

THE TRUMPET

St. Michael's of the Valley...making an eternal difference in each other's lives and in the world

Volume XXXIV No. 11
December 2017



St. Michael's of the Valley
Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 336
Ligonier, PA 15658-0336
724.238.9411

Sunday Services

Holy Eucharist Rite I
8:00 am

Holy Eucharist Rite II
10:30 am

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Advent Spiral

Sunday, December 3rd

All are welcome!

Immediately after the 10:30 a.m. Church Service

Ligonier Valley Food Pantry

Saturday, December 16th

Volunteers should meet in the Kitchen
at 7:30 a.m.

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 17th

Second Service at 10:30 am

Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24th

8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. childcare provided

7:30 p.m. - childcare provided

10:00 p.m. - no childcare

Fr. Jim will present his gift
to the parish at both services:
The reading of his 2017 Christmas Story

Christmas Day Service

Monday, December 25th

10:30 a.m. - no childcare

LESSONS

December 2017

**December 3, 2017***First Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

December 10, 2017*Second Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8

December 17, 2017*Third Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalm 126

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24, 2017*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-20

December 25, 2017*Christmas Day*

Isaiah 62:6-12

Psalm 97

Titus 3:4-7

Luke 2:1-20

December 31, 2017*First Sunday After Christmas*

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

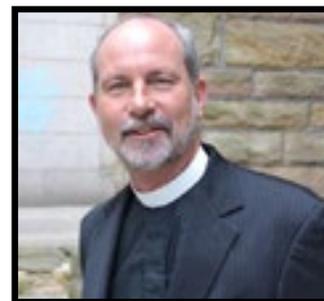
Psalm 147

Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7

John 1:1-18

THE RECTOR'S LETTER

THE REV. DR. JAMES B. SIMONS

**Happy New Year!**

It used to be that we complained when Christmas decorations went up in stores before Thanksgiving. Then it got pushed to before Halloween. This year I saw my first Christmas display in a store in Mid- October (and I'm pretty sure it had been up for several weeks already.) The commercialization of Christmas has been bemoaned for decades and was the theme of the holiday classic "A Charlie Brown Christmas" (which turns 52 this year.)

However, if we look at the church year it's even worse than we might think. Liturgically, the Christmas season runs from the 25th of December through the 5th of January followed by Epiphany and Our Lord's Baptism on the 6th and this year the 7th. The weeks leading up to Christmas we know as Advent and mark the beginning of the church year.

It's bad enough that other holidays get swallowed up in the Christmas rush but for most of us Advent almost completely disappears. I would suggest that we need to be intentional about observing Advent. The word is derived from the Latin for "coming." This is a time of preparation (not unlike decorating the house is a time of preparation) for the coming of Jesus. It we would do well, as many of us do at the secular New Year, to take stock of our lives and prayerfully consider what God might be calling us to. We need to take time for prayer and reflection about our own lives and our willingness to accept again, into our hearts, the savior of the world.

So, deck the halls and trim the tree but don't forget to prepare yourself for the coming of Jesus.

Advent Blessings,

Jim



Dear Partners,

Season's Greetings From Dr. John & Ammini Abraham, Mumbai, India!!!

We were unable to contact you the last few months because of various reasons.

The main reason, the slum Rehabilitation Authority (S.R.A) the Government of Maharashtra, has taken over the Nity and Nagar slum for Redevelopment, where we have been having Church Service last 39 years. After the completion of the building, we will get back the space belonging to us, which will take 2 to 3 years for completion.

For the last few months, we have been looking for an alternative location for Worship or rent. Finally God answered our prayers and received a place in a good location in a Co-Op-Housing Society near the slum for 2 years (picture attached).

God continues blessing the Victory Clinic. God is sending many sick people who all are healed by His Grace. More believers are coming to the new Fellowship Centre because of its proximity to their home. Ammini and I are doing well by His Grace. We pray daily for all of you.

We are counting on your wholehearted support, leading to a long & continued partnership in growing together.

Sincerely in His Service,

Dr. John & Ammini Abraham.



2018 VESTRY NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now being accepted for new vestry members. If you would like to submit a name, please contact our Junior Warden, Adam McNeil.

CEMETERY REMINDER

During December through February, the water for the cemetery will be shut off. You can get water from the Smith House outside faucet.

DISCRETIONARY FUND

Donations to the Rector’s Discretionary Fund would be greatly appreciated this time of year. Donations can be sent to the church and just marked for discretionary fund.

Thank you!

ADVENT CALENDAR

An Advent calendar is a special calendar used to count or celebrate the days in anticipation of Christmas. The calendar is helpful in teaching young children about waiting and the joy of such anticipation. Each day behind the numbered doors you will find clues about God’s promised Savior. The calendar is available in the narthex. Take one per family, please.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA MEMORIALS



Christmas flower memorials may be submitted by filling out a flower memorial envelope located in the narthex of the church or by calling the church office (724-238-9411) with the names of those you wish to remember.

The deadline to submit your request is **Friday, December 15th**. The minimum donation is \$25.

CHURCH CANCELLATIONS

With the winter season fast approaching, please check the church website if you want to see if services are canceled.

LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE

The festival of Lessons and Carols, a service of worship celebrating the birth of Jesus, will take place on Sunday, December 17th at the 10:30 a.m. service. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus are told in short Bible readings, interspersed with the singing of carols and hymns. Children from our Sunday School Program will take part in the service. Marion Sukanovich, our organist/choir director is directing the music and it will be a special celebration so please join us!

ANNUAL PARISH REPORT

Year end reports are compiled early each January for distribution before the annual parish meeting. The chair of each Commission should write a report on the past year’s activities for the enlightenment of the entire parish.

The 2017 reports should be submitted to the church office by Thursday, January 11th so that they can be reproduced and ready to distribute on the following Sunday, January 21st.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE REQUIREMENTS



FOR YEAR-END PLEDGE PAYMENTS

If you would like your year-end contributions and/or pledge payments to appear on this year’s Statement of Contributions you should: Put your check in the plate by Sunday, December 31st. If unable to, mail or drop off your check to the church office before 3:00 p.m. Thursday, December 28th.

Any check received in the plate on January 1, 2018 will be attributed to 2018 contributions regardless of the date of the check. If you have any questions, please call the office.



**NYOP Children's
Christmas Gift Project**

Began Sunday, November 26th

Ends Sunday, December 10th

This year the children that participate in St. Stephen's Neighborhood Youth Outreach After School Program have made it easier for us to purchase Christmas gifts for them. They have given three suggestions of items that they would like to have for Christmas. Many of these gifts are items that we have bought for them in the past. Do not feel obligated to purchase their suggestions. As in the years past, please purchase at least three items for each child. The bag does not need to be filled to the top, since the Outreach Commission will be adding tissue and treats. If you have any questions, please call Anne Bush, 724-837-4633.

DINNER AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD ACADEMY

Several times each year the Outreach Commission prepares, delivers, and serves a hot evening meal to the students and faculty members of The Neighborhood Academy. On Wednesday, November 8th, volunteers served a delicious meal at the Academy. A special thank you goes to the volunteers, who worked on this meal. Thanks to Peggy Vale who was in charge of this event, and along with David delivered the meal. Laura Varga & Anne Bush for all their work in the kitchen preparing the meal, and all those who prepared brownies to go with the meal - Ellie Davis, Laurie DeMayo, Ann Hewat, Jinny Ledgard, Cindy Pompelia and Laura Varga. THANK YOU ALL!



**LIGONIER FOOD
PANTRY
REFRESHMENTS**
Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017
7:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Members of the Outreach Commission invite you to help serve hot drinks and donuts to the Food Pantry volunteers and recipients at St. Michael's. Please call Anne Bush at 724-837-4633 or sign-up on the bulletin board in the Smith House if you would like to help.

ON THE MOVE ~ ADDRESS CHANGES

Please note the address changes for some of our members:

G. Joseph & Lisa Frederick
4004 Eagle Court
Latrobe, PA 15650

Mrs. Donald R. (Elinor) McLennan
28 Winding Way
Verona, PA 15147

Mrs. Arthur M. Scully, Jr. (Eleanor)
51 Wayside Lane
Verona, PA 15147

Willis & Leila Swearer
218 North Walnut Street
Ligonier, PA 15658

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Cindy Pompelia is hosting a women's bible study during Advent at her home, 506 Foxchase Lane, Ligonier, PA Tuesday evenings, December 5, 12, & 19 @ 7:00 p.m. All women of St. Michael's are welcome to attend to share in a study led by Ellie Davis and enjoy time in this hectic season to peacefully reflect and prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus.



Wood Bridge Pre-School



The holidays are finally here and we hope you all are creating some wonderful memories with your families. Wood Bridge began creating memories with our Wood Bridge families as we shared in a Thanksgiving Feast on Monday, November 20th. Our Wood Bridge families, preschoolers and board members all contributed to our enormous feast and the children performed a few Thanksgiving songs for their guests. A great time was had by all, but that was just the beginning of our holiday flurry of activities. This month we will hold our annual Christmas Program and Basket Raffle on Thursday, December 7th at 6:00 pm. The children are currently preparing for their nativity play and practicing songs for this special night. We welcome anyone that would like to come and enjoy this beautiful night. It is sure to be a night to remember.

Our students are also participating in a PJ Drive. Anyone who would like to donate a new pair of PJ's for a needy child in our community can do so by placing the PJ's in our PJ box in our preschool lobby downstairs. Our collection will be held until Monday, December 11th. If you have any questions please let us know.

We will finally end our December celebrations by holding our Christmas party and gift exchange, with food and present giving... and hopefully a visit from Santa or one of his elves.

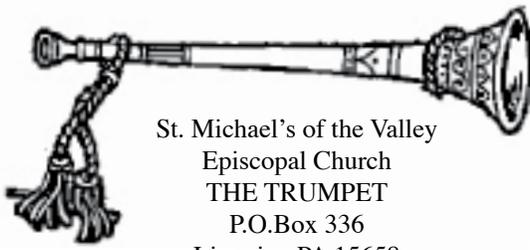
From all of us at Wood Bridge, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.



Silvia, Anna & Ridge helping to collect PJ's for needy kids in our area.

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Service Times Sundays 8:00 am & 10:30am</p>		<p>Church Office Hours Monday - Friday 8:30 am ~ 3:00 pm</p>	<p>Community meetings held weekly Alcoholics Anonymous Mondays at 7:00 pm – AA Beginner's Meeting Mondays at 8:00 pm – AA Regular Meeting Saturdays at 7:30 pm – AA Regular Meeting</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>		
<p>3 Service Times 8:00 am ~ 10:30 am Christian Ed 9:15 am Children's Offering Advent Spiral following 2nd service Ligonier Valley Writers Christmas Party 3-5 pm</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>Full Moon on the 3rd</p>	<p>5 Women's Bible Study @ Pompelia Home 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>6 Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Wood Bridge Board 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>7 Art Club ~ 9 a.m. Wood Bridge Christmas Program ~ 6 p.m.</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	
<p>10 Service Times 8:00 am ~ 10:30 am Christian Ed 9:15 am NYOP Christmas Project ends Decorating of Christmas Tree</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 Women's Bible Study @ Pompelia Home 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>13 Healing Service 10:00 am. Women's Bible Study Following service Outreach Christmas Party ~ 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>14 Art Club Christmas Party ~ 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 FOOD PANTRY Volunteers Meet in the kitchen at 7:30 a.m.</p>	
<p>17 Service Times 8:00 am ~ 10:30 am Christian Ed 9:15 am Lesson & Carols @ 10:30 a.m. service</p>	<p>18 St. Michael's Bell Ringing @ Giant Eagle for the Salvation Army 10 am-6 pm Vestry Meeting 7 p.m.</p>	<p>19 Women's Bible Study @ Pompelia Home 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>20 Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 Office closes at noon</p>	<p>23</p>	
<p>24 Service Times 8:00 am ~ 10:30 am Christmas Eve Services 7:30 & 10 p.m.</p>	<p>25 Office Closed Christmas Day Service 10:30 am</p> 	<p>26 Office Closed</p>	<p>27 Healing Service 10:00 am Women's Bible Study Following service</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Office closes at noon</p>	<p>30</p>	
<p>31 Service Times 8:00 am ~ 10:30 am</p> 							

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THE TRUMPET
P.O.Box 336
Ligonier, PA 15658



AGUA VIVA GIVES THANKS

As we begin the holiday season, we want to express our sincere gratitude for our donors, sponsors, and prayer partners. You play a special part in Agua Viva's ministry. Together we are making a difference at our Home and School. Thank you for participating in God's work at Agua Viva!

MUSICAL NOTES

from Marion Sukanovich



CHRISTMAS A TIME FOR MEMORIES

I am the oldest of a large family. Christmas was always a very special time for us. Christmas Eve started with the Christmas Eve Service, followed by caroling to the shut-ins. We would come home after caroling and help Mom with any gifts that needed wrapped or assembled. The younger ones would get up very early Christmas morning and run downstairs to see what Santa had brought them. Before opening the gifts, my Dad would read the Christmas story and lead us in prayer and then we would open our gifts. That is a beautiful memory for me and one that I will always treasure. I guess you could say that was our family tradition. I am sure that your family has their traditions also. But if the Christmas Eve Service is not part of it, please consider making it part of your family tradition. There are two services and they are beautiful services. If you are unable to attend them, then there is a service on Christmas Day. Please plan to attend one of them. You will be glad you did.

The Trumpet is published monthly with the exception of a combined July/August issue. Comments can be directed to the church office at office@stmichaelsligonier.org

Articles must be submitted to the office by the 15th of each month to be included in the next month's edition.