



'Till We Meet Again!

Week of December 19 and 20, 2020



REFLECTION FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020
YOU'RE INVITED!!!!

Act 2: 46-47

They worshipped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity- all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

When I walk to my mailbox and see an envelope addressed to me from a friend, I cannot wait to rip open the envelope and see what is inside. Usually, it means that I am getting invited to something. I read it carefully and hope that I am free at the appointed day and time. I love getting invitations to events and parties, so much fun to be with family and friends. Although, for obvious reasons there have not been too many invites this year.

There have been many lessons to learn this year during the pandemic. The first is that we do not have to be physically next to each other to be connected. We have learned how to zoom and skype and many other ways to keep in touch without being together. I suspect that most of us spend more time on social media platforms such as Facebook and twitter and

Instagram. We are using Facebook to live stream our worship.

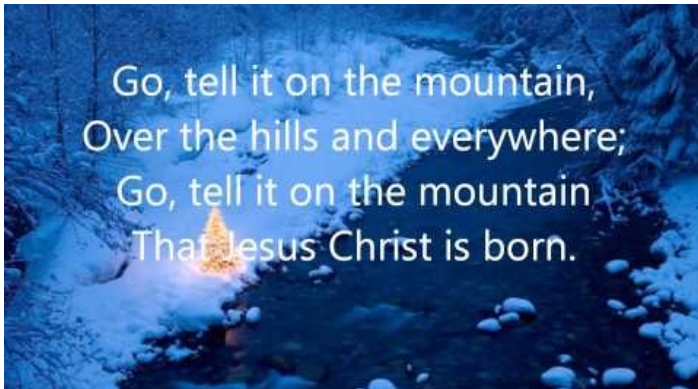
All this to say that the pandemic is not a reason to avoid coming together, to extend invitations and develop relationships. We are just doing it a bit different this year. But it also opens possibilities. We can worship on Facebook with people throughout our country and the world! Think about who you know that lives out of state or country and invite them to worship with you via Facebook. We can build relationships and community even when we cannot be together. Dream with me for a moment. Who can you reach out to and invite them to share something you are passionate about? Invite someone to worship with us. Invite someone to join a zoom meeting. No longer are you shut out of meetings because you cannot get to one of our church buildings. If you have a computer or a phone you can join with zoom.

In the last several months I have built relationships with people from our three communities of faith through zoom and Facebook. Invitations do not have to cease because of the pandemic. Be creative, use technology to connect with people. Make phone calls, invite people into relationship. It really is easy to do and fun too. Try new things, what have you got to lose? A couple minutes of your time? The early church grew and built relationships by eating together, combining all their resources together and worshipping at one another's houses. We can still do that; it just looks a little different this year.

My prayer for each of us is that we would invite people to join us for Christmas Eve worship. My prayer is that we would work to build

relationships within our three communities of faith. My prayer is that we would invite someone to join us on a committee and join to do God's Work in our community. We are blessed, let us invite someone to share our blessings!

In Peace,
Pastor Suzanne



REFLECTION FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15 2020

GO TELL IT!

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;

go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

African American Spiritual, Evangelical Lutheran Worship #290

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Today's Advent Pastor's Challenge highlights one of my favorite psalms, 121. It is a psalm that I almost always read at the gravesite as people are gathering for the interment. In beautiful imagery the psalmist reminds us that God is always present with us. Whether we are awake or asleep the Lord watches over us and we will not be harmed. To me, they are comforting words. Knowing that God is always present, always watching over me, and will never leave me has comforted me throughout the years.

On this day, in 2007, my husband Doug entered the church triumphant. Doug was a giant among men. For starters he was 6'4" so he was literally tall but more than physical size he was a man of strength and love and comfort. Amid his struggle with cancer, he repeatedly reached out to others and offered them hope and a hearty laugh. Doug was a man of

integrity and lived his life to the fullness, always concerned about others. A helicopter pilot in Vietnam and later at Medevac he was responsible for saving countless lives and yet was extremely humble. Faith was first in his life, followed by family and then friends. To know him was to love him. Agent orange took him way too young and the lessons he taught and the love he shared lives on. Along with his amazing sense of humor!

For me, Doug is always with me and is a part of my every breath. He reminds me of the presence of God and the way that even when we can not feel or see God, God is with us. The sun will not harm you nor the night. No matter where you are the Lord is watching over you. Alive or dead, it does not matter, you are always in God's presence. That is the best news I can possibly imagine!

In a world that is hurting and scared and anxious, God is with us. The baby we wait for, Emmanuel, is God with us. Literally and figuratively! I hope that you will join me this day in shouting this good news from every mountain and valley, so that all the world will know that God is with us! The pandemic can shut down restaurants and gyms but can not shut down God's love for every one of us! The pandemic can keep us from each other but cannot keep God from loving and protecting us! And even though we cannot be physically together, we can still share this Good News through social media, conversations, zoom gatherings, cards, and any other any means of communication we can shout to all that God is with us! Amen!

In Peace,
Pastor Suzanne

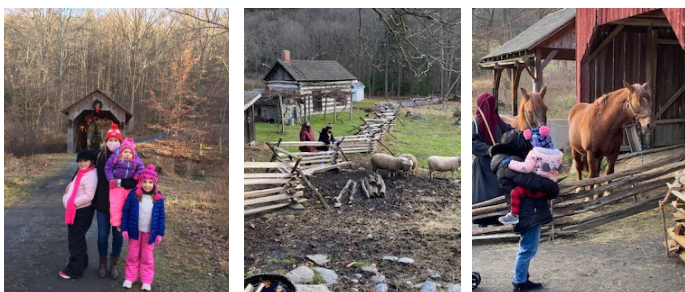
**HELP AMERICAN VETERANS WHO
GAVE SO MUCH FOR US ALL!**

Several people are needed to help feed the homeless December 26th at Lehigh Valley Stand Down. We will feed upwards of 100 people a hot meal, donated clothes, hygiene items and housing referrals.

Help is needed to either prepare or pick up food to prepare and serve at this stand down. Event times are:

- **Easton** – 536 Bushkill Dr., Easton, PA 18042 Time: 10 – 11:30
- **Bethlehem** – 333 W 4th St., Bethlehem, PA 18015 Time: 12 – 1
- **Allentown** – 355 Hamilton St., Allentown, PA 18101 Time: 1:30 – 2:30

To volunteer or donate items please contact Amy Bamford at VALOR Clinic Foundation: Phone# 570-534-2812 abamford@valorclinic.org



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATES

On December 6, 2020, 62 people from the UPG and St. John's Windish attended the Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm in Stroudsburg. It was a beautiful day and everyone had a wonderful time. The children were so happy to be free to

run and play in between viewing the Nativity, seeing the animals and hearing the chorus of animal sounds, voting for their favorite themed tree, enjoying the homemade cookies and hot chocolate, participating in the one room school house lesson and learning about life on the farm. The setting was calm and peaceful and the volunteers were very gracious and pleasant. It was just what children and adults alike needed: a place to be free to meet others and experience the beauty of God's love together in the telling of the story of Jesus' birth.

Our Sunday School will hold their drive through Christmas Party Sunday, December 13th from 11:00-noon. Our live Nativity can be viewed and Santa and Mrs. Claus will wave to us!! Our Sunday School children will receive a gift of Christmas. Christmas Carols will be played. Families will be notified by email if this event needs to be rescheduled due to rain.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING!!

Joy to the World!! December 20, 2020 from 3:00-4:00 PM on the LoC Campus. Drive through on Worthington Avenue to hear our children and youth and their families singing Christmas Carols.



CAROLING

Cookies will be distributed to all!! If there is enough room to be socially distant you may join us in singing. Mask wearing is required. We hope you will come!

If weather conditions cause us to cancel this event, we will send a note through the daily email messages.

ST. PETER'S OFFERING ENVELOPES

St. Peter's offering envelopes are ready for pickup. If you would like your offering envelopes, please call the church office. Envelopes for those that request them will be put outside

the elevator entrance at St. Peter's on Sunday, December 20 at Noon.

FROM THE MAILROOM

December 8, 2020

John and I very much appreciated our Thanksgiving dinner and all the trimmings, including a delicious pumpkin pie. What a blessing on this special day of "thanks" - you made our day!



Thank you for your kindness, and may the good Lord bless you richly.

Have a blessed and happy holiday!

In Christian Love,

John and Helen Keyser

(St. John's Windish Lutheran Church)

Special thanks to Kathy and Kenny Remy for delivering our Thanksgiving meal.

J. and H.

**THIS WEEK IN THE UPG
DECEMBER 19—DECEMBER 27**

Saturday December 19

4:45 PM Worship (LiveStream Facebook)

Sunday December 20

Worship available on YouTube

10:30 AM 46ers Zoom

Monday December 21

7:00 PM Coffee & Conversation (Zoom)

Tuesday December 22

Wednesday December 23

Thursday December 24

Noon Christmas Eve Worship

Friday December 25

Merry Christmas

Saturday December 26

4:45 PM Worship (Facebook)

Sunday December 27

Worship available on YouTube

10:30 AM 46ers Zoom

