



'Till We Meet Again!

Week of December 26 and 27, 2020



REFLECTION FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020

“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”

Romans 12:2 (NLT)

Greetings and peace to you my friends!
If you live in the Lehigh Valley, you like me, woke up to a blanket of beautiful snow! Yes, I said “beautiful snow!”

Now I know, many of us are not big fans of snow. In many ways snow inhibits our daily life patterns, can create a great deal of extra work for us and create many other obstacles for our living. Yet, as I went to sleep last night and as the sun dawned on the world in which I live today, the world was carpeted with a beautiful blanket of snow!

Martin Luther in speaking about the significance of our baptism writes: “that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.” In other words, our sin has been forgiven, buried with Christ in the grave, and we are called forth to live a “new life!”

Snow, at least at the beginning of the season and before all the nasty things that

come along with snow, reminds me of my baptism. Momentarily the world, like myself when I reflect on my baptism, is made pure and covered by God’s grace.

And so, like my friend St. Paul shares, perhaps the best way for us to come to terms with the snowy world around us, would be to allow the snow to transform us. Perhaps it would be better for us to become a new person by changing the way we think about snow. What if this winter season with each passing snow fall, we took some time to reflect on how God covers our sin with a white blanket, making us temporarily pure, and allowing us an opportunity to live in the glory of the gift of grace upon grace within our baptism?

Then, perhaps, we might “see” snow differently. “Seeing” the beauty of a world that looks renewed and refreshed. “See” the gift of God’s presence dwelling within our midst. “See” God’s love covering us completely and renewing us to live new lives!

Until next time,

Keep trusting God (and seeing God), keep washing those hands, and reflect on the gift of your baptism!

PJ

**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

HOLIDAY CARD MINISTRY

Holiday Card Ministry - *The holidays are here.*
Your holiday greeting cards have brought a message of joy and caring to 1,804 residents of 14 area nursing homes: Blough, Cedarbrook/Ft. Hill, Country Meadows (5 buildings), Holy Family, Gracedale, ManorCare 1 and 2 in Bethlehem, ManorCare/Old Orchard and ManorCare/Northampton Street in Easton, and Moravian HCC. Your response and participation in this ministry was nothing short of amazing. You blessed these wonderful nursing home residents with a happier holiday and to know that someone cares for them. Merry Christmas!



THANK YOU: SUNDAY SCHOOL DRIVE



THROUGH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thank you to all of our Sunday School teachers, staff, families, the Weierbach Family a.k.a.

the Nativity Scene players and Lynn Malok and Tom Seifert a.k.a. Santa and Mrs. Claus who were able to attend our drive through Sunday School Christmas Party!! We were blessed to be able to give our children and youth gifts of Christmas, visit apart from one another, view

the beautiful Nativity Scene and tell Santa one wish for Christmas from a distance. Thank you to the Bosco family who provided the music!! Thank you to Jon Terry and Ann Nonnemaker who provided the cookies! Thank you to everyone who donated an item for babies and/or pets in need. Thanks Be To God for this event!! Merry Christmas Blessings to all!!!

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.

LIGHT OF CHRIST OFFERING ENVELOPES

Light of Christ offering envelopes are ready for pickup. If you would like your offering envelopes, you can pick them up on Monday, December 28 between 10:00 AM and noon.

FROM THE MAILROOM

Just came across your email and kind letter as I organize the Holiday Cards For Our Military Challenge papers. Your kind words and generous holiday cards touched my heart. I sent out 50,000 on Saturday and will do another on December 5th.



I look forward to partnering again with you in 2021. Until then, be well and may your holiday season ahead bring you wonderful blessing!

Laura Landerman-Garber, Ph.D.
Military Holiday Card Challenge

GET WELL CARDS TO GRACE MACMURTRIE

Grace MacMurtrie is in rehab following a hospital stay for Covid. If anyone would like to send her get well wishes her address is: Grace MacMurtrie, Shippensburg HCC - Rm 316D, 121 Walnut Bottom Road, Shippensburg, PA 17257.

**THIS WEEK IN THE UPG
DECEMBER 26—JANUARY 3**

Saturday December 26

4:45 PM Worship (Facebook)

Sunday December 27

Worship available on YouTube
10:30 AM 46ers Zoom

Monday December 28

Tuesday December 29

Wednesday December 30

Thursday December 31

New Year's Eve

Friday January 1

New Year's Day

Saturday January 2

4:45 PM Worship
("Livestream" Facebook from St. P)

Sunday January 3

Worship available on YouTube
10:30 AM 46ers Zoom



NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend,
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty,
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And happiness it brings.
Amen.

