



Salem Lutheran Church

205 W. Main Street
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The Rev. Nathan Cow Minnich, STS, Pastor

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Salem Lutheran Church

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The Rev. John C. Schaertel, Pastor Emeritus

Wanda Latshaw, Organist Kenneth E Campbell, Jr., Choir Director

Caitlin E. Witmer, Council President 717-372-9359

Chris Paul, Office Secretary/Financial Secretary 717-319-1164

*The Nov/Dec 2012 issue of "The Spirit" is the bi-monthly
newsletter of Salem Lutheran Church:*

Sponsored by Brad & Rachel Zimmerman-

In honor of Tristan's 2nd Birthday!

Happy Birthday, Tristan!

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The **truth** about the **way** to **life** everlasting: a Christmas reflection on John 14:6

Before there was a so-called holiday season, before there were presents, before there were carols and lights on trees, before there was a church established in this world, before there was a people longing for freedom from sin and evil, before there was a sentimental service of candlelight; I AM.

Amid the cacophony of emotions and stresses that arise when the preceding thoughts are called to mind there is a genuine calm in the words I AM. It is a calm that seems to cut swiftly through the mess that has been made of Christmas. It is a calm that provides divine constancy amid human confusion. If every human paradigm that attempts to explain the meaning of this time of the year would pass away, there would alone remain God's paradigm for all creation. This most complete ordering of all that is now, ever was, and ever shall be was revealed on the most holy of occasions, the very day that the word became flesh and dwelt among us. Before the church and its liturgies, before the first angels sang "Gloria in excelsis Deo," before everything that is seen and unseen, and most significantly, before the virgin birth; I AM. So often our own understanding of time, and in some cases the life of the church, causes us to think of Christmas as the beginning. Of course it was the beginning of this new way in which God sought to speak to his people. Yet, as the days of Advent should remind us, there was a great existence before and much preparation has been made for the moment when God would leave the splendor of the heavenly kingdom to wrap himself in flesh. It was through Christ all things were put into place for this miraculous event; his own preparation for a final revelation. Before the prophets, before the star in the East, before the law and the inevitable fall of humankind; I AM. Who could more clearly explain a plan for all life, except God himself in the simple revelation contained in that name? As we so often repeat in the Nicene Creed, God reveals the eternal plan in Him, through whom all things were made. The very stall where Mary and Joseph rested was created through Him who would lie there in the infant flesh of Jesus Christ, Son of God, and Son of man. The consistency of creation can be assured to us in this very thought; before anything we know to be true through faith, Christ was present, and thus he can truly say "I AM".¹ To give any authenticity to the ways in which Christ Jesus describes the nature of who he truly is, one must first understand this concept of time. After this, all things will begin to fall into their prepared places, places that exist in the past, present, and



¹ John 8:58

future. I am bread, light, gate, shepherd, resurrection, and vine all become clearer descriptions of the nature of God and of his Christ and reveal the plan for conquering sin and death, and to reign when all is accomplished.² The fourteenth chapter of the Holy Gospel according to St. John reminds us, perhaps, of the most significant words spoken by the Word made flesh. It is a glimpse of the true nature of God. Jesus said to [Thomas], “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”³ This most telling exclamation may confuse the human mind at a superficial reading, but when considered within the timeline proposed one could see a special relationship that surpasses our simple understanding. Christ’s revelation of God, I AM, leaves us with both comfort and responsibility. Comfort in that we have a direct interaction with God in flesh, and responsibility that we are now tasked with retelling this story to others. We can share the gospel with others by exclaiming “He Is!” We can use all the ways that Christ has revealed and explained himself to teach others. He is bread, light, gate, shepherd, resurrection, vine, and the way, the truth, and the life! The paradoxical ways in which these are understood (feast and host, shepherd and lamb, vine and branches) God is revealed to us as Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit. This Christmas how should we worship him? We should worship him as *he is*.⁴ In all ways, Christ revealed to us the nature of God, the three in One, as he responded to Thomas. The way of the Father is his plan of creation. The Father is where all *truth* originates. He is most certainly the *life* everlasting because he is the beginning and the end and intends to restore all things from creation.⁵ The way of the Holy Spirit is revealed as the one who enlivens and lifts up, just as Mary is exalted and filled with the honor of bearing the Word as flesh. The *truth* of the Holy Spirit is that which awakens our faith, and breathes into us into the *life* that is truly full of the same breath that moved upon the face of the deep, and into Adam, and in these last days into the church. Finally, the way shown to us in Jesus is the way of the servant, the one who came down and dwelt among us. The *truth* revealed in the person of Jesus Christ is the truth that fulfills the prophetic voice of old, embodies the prophecy itself, and directly speaks the Word with authority. Jesus spoke to us the word of truth and showed us the way of the servant to bring to us life. He has the authority over life, as we know it. He was born so that life would rise from the tomb at his command⁶ and died so that he could take it up again⁷. Gloria in excelsis deo.

² Revelation 11:15

³ John 14:6 ESV

⁴ Engelbrecht, Edward A. *The Lutheran Difference*. (Concordia Publishing House, 2010) 305.

⁵ Acts 3:21

⁶ John 11:43

⁷ John 10:17

Worship Notes –

Nicholas was born a Greek in Asia Minor during the third century in the Greek city of Patara which was a port on the Mediterranean Sea, at a time when the region was Greek in its heritage. He was the only son of wealthy Christian parents named Epiphanius and Johanna according to some accounts and Theophanes and Nonna according to others. He was very religious from an early age and according to legend, Nicholas was said to have rigorously observed the canonical fasts of Wednesdays and Fridays. His wealthy parents died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young and he was raised by his uncle—also named Nicholas—who was the bishop of Patara. He tonsured the young Nicholas as a reader, and later as a priest. Nicholas also spent a stint at a monastery named Holy Sion, which had been founded by his uncle. **COME SEE SAINT NICHOLAS ON DECEMBER 2nd at St. Paul's in Millersburg! Sign up in the notebook!**



But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man. *Luke 21:36*

PROPERTY

The property committee has been meeting regularly to discuss upcoming projects and to create a long-range property plan. Recently it was approved to replace the torn and failing carpet in two rooms in the education building, two doors on the church, new railings for the church entrances, and replacement windows in the parsonage. Other projects being considered are handicapped ramp access to

the fellowship hall, parsonage repairs, and possibly heat/air conditioning upgrades.

*Take a moment to send a card to those who are unable to be with us at worship.
Salem cards are in the Narthex, feel free to take one!*

Prayer List:

Manor at Susquehanna Village: Sarah Challenger,
Richard Troutman, Janyce Van Sickle, Marie Erdman,
Emma Kissinger

Beacon House: Mildred Swab

Nottingham Nursing Center: Gladys Matter

At home: Sharyn Farner, Arlene Feidt, Blake & Tyler Ringler (Mark & Jane Ingbritsen's neighbor), Sarah White (Dorothy Hoffman's sister), Dylan Wertz (Sharyn Farner's grandson), Keith Oxenrider (husband of Mary Ellen), Dennis Shade (Pam Ramer), Connie Shomper (Joan Minnich's sister in law), Erma Schlegel (Pam Ramer's Aunt), Heide Bohn, "Ike" Rowe (Arleah Buehler), Jack ("Hacc") Boyer (Sharyn Farner's brother in law), Bill Troutman (Bev Witmer), Tom Sitlinger (brother of Bob Sitlinger), John Witmer (Bev Witmer), Gary Wolfgang & Beth Hirsch (Family of Bill & Mary Jane Witmer), Robert & Elizabeth Mattern (friend of Rich Reed), Dave Warner (Peg Massari's friend), Ronald Lesher, Kim (Miller) Corcoran (Judy Paul's niece), Paul & Catherine Zelnick (Jane Ingbritsen), Carl Snyder, Gail & Joe Lau, Lee Matter (Sharon Lehman's father), Mary Shade, Sonny Weist (Phyllis Weaver), Joan Sanborn (Jessica's Spacek's paternal Nana), Carl Shomper (Joan Minnich's Brother), Kay Lehman (Paul & Natalie Lyter), Joan Taylor (Peg Massari's mother in law), Vince Kellit (Peg Massari's brother), Nevin Maurer, Bob Weaver (friend of Rich & Fritz Reed), Rena Wert (Mother of Deb Scheib), Tim Enders (nephew of Natalie Lyter), Chris Miller, Richard Reed, Robert Kissinger, Bobby Lesher, Elsie Phillips, James Swope, Elsie Watts, Linda Schwegler, Eppie Lehman, Clarence Bucher

Please help to keep our prayer list current by calling the church office for changes:

717-362-9222 or salemelizabethville@gmail.com



Sponsors are needed!

Bulletins: Dec. 30

Evening Service Altar Flowers: Dec. 12, Dec. 24

Evening Service Bulletins: Nov. 29, Dec. 12

Sign up in the Notebook in the narthex.

Or call the church office: 362-9222

Council Notes

It is important that you continue to speak

with your council representatives. They are the continuous sounding board of the congregation and are always available to hear your ideas. The council will again gather on November 3rd for another session of Bread for the Family (part of our long-term plan). This is not a plan for the council but a plan for us all, please do your part and lend a hand with these projects. We have come a LONG way in just a few short years, and we have much more to do, but cannot do it without more participation.

Next Council Meeting: Nov. 15 & Dec. 20 @ 7 pm

Financial Reports & Attendance

Our annual budget requires us to average just over \$1,400 per week to meet the needs and ministries of the congregation. Although there are certainly months which exceed the average!

Actual **Sept.** income: \$22,679.96

Actual **Sept.** expenses: \$23,710.83

ending balance: \$ **-1030.87**

Actual **Oct.** income: \$13,858.20

Actual **Oct.** expenses: \$11,368.14

ending balance: \$ 2,490.06

Sunday Attendance

Sept.: 40, 46, 54, 46, 41

Oct.: 36, 35, 48, 59

SALEM HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

salemlutheranelizabethville.org

**Stay up to date with the latest news, meetings, events,
church services and MORE!!**

Prayer Interrupted? Stay current... email the office
and get weekly prayer updates.



salemelizabethville@gmail.com

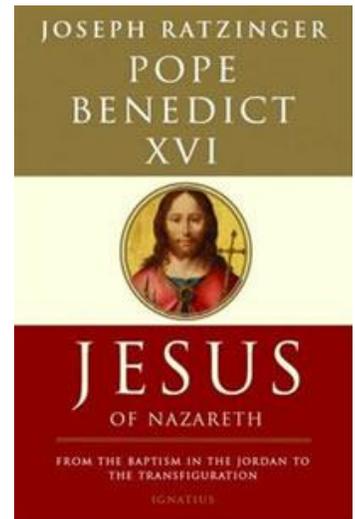
Study and Learning: Sunday school

Our Sunday school has been a huge success for both the young and “older” ones in our congregation. We have 3 groups of Sunday school – Adult, Middle, and Children. Please join us! **10:10 am.**

BOOK DISCUSSION: JESUS OF NAZARETH

Pastor Nathan is holding an afternoon book discussion for us. Books are available in the church social hall. (Audio books, too!) We will plan to meet on **Nov. 18th and Dec 16th from 2-4 PM** for this exciting look at WHO Jesus is, and the details of his life.

(Please check our website for any changes.)



Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendar!

Thurs., Nov. 7 – Congregational Dinner 6:00 pm

Sun., Nov. 25 – Congregational Meeting

– Advent Wreath Making Class 1 pm

**– Tree lighting in E’ville Park w/ the Community
Choir**

Sun., Dec. 2 – St. Nicholas @ St. Paul’s pancake dinner 5:30 pm

– Men In Harmony Christmas Concert @

Trinity UCC, Mbg. @ 7:30 pm

Wed., Dec. 5, 12, 19 – Advent Services @ 8 pm

Sat., Dec. 8 – WMF Annual Cookie Exchange 2 pm

COMMITTEE INFORMATION



Our Fall fundraiser is underway: Jo's – Jo's Sub tickets (\$6.00) Good for one cold sub until **Jan. 31st, 2013.**

Dec. 8th will be our annual Cookie Exchange. We encourage all women from our congregation to join us, bring a friend, a container with 4 dozen of your favorite cookies and the recipe!

Dec. 9th, WMF will be hosting Fellowship Sunday.

Next meeting dates: Nov. 29 @ 7 pm & Dec. 8th @ 2 pm

(Cookie Exchange)

Evangelism & Worship

PLEASE HELP US!!! *There are baskets created for each of our shut-ins and we need your help to make them feel remembered and missed. Just because they cannot be with us in person, doesn't mean they are any less a part of our family. We need MANY things, puzzle books, snacks, personal hygiene items, etc. Check the east wing and also drop them a handwritten note!*

Salem's Shawl Ministry Group

Meeting Dates: Nov. 13th & Dec. 11th @ 1 PM



Worship & Music:

There are so many talented musicians in our congregation!



Please offer your talents to enhance our worship when the choir is not singing... God gave you the talent, don't hide it!

November 2012 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
4— WHITE <i>All Saints Day</i> 9:00 am Holy Communion 10:10 am Sunday School	5	6- 1:00 pm Bible Study at St. Paul's Mbg
11 — GREEN "FELLOWSHIP" <i>24th Sunday After Pentecost</i> 9:00 am Service of the Word 10:10 am Sunday School "Veterans Day"	12	13- 1:00 pm Bible Study at St. Paul's Mbg 1:00 pm Shawl Ministry 
18— GREEN Book Discussion <i>25th Sunday After Pentecost</i> 9:00 am Holy Communion 10:10 am Sunday School	19	20- 1:00 pm Bible Study at St. Paul's Mbg
25— WHITE <i>Christ the King</i>  9:00 am Holy Communion -Congregational Meeting - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ADVENT WREATH MAKING 1 PM Community tree lighting @ the Park w/ the Community Choir	26	27 - 1:00 pm Bible Study at St. Paul's Mbg

November 2012 Calendar

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1-	2- Turn your clocks back 	3-Bread for the Family 4:30 am
7- Congregational Dinner 6 PM <i>Choir 7 pm</i>	8-	9-	10- Martin Luther's Birthday
14- <i>Choir 7 pm</i> 	15- Council 7 pm	16-	17-
21- <i>Choir 7 pm</i> 	22- Happy Thanksgiving!	23-	24-
28- <i>Choir 7 pm</i> 	29- Growing Through Grief—7pm (Human Svc. Ctr)	30- Evening Svc. 7:30 PM "St. Andrew, Apostle"	

December 2012 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
2 – BLUE <i>First Sunday In Advent</i> 9:00 am Holy Communion 10:10 am Sunday School	3-	4- 1:00 pm Bible Study at St. Paul's Mbg
9– BLUE "FELLOWSHIP" <i>Second Sunday In Advent</i> 9:00 am Service of the Word 10:10 am Sunday School	10-	11- 1:00 pm Bible Study at St. Paul's Mbg 1:00 pm Shawl Ministry 
16 – BLUE <i>Third Sunday In Advent</i> 9:00 am Holy Communion 10:10 am Sunday School	17-	18- 1:00 pm Bible Study at St. Paul's Mbg
	<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Children's Christmas Program </div>	
23 – BLUE – <i>Fourth Sunday In Advent</i> 9:00 am Holy Communion 10:10 am Sunday School	24- <i>Nativity of Our Lord</i> Christmas Eve Svc. 7:30 PM Holy Communion 	25- Christmas Day Service of Vespers 7:30 PM
30 – WHITE- <i>First Sunday of Christmas</i> 9:00 am Holy Communion 10:10 am Sunday School	31- New Year's Eve	

December 2012 Calendar

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1-
5- <i>Choir 7 PM</i>  <i>Advent Svc. 8 PM</i>	6-	7-	8- WMF COOKIE EXCHANGE 2 PM
12- <i>Choir 7 PM</i>  <i>Advent Svc. 8 PM</i>	13-	14-	15-
19- <i>Choir 7 PM</i>  <i>Advent Svc. 8 PM</i>	20- 7 PM Council	21-	22- Winter Begins
26- <i>Choir 7 PM</i> 	27-	28-	29-

KIDS & FAMILY

Color this page and prepare yourself for December 2nd @ 5:30 PM for a pancake supper at St. Paul's in Millersburg and be sure to watch for a visit from St. Nicholas himself. Afterwards, join us for the **Men In Harmony Christmas Concert** at Trinity UCC, Mbg @ 7:30 PM!

Ways to Give:

Consider this... the average working person spends nearly \$3 a day for coffee or tea... the average church attendee gives less than that a week! It is truly an act of personal tithing when we consider our faith and our church part of our *daily activity*. The difference made by \$1 increase per week can change the way we can do ministry in our town! Make a difference, consider the value of church in your life, and compare it to the rest of the things you support... a small increase multiplies in someone's life!



Nov. – Dec. Birthdays & Anniversaries

(If there are any errors or someone has been missed, please call Chris at the church office 362-9222.) Thank You.

November Birthdays

*Mildred Swab – 2
Glenda Botts – 7
Casey Campbell - 8
David Christopher Cook – 12
Mary Ellen Oxenrider - 13
Janice Gransbury – 14
Paul Bowman – 17
Jean Hoke - 21
Donna Portzline - 22
Gary Reed – 24
Henry Paul – 27*

November Anniversaries

*Dave & Chris Paul – 10
Tom & Lloyal Hain – 20
Josh & Ashley Witmer – 24*

December Birthdays

*Arleah Buehler – 5
Jan Ayers – 11
Carl Snyder – 12
Kristal Dressler – 14
Leah Snyder - 15
Karen Rodgers – 18
Nancy Spacek – 22
Tristan Zimmerman -- 22
Arland Sultzbaugh – 23
Walter Lehman – 31
Phyllis Weaver -- 31*

December Anniversaries

*Stan & Arleah Buehler – 2
Gerald & Dorothy Hoffman – 7
Bill & Mary Jane Witmer – 20
Dale & Arlene Feidt – 29-
Ben & Mary Ann Cunningham – 29*

Missions:

“Bread for the Family” – our first successful long term plan program was a true blessing. We will gather again on Nov. 3rd starting @ 4:30 am. PLEASE submit a name for someone who did not receive a loaf last time and help us truly reach those who would benefit from this loving outreach!

*I am
the Bread
of Life
John 6:35*



Monthly Record of Sponsorships — Nov. 2012

Date	Bulletin Sponsor	Altar Flowers
4	Peg Massari – In honor of Tom & Patrick Welker’s birthdays	Michael Hoffner – In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Hoffner Al Michael – In memory of his wife, Betty
11	Al Michael – In memory of Betty and loved ones	American Legion Post 404 – In memory of all Veterans
18	Richard & Winifred Reed – In honor of Gary’s birthday	Joan & Tim Grosser – In memory of Charlotte Ditty’s birthday Scott & Rachel Deitrich – In honor of all families
25	Jake & Bev Witmer – in honor of Josh & Ashley Witmer’s 5th Wedding Anniversary	John & Irene Lehman – In memory of loved ones.
EVE 30th		Mabel Weida – in memory of loved ones

Our **SANCTUARY LAMP** burns always as a physical reminder to us of God's constant presence among and through His people and as the embodiment of our prayers, even when we are not in our worship space.

The lamp is sponsored for the month of Nov. by:
Henry & Marlene Leshar – Thanking God for his many blessings.

The lamp is sponsored for the month of Dec. by:
Ruth & Chris Cook – In memory of Donald Cook.



Monthly Record of Sponsorships – Nov. 2012

Date	Bulletin Sponsor	Altar Flowers
2	Sarah Challenger – In honor of Blanche Challenger's birthday	Richard & Winifred Reed – In honor of son, Gary's birthday
9	Dale & Arlene Feidt – In memory of her sister, Eleanor Clover.	Peg Massari – In honor of Gina & Lydia's birthdays
16	Bill & Mary Jane Witmer – In honor of your anniversary (Dec. 20 th)	Barbara Dockey – In memory of her husband, Linwood Dockey, Mr. & Mrs. Eston Dockey and Mr. & Mrs. William Laudermilch
23	Bill & Mary Jane Witmer – In memory of their mothers	Scott & Rachel Deitrich – In memory of loved ones
24	Brad & Rachel Zimmerman – In honor of Tristan's 2nd Birthday	
25		
30	No Sponsor	Don & Linda Deibler – In memory of their parents

Fellowship Sponsors: Nov. 11th – **No Sponsor** — Dec. 9th – WMF

For a \$35.00 donation, Parish Life will handle the arrangements.

HOME COMMUNION IS AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO BE WITH US AT WORSHIP... CALL THE OFFICE TO SCHEDULE A TIME FOR THE PASTOR TO BRING YOU THE HOLY SACRAMENT: 362-9222.

Schedule of Worship Assistants

November Altar Guild Representatives: Arleah Buehler & Chris Paul

Sunday, Nov. 4 – “All Saints Day”

Lector:	Margie Lehman
Head Usher:	Chris Paul
Communion Assistant:	Dennis Reitz
Greeters:	Paul Lyter & Connie Troutman
Acolyte:	Michael Paul
Torchbearers:	Jessica Spacek & Kyle Ramer
Crucifer:	Michael Paul

Sunday, Nov. 11- 24th Sunday After Pentecost (Veteran’s Day)

Lector:	Ben Margerum
Head Usher:	Mark Ingbritsen
Greeters:	Scott & Rachel Deitrich
Acolyte:	Michael Paul

Sunday, Nov. 18 – 25th Sunday After Pentecost

Lector:	Michael Paul
Head Usher:	Jill Liles
Communion Assistant:	Tom Scheib
Greeters:	Janice Gransbury & Bev Witmer
Acolyte:	Kyle Ramer

Sunday, Nov. 25 – “Christ the King”

Lector:	Bev Witmer
Head Usher:	Arleah Buehler
Communion Assistant:	Mark Ingbritsen
Greeters:	Gary Reed & Margie Lehman
Acolyte:	Jessica Spacek

Friday, Nov. 30th Eve. Svc

Lector:	Michael Paul
Communion Assistant:	Kristal Dressler
Acolyte:	Michael Paul



Schedule of Worship Assistants

December Altar Guild Representatives: Arleah Buehler & Lois Kratzer

Sunday, Dec. 2 – First Sunday in Advent

Lector: Carol Reitz
Head Usher: Caitlin Witmer
Communion Assistant: Chris Paul
Greeters: Don & Jan Ayers
Acolyte: Kyle Ramer

Sunday, Dec. 9 – Second Sunday in Advent

Lector: Jim Prince
Head Usher: Rachel Zimmerman
Greeters: Jay & Martha Jane Fulkrod
Acolyte: Michael Paul

Sunday, Dec. 16 – Third Sunday in Advent

Lector: Rich Kenney
Head Usher: Linda Deibler
Communion Assistant: Dennis Reitz
Greeters: Walter & Sharon Lehman
Acolyte: Jessica Spacek

Sunday, Dec. 23 – Fourth Sunday in Advent – *Children's Program*

Lector: Chuck Liles
Head Usher: Paul Lyter
Communion Assistant: Tom Scheib
Greeters: Gerald & Dorothy Hoffman
Acolyte: Kyle Ramer

Monday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve

Lector: Dennis Reitz
Head Usher: Chris Paul
Communion Assistant: Mark Ingbritsen
Greeters: Chris Paul & Robin Hoffman
Acolyte: Jessica Spacek

Tuesday, Dec. 25 – Christmas Day Vespers Service

Lector

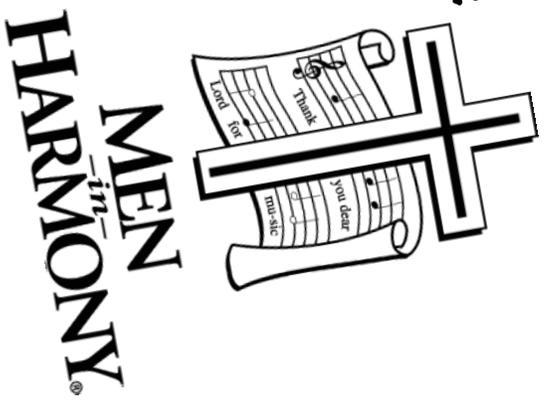
Sunday, Dec. 30 – First Sunday of Christmas

Lector: Michael Paul
Head Usher: Jill Liles
Communion Assistant: Chris Paul
Greeters: Doug & Crystal Schade
Acolyte: Michael Paul

Upcoming Events!
Sunday, Dec. 2nd @ 5:30 P.M.

St. Nicholas Children's event at St.
Paul's Millersburg

Annual Christmas Concert!
TRINITY U.C.C. Millersburg @ 7:00 pm



NOV. - Dec. Newsletter 2012