

THE ECHO OF ST. JOSEPH'S HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH



The Reverend Kim Truebenbach

December 2022

*O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel. ELW # 257*

Growing up, every Advent we sang verses from O Come, O Come Emmanuel. On week 1 of Advent, we sang verse 1; on week 2 we sang verses 1 and 2, each week added a verse. I grew up thinking that there were only 4 verses to O Come, O Come Emmanuel. Every year was the same in terms of our Advent wreath song and addition of verses to sing. I don't know if this tradition was because my childhood church was named Immanuel Lutheran, or if no other songs fit the season. We sang this song as the Acolyte tried to light the right number of candles for the week.

Our Advent wreath was not on a stand, it hung from a hook inside the choir loft. Three gold chains held the flat wreath in place and boy if you missed the candle, the wreath would swing and twist. I remember gasps as the wreath would swing closer to the wooden pillar not far from the hook. As far as I know, we never set the building on fire and no one got hurt, but it felt like a rite of passage if you could light those candles without making a mistake and sending it Swinging.

Christmas brings a lot of joy and a lot of pressure to be joyful. Yet the tune for O Come, O Come Emmanuel is more somber than joyful. I think that is fitting. For several of our families, Christmas will be bittersweet. We will be missing loved ones who have passed on. Some of our families are sitting with loved ones who are on hospice care. It's hard to be joyful amid loss and grief.

So, this Christmas be sure to give yourself permission to "be". Give yourself permission to feel joy and sadness and grief as these emotions arise within you. And know you are welcome to worship as you are, without a need to put on a happy face.

Regardless of how you are feeling and what troubles you may or may not be facing remember, you are welcome here. Remember to treat one another with kindness and grace this holiday season for we never know what anyone is dealing with under the surface.

May God's peace be filling in your broken places and bring you wholeness and joy this season!

Pastor Kim

DECEMBER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- December 4 2nd Sunday In Advent - Holy Communion
8:00 AM Worship Service
9:00 AM Sunday Church School
10:00 AM Worship Service and available on zoom
- December 11 3rd Sunday In Advent
8:00 AM Worship Service
9:00 AM Sunday Church School
10:00 AM Worship Service and available on zoom
- December 18 4th Sunday In Advent - Holy Communion
8:00 AM Worship Service
9:00 AM Sunday Church School
10:00 AM Worship Service and available on zoom
- December 24 Christmas Eve & Holy Communion
4:00 PM Candlelight Worship Service
7:30 PM Candlelight Worship Service
- December 25 Christmas Day
10:00 AM Worship Service and available on zoom

December **ECHO** is sponsored by
Earnest & Barbara Hilbert In memory of Loved Ones.



Daycare News “We wish you a Merry Christmas, we wish you a Merry Christmas, we wish you a Merry Christmas...” Christmas is a favorite holiday of children, and the daycare is in a festive mode as we anticipate adorning the classrooms with decorations and creating crafts of the season. Stories will be told of baby Jesus, books will be read of holiday cheer and songs will be sung “of old and new jingles”.

The children’s Christmas party will be Thursday, December 22nd with special gifts for the classroom and special treats for the children presented by “Santa”! The staff Christmas Party will be celebrated at Giannotti’s Restaurant on December 2nd. Several years ago the Day Care Board decided to treat the staff to a “nice dinner” and a “night out” as a Christmas gift for their dedicated service to the children and commitment to the center.

The daycare will be closed Monday, December 26 th and Monday, January 2 nd to observe the Christmas and New Year Holiday. May we all become like little children this Christmas, and celebrate “Jesus’ Birthday”!

Communications If you wish an announcement in the Eblast!, ECHO, Website or facebook, please send an email to secretary.stjosephshill.com with exactly how you wish to word your information and note where you want this advertised.

The Angel Tree is up and filled with tags to bring joy to those who are less fortunate. Please be sure to grab a tag to participate in the Boyertown Multi-Service gifts for the Boyertown Community. Gifts are due by Sunday, December 4th.

Poinsettia Plant Orders Thank you to all who have participated in purchasing the Poinsettia Plants to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. The final orders are due on Sunday, December 4th.

Looking Ahead:

- December 6: Spiritual Life meets via zoom at 7 PM.
- December 12: Christian Ed meets via zoom at 7 PM.
- December 15: Council Meet in the fellowship hall at 7 PM.
- December 18: ECHO articles due.
- December 23: Church office closed.
- December 26: Church office closed.
- January 1: Worship Service at 10 AM.

Reminder: Committee descriptions and yearly calendars are due by January 8, 2023.

Messiah Performance A performance of Handel's Messiah featuring the Reading Choral Society, a 19-piece orchestra, and the 45-member Boyertown High School Select Choir is being held on December 4th at 4 PM at the Boyertown High School Auditorium. St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is sponsoring the event. If you are interested in purchasing tickets, contact Jill at 610-369-0990.

Milk chocolate and dark chocolate nonpareils and candy melts will be available for sale beginning November 27. Thanks to everyone who helped in this candy-making project.

Snow Removal The church is looking to hire a snow plow & salt the church parking lot this winter. If you or someone you know is interested in this position, please contact Robin 610-367-1980.

Donations St. Paul's in Fleetwood has a collection bin in the parking lot for Opportunity House. They are looking for donations of used (but in good shape) clothing, shoes, books, CD's and DVDs. You are welcome to drop items off at any time. St. Paul's is located at 117 East Arch Street, Fleetwood.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Lily Renninger
Amy Miller
Tristan Weller
Madalyn Bollard
David Hoch
Kurt Neumaier
Tracy Dierolf
Carl Bieber
Mazie Herb
Colin Wisler
Michelle Bialek
Donald Hendricks
Tracy Roberts
Mackenzie Miller

Kailey Reinboth
Keith Sharp
Kenneth Dale Kurtz
Franklin Morgan Jr.
Robin Schmale
Monika Heydt
Charles Anhalt
Darrin Krall
Molly Steele
Earl Luft
Lauren Gill
Keely Bieber
Walter Weidner

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dwight & Amy Miller 25 Years
Deb & Rick Geesey 54 Years

Timothy & Sally Seyler 7 years

St. Joseph's (Hill) Lutheran Church

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

ST. JOSEPH'S (HILL) LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Office Hours: Monday through Friday: 10:00 AM–2:00 PM

The Reverend Kim Truebenbach
Mrs. Linda Kowalski, Council President
Mrs. Jill Savory, Parish Secretary
Mrs. Susy Yerger, Volunteer Coordinator
Mr. Blaise Miller, Sexton
Mrs. Carol Barton, Organist
Mrs. Marcia Kurtz, Music Director

Mrs. Robin Schmale, Daycare Director
Daycare hours Monday – Friday; 6:30 AM – 6:00 PM

For
unto
us a
CHILD
is born
unto us a **Son**
is given, and the
Government shall be
upon His shoulders,
and His Name shall be called,
Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace!
Isaiah 9:6