

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**22. 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!

**23. 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.

**THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR AT A GLANCE 12-13-15**

**TODAY** (12-13-15) Fill-A-Truck Drive  
 8:30 AM & 11:10 AM – Worship Services – SA  
 9:45 AM – Sunday School  
 12:30 PM – Pageant Rehearsal – SA, KL  
 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

**MONDAY** 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Preschool – CE  
 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM – Preschool Christmas Program – FH  
 12:00 PM – Mary Circle - KL  
 7:00 PM – Boy Scouts – FH  
 7:00 PM – Pack 157 Parent Meeting - PR

**TUESDAY** 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Preschool – CE  
 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM – Preschool Christmas Program – FH  
 11:00 AM – Staff Christmas Party – Olive Garden  
 6:00-7:15 PM – Pageant Dress Rehearsal - SA  
 6:30 PM – Weigh to Lose  
 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM – Kids Music – CR  
 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM – Financial Peace – YH  
 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM – Hand Bells – CR

**WEDNESDAY** 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Preschool – CE  
 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Mom & Me – PR, TR  
 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM – Preschool Christmas Program – FH  
 5:30-6:30 PM Daisies - PR  
 6:15-7:30 PM – Youth Group delivers presents to Orion  
 7:00-8:00 PM – Wednesday Night Prayer Gathering - CH  
 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM – Chancel Choir – CR

**THURSDAY** 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Preschool – CE  
 7:00 AM – Men's Bible Study – PS  
 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Preschool - CE  
 10:30 AM - Grace Manor Service  
 5:30 PM – Girl Scout Movie Night – YH  
 6:00 PM – Lions Club - CCR  
 6:00 PM – 7:15 PM – Praise Team – SA  
 7:00 PM – Bear Den 157 – TR  
 7:00 – 8:30 PM – Webelos I - PR  
 7:15 PM – 8:30 PM – Youth Choir – CR

**FRIDAY** 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Preschool – CE  
 5:00 – 6:30 PM – Girl Scouts – PR  
 6:30 – 9:00 PM – Den 8 Wolf Cub Scouts – PR  
 8:00 – 9:00 PM – Webelos I - PR

**SATURDAY** 6:00 AM – 8:00 AM – CLC – YH  
 5:00 – 8:00 PM – Music Christmas Party - FH

**SUNDAY** (12-20-15) 8:30 AM – Worship Services – SA  
 9:45 AM – Sunday School  
 11:10 AM – Children's Pageant – SA  
 11:10 AM – Popovic Baptisms - SA  
 3:00 PM – Christmas Caroling – Meet in FH  
 5:00 – 7:00 PM – Youth Group Christmas Party

**TODAY, REV. JASON REA** will be preaching at Calvert Memorial Presbyterian Church in Etna. Rev. Rea assists the Calvert congregation by preaching monthly.

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS THIS MORNING** are given in memory of Frank and Helen Reed by the Frank Reed Family.

**THE ELDER OF THE WEEK** is Ann Ritter.

**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 – Michael Beal  
 11:10 AM – Skip Young

**UPCOMING SERVICE**

Sunday, December 20, 2015  
 Dr. Dirk Lesnett preaching

**CHILDREN'S & FAMILY MINISTRY**

**Birth – 6<sup>th</sup> 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** –Our classes will begin at 9:45 and end at 10:45 AM.

Children 4 years old (Pre-K) through 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 5<sup>th</sup> will meet in their classrooms.

**3. YOUNG CHILD IN WORSHIP** – For ages Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade during the 11:10 service. This week's lesson will be *Advent V – Meeting The Christ Child* and will be taught by Linda Barto, Barb Harms, Nicole Graco and Carolyn Hervey.

**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. Join the fun once a month—CU there! 6:30-8pm in Fellowship Hall: January 20th. Questions? Contact Amy Meyer—littlepine@verizon.net.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Ages of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

## **MUSIC MINISTRIES**

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

**5. HELP US MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!** You're invited to join us this Advent and Christmas season in making a joyful noise to the Lord! If you've been thinking about joining one of our groups or maybe can't make a yearlong commitment, this is a great time to add your talent to our Sunday morning worship. There is an ensemble for everyone:

Chancel Choir      Wednesdays      7-8:30 PM

*Anyone high school age and older*

Worship      12/24@10:00

Praise Team      Thursdays      6-7:15 PM

*Instrumentalists and vocalists welcome*

Worship      12/20@8:30

Youth Choir      Thursdays      7:15-8:30 PM

*Anyone in grades 6-12*

Worship      12/24@7:00 PM

Kids Choir      Tuesdays      6:30-7:30 PM

*Anyone in grades 1-5 for singing and ringing*

Worship      12/20@11:10

12/24@7:00 PM

Handbell Choir Tuesdays      7:30-8:30 PM

*Anyone high school age and older – no experience necessary*

Worship

## **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.*

**6. JR. & SR. HIGH CLUB** – Jr. High (grades 6-8) from 4:30 – 6:00 PM and Sr. High (grades 9-12) from 6:30 – 8:00 PM on Sundays. This club is a wonderful time for fellowship with other students. We play different games, have some good food and spend time in worship and study together.

**7. JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS BIBLE STUDY** – Please join Bethany Harbaugh and Kelly Simile for a Bible Study for girls in 6-8 grade! We will be talking about some big life questions...and how to find the answers through Christ. This study will be on Wednesdays from 6:30 – 8:00 PM and began on September 16<sup>th</sup> at the Harbaugh house. Please let us know if you are able to attend! To contact Bethany, call 724-822-6550 or email her at: harbaugh.bl1@gmail.com. To contact Kelly, call 412-445-3562 or email her at: ksimile1@gmail.com.

**8. MISSION TRIP REGISTRATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>** - We have two mission trip opportunities for students in 2016. There is a Sr. High trip to Nicaragua from June 25-June 2 which costs \$800 per person. The second trip is a Jr. or Sr. High mission trip to Steubenville, OH July 17-22<sup>nd</sup> with YouthWorks which costs \$275. To sign up for either trip pick up a permission form (on the information table in the hallway or get one at club or online) and turn it in along with a nonrefundable \$50 deposit to Jason by December 20<sup>th</sup>. To find out more about these trips contact Jason.

**9. JR. AND SR. HIGH CAROLING AND CHRISTMAS PARTY** – December 20<sup>th</sup> Carolers (all are welcome) will meet in Fellowship Hall at 3pm and we will be back in plenty of time for the Christmas Party! The party is from 5-7 PM. Please bring one wrapped gift worth \$5 or less for our annual gift game! Dinner will be provided. If you can't make caroling you can still join us at the Youth House for the party but we hope to see you at both.

## **ELFINWILD CHURCH NEWS**

**10. THE WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER GATHERING** for the needs and concerns of our church family is being restarted! We will be meeting in the newly renovated chapel on the first and third Wednesday of each month, 7 to 8 PM. In December, we met on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and will meet again on December 16<sup>th</sup>. We will 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 as we restart this endeavor, 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.

**11. WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** – All women are welcome to join a time of Bible Study, prayer, and fellowship on Thursday mornings from 9:30-11AM at the Youth House. This fall, we will use the study, "Running Nowhere in Every Direction" by Navigators, examining what God has to say about the stress in our lives - our schedules, expectations, limits, and happiness. Together we can seek God's direction and encourage one another to run faithfully with Him. Contact Bethany with any questions at 724-822-6550. **We are taking a break, but will resume in January. Please join us in January!**

**12. LADIES – MARK YOUR CALENDAR** for the weekend of January 22-24, 2016 when a Women's Retreat will be held at the beautiful Ligonier Camp and Conference Center. Don't let distance or the possibility of snow scare you...transportation will be available if needed!

**13. ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES** meet from 10:00-11:00 AM. Three classes will be offered this Fall.

\*On Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Bethany Harbaugh began a new Sunday School class about prayer. The class will examine Scripture from the Old and New Testaments and discuss the importance of practicing prayer in all facets of life. We will meet in the Kennedy Library at 9:45.

\*"The Wired Word," taught by Rick Dayton, will focus on current events studied and discussed from a Biblical context. This class will meet in Fellowship Hall.

\*A new men's class, "Courageous: Honor Starts at Home" will be led by Jason Cooper and take place in the Cornerstone Room. Class members will view the movie "Courageous" and contemplate God's call for us as husbands and fathers.

**14. FILL THE TRUCK!** We will be filling a truck of food items to be donated to the Bread of Life Food Pantry TODAY, Sunday, December 13, 2015. 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.

**15. WOMEN OF ELFINWILD** – The Mary Circle welcomes all women of Elfinwild Church to our meeting on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at Noon in the Kennedy Library. We will complete a Christmas project, and our lesson will be on Mary, page 291, in our book, *Women of the Bible*.

**16. THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS** were elected during the Congregational Meeting held on November 15, 2015 –

Elders – Wendy Boody, Kristin Coco, Mark Connelly, John Hart, Bob Siar, Kelly Simile

Deacons – Sue Anderson, Bev Feris, Bev Friedline, Dick Friedline, Penny Young, Dorothy Thompson

Trustees – Doug Boody, Steve Coco, Dorothy Winter

Nominating Committee – Matt Harbaugh

**17. YOUR 2016 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 2016 per member is \$29.10.

**18. 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.

**19. THE BEAUTIFUL ADVENT BANNER** on display in the Sanctuary was made several years ago by our own Bev Feris. We are richly blessed by her artistic talents. Thank you, Bev!

**20. SHOULDER TO SHOULDER PITTSBURGH Alternative Gifts of Health & Organic Fair Trade Coffee For Sale Sundays in December Between Worship Services to benefit the people of San Jose del Negrito, Honduras**

Each donation comes with a lovely Christmas ornament explaining what has been purchased as well as the mission of Shoulder to Shoulder Pittsburgh. Gifts of Health will be on sale each Sunday during the month of December and on Christmas Eve. All contributions are tax deductible and 100% of donations go directly to the people of San Jose del Negrito, Honduras.

Proceeds from the sale of coffee fund the education of a Honduran youth.

San Jose Del Negrito is in Northwest Honduras, population 1,600. The average annual salary is \$400, and 50% of village members are under 16 years of age. A typical house is made of mud bricks with a pit latrine and an open fire for cooking. Shoulder to Shoulder Pittsburgh, in partnership with the village of San Jose Del Negrito, uses the gifts of Pittsburgh area professionals, students, and churches to provide essential medical care, health education, and community resources for the most needy. Since 2000, twenty-four brigades have traveled to San Jose. Elfinwild Presbyterian sent a mission team to Honduras during the summer of 2011 and again in 2014! As this partnership grows, we appreciate your support. More information is available by contacting Mark & Amy Meyer, littlepine@verizon.net.

## WHY IS ONE ADVENT CANDLE PINK?

I was thinking ... that I don't know as much about the symbolism of our Advent Wreath as I could. Have you ever asked why we use the Advent Wreath during this season and why there are three purple and one pink candle on the wreath?? I confessed my ignorance and had a member send me some interesting information that I want to share with you.

The season of Advent was instituted in the late fifth century. The wreath was a practice of pre-Christian Germanic people who used evergreens and fires as a symbol of hope in the darkness of December. Christians picked up on that symbolism and used the practice to celebrate the hope of Christ's coming and it spread throughout the Church beginning in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

The pink color of the third candle that we light today is used as a symbol of joy in the midst of the season of penitence that is symbolized by the purple candles. The Latin word "gaudete" is translated in English "rejoice" and so on this Gaudete Sunday we light the candle of joy. There is a history of popes handing out pink roses on this Sunday and clergy wearing pink vestments as well. While the history is interesting and maybe even important the most significant way we can celebrate the "joy" of this season is to remember the promise that Christ is coming and that fills our hearts to overflow with "rejoicing!"

It is once again interesting to me to know the stories behind our traditions. Traditions can be very important as long as they are representing a faith that is active and alive. To hold to traditions for the sake of the past is not enough. We must ask how we can keep the life and meaning of what the tradition was intended to signify. Jurosalv Pelikan, Historian of Christian Doctrine, is quoted from his lecture "The Vindication of Tradition" from the 1983 Jefferson Lectures in Humanities, "Traditions are the living faith of the dead. Traditionalism is the dead faith of the living. And, I suppose I should add, it is traditionalism that gives such a bad name to tradition."

In this season we hold many traditions. I pray that they are alive with meaning and point to the Promise of the birth of our Savior and the promise of His return. I look forward to lighting the candles with you on Christmas Eve and singing "Silent Night" together. May it be a sign of a faith that is alive and active!

Joy,

Dirk

## STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Dirk Lesnett – dirk@elfinwildchurch.org  
Associate Pastor: The Rev. Jason Rea – jason@elfinwildchurch.org  
Director of Children and Family Ministries: Emily Cooper – emily@elfinwildchurch.org  
Director of Music: Ron Bernhardt – ron@elfinwildchurch.org  
Office Manager: Cindy Neil – cindy@elfinwildchurch.org  
Business Manager/Treasurer: Karen Dorsey – karen@elfinwildchurch.org  
Sextons: John Steinmiller, Bob Slahtovsky, Javier Rodriguez, Karl Ringler  
Financial Secretary: Bob Kennedy – rgkmjk1@verizon.net  
Parish Visitor: Jim Thompson  
Web Page and CALL Editor: Amanda Gaydos – amandaga@consolidated.net  
Parish Associate: The Rev. Bethany Harbaugh – harbaugh.bl1@gmail.com

## Officers

Clerk of Session – Mark Riethmuller  
President of Trustees – Mike Radich  
President of Deacons – Ron Park

## MINISTRIES

**Elfinwild Home Meals Ministry**  
Marian Berberich - 412-486-8000

**Elfinwild Church Preschool**  
Carolyn Hervey, Director  
Telephone – 412-486-2322

3200 Mt. Royal Boulevard, Glenshaw, Pennsylvania 15116  
Telephone 412-486-5400 Fax 412-486-7080  
Email: epchurch@elfinwildchurch.org



## The Third Sunday of Advent

# WELCOME TO ELFINWILD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*We offer a warm welcome to every worshiper,  
and a way to serve for all who are willing.*

## ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 13, 2015

8:30 & 11:10 AM Worship

*You are invited to use Scripture for reflection  
or the following prayer as you prepare your hearts for worship.*

**"Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promise to her!" Elizabeth to Mary in Luke 1:45**

PRELUDE

(8:30)

"Love Came Down at Christmas" Robert Thygeron

(11:10)

"Holy Emmanuel"  
Praise Team

Steve Hindalong

### Elfinwild Presbyterian Church Financial Statement October 31, 2015

Actual Tithes & Gifts Given		\$492,175
Total Expenses	(Y.T.D.)	\$488,820
Favorable	(Y.T.D.)	\$3,354

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH

*Please sign the blue Friendship Pad in the pew near the center aisle.*

INTROIT “Prepare the Way of the Lord” Jacques Berthier

CALL TO WORSHIP

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:8-14

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH – THE CANDLE OF JOY

8:30 –Richard and Janis Schott Family  
11:10 – Nathan and Jennifer Kenna Family

UNISON PRAYER

**Eternal God, as the angel brought news of a great joy to the shepherds, we too have news of joy to share. Renew in us the joy of salvation in Jesus Christ. Help us to be bearers of this good news to all people, so that every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE No. 2 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

Prepare the way of the Lord! Let us make our confession to God.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept you forgiving love but also our refusal to forgive. We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love but also our resistance to follow you without question. In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should. Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude as Simeon; with obedience as Mary; with love, as you have loved us. Even so; come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The good news of this Advent season is forgiveness of sin and new life. Let us commit our lives to Christ’s way of hope and peace.

**People: Thanks be to the Advent God, who comes among us, setting us free to love and serve.**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news!

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

\*RESPONSE OF THANKS No. 23 (refrain)

**Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

ANTHEM

(8:30) “Christmas Grace” Ruth E. Schram  
Chancel Choir

(11:10) “Hallelujah” Teena Chinn  
Youth Choir

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP Henry Tomer

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

(8:30) “Carols Around” Carl J. Nygard, Jr.  
Chancel Choir

(11:10) “Silent Night” Traditional  
Jen Callahan and Eric Hegerle

\*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

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.**

SPECIAL MUSIC “Breath of Heaven” Amy Grant  
Elizabeth Dolan

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:46-56  
(Page 957 in the pew Bible)

SERMON “Song of Mary” Dr. Dirk Lesnett

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT No. 30 “Born in the Night, Mary’s Child”

\*BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION RESPONSE

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel**

Bob McGee

Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el,  
his name is called Em - man - u - el.  
God with us, re - vealed in us,  
his name is called Em - man - u - el.

POSTLUDE “Joy Unending” Lani Smith

*Special thanks to our liturgists:  
8:30 –Jim Saraceno  
11:10 – Amanda Gaydos*