

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Hope Schreiber

(11:10)

INTROIT

“Light of the World”
Chancel Choir

John Carter

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH – THE CANDLE OF PEACE
8:30 – The Dudgeon Family
11:10 – The Horvat Family

Scripture reading
Lighting of the Candle of Peace

Matthew 3:3

COLLECT (UNISON PRAYER)

God of Peace, help us to live as peacemakers and give the warmth of your love to others. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE No. 9

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” Let us confess our sins before God.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the future, You are coming in power to bring all nations under Your rule. We confess that we have not expected Your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring Your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse Your justice and peace. In Your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome Your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The judge who is coming to judge the world is the same judge who took upon Himself our judgement!
Hear and believe the Good News.

All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

* GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end, Amen.

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

(8:30)

“Run, Shepherds!”
Youth Choir

Victor C. Johnson

(11:10)

“A Prayer for Advent”
Chancel Choir

Douglas Nolan

*DOXOLOGY

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today,
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever, Amen.**

ANTHEM

(8:30)

“Torches”
Youth Choir

John Joubert

(11:10)

“Longing for the Light”
Chancel Choir

David Lantz III

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 3:1-12
(page 902 in the pew Bible)

SERMON

“Preparing the Way”

Rev. Jason Rea

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Words of Invitation
Prayer of Consecration
Words of Institution
Receiving the Bread+
Receiving the Cup+
Prayer of Thanksgiving

+(please hold each element until all are served)

(8:30)

*SONG OF COMMITMENT

“A Hallelujah Christmas”

Verse 1

I’ve heard about this baby boy
Who’s come to earth to bring us joy
And I just want to sing this song to you.
It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth
The minor fall, the major lift
With every breath I’m singing Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

Verse 2

A couple came to Bethlehem
Expecting child, they searched the inn
To find a place for You were coming soon
There was no room for them to stay
So in a manger filled with hay
God’s only Son was born, oh Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

Verse 3

The shepherds left their flocks by night
To see this baby wrapped in light
A host of angels led them all to You
It was just as the angels said
You’ll find Him in a manger bed
Emanuel and Savior, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

Verse 4

A star shown bright up in the east
To Bethlehem, the wise-men three
Came many miles and journeyed long for you
And to the place at which You were
Their frankincense and gold and myrrh
They gave to You and cried out Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

Verse 5

I know You came to rescue me
This baby boy would grow to be
A man and one day die for me and you
My sins would drive the nails in You
That rugged cross was my cross, too
Still every breath You drew was Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Tag

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

(11:10)

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT No. 8

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Toccata Jubiuloso”

Gerald Peterson

The Elder of the Week is Bob Wegner

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS: TIME, TALENT
AND TREASURE**

“The world asks, ‘What does a person own?’” God asks, “How does a person use what he or she has been given?”

COMMUNITY NEWS

31. ATTENTION SENIORS – The Senior Center North located at Nativity Lutheran Church in Allison Park is looking for seniors to come out and join other seniors looking for fun and companionship Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Come enjoy bingo, crafts, Wii bowling, cards, trips to the grocery store and mall and lunch for a \$1.00 donation. Have a cup of coffee and good conversation. Please call Meg at 412-486-6426 for more information. Hope to see you soon!

32. ELFINWILD VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY is in need of new members. If you're looking for a way to give something back to the community, this is a great opportunity! All training and equipment are provided either in-house or through local fire academies and schools. By making a commitment to the fire service, you can earn a FREE college degree through the FireVest program of the Community College of Allegheny County. For degrees offered or for more details, call 412-931-3158, ext. 5. Stop by the fire hall at 2807 Mt. Royal Blvd. on any Monday evening at 7:30 PM or call Dan at 412-377-5986.

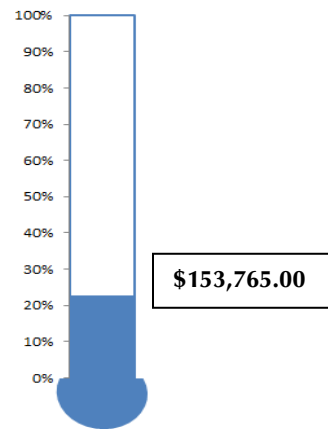
FINANCIAL ESTIMATES FOR 2017

It is important that we have as accurate a picture of our 2017 financial commitments as possible so we can budget and plan accordingly.

Please be prayerful about your Estimate of Giving for 2017 and turn in your cards as early as possible. Your giving will provide opportunities for our students to serve in mission, discipleship classes and small groups for our children and adults, outreach to our communities and a people who are welcoming and caring for those lost and in need of the Savior.

Thank you!

2017 STEWARDSHIP GOAL - \$674,000.00



Please use this form to register for church events. After filling it out, you may tear it off and place into the offering plate. Thank you!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Event: _____

Number of Registrants: Adults _____ Children _____

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR AT A GLANCE 12-4-16

TODAY (12-4-2016) 8:30 AM –& 11:10– Worship Service – SA
 9:45 AM – Sunday School
 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM – Cantata Rehearsal – SA
 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM – Jr. High Club – YH
 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Sr. High Club – YH

MONDAY 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM – Preschool – CE, UGR
 5:00 PM – Brownies – PR
 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM – Act One – CE
 7:00 PM – Personnel Committee Meeting – KL
 7:00 PM – Gingerbread Advent Reflection – UGR
 7:00 PM – Boy Scouts – FH
 7:00 PM – Webelos I – PR
 8:00 PM – 9:00 PM – Pack 157 Committee Meeting – CCR

TUESDAY 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM – Preschool– CE, UGR
 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting – KL
 12:00 PM – Men’s Luncheon – FH
 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM – Praise Team – SA
 6:30 PM – Weigh to Lose
 7:00 PM – AARP Meeting – FH
 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM – Financial Peace – YH

WEDNESDAY 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM – Preschool– CE, FH
 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Mom & Me – PR
 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM – Handbells – CR
 6:30 PM – M&Ms – FH
 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Jr. High Girls’ Bible Study @ Harbaugh’s
 6:45 PM – 8:00 PM – Confirmation Class – YH
 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM – Wednesday Night Prayer Gathering – CH
 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM – Chancel Choir – CR

THURSDAY 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM – Preschool– CE, FH
 7:00 AM – Men’s Bible Study – PS
 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Mom & Me – PR
 12:00 PM – Presbytery Meeting at Hamilton Presbyterian
 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Girl Scouts – YH
 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM – Elementary Choir – CR
 7:15 PM – 8:30 PM – Youth Choir – CR

FRIDAY 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM – Preschool– CE, FH
 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Mom & Me – PR
 4:15 PM – 6:45 PM – Act One – CE
 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM – Pack 157 Christmas Party – FH

SATURDAY 6:00 AM – 8:00 AM – CLC – YH
 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM – Act One – CE
 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM – Lesnett Open House

SUNDAY (12-11-16) 8:30 AM –& 11:10– Worship Service – SA
 9:45 AM – Sunday School
 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM – Cantata Rehearsal – All Parts – SA
 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM – Jr. High Club – YH
 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Sr. High Club – YH
 7:00 PM – Session Meeting – CCR

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given in memory of Kevin Thomas by Dean and Elizabeth Thomas and Pamela Walker.

THE ELDER OF THE WEEK is Bob Wegner.

HEARING ENHANCING EQUIPMENT: If you have difficulty hearing during the worship service, please let one of the ushers know prior to the service, and you’ll be given a hearing enhancer to use during the service.

8:30 AM USHERS

Mark Connelly
 Curtis Neil
 Len Colaizzi
 Marilyn Colaizzi

11:10 AM USHERS

Henry Tomer
 Nicole Graco
 Jerry Nist
 Dave Jenkins
 Becky Winek

SOUND TECHNICIANS

8:30 AM – Dennis Kriek
 11:10 AM – Ken Volle

UPCOMING SERVICE

Sunday, December 11, 2016
 Dr. Dirk Lesnett preaching

CHILDREN’S & FAMILY MINISTRY

Birth – 6th Grade

For more information on these ministries, please contact Emily Cooper, Director of Children and Family Ministries at: emily@elfinwildchurch.org or call 412-486-5400

1. CRADLE ROLL ROOM FOR AGES BIRTH THROUGH

2 1/2. The Cradle Roll room is located past the church offices and choir room. The **TODDLER/PRESCHOOL ROOM** is open during the Sunday School time and the 11:10 worship hour. This is a class for children who are 2 ½ to 4yrs. of age.

2. SUNDAY SCHOOL –Children 4 years old (Pre-K) through 2nd grade will meet in the GREEN room of the C.E. for Kids of the Kingdom Music to start class at 9:45. Children in 3rd grade through 5th will meet in their classrooms.

3. YOUNG CHILD IN WORSHIP – For ages Pre-K through 2nd grade during the 11:10 service. This week’s lesson will be *Advent 1* and will be taught by Linda Barto, Barb Harms, and Nicole Graco.

4. CALLING ALL KIDS—GRADES 3-5! M&MS: MESSIAH & ME YOUTH GROUP Get ready for a year of fun, games, growing and serving in Jesus Christ. Our next meeting will be December 7th at 6:30 PM in Friendship Hall. Please join us!

5. PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ALL CHURCH RETREAT to be held January 20-22, 2017 at the Ligonier Camp and Conference Center. The guest speaker, Herb Kolbe, Coalition for Christian Outreach will lead us as we focus on the theme of being *Deeply Rooted*. Registration forms are available on the tables outside the sanctuary and on the church website. Questions? Emily Cooper through the church office at 412-486-5400

MUSIC MINISTRIES

For more information on these ministries, please contact Ron Bernhardt at: ron@elfinwildchurch.org or call 412-486-5400.

6. JOIN US! – You are invited to join our music ministry ensembles. Everyone is welcome so please come out to a rehearsal and give it a try!

Praise Team – Tuesdays 6-7:30 PM **Handbell Choir** – Wednesdays 6-7:00 PM
Chancel Choir – Wednesdays 7-8:30 PM **Youth Choir** – Thursday, 7:15-8:30 PM
Elementary Choir – Thursdays 6-7:00 PM

STUDENT MINISTRIES, Grades 6-12

For more information on these ministries, please contact

Rev. Jason Rea at: jason@elfinwildchurch.org or call 412-486-5400.

7. REGULAR CLUBS – Jr. High (grades 6-8) meets from 4:30-6:00 PM and Sr. High (grades 9-12) meets from 6:30-8:00 PM at the Youth House. We hope to see you there!

8. JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS' BIBLE STUDY – Please join Bethany Harbaugh and Kelly Simile for a Bible Study for girls going into 6-8 grade! We meet every week to play games, ask questions, share life together, and learn how to live as followers of Jesus Christ. We always have a fun time together, so we hope you will come and bring a friend. This study will be on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00 PM at Bethany's house. We hope you will come and bring a friend!

ELFINWILD CHURCH NEWS

9. FILL THE TRUCK! We will be filling a truck of food items to be donated to the Bread of Life Food Pantry on Sunday, December 18, 2016. Please contact Jim Giel, Jr. at 412-486-2774 with any questions or how you can help this worthy cause. Items that are needed are: package/box noodle side dish mixes, package/box rice side dish mixes, boxed hot dinners or salads, package/box rice, boxed potatoes, pasta (single serve Chef Boyardee), pasta Sauce, canned salmon, sardines, crab, tuna, soup, broth – chicken/beef /vegetable, canned fruit, condiments such as ketchup, mustard, mayo, pickles, salad dressings, peanut butter, puddings, gelatins (ready-made or boxed), Baking items: cake, cookie, or brownie mix, single serve cereals or instant oatmeal, single serve items such as granola bars, fruit cups, Easy Mac, applesauce, sandwich crackers, Ramen/Oodles of Noodles, sugar, flour, baby food and diapers, paper towels and napkins, toilet paper and facial tissues, personal items such as soap, shampoo, shaving cream, disposable razors.

10. CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS–Please use the special white envelopes in the pews. Checks should be made payable to Elfinwild Presbyterian Church. Thursday, December 1st was the last day to order poinsettias. Any orders received now will be applied evenly to the Bread of Life Food Pantry and North Hills Community Outreach.

11. 2017 CHANCEL FLOWERS – Flowers for the Chancel are \$48 per week for two vases, or \$25 per week for a single table arrangement. Please call the church office to place an order or sign up on the flower chart in the back narthex. **If a table arrangement is desired, you MUST notify the church office prior to the week you have chosen** as the weekly standing flower order is for two vases.

12. PRAY WITHOUT CEASING... Our Wednesday Night Prayer Gatherings will continue in the chapel on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, **starting at 7:00 PM.** We meet regularly to lift up concerns within the church family and for friends of Elfinwild. Please come and share in this powerful ministry! Everyone is welcome to come and join us in prayer or come to submit a prayer request. If you have any questions or would like to request prayer, please call or text Kris Shideler at 412-480-8466.

13. ELFINWILD HOME MEALS MINISTRY –The Meals Ministry serves over 70 clients each day with nutritious, well-balanced meals. Volunteers are needed for this important ministry everyday either to assist in the delivery of the meals to our clients or to assist in the preparation of the meals. If you have any time during the hours of 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM to assist, please contact Marian Berberich at 412-486-8000.

14. BREAD OF LIFE FOOD PANTRY – The Bread of Life Food Pantry is located at Calvert Memorial Presbyterian Church in Etna, PA. The pantry is open the first three Wednesdays of each month - with stocking of the shelves the 1st three Tuesdays. Volunteers are always welcome to assist with stocking, sorting and assisting our clients with shopping. Bread of Life serves over 120 families each month. If you or any group to which you belong are interested in the outreach ministry of Calvert (supported by Elfinwild and our neighboring churches at Glenshaw, Parkwood, Fox Chapel and Glenshaw Valley), please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Vickey Trader at 412-782-5742 for more information. Items the Pantry is in need of are: Side dishes with noodles (no rice), Side dishes with potatoes, Jelly - any flavor, Canned whole potatoes, Boxed meals like Hamburger Helper, Boxed mac & cheese, Jars of spaghetti sauce, Canned chili or stew, Broth & gravy - chicken, turkey & beef, Large bottles of juice, Pudding & Jello premade or to be made, Cake & brownie mixes, Pancake mix & syrup, Bags of flour & sugar, Cooking oil, Boxes of Crackers, Salad dressing & ketchup, Napkins & tissues, Paper towels, and Baby diapers.

15. NURSERY HELP WANTED: We are looking for some extra coverage for the 8:30 service. Please contact Emily Cooper for more information if you are willing to help care for the smallest of our congregation.

16. AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRL NEW TROOP FORMING – Elfinwild Church is starting a new American Heritage Girls troop. The troop is open to girls ages 5-18. Please feel free to contact Pam McKern with any questions at: pamela_mckern@hotmail.com or 412-512-3461.

17. SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES – September through May

* The Story taught by Dr. Dirk Lesnett (Fellowship Hall)

* “The Wired Word” taught by Mike Radich in the Fall (Cornerstone Room)

Thursday Evening Classes-

January 5 through January 26 (4 weeks)

1. “Elfinwild Unplugged: Telling our Stories” taught by Reverend Jason Rea and Mark Connelly (Fellowship Hall)
2. Bible Study on 1 John taught by Bob Siar and Bob Wegner (Cornerstone Room)

18. COMING TO THEATERS FOR ONE INSPIRING NIGHT

It's the story that shook the world ... and challenged the faith of those who lived through it. Now, the amazing true story of how Samaritan's Purse staff trusted God in the midst of the devastating Ebola crisis in Africa is coming to theaters for one night. Plan now to see **FACING DARKNESS** on Thursday, March 30th only. **Tickets Are Now Available!** You can find a preliminary list of theaters and tickets can be purchased online from participating theaters at facingdarknessmovie.com. Don't miss out on the ministry movie event of the year.

19. ELFINWILD PRESCHOOL is now accepting applications for the 2017-18 school year. For information about the weekday preschool or to register for next year, please call the school office at 412-486-2322. We love to share information about the program. Learning and growing in God's love provides a wonderful opportunity for us to share Christ's love and welcome families in the community.

20. COFFEE, TREATS AND FELLOWSHIP

We gather after the 8:30 a.m. Worship Service and before Sunday School Classes start. Volunteers prepare and serve coffee, juice and treats. Would you like to volunteer? Contact: Tessa Connelly, connthree07@gmail.com (724) 939-7665.

21. HOSPITALITY MEAL MINISTRY – Did you know that members of your Elfinwild Family will provide a meal for you and your family if you are in need? For example, perhaps you or a family member are recovering from

surgery, just had a baby or are too ill to prepare dinner for a few days. We sign up and deliver meals to you. Do you need a meal? Would you like to prepare and deliver a meal? Contact: Tessa Connelly, connthree07@gmail.com (724) 939-7665.

22. WOMEN'S ADVENT REFLECTION – Please join us on Monday, December 5, 2016 at 7:00 PM for “*Gingerbread Wishes*”. God made each of us different so that we can serve the Lord in a unique way. “I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” Psalm 139:14.

23. THE PRESBYTERIAN PROJECT, A group of local churches including; Elfinwild, Fox Chapel, Glenshaw, Hiland, John McMillan and Parkwood, are planning a mission trip to the Carolinas the week of January 15-21, 2017. There has been significant damage to homes along the East coast, but we will focus our efforts in the Carolinas to try to keep the destination within a reasonable driving distance. The cost of the trip is estimated at \$400/person at this time, but more details will follow, keep checking back!! We do have scholarship money available if you would like to experience this type of mission work. Please think and pray about it!! If you have any questions or are interested please contact Penny Young at (412) 767-4325 or youngp@fcpc.us.

24. MEN'S LUNCHEON – Please join us for our monthly Men's Luncheon. In December, we will meet on Tuesday, December 6th at 12:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Please fill out the response form in the pews to make your reservation.

25. THANK YOU to all those that donated their time and breakfast items for the Advent Celebration. It was a huge help to me and to our church. Blessings and hugs, Tessa Connelly.

26. WE EXTEND A HEARTFELT THANK YOU to the Deacons for decorating the church so beautifully for our Christmas season. We are blessed by their service.

27. HOSPITALITY MEALS – Thank you to those that have been signing up to bring our Elfinwild Family meals. I wanted to mention that in order for you to be able to sign up you need to receive the email from the direct link that I set up. You cannot forward my email as the link connects with the emails that I allow access to. Please email me if you need to be added or if you have questions. Thank you Tessa Connelly connthree07@gmail.com.

28. YOUR 2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available at the rear of the Sanctuary. If you intend to use envelopes and do not find yours there, please notify the church office. Each box of regular offering envelopes includes a specific per capita payment envelope. If you are using any of the “direct payment” methods and wish to pay the per capita or for any other payment, you may use the pew envelopes making sure to include your name and purpose (i.e. Per Capita). The Per Capita assessment amount for 2017 is \$31.50 per member.

29. CONGREGATIONAL OPEN HOUSE at the Lesnett's, 402 Meadow Road, Glenshaw, from 4-8 pm on Saturday, December 10, 2016. Each year we enjoy filling the rooms of our home with people we love and care about. Please come for as long as you are able for some good food and great fellowship. We know that the season is busy and we want you to be relaxed. We look forward each year to hosting you, our family of faith, in our home for this most humbling of seasons.

30. FRIENDS TO REMEMBER IN THIS SEASON –Located in your bulletin is a list of members who are unable to come to Church or live out of the area. They would certainly be pleased to receive a Christmas greeting or note. Please remember them as you prepare your Christmas cards this year!