



"Glad Tidings"



Wysox Presbyterian Church
December 2015

Special Christmas Service

On Sunday, December 21st, during our 11:00 am worship service, we will have special music from our church choir and different soloist; along with special readings. Please come and help us celebrate the Christmas season.



Christmas Memorial Flowers Enclosed in this newsletter, you will find an envelope for Christmas flowers. If you wish a memorial plant during this season, please fill out the envelope and drop it in the collection plate or drop it off at the office. Please make sure that when you're filling out the envelope, to write your name and the name of the loved one(s) that you wish to remember. A listing of the memorial donations will be in the bulletin for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service We will be having a special Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on December 24th at 6:00 pm. During the service, there will be lighting of the candles, communion by intinction, special music and a variety of lessons and carols followed by meditation. Please plan to join us for this beautiful celebration. There will not be a worship service on Christmas Day.



Advent Services The Trinity Lutheran Church invites everyone to their the Advent Services that will be held on Wednesday, December 3rd, 10th and 17th. There will be a meal at 6:00 pm and the worship service begins at 7:00 pm.



The Pastor's Kid

Over the six weeks that I have held my newborn close, I have thought about what it is like for a child to grow up with a Pastor as their parent. I did a little research on the web, and found a compilation of the top 7 things that pastors would like their church members to know about their children from www.thomrainer.com. The results and the quotes come from a poll taken by pastors. I find the issues interesting, but you can have a look for yourself.

1. Don't expect more out of pastors' kids than any other kids. "My children need to have the same expectations as the other children in the church. They are not some kind of spiritual superstars because their dad's a pastor."
2. Please offer encouragement to my children. "It's not always easy to be a pastor's child. The glass house thing is real. I am so thankful for the church members who go out of their way to encourage my children."
3. Realize that they are kids. "I know a few church members who seem to think my kids are miniature adults. They expect them to act like a 40 year old instead of a 4 year old."
4. Please don't call them "PKs." "Their identities should not be based on their father's vocation. They have their own unique and special identities."
5. Please pray for my children. "I am blessed to have this one lady in my church who prays for my three children every day. She knows the special challenges of being a pastor's child."
6. Our kids see and hear more than you may think. "After one particularly tough church business meeting, my seven-year-old boy asked me if I was going to get fired."
7. Don't make me choose between my kids and the church. "Too many pastor's children have grown up bitter and disillusioned about the church. Dad gave more attention to church members than his own children."

While we are on the topic of children, here are five top concerns of young parents who fear ever bringing their kids to church:

1. I will get "the look" or "the talking to" when my child misbehaves, and I will feel like a bad parent.
2. There won't be any place in the back pews for my family to sit so that we can make a quick exit if needed.
3. My children will make noise, and I may not be able to stop them.
4. I am certain that I will get nothing out of the worship, because all of my time will be devoted to keeping my children in line.
5. No one will help me during worship.

The Question Box

(Questions About Our Christian Life)



"How can we pray for you?"

I am deeply touched whenever I hear this question, but especially now that I have a baby that relies on me. Thank you for asking. Please pray for Ember's life, that she might be safe, and that she might grow in a life rich in love and faith. Please pray for Randelee and me as we seek some sleep. Please pray a prayer of forgiveness for all that I forget or plain get wrong because of lack of sleep. Please pray that God simply watch over us and guide us as a family; as I pray the same for you every day.

- Pastor Jira Albers

THANKSGIVING SERVICE



This years Thanksgiving Eve service will be held on November 26th at 6:00 pm in Ferguson Hall. Everyone is invited to attend this special service, which includes a simple dinner of soup and sandwiches followed by a short service led by Pastor Jira.

On Sunday, November 23rd, following our 11:00 worship service, will be our annual "Hanging of the Greens". Everyone is more than welcome to stay and help us decorate the church for the advent season. The First Sunday of Advent is November 30th.



2015 Church Offering Envelopes... The 2015 church offering envelopes will be available for pick up in the rear vestibule on Sunday, December 14th. Anyone who does not normally receive the envelopes and would like to have them, please contact Margaret Montgomery at 570-265-5358.

Festival of Faith for Women... Thanks to Loretta Stevens for organizing the Festival of Faith for Women. This was held on October 18th at the Wysox Presbyterian Church with guests speakers Tammy Rude and Debbie Mills.



Where are They Now?

As a church family we provide roots and wings for our youth. We watch the children grow and go; but where did they go and where are they today? Please enjoy the update of our youth.

Mitch Blascak

I'm currently attending Mansfield University and will be graduating December 13, 2014. I will have earned an Associate's degree in both Natural gas production, and Oilfield studies. I'm currently employed by Bishop Brothers and will be seeking a career in my major upon graduation.

Andrea Irvine

I'm currently attending the Pennsylvania College of Technology located in Williamsport, PA. I'm studying Hospitality Management and plan to graduate in December of 2015. I have enjoyed working the Diners Club on the Penn College campus and at the Little League World Series this fall. My plan is to seek employment in the hotel industry upon graduation.

Meredith Barnes

I'm currently attending Penn State: University Park, State College, PA. I will be Graduating in May 2015 with a Bachelor's degree in Nutrition. My plan is to attend optometry school in fall 2015. I'm employed by Vision Works as an optometric technician where I pre-test all of the patients for the doctor. I am also part of the public relations committee for our Student Nutrition Association on campus.

Delaney Vanderpool

I currently attend Keystone College Towanda Campus' Weekender Program - Business Major, Accounting Minor. I'm employed at Dollar Tree, Assistant Manager and a Sales Associate at Peebles, both in the Wysox Plaza. I am engaged to Jared Palmer, we are getting married next August. We live on Patton Hill in Towanda.

Kaci (Kollenback) Ballantyne

I'm currently pursuing a degree in Communication Disorders and will graduate in the fall of 2015. I married James Ballantyne on March 8th, 2010 and we will celebrate our 5th anniversary next year. James spent 5 years in the United States Army and currently works in law enforcement. James and I reside in Montoursville, Pennsylvania. We have a toy poodle named Maya Rose.

Hunter Gordon

I'm currently attending Elmira College majoring in Economics and preparing for the JV Hockey season. My plan is to graduate in the class of 2018.

Where are They Now?

Jared Palmer

I graduated high school 2011, attended ATS heavy equipment training in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin for 11 weeks of training that summer. I graduated with my NCCCO crane license, a NCCER equipment license, and my CDL. After graduation I went straight to work for B&K crane service out of Wyalusing, PA as a crane operator. This November will mark 3 years of employment there. Last March I bought a house on Patton hill road just outside of Monroeton. In September I got engaged to Delaney Vanderpool; we plan on getting married August 2015. We also have two dogs, a pit hound named Bullet and a coon hound named Walker.

Caleb King

I'm currently attending the University of Northwestern Ohio, located in Lima, OH. I'm majoring in Auto Mechanics and High Performance. My plan is to graduate in 2017 and start a career in the automotive industry.

Kara (Kollenback) Gowan

I am currently living in Patterson, NY - which is in the Hudson Valley region, not too far from the Connecticut border. A few years ago, I graduated with my bachelor's degree in nursing from Mansfield University. I began my career on an oncology unit at the University of Kentucky's Markey Cancer Center. Now, I am working with an ENT and facial plastic surgeon in the outpatient setting at Mount Kisco Medical Group. It's been a big change from oncology nursing. I do miss working with cancer patients, but the change has been refreshing. This past summer, my boyfriend, Parveen, proposed in France while we were on vacation. I am so very thankful God has brought him into my life. We don't have any wedding plans yet... we're just enjoying being engaged for now. In our spare time (which isn't much between our work schedules), we enjoy traveling, spending time in New York City, movies, shows, and shopping. I also love to go home to Wysox as often as I can to visit the family and spend time with my nephew Dayton. My church family will always hold a special place in my heart. It is so nice to worship among family and friends when I am home in Wysox.

Nathan Schmieg

I'm currently attending Liberty University; located in Lynchburg, VA. I'm majoring in Commercial Aviation.

Where are They Now?

Andrea Kuntz

I graduated from Mansfield University May 2013 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology; concentration in Environmental Science and a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy; concentration in Pre Law. After graduation I completed a one year internship at GTP in the Safety and Environmental department and I'm currently employed with Casella Resource Solutions as an Environmental Analyst for the New York State Finger Lake Region. I live in Waterloo, NY with my cats Sadie and Sophie.

Kannah Primrose

I'm attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania, located in Indiana, PA. I will be finishing my Marketing Bachelor's degree in the spring of 2016. My future plan is to develop a marketing career in advertising or in the music industry.

Kyle Blascak

I'm attending Kutztown University and majoring in both Special Education, as well as Middle school Education math and language arts. I'm currently in my sophomore year, and intend to finish my degrees in 2017.

Derek Rockwell

I graduated from the Pennsylvania State University in 2010, completed the physician assistant degree program from Pennsylvania College of Technology in 2012 and completed my masters from Nova Southeastern University in 2014. I'm currently employed by the Geisinger Medical Center and living in Danville, PA.

Darren Rockwell

I graduated from Bucknell University in 2013. I'm currently employed by Lockheed Martin as a Software Engineer and recently moved from Maryland to King of Prussia, PA.

Timothy Kuntz

I'm currently attending the Pennsylvania College of Technology, majoring in Business Management and minoring in Baking and Pastry. I will graduate from the baking program with an associate's degree this semester and graduate with a bachelor's degree in business in 2016. I'm currently employed by Red Lobster, after college I plan to work in the food industry for a while and eventually open my own business.

Where are They Now?

Katy (Kollenback) Taylor

I attended Lackawanna College receiving two associate degrees, one in Human Services, and one in Education. I later attended Keystone College, and received my bachelor's degree in Education and Society-focusing on Early Childhood Education. I married my best friend Chris Taylor in 2010; we have a two year old son, Dayton Cona Taylor and we reside in Wysox, PA. Currently I feel very blessed to be a stay at home mom, using my education to focus on Dayton. My family is what brings me happiness.

Troy Gordon

I'm currently attending Elmira College, majoring in Business administration, concentration in Management and Marketing and minoring in Economics. I will be graduating in May 2015. I have enjoyed participating in both the Golf and J.V. hockey team while attending Elmira. My future plan is to obtain a career in my major upon graduation.

Arron Irvine

I'm engaged to Courtney Rockwell and we are living in Troy, PA with our children. I'm very blessed to be a stay at home dad to care for my son Caiden and my step daughter Maddyson. I find great joy in my family.

Gillian (Vanderpool) Kellogg

I graduated in 2011 from The Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor's degree in Hotel restaurant Management. I'm employed by the Weigh Station. This summer I married Nick Kellogg, we are currently moving to a farm house in Marshview, PA. I'm looking forward to my new hobby, renovation. We have a German Shepard named Gunner.

Jordan Palmer

I graduated from Lackawanna College in 2007 with an associate's degree in business. I'm employed by Car Parts.com installing computer systems in salvage yards around the United States. Currently I live in Sayre with my girlfriend Nikki.

Kody Brown

I'm attending York College of Pennsylvania majoring in Mechanical engineering. My plan is to graduate in 2017 and start my engineering career.

Mission Committee

We hosted a baby shower for Jira, Randeale and Ember and presented them with the car seat that was on their wish list as well as many other gifts from the congregation.

Build it and they will come... The nursery is completed. Freshly painted by Deb King and Destiny Bar-to. New flooring installed by G&H flooring. Hand prints by the congregation.

New rocking chair, pack 'n play and sound system. Money from the Dot Schmieg, Nancy Irvine, Ralph Snyder memorial funds were used to make these much needed improvements. A plaque will be hung in the nursery honoring their memories.

We collected gift cards and other items which were presented to AARC.

Once again we will be helping families in need through Grace Connection to celebrate Christmas. Look for the Christmas tree decorated in cards with the family wants in the rear vestibule. Please bring your gift wrapped with the card attached to the last Sunday school room on the left.

Blessings to all....Michelle Irvine and Deb King.

Least Coin We have sent our collection for the year 10-1-13 to 9-30-14. Our total was \$88.10. Please continue to put your change in the collection plate. Thank you!

New Elder Election After our worship service on December 7th we will have a special congregational meeting to elect new elders.



Prayer Circle

We have read Exodus, chapters 23-32. We have read of the laws of justice and mercy, and the Sabbath laws. There have been many instructions about the tabernacle. The directions for making the ark, table, lampstand for worship and the many instructions for making the tabernacle itself. We learned what was permissible for a burnt offering and using olive oil for the lampstand. There were many regulations about the garments the priest could wear.

We bid farewell to Pastor Rachel with a light lunch. This was a surprised to her; however, we were the ones surprised as she had an appointment so she took her lunch in a "take out box". We really appreciated her being with us and enjoyed her bible study. Perhaps some day she might stop in and join us.

We welcome back Pastor Jira. He doesn't seem to be sleep deprived so maybe Ember Lee isn't keeping him burning the midnight oil.

We have bid farewell to Pam Williams as she heads to Florida for the winter months. Pam, may you have a happy, healthy winter and we look forward to seeing you in the spring.

We would like to invite you to join us. We meet Wednesday mornings at 9:30 in the conference room. We have bible study, prayer, and send many cards to those needing a ray of sunshine in their lives. We have received many positive replies to our cards. This is a very touching ministry. If you have someone in mind that you would like us to remember with a card, simply tell us and we would be happy to send one.

The following were remembered on our Prayer List

September 24th thru November 12th

Prayer Circle Listing

Angel List

Makayla Evans

Mason Barto

Ashley Weed

Abbriella Brown

Shawn Mastrantonio

Betty Miller

Andrew Pardoe

Deb Mathers

Caiden Irvine

Lee Light

Current List

Gladys Derr

Jim Allen

Tom Jenings

Cynthia Sims

Wilbur Beers

Diane Place

Richard Hollenback

Our Nation

Prudence Wilson

Otto Brown

Marge Weaver

Jim Ennis

Kathy Zdon

Patricia Parsons

Lee Chilson

Cindy Barto

Carol Wright

Clayton Evans

Gladys Abell

Bonnie Chilson

Dale Fulmer

Sally Russell

Troy Gordon

Shirley Allen

Rose Miller

Residents of Israel & Palestine

Family of Ambushed Troopers

Dean Balcomb Family

John Sheridan Family

Eleanor & Gordon Berry

Barb Warner

JoAnne Brink Family

Kathryn Huffman Family

Ronald Post Sr., Family

Sandy Robinson

Mary Lou Vosburg

Earl and Sue Brown