

### **Grace Notes**

Gathering & Growing Together Through Faith

Serving our Lord since 1785

December 2025

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The

Pastor by

Pastor Gene Tucker

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"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

- Isaiah 9:6

### Flohr's Church Information

Flohr's Evangelical Lutheran Church PO Box 32 McKnightstown, PA 17343

Parish Telephone: 717-334-3992

Parish email: flohrschurch@gmail.com.com
Website: www.flohrslutheran.org

### The Church Staff:

Pastor Gene Tucker- Interim Pastor

Carrie McDannell - Administrative and Outreach Coordinator

Marie Quesinberry-Choir Director Stella Jarvis, Sexton

The Congregation Council:

Wayne Haifley - President John Banaszek-Vice President

Bob Dwyer- Secretary

Bill Bucher, Jay Rohrbach, Todd Boden & Kelly Haifley

Bob Dwyer, Property Committee
Marie Quesinberry-Worship Committee

Janice Miller- Treasurer
Bruce Strausbaugh- Financial Secretary

Vacant Chairs: Learning Committee, Fellowship Committee, Support Committee, Service & Witness



A recurring column, dealing with various and sundry topics

### KNOWING GOD BY WATCHING GOD'S ACTIVITY: OBSERVATIONS ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Ever wonder exactly how it is that we come to know something about someone, how we *really* come to know that person?

One of the key ways we go about doing that is to watch what that person does...how they relate to others, how they treat their belongings and possessions, how they treat and care for the pets in their lives, how they relate to and treat their family members, friends and others. (This is not meant to be a complete or an exhaustive list!)

Whenever a couple comes and says, "We're going to get married", and they ask me to officiate (which is always a delight), I then tell them that I am required to go through premarital counseling with them. One of the things we do as we meet in preparation for their wedding is to relate to one another the ways they have come to know that prospective partner. To a large degree, their observations are based on the things they can see in that other person's behavior and attitudes.

This is to state the perfectly obvious (which is one of my best talents!). We do this all the time as we make our way through life, even though we may not be consciously aware that we are doing so.

Now, let's apply this observation to the quest to know God, and to know God's heart and intentions. What can we discern about God's nature as we observe what God has done down through the ages?

Of course, Holy Scripture is going to be very helpful in our desire to know more and more about God, how God relates to human beings, how God acts in specific situations (which are bound to repeat themselves in some way or another), and just what are the attributes that mark God's actions as being from God. Holy Scripture (the Bible) is – in part – a record of God's interacting in human history down through time.

Let's begin our journey, then, retracing some of the things we know that God has done in the past, and culminating in a look at the birth of Jesus Christ, which we are celebrating this Christmas.

To my mind, here are some of the things we can know and learn about God and God's ways:

God creates and recreates: The Book of Genesis tells us that all that we see is God's specific creation. (The Genesis account isn't necessarily to be taken completely in a literal fashion, but it does affirm the basic truth that God is the creator of all that is.) Moreover, this creator God also made ways for the things He made to recreate and replicate themselves. This means that species of all kinds (including us human beings) are capable of fostering new life. The created order also is built in such a way that it, too, can renew itself. God be praised!

# Ponderings of The Pastor Continued

God saves: How many times does the Bible tell us that the people God was working with either lost their way, or became estranged from God? Often! But in many cases, God stepped in to redeem fallen humanity, Consider, for example, the saving of humankind in the Great Flood, as Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives (note: eight people, in total – a new beginning!) were carried through the waters. Or how about God's opening of the Red Sea so that His people could pass through safely? Or, how about God's redemption of His people by making it possible for them to return to the land they had been promised following their captivity in Babylon? In this regard, we would do well to recall the many Old Testament prophets who sought to bring God's people back into a proper relationship with God. Of course, the greatest saving act that God accomplished is the sending of Jesus, His only-begotten Son, to show us the way to God.

How about Christmas? What does that tell us about God?: For one thing, we see that God often operates quietly and almost without notice. Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem. But how many people knew about that event? The answer is, not many. For another, we see that God decided to intervene personally in human history. Put another way, we can say that God sent His very best, Himself, to live and die among us as one of us. Still another lesson we can take from Jesus' birth is that God essential nature is to love. God seeks to involve Himself in human affairs. (It would be easy for God to simply wash His hands of the entire human race, considering how we often behave!) Moreover, God intends to involve Himself again and again, down through time, through the person of the resurrected Christ. Finally, God shows Himself to be the author of creation, and of re-creation and new life. For Jesus Christ was raised on the third day (Easter), and lives among us still, until the very end of all things.

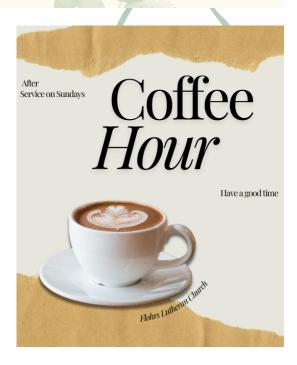
Thanks be to God, who reveals Himself in the actions that we can see and know, and especially in the giving of His only Son to show us the way to the Father.

As we make our way through the preparatory season of Advent, when we come to the great feast of Christmas, may your Christmas be a time of rediscovering the gift of God in the person of Jesus Christ, a babe who was born in Bethlehem, but who lives and reigns, now and to the end of time. Amen.



Pray for those families mourning the loss of a loved one:

Remember our shut-ins in your prayers: Grace Kidwell, Eloise Topper, Ruth Jeanne Bream, Geraldine Wetzel, Miriam Musselman, and Patsy Wagaman.



Financial News MTD & YTD Income/Expenses as of October 2025

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YTD 2025 Sep-25

Income \$10,580.52 \$187,121.87 Expenses \$12,988.86 \$164,353.46

Excess (Shortfall) -\$2,408.34 \$22,768.41

Mission Funds Accounts: \* Designated Funds

	Beginning			
	Balance	Contributions	Withdrawals	Ending Balance
Memorial	\$5,070.80			\$5,070.80
Interest	\$689.60			\$689.60
Parsonage Rent	\$13,606.06	\$1,800.00		\$15,406.06
Improvement*	\$4,339.62	\$30.00		\$4,369.62
Chairlift Repairs*	\$1,873.96			\$1,873.96
Youth*	\$1,253.97			\$1,253.97
Helping Hands*	\$232.67			\$232.67
Music*	\$1,860.13			\$1,860.13
Prayer/Memorial				
Garden*	\$2,399.72			\$2,399.72
A/C Replacement -				
Church*	\$2,342.09			\$2,342.09
Pastor Discretionary Fund	\$1,286.75	\$40.00	\$1,000.00	\$326.75
Totals	\$34,955.37	\$1,870.00	\$1,000.00	\$35,825.37







# December 2025 Lay Assistants



### **Worship Assistant:**

- 7 Emma Rohrbach
- 14 Janice Miller
- 21 Gina Dwyer
- 24 Liam Dwyer & Bill Bucher
- 28 Tim Rehfield

### **Lectors:**

- 7 Janice Miller
- 14 Kelly Haifley
- 21 Dawn Six
- 24 Tim Rehfield
- 28 Gina Dwyer

### Deacon:

- 7 Jay Rohrbach
- 14 Wayne Haifley
- 21 John Banaszek
- 24 Todd Boden
- 28 Bill Bucher

### Flower Sponsors:

- 7 Tim & Rebecca Rehfield
- 14 Marie Bollinger
- 21 Cheryl & Gary Black
- 24 Cheryl & Gary Black
- 28 Cheryl & Gary Black

### **Bulletin Sponsors:**

- 7 Tim & Rebecca Rehfield
- 14 Marie Bollinger
- 21 Cheryl & Gary Black
- 24 Cheryl & Gary Black
- 28 Cheryl & Gary Black

### Sacraments for Communion Sponsor:

Cheryl & Gary Black

### **Ushers:**

\*Bob Dwyer & Liam Dwyer

\*denotes Head Usher

### **Altar Guild:**

Cheryl Black and Carrie McDannell

### **Financial Stewards:**

Volunteers Needed



### December Birthdays

# Happy Birthday



1<sup>st</sup>- Heather Stultz 5<sup>th</sup>- Michael Six 6<sup>th</sup>- Emily Hartley 9<sup>th</sup> Amber Woerner 12th- Helen Woerner 16<sup>th</sup>- Carolyn Bucher 23<sup>rd</sup>- Shannon Trostle 26<sup>th</sup> Isabel Blake 27<sup>th</sup> Cheryl Black 30<sup>th</sup> John Banaszek 30<sup>th</sup> Marilyn Ketterman

We ask for your assistance: Please notify the church office of any incorrect or missing lists of birthdays and anniversaries. Thank you for helping to keep our lists current



### We need help with

- Supper with Santa- help to serve meal and guide kids to Mrs. Claus Kitchen
- Sunday School-depending on number of children
- Book Fair Hosts- to take money and help people with bookfair items

### Thank you!!

Contact Carrie to sign up 717-334-3992 flohrschurch@gmail.com



### Bits & Pieces



### CERAMIC ORNAMENT

### **PAINTING**

Flohrs Church, McKnightstown Monday, December 15 at 1PM \$5 Per Ornament

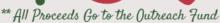
Sign Up by December 10th

















### Creative Moments with Marie



Join us for a fun and creative craft workshop with Marie! Come make an ornament, All materials provided — just bring your creativity and a smile! Cost \$3 per person, sign up by Dec 7th

> Saturday December 13th -1pm

> > at Flohrs Church

\*\* All proceeds go into Outreach Fund\*\*



### Coffee Donation Request

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING A CONTAINER OF GROUND COFFEE FOR FELLOWSHIP USE









Bring the whole family for a night of fun and laughter! Wo'll have plenty of board games and snacks – or bring your favorite game to share with everyone. It's a relaxed evening to play, snack, and spend time together with friends old and new!

Monday December 29<sup>th</sup> 6-8PM





At Flohrs Church





WE'D LOVE A FEW VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR AFTER WORSHIP. ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS MAKE COFFEE (SUPPLIES PROVIDED) AND BRING ALONG A LIGHT SNACK TO SHARE. IT'S A SIMPLE WAY TO SERVE AND HELP EVERYONE ENJOY FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER! PLEASE SIGN UP FOR A SUNDAY ON THE SHEETS IN THE NARTHEX.

Book Fair



### December 1-15th

Mondays 9AM-12PM Wednesdays 9AM-12 PM & 6PM-8PM Fridays 9AM-12PM Saturdays 3PM-6PM Sundays 10AM-12PM

> Being Held at Flohrs Lutheran Church 595 Flohrs Church Road McKnightstown, PA

# EXTRA CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS?

Please consider donating them for the bookfair to place orders in. Thank you!!



Bible Study at Flohrs
"There's a world in every verse in the New Testament." So said one of my professors in

I believe that statement is absolutely true, and is right on the mark in attempting to study and understand the Holy Scriptures.

During Advent (which begins on Sunday, November 30th), we're going to try an experiment by offering a Bible Study for the four Sundays in the season.

We will meet in that wonderfully redecorated room at the far end of the hallway on the upper level of the Education Wing. Comfy sofas and chairs await.

So, plan to come to Coffee Hour, then to bring what you've gathered there with you to Bible Study.

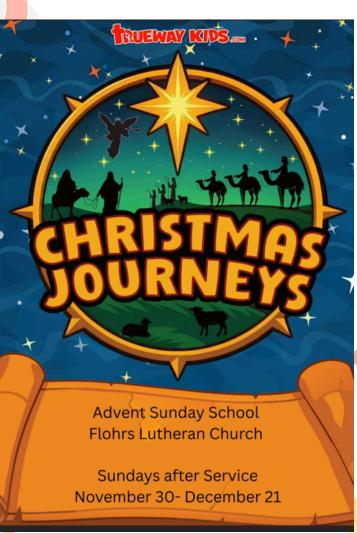
We'll dig into the readings appointed for the day in depth. Along the way, we'll attempt to give ourselves some tools for reading and understanding the Bible.

Look forward to gathering with you!

Pastor Gene









Ticket: \$10 per person

TICKET INCLUDES: DELICIOUS SUPPER, TAKE YOUR OWN PHOTO WITH SANTA , CRAFTS AND A VISIT TO MRS CLAUS KITCHEN

For more information:

WWW.FLOHRSLUTHERAN.ORG

OR CALL: 717-334-3992

## Supper with Santa Registration Form

Join us Saturday 12/6 from 5-7PM for Supper with Santa.

ALL AGES WELCOME! 5 and under FREE!

Each Child will receive a coin to visit Santa and Mrs Claus's Kitchen and get a cookie from the chef herself.

Cost; \$10 per person ages 6 and over. - This is a fundraiser to support our outreach fund!

Please register & pay by 11/30 to reserve your spot.

Parent/Guardian Full Name:								
Email:								
Phone Number:								
Mailing Address:								
Please list the first names and ages of all children attending:								
Number of Adults Attending:  Please list any food allergies or dietary restrictions:  Total Amount Due (\$10 per person ages 6 and over)  Do you give permission for photos taken during the event to be used on church social media or publications?								
Anything else we should know?								

Thank you for registering for Supper with Santa! We look forward to seeing you December 6th.

Please remember to submit your check & form by November 30th to reserve your spot.

Please give form to Carrie or mail back to the office PO Box 32 McKnightstown, PA 17343





WOMENS, MENS & KIDS
CROUPS PLANNING MEETING
JANUARY 2026

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28  First Sunday of Christmas at 9AM  Coffee Hour to follow  29  Board Game Night 6PM 6PM	Fourth Sunday of Advent at 9AM Office Closed 9AM Coffee Hour, Sunday School & SULLY Bible Study to Follow	Third Sunday of Advent at 9AM Coffee Hour, Sunday School & Book Fair Open 9AM-Noon Slible Study to Follow Painting IPM	Second Sunday of Advent at 9AM (STUMP THE PASTOR) Coffee Hour, Sunday School & Bible Study to Follow Christmas Dinner 5PM  8 Book Fair Open 9AM-Noon Council Meeting 7PM	
<u>s</u>	24 Christmas Eve Service 7PM	17	10 Book Fair Open 9AM-Noon & 6PM-8PM	Book Fair Open 9AM-Noon & 6PM-8PM
WHERE	25 MERRY Christmas	18	11	
Office Hours M-	26	19	12 Book Fair Open 9AM-Noon	Book Fair Open 9AM-Noon
Office Hours M-W-F 9AM-Noon	27	20	Creative Moments with Marie IPM Book Fair Open 3PM-6PM	Book Fair Open 3PM-7PM Supper with Santa 5-7PM