Kasey Berent Foundation, 8 Buxton Road, West Middlesex, PA 16159.

**Katherine Helen Bender**

Katherine Helen Bender, 95, of Shenango Township, passed away the night of December 27, 2020 at her home.
Born October 29, 1925 in New Castle, she was the much-loved daughter of John and Katharina (Wagner) Gartner. Helen graduated from New Castle High School and worked at Bell Telephone company before becoming a full-time mother to her three children. She is survived by her daughters, Kathy and husband Mark (Buz) Chirdon, Susan Bender, and her son, Tom Bender.
She was a lifelong member of Christ Lutheran Church. In her younger years she was active in the Eintracht club and loved to dance. She enjoyed playing cards with her sister-in-law and brother-in-law, sewing, reading, couponing, crafts and listening to music. She loved animals and supported many animal charities. She actively took care of her flower and vegetable gardens into her 80’s.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her former husband, Henry Bender, and many friends. Special thanks to the aides who helped take care of her to allow her to live at home.

There will be no calling hours per her request. Rev. Jacob Deal will officiate at a private graveside service.

Memorial contributions may be offered to the charity of the donor’s choice.
Arrangements are being handled by the R. Cunningham Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc. where online condolences may be made to the family at www.cunninghamfh.com.

**Mary Ann Kapusta Krajci**

Mary Ann (Kapusta) Krajci passed away peacefully Saturday evening, January 23, 2021 at Sharon Regional Health System. She was 93.

　Mary Ann was born July 24, 1927, in Sharon, a daughter of John and Mary (Mihalko) Kapusta. She received the gift of Holy Baptism and became a child of God on August 1, 1927. She was confirmed on April 2, 1939. She married her beloved spouse, John Daniel Krajci on October 25, 1947. She was a life-long member of Sts. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church, Sharon, having served on the Altar Guild, Pre-school Board, Sunday School and VBS staff. She also enjoyed singing in the Choir.

She graduated as valedictorian from Sharon High School in 1945. After graduating from Slippery Rock State College, she was employed for 32 years by the West Middlesex School District, where she enjoyed teaching fourth grade and special education.

　She loved traveling throughout the United States with her husband and family; vacations at the beach became her favorite. She was an avid reader and loved watching tennis. Other hobbies included playing the piano, bowling and watching Hallmark movies and mystery shows. She loved supporting her grandchildren by attending all of their special events. The Lord was most important to her, as well as her family. We will always remember her saying "Angel Wings" for protection.

　Surviving are two daughters, Karen Sovesky and her husband, Jerry, Farrell; Christine Nelson and her husband, Barry, Transfer; a son, Mark D. Krajci and his wife, Darla, Sharpsville; along with her grandchildren, Jerry (Amanda) Sovesky and Robert (Karla) Sovesky; Bill Nelson and Brittany (Ian) Forbis; Jenna (George) Ross and Derick (Megan) Krajci; and her great-grandchildren, Delaney, Madison and Noah Sovesky; Toren and Colten Ross; Atticus, Rhett, and Avianna Sovesky. She is also survived by a sister, Mildred Zachar, and her husband, Ed, Niles, OH, and a sister-in-law, Ruth Fitzgerald and her husband, Ken, Pinehurst, NC.

　Besides her parents, Mary Ann was preceded in death by her husband, John; a son, John G. Krajci; and her granddaughter, Olivia Sovesky.

　 A private funeral service will be held at 11:00 AM Thursday (01-28-2021) in Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, with Rev. Jacob Deal, Pastor, officiating. Internment in America's Cemetery.

　Memorial contributions may be made in her memory to Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, 699 Stambaugh Avenue, Sharon, PA 16146.

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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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Tuesday, February 16th, Pastor Deal will be available by appointment only, for **Individual Services of Confession and Absolution** in preparation for the season Lent. Phone 724-347-3620 (opt. 2) to schedule your appointment.

**JANUARY MEMORIAL**

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

**(Bulletins January 3-31, 2021)**

**In Loving Memory of Karen Arthur & Loved Ones:** *Gerald Arthur (Major Repair).*

**In Loving Memory of Helen Bender:** *Judy (niece) & Larry Blanc, Jeff & Stacy Brandes (Missions), Gary & Eileen Burns (Major Repair Fund), Anne Colt, Dolores Fee (Missions), Mark Gabriel, Anson & Hank Holcroft, Maxine Kremm, Clara Krivosh, Rev. & Mrs. Ed Kucera (Food Pantry), Ruth Meszaros (Food Pantry), Susan & Ralph Polding, Joani Rice, Diane Riefstahl, Viola Sakony, Joe Silo, Pauline & Joe Slovick, and Traudi & Bob Sulek.*

**In Loving Memory of Darlene Berent:***Jeff & Stacy Brandes (Missions), Anne Colt, Dolores Fee, Mark Gabriel, Anson & Hank Holcroft, Joani Rice, Diane Riefstahl, and Viola Sakony.*

**In Loving Memory of Eleanor Besser:** *Donna Myers and Ella Doermann.*

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

**In Loving Memory of Aunt Edna Krajci, Virginia Lehman, John Zachar, Eleanor Besser, Mary Chmielewski, and Marysue Laszacs (Jim McGowan’s mother):** *The Nelson Family (Food Pantry).*

**In Loving Memory of Mary Ann Krajci:** *Diane Riefstahl (Local Missions).*

**In Loving Memory of Father, Paul Petro and Uncles, Andy Petro & Mike Petro:** *Patty Parker.*

**In Loving Memory of John Zachar:** *Millie Elavsky.*

**In Loving Memory of All Our Departed Loved Ones:** *Betty Ann Wolf & Family.*

**With Prayers for Continued Healing for Audrey Trimble:** *Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Chlpka. (Food Pantry).*

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Be sure to check out the **card rack in the main hall!** New cards have arrived. All cards are only 50¢.

**Our Stewardship of Treasures**

**for the Lord:**

In order to do the Lord’s work, we need $2,487.81 (2020) / $2362.15 (2021) each week to meet our budget for general purposes and $39.62 (2020) / $40.81 (2021) for missions.

**Thurs., Dec. 24, 2020:**

 General Offering: $327.00

**Fri., Dec. 25, 2020:**

 General Offering: $190.00

**Sun., Dec. 27, 2020:**

 General Offering: $6,012.00

 SELC Missions: $0.00

Quarterly Missions: $100.00

 Other: $1,000.00

**Online (Weeks of Dec. 16, 23, & 30):** $165.00

**Thurs., Dec. 31, 2020:**

 General Offering: $1,715.00

 Other: $80.00

**Sat., Jan. 2 and Sun., Jan. 3, 2021:**

 General Offering: $2,004.00

 SELC Missions: $110.00

Quarterly Missions: $0.00

 Other: $173.00

**Wed., Jan. 6, Sat., Jan. 9 and Sun., Jan. 10, 2021:**

 General Offering: $3,515.00

 SELC Missions: $165.00

Quarterly Missions: $125.00

 Other: $1005.00

**Sat., Jan. 16 and Sun., Jan. 17, 2021:**

 General Offering: $1,435.00

 SELC Missions: $80.00

Quarterly Missions: $100.00

 Other: $20.00

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

**Note:** This will be the last month that Memorials and Financial Information will be included in “The Rock and the Sword”. This information may be accessed in our printed and online weekly service bulletins.

TRUSTEES’ UP-DATE

Tight Seal, of Niles, OH, completed the replacement of ten glass block windows in the basement of the old section of the church the week of January 20th. Stop downstairs and check out the remarkable improvement!

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Remember the following in Prayer…

**~The Mourning:** *The friends and family of Darlene Berent, who passed away December 24, 2020, Helen Bender, who passed away Sunday, December 27, 2020, and Mary Ann Krajci, who passed away Saturday, January 23, 2021.*

**~The Hurting and Healing:** *Lois BortnerCA, Richard Brandes, Kim, Darlene Cesta, Susan Davies, Tim Dudash, John Dyll, Dolores Fee, Joseph Fleet, Marie Haenftling, Neale & Melissa Huston, Donna Kennedy, Jess Lavoie, Paul Lucas****CA****, Sandy Marshall, Ernie Meszaros, Rhonda Moats, David Nelson, Juanita Rentschler, Richard ReuningCA, Marty Scott, Dan Spanos, Audrey Trimble, Martin Weisenborn, Angela WeserCA, and Millie Zachar.*

**~The Homebound:**  *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 First Quarter Local Mission: Willow Women’s Center.*

*\*CA represents cancer.*

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**REMINDER:** If you would like someone’s name to be added to or deleted from our prayer list, please put a written note in the secretary’s mail slot by the office door.

**Our First Quarter Local Mission is**

**Willow Women’s Center**

Willow Women’s Center, located in nearby Transfer, PA, is a non-profit organization which assists women facing unplanned pregnancies with quality medical services at no cost. The Center does not promote or provide abortions. The organization is funded by individuals and grants.

 We congratulate Pastor Deal who was appointed to the board of directors at the Center recently.

Please consider supporting this organization! For further information as to how you can make a difference, check out their website: willowwomenscenter.com.

 Donations may be placed in a pew envelope and placed in the offering plate. Please make certain to mark “Quarterly Mission” on your envelope along with your name and envelope number.

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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 or family members to phone me or the church office as I wish to visit those who may be hurting.*

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**If entering the church during the week,** please let office staff know that you are in the building. Also, please make certain to turn off lights, lock doors, etc. upon leaving.

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**Please join us at 6 pm February 17th for our**

**special Ash Wednesday Service.**

**HELP IS NEEDED!**

The work of restoring and reframing the confirmation pictures which have traditionally hung in the Fellowship Hall is moving along. Before the reframing begins, we want to put a call out for confirmation pictures which are missing. If you or anyone you know have any of these pictures, we would like to borrow them to make copies. Please put your copy of the picture in a large envelope which is labeled with your name in the Secretary’s mail slot. If possible, please identify anyone pictured! Your original copy will be returned to you.

**Missing pictures (and those confirmed that year) include:**

* **1931:** George Nemetz, Michael Tomko, Michael Sulek, Andrew Zipay, Michael Zipay, Martin Boor, Samuel Boor, Anna Ondrejka, Mary Stupka, Mary Listiak, Sophie Zelina, Helen Taptik, Susan Krivosh, Mary Petro, Anna Zipay, Irene Bruzik, and Susan Grexa
* **1939:** Paul Grexa, George Nemetz, Joseph Zachar, Daniel Zipay, John Krajci, Paul Nemetz, John Elavsky, John Kovach, Mildred Listiak, Irene Listiak, Matilda Zipay, Dorothy Sobek, Mary Ann Kupusta, and Margaret Krivosh
* **1942:** Irene Elavsky, Mildred Kapusta, Mary Kovach, Irene Krajci, Julia Krivosh, and Mildred Vojtko
* **1944:** Daniel Elavsky, Paul Krajci, Paul Krivosh, Ruth Murchek, and Katherine Shuster
* **1946:** Paul Kovach, Andrew Krivosh, Gerald Krivosh, Marion Murchek, Marion Shuster, Stephen Shuster, Elsie Sobek, and Anna Tomko
* **1949:** Donna Ondrejka and Pauline Chalupka
* **1954:** Herman Barsun, Jr., Eileen Boor, Samuel Faber, Dolores Fee, John Malenky, and Martha Sobeck
* **1955:** Kenneth Emrick, Marion Petro, and Joan Fabri
* **2000:** Robert Sovesky
* **2014:** Austin Hamilton, Morgan McGowan, Marcia Scarfo

**Also,** we have no pictures dated prior to 1923.

If you should have any of these pictures, please let us know by Sunday, February 14th. We hope to move on to the next phase of this project shortly after that and, at that point, it will be too late to add additional photos.

A sincere “thank you” goes out to Marie Flaugher who has put hours of work into this project so far!

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*Dear Church Family,*

 *We would like to sincerely thank you for the cards and gifts given to us this Christmas season. We were very touched by your generosity and kindness.*

 *We are truly blessed to be part of this congregation.*

 *In Christian love,*

*Pastor & Ana Deal, Isaiah, Titus, and Loretta*

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During the month of February, we continue our celebration of the **“Gesimas”** which prepare us for Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent. Septuagesima, which occurred the last Sunday of January begins the “Gesima” season. On this day, we drop the “alleluias” and the “Gloria” in remembrance of the Babylonian captivity. As proclaimed in Psalm 137: 1-6:

By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept
    when we remembered Zion.
There on the poplars
    we hung our harps,
for there our captors asked us for songs,
    our tormentors demanded songs of joy;
    they said, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”

How can we sing the songs of the Lord
    while in a foreign land?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
    may my right hand forget its skill.
May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth
    if I do not remember you,
if I do not consider Jerusalem
    my highest joy.