

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**21. 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!

**22. 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 11-29-15**

**TODAY** (11-29-15) 9:00 AM – Breakfast – FH  
 10:00 AM – One Worship Service – SA  
 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Advent Community Outreach  
 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM – Jr. High Club – YH  
 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Sr. High Club – YH

**MONDAY** 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM – Act One – CE  
 7:00 PM – Boy Scouts – PR

**TUESDAY** 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Preschool – CE  
 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM – Preschool Bible Stories – UGR  
 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting – KL  
 12:00 PM – Men's Luncheon – FH  
 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 – Handbells – CR

**WEDNESDAY** 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Preschool – CE  
 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Mom & Me – PR, TR  
 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM – Preschool Bible Stories – UGR  
 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – M&m's Youth Group – FH  
 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Jr. High Girls' Bible Study @ Harbaughs  
 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 – 5:00 PM – Preschool – CE  
 7:00 AM – Men's Bible Study – PS  
 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Mom & Me – PR, TR  
 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM – Preschool Music – UGR  
 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM – Girl Scouts – FrH, Yellow and Purple Rooms  
 6:00 PM – Lions' Club – CCR  
 6:00 PM – 7:15 PM – Praise Team – SA  
 7:15 PM – 8:30 PM – Youth Choir – CR

**FRIDAY** 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Preschool – CE  
 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Mom & Me – PR, TR  
 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM – Preschool Music – UGR  
 4:15 PM – 6:45 PM – Act One – CE  
 6:00 PM – Sr. Highs in Laurelville  
 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM – Girl Scouts – PR  
 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM – Den 8 Wolf Cub Scouts – PR  
 8:00 PM – 9:00 PM – Webelos I – TR

**SATURDAY** Sr. Highs in Laurelville  
 6:00 AM – 8:00 AM – CLC – YH  
 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM – Act One – CE

**SUNDAY** (12-6-15) Communion  
 8:30 AM & 11:10 AM – Worship Services – SA  
 9:45 AM – Sunday School  
 12:30 PM – Pageant Rehearsal – SA, FH  
 2:00 PM – Sr. Highs return from Laurelville  
 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM – Jr. High Club – YH

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS THIS MORNING** are given in memory of their parents by Dale and Cheryl Harry.

**THE ELDER OF THE WEEK** is Dwight Pearson.

**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**

Paul Braddock  
 Max Smith  
 Kim Szymoniak  
 Bob Szymoniak  
 Ron Tiedeman

**11:10 AM USHERS**

Mel Stoker  
 Jennifer Muszynski  
 Janell Haygood  
 Patti Zahnhausen  
 Dorothy Thompson

**SOUND TECHNICIANS**

10:00 AM – Jim Saraceno  
 Michael Beal

**UPCOMING SERVICE**

Sunday, December 6, 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](mailto: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 III – Shepherds Show the Way* and will be taught by Donna Rea Thompson, Sue Anderson, Elaine Jans and Bev Friedline.

**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: December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Questions? Contact Amy Meyer—[littlepine@verizon.net](mailto: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
<i>Anyone high school age and older</i>		
Worship	11/29 @10:00	12/6@11:10
	12/13 @8:30	12/24@10:00
Praise Team	Thursdays	6-7:15 PM
<i>Instrumentalists and vocalists welcome</i>		
Worship	11/29@10:00	12/6@8:30
	12/13@11:10	12/20@8:30
Youth Choir	Thursdays	7:15-8:30 PM
<i>Anyone in grades 6-12</i>		
Worship	11/29@10:00	12/13@11:10
	12/24@7:00 PM	
Kids Choir	Tuesdays	6:30-7:30 PM
<i>Anyone in grades 1-5 for singing and ringing</i>		
Worship	11/29@10:00	12/20@11:10
	12/24@7:00 PM	
Handbell Choir	Tuesdays	7:30-8:30 PM
<i>Anyone high school age and older – no experience necessary</i>		
Worship	12/6@11:10	

## 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. LAURELVILLE WEEKEND** –Sr. High December 4th-6th

This is a wonderful retreat for students. Students are welcome to invite friends to come along as well. It will take place at Laurelville Camp and Conference Center and is run by the Pittsburgh Kids Foundation. Cost for the retreat is \$120 per student. Students can use their fund-raising accounts to pay for all or part of the retreat cost. To register for Laurelville students must turn in a \$25 nonrefundable deposit (this deposit can come by check or by their fundraising account) and a Laurelville registration waiver form. All checks should be made out to Elfinwild Presbyterian Church with the student's name and 'Laurelville' in the memo line.

The registration/waiver form can be picked up at club or down-loaded from our website. Spots for the retreat is limited and thus will be filled on a first come first served basis—so get your deposits into Jason soon! We will leave from the church for Laurelville at 6 PM on Friday and return by approximately 2 PM on Sunday. For more information about the retreat please contact Jason or check out PKF's website. www.pittsburghkidsfoundation.org

## **9. THE STUDENT MINISTRY SUPPORT TEAM WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS!**

The Student Ministry Support Team (SMST) is a group of adults that assist Jason and the youth leaders with special events. In the past year, we organized food for the Kick Off party, the Christmas party and the End of Summer Picnic. We organized and ran the Pancake Supper and the Pie Auction and sponsored the flower and candy sales as student fundraiser projects. This year we would like to revamp the Pie Auction – it has been a great success and we want to keep it fresh. We seek new or improved ideas for all of our projects – and those come with new members. The time commitment to Student Ministry Support Team varies throughout the year. We hold formal meetings only 2 -3 times a year, then communicate by email to plan the smaller projects. One of the best parts of being a member of SMST is getting to know the parents of your children's friends – we talk about fundraising some - and then share ideas about vacations, repairmen, college applications ... etc. If you have some time or ideas for Student Ministries Support Team, please contact Jason, Nancy Kriek (sciencenhk@aol.com, 412-487-8616) or Kyle Pinta (kjpainta@aol.com, 412-487-6163).

## ELFINWILD CHURCH NEWS

**10. CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS** – It's time to order your Christmas Poinsettias! Please use the special white envelopes in the pews. Plants are \$11.00 each and checks should be made payable to Elfinwild Presbyterian Church. Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup> is the last day to order. Any orders received after that date will be applied to the Bread of Life Food Pantry.

**11. 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 will meet 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.

**12. 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!**

**13. LIFE SCOUT NICHOLAS HARN OF TROOP 157** is working on his Eagle Scout project and he needs our help. As part of a Christmas Concert at the Southwest Veterans Center, Nick is putting together a gift basket for the veterans. Items needed to fill these baskets are: toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash (small bottles), dental floss, soap/body wash, shampoo, body lotion, wash cloth/hand towel, tissues, deodorant, lip balm, comb, nail clippers, wet wipes, eyeglass cleaner, cotton swabs, toilet paper, talcum powder, petroleum jelly. Any donations will be greatly appreciated. Boxes will be located near the entrances during the month of November for your donations. Thank you for your support!

**14. 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!

**15. 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.

**16. A BIG THANK YOU** goes out to everyone who was able to participate in any way with Operation Christmas Child. These gifts will not only bring toys, candy, hygiene items and school supplies to needy children all over the world, but will also share the gospel of Jesus Christ. As a former recipient of a shoe box once said "One box equals one child equals one soul". Thank you for being part of that equation!! We pray that as these children open their gifts and feel the love you put into preparing them, their hearts will open as well to the greatest gift of all.....Jesus!

**17. 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 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.

**18. CONGREGATIONAL OPEN HOUSE** at the Lesnett's, 402 Meadow Road, Glenshaw, from 4-8 pm on Saturday, December 12, 2015. 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.

**19. MEN'S LUNCHEON** – Please join us for our monthly Men's Luncheon. In December, we will meet on Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 12:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Please fill out the form in this insert to make your reservation.

**20. TRIPLE O'S ( On Our Own) LUNCHEON** will be on Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. Please make a reservation by completing the form in the bulletin or by calling the church office. Come and join this great fellowship!

I was just thinking ... that the most common message God gives in the Bible is "Do not be afraid." Even in the Christmas story we hear that phrase several times. As Mary is troubled by the greeting of the angel that tells her she is highly favored, the angel says to her, "**Do not be afraid.**" Similarly, Joseph is visited by an angel who says, "**Do not be afraid** to take Mary home as your wife." And as the angel appeared to the shepherds, who were terrified at its presence, the angel says, "**Do not be afraid.** I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

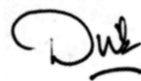
Fear is a very real emotion and experience for us. It should not be denied or ignored, but what do we do with it? And then again, what is it that we fear most? God, as those in the Christmas story did? Or men? Do we allow fear to cause us to become afraid? And what does being afraid result in? Often times being afraid causes us to become paralyzed and not act. It can also cause our focus to turn into ourselves and shut out the world around us, caring for no one or nothing that does not affect or benefit us. In our current reality, being afraid limits our travel, confines us to staying closer to "home" and seeking out the place and persons who are "safe."

The angels' words of invitation to Mary, Joseph and the shepherds to "not be afraid" are a call to faith and trust in God. Even as Mary, Joseph and the shepherds could have easily withdrawn from the story and stayed afraid, they would have missed being part of what God was doing. In the same way, if we "hide" or retreat into our own "little" world when we are facing fear, we miss the opportunity to see and be a part of all that God is doing in His world.

In this season, what is the message of God to us?? God put on flesh, became human and entered the world, a much different "place" than where He was. I want to invite us to hear the invitation of God to "not be afraid" and to trust him, believing that God is the One who is most powerful and most benevolent. As we follow and trust God we will be a light in a world that can be full of darkness and shadows. As we light the candles this Advent I pray that each one will give us courage to face whatever fears we have. When you have Hope fear cannot contain you. When you seek Peace fear will not be victorious. When you have Joy fear is pierced. And when you choose to Love, fear does not give way to hate. Christ came as a Light! Let's brighten up the places God has us.

I look forward to the journey with you as we trust God and overcome our fears together. Christ was sent because God loves us all.

Do not be afraid. God is with us!!



### 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



*First Sunday of Advent*

# WELCOME TO ELFINWILD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

## ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

**November 29, 2015  
10:00 AM Worship**

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

**He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name he gave the right to become children of God.**

**John 1:10-12**

PRELUDE "Christmas Offering" Paul Baloche  
Praise Team

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH  
*Please sign the blue Friendship Pad in the pew near the center aisle.*

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

<b>Actual Tithes &amp; Gifts Given</b>		<b>\$492,175</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(Y.T.D.)</b>	<b>\$488,820</b>
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>(Y.T.D.)</b>	<b>\$3,354</b>

INTROIT “Prepare the Way of the Lord” Jacques Berthier

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH – THE CANDLE OF HOPE  
Dan and Kathy Bonnett and Family

\*HYMN OF PRAISE No. 41 “O Come All Ye Faithful”

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION

ANTHEM “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Evelyn R. Larter  
Ruthie Riethmuller, Flute

MOMENT WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY “Christmas Alleluia” Jeff Lippencott

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.**

HYMN No. 23 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 1:18-25  
(Page 901 in the pew Bible)

SERMON “God is With Us” Dr. Dirk Lesnett

\*SONG OF COMMITMENT “Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)”

**Verse 1**

**Joy to the world the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and heaven and nature sing**

**Verse 2**

**Joy to the world the Savior reigns  
Let all their songs employ  
While fields and floods rocks hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat repeat the sounding joy**

**Chorus**

**Joy unspeakable joy  
An overflowing well  
No tongue can tell  
Joy unspeakable joy  
It rises in my soul  
Never lets me go**

**Verse 3**

**He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders wonders of His love**

**Chorus**

CCLI Song # 5607039  
Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | George Frideric Handel | Isaac Watts | Matt Gilder  
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BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION RESPONSE

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel**

Bob McGee

POSTLUDE

“Christmas Joy”

Gregg Sewell

*Special thanks to our liturgist:  
Kristin Coco*

*Special thanks to our Trumpeters:  
Todd Obidowski, Matt Harbaugh and Steve Heere*