

DECEMBER 2012

SHARON CONNECTIONS



Advent Vespers

December 2 at 6:30 pm

We are excited to gather with the community in a worship experience to begin the Advent season. The worship will be formed around readings and music on the overall theme "Fear Not!" You are welcome to worship on Sunday, December 2nd at 6:30 pm.

Advent Village Fair

December 9 from 6-8 pm

The Advent Village Fair is for our congregational members, neighbors and friends. All booth items are free and given in Christ's love. It is a time to reflect on Christ's coming into this world and what that means for Christians as well as each of us individually. This year we'll have goodies, homemade ice cream, yarn dolls, ornament crafts, a visitor's center, donations for Haven Ministry and a Talent Show by our children. When you come, please bring a friend!

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24 at 4:30 pm, 7:00 pm, and 9:30 pm



Poinsettia orders will be taken until Dec. 6. The cost is \$9.00 per plant. Contact the church office with your information. 374-8444



As an angel shone in the presence of the shepherds and announced—*“Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord,”* I too share these words with you as a Christmas Prayer.

In a season that is meant to be marked with joy and hope and peace, we can find ourselves still captive to fear.

Fear that there will not be enough,

Fear that we have not accomplished enough.

Fear for a future we cannot know until we live it.

Fear that our world has more hurt than healing, more violence than peace, more pain than joy.

In all our expressions of fear, we need the words of the angel, the words echoed time and time again by our savior—Do not be afraid.

The summons is more than we *should not* be afraid, but rather a defiant call to strip fear of its power and trust in the one whose power transcends all claims on us. So we stand and hold up our hands in praise and expectation. We make our way once again to gather in worship and sing carols and hear the story of the manger and of one born for us and who will come again. We come and light candles and sing of God's amazing power and grace and of a light that scatters the darkness—no matter how dark, no matter how fearful.

Do not be afraid—in spite of our fears we stand unafraid in the presence of God; God with us; Emmanuel; one born for us—a savior who is Messiah, the Lord.

Blessings to all in Christmas 2012! I look forward to being with you on Christmas Eve and to sharing this season together.

God's Peace,

Pastor Doll

MINISTRIES for CHILDREN, YOUTH & TEENS

Contact = Robin Kunkel 374-8444 or robinkunkel@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANTICIPATES ADVENT

This month the Sunday school classes are focusing on Anticipating Advent. Lessons will include people from the Bible who were “ready to serve” like Zechariah and Elizabeth, Matthew 3:1-3 or Mary, Luke 1:26-38. They will also learn about the Advent wreath and the colors and names of the candles as well as look forward to a birthday celebration!

VISIT the CHURCH LIBRARY!

Visit our Holiday section in the library. There are books on Advent awareness and Advent activities for the entire family. There are also books about the Christmas season like *Manger in the Mountains* or *The Christmas Bird* or books with an alternative to Santa Claus such as *Saint Nickolas* and *The First Christmas*. For those who enjoy a relaxing read, there are many Christmas themed books in our fiction section.

CONFIRMATION DATES TO REMEMBER

- December 2 = Procession of the Candles at 10:30am worship
- December 2 = Hospitality Team at Advent Vespers – 6-8:30pm
- December 9 = Advent Village Fair booth – 6-8pm
- December 16 = Caroling to the shut-ins – 5-7pm

PROCESSION OF THE CANDLES DECEMBER 2 at 10:30am worship

The Sunday school classes will participate in worship by being part of the candle processional for the first day of Advent. Young children will carry battery operated votives into the Nave and the older students will carry flamed candles in the procession. We anticipate it to be a moving experience to watch the lights entering the sanctuary and placed around the Advent wreath. Be sure to share this time with us!

COOKIE/GOODIE DONATIONS for Advent Vespers

The confirmation students will be our Hospitality Team for the Advent Vespers service. They will set up and serve refreshments in the fellowship hall to our guests after the Advent Vespers service. It would be helpful if we had donations of goodies/cookies or finger foods to serve the guests. If you are in a baking mood for the holidays, consider making an extra batch for the Hospitality Team. The goodies/cookies can be dropped off in the church office or given to Robin Kunkel.

CAROLING to the Shut-Ins DECEMBER 16 5-7pm

Middle and High school students will be gathering at Sharon church to spend an evening caroling to our Selinsgrove neighbors and shut-ins. Show up at Sharon at 5:00pm, dressed warm and ready to sing! We will end back at Sharon church for cocoa and snacks. We welcome adult guides to accompany us. You can sign up on the Youth bulletin board or contact Robin Kunkel.

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSE

January/February 2013

Many people suffering from mental illness may feel they must be secretive about it and therefore suffer alone for years. Fortunately, this does not have to be true. Friends and family of mental health sufferers can find support and connections by taking the Mental Health First Aid Course. It is given by a trained professional instructor from the organization, CSg, Community Service group, with one of their locations being on Second Street in Sunbury. It is a course that increases your knowledge about mental illnesses and explores alternative ways of being supportive and recognizing the danger signs of suicide. The 12 hour certified course, set up for 4 consecutive weeks, will talk about myths and misunderstandings of mental illness and offering opportunities to ask questions on these subjects. The first step is saying 'yes'. This course would benefit those in teaching, ministry, first responders, volunteers, health care workers coaches and caregivers. Contact Robin Kunkel if you are interested. Costs and dates will be posted as soon as we receive a reply from our grant connection.

NOTES FROM EVERGREEN CEMETERY

At their May and August meetings, the members of the Evergreen Cemetery Association Committee made and approved revisions to the cemetery rules. As individuals and families purchase grave lots at the cemetery, they will be provided with a copy of the rules when they receive the deed for their lot. For current owners of lots, we would like to provide the following information to you as an update, primarily concerning the new prices of lots and the revisions concerning decorations which may be left on grave sites. The current prices for purchasing lots for burial rights are as follows:

- \$300.00 per single-grave lot
- \$500.00 per two-grave lot
- \$900.00 per four-grave lot

Decorations in Memory of Loved Ones (effective Jan. 1, 2013)

- a. In May, before the annual Memorial Day holiday, local veterans' organizations will place American flags in pre-placed holders on the grave sites of deceased military veterans. These flags will remain in place in their holders until the week after Veterans' Day, when cemetery personnel will remove them and return them to the veterans' organizations for proper disposal.
- b. Flowers and plants (live or artificial) may be placed in appropriate, removable containers on top of grave markers. When live flowers/plants become wilted or die, cemetery personnel will remove and dispose of the flowers/plants and containers.
- c. No fences or enclosures of any kind will be permitted on burial lots. Borders around grave markers of stone, gravel, mulch or similar decorative materials are not permitted. The planting of trees, shrubbery, flowers, plants or vines of any kind on lots is strictly prohibited.
- d. The placing of boxes, shelves, toys, statuettes, glassware, plaques, lanterns, solar lights, chimes or similar items upon grave markers or lots is not permitted. Cemetery personnel will dispose of such items found on graves.
- e. No person shall scatter or deposit glass, rubbish, cast-off grave decorations or other refuse on any lots or driveways of the cemetery under penalty of arrest, but shall convey the same to the receptacle(s) provided for that purpose, located beside the shed on the cemetery grounds.

If you have any questions about any of this information, please contact any one of the members of the Evergreen Cemetery Association Committee: Lowell Leitzel, President/Superintendent; Robert Dagle, Secretary; Gary Aucker; Paul Culbertson; Garth Wenrich



Youth Musical Auditions

Calling all Children and Youth through 9th grade.

It's time to audition for our next Musical!

Auditions will be held on Saturday, Dec. 8th
from 10 am until 2 pm in the choir room.

A licensing request has been accepted for the rights to perform "Godspell Junior" We are very excited about this opportunity and expect to have children and youth from the community also audition to be part of this

production. Audition materials will be available this Sunday in the Church office.

Contact Dawn Doll with any questions at dmdoll66@gmail.com.

Council Action Items

- a. Approved request from Selinsgrove Historical Committee for use of Cemetery on Memorial Day.
- b. Approved request for use of building one evening a week by Narcotics Anonymous. Request was approved for Friday evening use, pending adequate arrangements can be made for unlocking and locking the building.
- c. Accepted gift from anonymous donor for a subscription to *The Lutheran* (50 copies).

Annual Congregation Meeting

At the Congregation meeting held on November 18th a motion for approval of the recommended 2013 budget passed with unanimous consent.

Save the Date: The Annual Congregation Meeting will be held on January 13 following the 10:30 am service, in the fellowship hall. Bring a potluck dish to share.

Committee Chairpersons, please note: Your annual report will be due by Friday, January 4.

Leave a Legacy for Ministry and Mission: Have you ever considered continuing your annual support to your congregation and other church ministries after you joined the Church Triumphant. With a Memorial Endowment Fund, you can make quarterly distributions to your congregations and other ministries in perpetuity or even longer. For more information about how to make charitable gifts using a Memorial Endowment Fund or other ways to make charitable gifts to your favorite church ministries, call Pr. Greg Kramer at the Lutheran Planned Giving Office at 570-374-2044 or call the ELCA Foundation, 800-638-3522 ext. 2970 or visit our website at www.elca.org/fo



We Keep in Prayer...

Sharon Members: Rachel Betzer, Dale Bickhart, Ruth Corbin, Hugh Dinsmore, Suah Harris, Karen Hoke, Jean Leach, Mary Partica, Ernie Renninger, Helen Ritter, Myron "Nip" Shirk, Robert Stetler

Friends of Sharon: Justin Bardose, Barbara Broadt, John Burk, Amy Bush, Pat Campbell, Sue Catherman, Holly Daubenspeck, Sally Diehl, Carol Farris, Teresa Flynn, Cory Furman, Colin Grube, Eileen Hauer, Mitch Himmelberger, Jeremy Hoffman, David Holmes, Jr., David Holmes, Sr., Kendra Hoover, Paul Kerstetter, Destany Kile, Donald Kopp, Dale Morse, Susan Mull, Tina Reichenbach, Linda Remler, Laurie Riggs, Riley Schwalm, Lura Sollenberger, Mary Sheridan, John Skotedis, Wendy Stauffer, Felicyal Stern, Rick Sweigart, Joan Thomas, Linda Wetzler, Ken and Chris Whitebread

From our Seminarian



THE RIDGE: Yes, high on a ridge this sacred place of learning sits. The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg spreads out, both screaming and whispering of Civil War past and theological study- past and present. Eager, pensive learners trudge the paths (or cut across the grass as I've been known to do) on the way to seminar or chapel, or library for research or study time, or snack bar coffee time and a cherished quick "hello." It's all really part of the prep for ministry: the Word, meditation, worship, prayer, study, care, share....and out in the field- in various ways proclaiming! There are snags in the process sometimes. Detours we do not expect: Edwina, my New Hampshire friend whose mother struggles in New England never expected to be doing her Internship in the Dakotas. Nancy, who lost her husband never really expected to be sent to New York. And here I am- still in Selinsgrove. Yet, through the blessing of the USS Authorized Lay Worship Leadership program in which I am certified plus innovative efforts of the Seminary, I have been able to continue to pursue my theological education. My Seminary Advisor, Dr. Maria Erling just wrote to me to tell me that she has approved the continuing of my studies for the spring semester by an ONLINE computer course with Dr. Gil Waldkoenig, who is also a member of the Candidacy Committee of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. What a small world sometimes I think this is. But you see, in today's world, there are so many options for people like me, who, while fighting the side effects of epilepsy drugs and not being able to carry a full schedule right now, can still use alternative methods via computer to further Seminary course work while meeting periodically with personnel from the Bishop's Office, going through a Theological Review Process and fulfilling special assignments. Christmas Eve I have been assigned preaching engagements at two rural charges and I will be continuing to serve at Sharon in various ways. There were recent opportunities, too, to preach in Snyder and Northumberland County churches and how rewarding those experiences were! So you see, from that high place on The Ridge, some innovative ways have opened up in cooperation with suffering Synods in the ELCA to allow for small churches who need some part-time pastoral assistance to utilize different avenues of services. It's a great feeling to be a part of that team!

Carol Black



From Vicar Rick

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us... By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." – Luke 1: 68-69, 78-79

First, let me extend my gratitude to the people of Sharon for all the expressions of sympathy at the passing of my mother. Thank you for your concern, your support and your generosity in allowing me to take the time to spend with Mom during her final days.

While those days were difficult, our family also found that we could rejoice in the assurance of God's comforting presence, love and grace. Mom will certainly be missed this Christmas season, but we will celebrate confident in the promises of the one about whom Zachariah sings: "Praise be to God who raised up a mighty savior for us!"

Zachariah gives voice to a song of Advent meant for us who sit in darkness waiting for the light that has already come and is still yet to come. It is an uneasy time, a frustrating time, an in-between time, because we know that God's promise of salvation is already here but not yet.

To live as a disciple of Jesus Christ means living Advent time -- waiting, anticipating, wondering -- as we wait with confidence for the dawning light of salvation to reach its culmination. But our waiting is not idle; it is active as we continue to serve, praise and thank God for showing us a ray of light and a glimpse of peace which sustains us in the sure hope of what is to come.

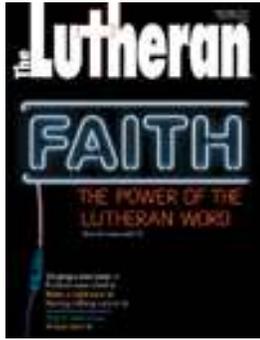
May your Advent season shine brightly with choruses of joy and be filled with the peace of the one born in a manger.

Our New Website will be up and running very soon. We are fine tuning features which include:



online prayer requests, Monday dialogue with Pastor Doll, special events notices, downloadable forms, and an active Google calendar. The current web address www.sharonlc.org will continue to be the address when the site is uploaded. Our Sharon Lutheran Church Facebook page will continue to operate, as well, for those who use this medium for communication and information.

The Lutheran Magazine



Have you missed reading this publication? Did you know that you can order the subscription online? Did you know that we as a congregation can order a number of copies to be distributed at a very reduced rate? Through a generous gift, we are able to provide some 50 or so copies for you all to share each month. We are going to do this on a trial basis and hope that you will let Pastor Doll or members of council know what you think. In October, several copies were made available on Reformation Sunday as well as a few copies of "Lutheranism 101." Watch for the next issue to be available in the narthex, just outside the worship space. The magazine has undergone many transformations and in its current form offers great articles, study guides, and stories from across the church.

www.thelutheran.org

Happy Birthday to you in December

Bernhisel, Deborah	12/2	Mullen, Timothy	12/9	Matrey, Megan	12/22
Freed, Paul	12/2	Herman, Isabella	12/12	Spigelmyer, Jack	12/22
Ries, Rodney	12/2	Nickler, Kevin	12/12	Sands, Christopher	12/23
Aucker, Rita	12/3	Marziale, Lauren	12/14	Gilson, Ilene	12/25
Kuster, Norah	12/3	Bilger, Janet	12/17	Schreffler, Jennie	12/25
Messner, Edna	12/5	Kramer, Gregory	12/18	Aucker, Gary	12/27
Weirick, Madison	12/6	Mullen, Rheta	12/20	Wagner, Clara	12/28
Wise, Phillip	12/6	Scholl, Eric	12/20	Reiland, Casey	12/29
Driscoll, Donna	12/9	Kemberling, Dana	12/21	Anderson, Dorothy	12/30
Herman, Sarah	12/9	Freed, Harley	12/22	Bottiger, Donald	12/30

Sponsor the weekly altar flowers in 2013

The cost to honor your loved one in this special way will be \$30.00.

The following dates are available at this time:

January 27	September 1, 8, 22
February 17, 24	October 6, 13, 20
March 10, 17, 24, 31	November 3, 10, 17, 24
April 14, 28	December 29
May 5, 19, 26	
June 2	
July 7, 14, 21, 28	
August 4	

Good news from heaven the angels bring,
 Glad tidings to the earth they sing:
 To us this day a child is given,
 To crown us with the joy of heaven.

– Martin Luther

This Christmas

Give a Gift that Shows God's Love to Others

**Sunday December 2: Attend a Mission Mall at Zion Lutheran,
Sunbury (5th and Market Sts)**

The fifth annual Mission Mall will be held from 11:30 am – 2:00 pm. Monetary donations are made to non-profit organizations in honor of those we love – to better the lives of those in need.

The following 9 charities will be represented:

Elijah's Bowl

A Community Clinic

Haven Ministry

American Red Cross

Camp Mount Luther

Carol Main Scholarship Fund

Lutheran Training Institute

ELCA World Hunger

Philippine Plus Program.

A ham loaf dinner will also be served and Christmas baked goods will be for sale. This event is open to the public. To make a gift or for more information, please contact MaryAnn Reier (mreier@ptd.net) or Carol Bradford (bradford@evenlink.com or telephone 570-473-9505) Order forms are available on the table in foyer for those who cannot attend. Mail with a check to Zion Lutheran Church or give to Carol Bradford. A gift card will be enclosed in a Christmas card and sent to the recipient of your choosing. Be sure to provide an address.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS

Support ministries of the ELCA:

1) Choose a gift from the ELCA Good Gifts Catalog

Brows the catalog and select from more than 50 gifts to give in honor of a friend or loved one.

2) There are 3 ways to give

On line at www.elca.org/goodgifts, Phone 800-638-3522, Mail- send the enclosed order form to: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, P.O. Box 71764, Chicago, IL 60694-1764

Catalogs are available on the table in the foyer and narthex literature rack. Gift cards are also available or visit www.elca.org/goodgifts for a selection or Printable certificates, cards and e-cards.

For The Kids

Fill in the Blank

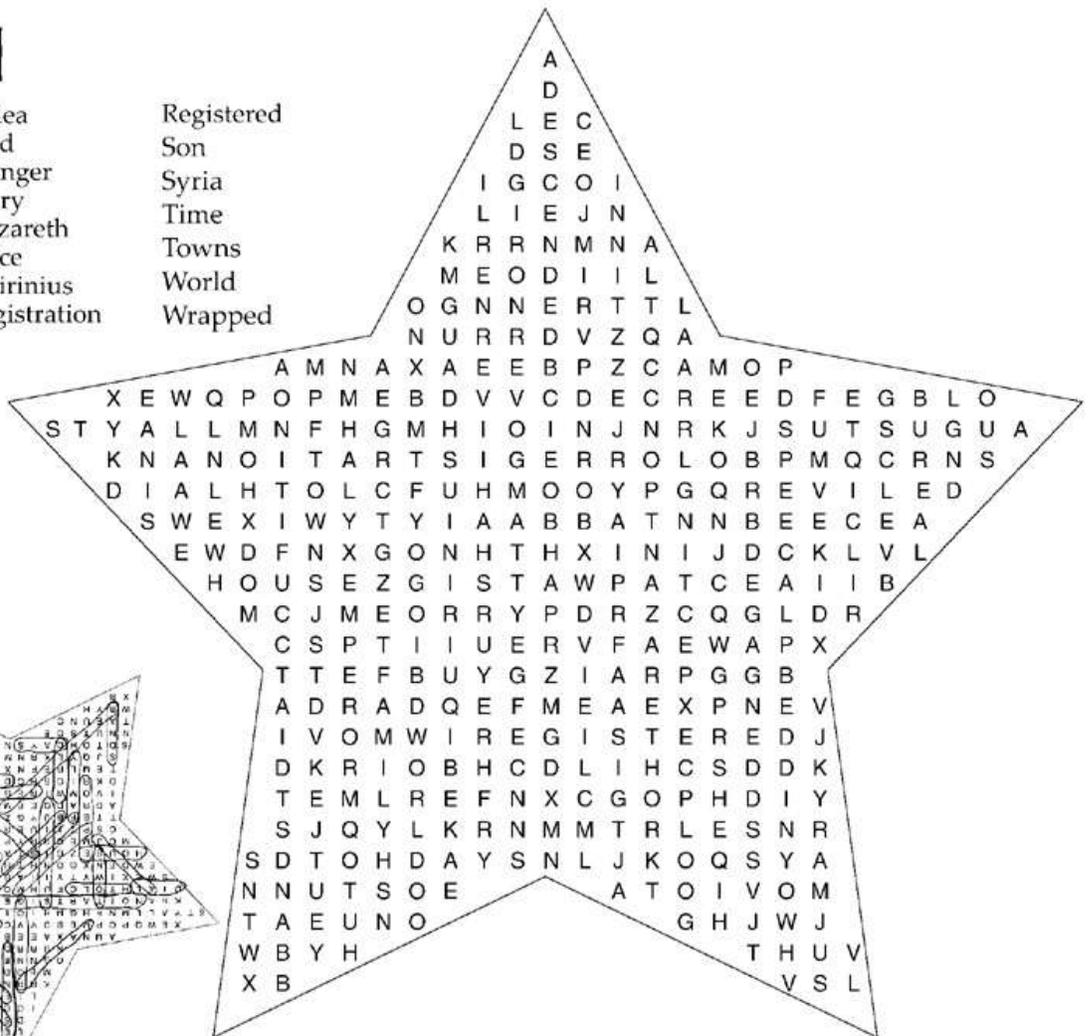
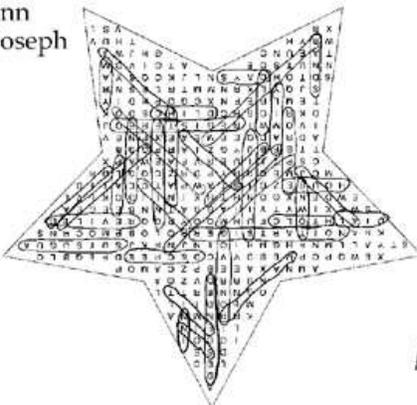
Fill in the blanks below with the words from the Word Find.

In those _____ a _____ went out from _____ that all the _____ should be _____. This was the first _____ and was taken while _____ was _____ of _____. All went to their own _____ to be registered. _____ also went from the town of _____ in _____ to _____, to the _____ of _____ called _____, because he was _____ from the _____ and _____ of David. He went to be registered with _____, to whom he was _____ and who was _____ a _____. While they were there, the _____ came for her to _____ her child. And she gave _____ to her _____ and _____ him in _____ of _____, and _____ him in a _____, because there was no _____ for them in the _____. - Luke 2:1-7

Answer: days, decree, Emperor Augustus, world, registered, registration, Quintinius, governor, Syria, towns, Joseph, Nazareth, Galilee, Judea, city, David, Bethlehem, descended, house, family, Mary, engaged, expecting, child, time, deliver, birth, firstborn son, wrapped, bands, cloth, laid, manger, place, inn

Word Find

- | | | |
|-----------|--------------|------------|
| Augustus | Judea | Registered |
| Bands | Laid | Son |
| Bethlehem | Manger | Syria |
| Birth | Mary | Time |
| Child | Nazareth | Towns |
| City | Place | World |
| Cloth | Quirinius | Wrapped |
| David | Registration | |
| Days | | |
| Decree | | |
| Deliver | | |
| Descended | | |
| Emperor | | |
| Engaged | | |
| Expecting | | |
| Family | | |
| Firstborn | | |
| Galilee | | |
| Governor | | |
| House | | |
| Inn | | |
| Joseph | | |



December Worship Volunteers

	Greeters	Acolytes	Readers	Ushers	Cantor/CA	Altar Guild
Dec 2	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	
	Michael + Kathy Keeney	Elise + Megan Keeney	Paul Culbertson	Jack + Kay Spigelmyer	Dawn Doll	Alma Pauling (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	
	Art + Karen Bowen	Jessica Beaver	Eric Rowe	Tim + Theresa Berger	Bob Bradford Nancy Martin Carol Hanson	Mary Seiler Marian Thomas
Dec 9	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	
	Terry + Judy Kissinger	Aaron Weirick	Jim Black	John + Roseann Stetler	Lowell Leitzel	Roseann Stetler (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	
	Reuben + Kim Councill	Raechel Councill Hannah Doll	Kermit Ritter	Michael + Janet Bilger	Jeff Whitman Kyle Nickler Maureen Ries	Vi Soper Shirley Rowe
Dec 16	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	
	Paul + Delphine Grimes	Olivia Dunkle	Paul Grimes	Jim Black John Bottiger	Carol Black	Barb Remaley (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	
	Robert + Romane Dagle	Markie Reiland		Art + Karen Bowen	Victoria Doll Casey Reiland Madison Weirick	Audrey Deckard Mary Hummel
Dec 23	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	
	Sue Pennay Alex Pennay	Kyle Kemberling	Nancy Frymoyer	Paul Culbertson Terry Kissinger	Alex Pennay	Maureen Ries (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	
	Jason + Rachel Dagle	Brandon Dunkle	Phil Winger	Harley Freed Keith Kunkel	Philip Riggs Eric Rowe Sue Starr	Karen Bowen Grace Housley
Dec 30	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	
	Donna + Donovan Goundie	Chris Lupolt	Alma Pauling	Bill + Barb Remaley	Chris Lupolt	Jackie Winey (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	
	David + Audrey Deckard	Sarah Fedder	Sue Starr	Carol Hanson Don Harnum	Sue Pennay Dave Deckard Doug Hassinger	Ruth Reuning Linda Gautsch

Please contact the church office with changes to the schedule sharon.lutheran.church@gmail.com