# St. Peter's Lutheran Church Chester Springs, PA

December 2019

Volume 21 Issue 12

















### ADVENT

Other than lighting candles at church on Sunday, what should we be doing during the season of Advent? This is the time we should be preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. This year, Advent begins on Sunday, December 1, and ends on December 22, the fourth Sunday before Christmas. It is a busy time of the year for sure. One way to prepare our hearts is to read scripture every day and



interpret how those readings might relate to us in today's world. Here are the scriptures found on the ELCA website for each day of Advent:

Dec. 1	Nehemiah 9:26-31	Luke 21:20-24	Psalm 25:1-10
Dec. 2	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Psalm 25:1-10	Luke 21:25-36
Dec. 3	Numbers 17:1-11	2 Peter 3:1-18	Psalm 90
Dec. 4	2 Samuel 7:18-29	Revelation 22:12-16	Psalm 90
Dec. 5	Isaiah 1:24-31	Luke 11:29-32	Psalm 90
Dec. 6	Malachi 3:5-12	Philippians 1:12-18a	Luke 1:68-79
Dec. 7	Malachi 3:13-18	Philippians 1:18b-26	Luke 1:68-79
Dec. 8	Malachi 4:1-6	Luke 9:1-6	Luke 1:68-79
Dec. 9	Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 1:68-79; 3:1-6	Philippians 1:3-11
Dec. 10	Isaiah 40:1-11	Romans 8:22-25	Psalm 126
Dec. 11	Isaiah 19:18-25	2 Peter 1:2-15	Psalm 126
Dec. 12	Isaiah 35:3-7	Luke 7:18-30	Psalm 126
Dec. 13	Amos 6:1-8	2 Corinthians 8:1-15	Isaiah 12:2-6
Dec. 14	Amos 8:4-12	2 Corinthians 9:1-15	Isaiah 12:2-6
Dec. 15	Amos 9:8-15	Luke 1:57-66	Isaiah 12:2-6
Dec. 16	Isaiah 12:2-6	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
Dec. 17	Numbers 16:1-19	Hebrews 13:7-17	Isaiah 11:1-9
Dec. 18	Numbers 16:20-35	Acts 28:23-31	Isaiah 11:1-9
Dec. 19	Micah 4:8-13	Luke 7:31-35	Isaiah 11:1-9
Dec. 20	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Hebrews 10:10-18	Psalm 80:1-7
Dec. 21	Isaiah 42:10-18	Hebrews 10:32-39	Psalm 80:1-7
Dec. 22	Isaiah 66:7-11	Luke 13:31-35	Psalm 80:1-7
Dec. 23	Micah 5:2-5a	Luke 1:46b-55	Luke 1:39-45; 46-55

Make it a goal to read all three or simply pick one to read every day. The important thing to remember is not to beat ourselves up if we forget to read them for a few days. But we can try to make a concerted effort. What a great gift to give ourselves!



### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Christmas and church membership? You would think that one has little to do with the other. And you would be right. But the Church is more than an unconnected group of Christians meeting together to celebrate the birth, crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord. It is more than a gathering of those who have been gifted by the Holy Spirit and it is more than a gathering of those who want to do ministry in the name of Jesus.

You can, of course, be a Christian who goes from one community of faith to another, then another and another, and be a follower of Jesus. You can even not go to church, live a caring life and trust in the Lord and be a follower of Jesus. The Church as an organization is not the only place to access God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The truth is there have been and are now churches, congregations and church-related institutions that do more harm than good to the sharing of the good news of Jesus Christ.

Still, membership in a church is important. If you are not sure about your faith, when you are a part of the church (most Christian churches are well mean-

can help you grow in your faith. Having a commitment to the Church helps you focus on ministry, the needs of others and the Word of God. Most of us, if left to our own devices, would wander away from God's purposes. Being a member helps you to focus on ministry and gives you an extended family that cares about you. Sometimes it is a dysfunctional family, but there is love and support to be found in the Church. It is hard to learn all that we need or want to know about Jesus alone and the Church offers many resources and opportunities to learn.

I offer you the gift of Church Membership as we approach this Christmas season. If you've wandered away or even if you are actively involved, renew your membership by renewing your commitment to participate and support the Church. If you regularly attend but are not an official member, take the next step and join. Do know that even if you don't become an official member, you have a special place among us. Merry Christmas and may the Lord bless you throughout this Christmas season and into the New Year to come.

# **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Rev. Ronald Wesemann Denise Rich

Denise Rich Gabriel Rebolla Jessica August

Cheryl Smola

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Phone:

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After Hours Emergency Contact: Pastor Wesemann: 610-933-4639

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU

One of our long-term members, Debbie Francis, had requested that some hymns be sung at her funeral. Having the funeral service held at the funeral home made this somewhat difficult. Eight members of our choir stepped up to sing three hymns for her service, without instrumentation nor time to prepare. Thank you, Gabriel and choir members, for honoring her request.

### A CHRISTMAS WISH

Pastor and Cathy wish for all of you a joyous and loving Christmas. We pray that your celebration will fulfill your dreams and give you the opportunity to grow your relationship with Jesus.

# PASTORAL ACTS

#### Weddings:

Amanda Bleacher & Kurt Goerlich 11-08-19
Carolyn Clough & Earle Dietrich 11-11-19

#### Weddings Scheduled:

Alicia McGowan & Paul Wesemann 2-29-20 Alexandra Kathleen Opsal & Luke Magolda 3-29-20

#### Funeral:

Debbie Francis 11-22-19

#### **Received Into Membership:**

Earle Dietrich 11-24-19

If you would like to submit an article or become a sponsor for the Herald, please contact Cheryl Smola or email it to csmola2@msn.com.



Please pray not only for your loved ones but also for the entire congregation, its leaders and those listed below as they cope with life's challenges.

Loving and caring God,

We know that you are with us in the times when we are struggling, sick on either an emotional or physical level and in our hour of need when we no longer believe in ourselves. Help us to recognize the depth of your love during those times so we do not feel alone. Open our hearts to feel the enormity of your presence, to feel your deep and unconditional love and to recognize your guidance. We ask that you might ease our burdens as we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Dorothy Abrahamsen Glenn Allen Esther Altmann Midge Bates Stephanie Bilash Al & Marilyn Burk Peggy Burnley & family Lori Burnley Anthony Casperite Elizabeth Casperite Michael Cesario Jill Clark Calvin Clifford Harry Cornog Terri Crimi, Lewis Branin and Nicholas & Christopher Gary Derr Kenneth Dobson Sigi Eichinger Family of Debbie Francis Daniel Frey Wade Frev Shirley Harp Mariorie Kropp Peter & Jean Marchianco

Mulcahy Family Anthony Napolitano **Neiman Family** Debbie O'Hara Linda Patton Sally Peirson Mary Beth (Skurka) Prager Dennis Reed Schwartz family (Ethan, Martrese, Eric & Julianna) Lloyd & Mary Ann Seavers Floyd Segner Gary Segner **Dorothy Schmidt** Amanda Smith Sterner Family Mary Lou Tate Charlotte Twaddell Dee Vaughn **Bernd Warner** Fred Wesemann Rita Wesler Jo Ann Willenbrock Irene Williams

Please keep the church informed about the continued need for prayer of those listed on the prayer list. You can submit names for the prayer list to the office. To initiate the prayer chain for immediate prayer needs, contact:

Pastor Wesemann (610) 933-9611

Atea McArel

Mike Mazoué

Marilyn Burk (484) 341-8463 or (610) 517-1147

# IT SEEMS I'M ALWAYS SAYING ...



Early in November, our youth joined 100 or so other youth for a weekend of fun and faith building. I want to thank Jay Eckerdt and Kristy Young for giving up their weekend to provide our youth a chance to be a part of this event. I hope the kids thanked them, but either way, I offer Jay and Kristy the thanks of our church.

- Pastor Wesemann

# CHRISTMAS & ADVENT, So Much Going On

Advent Star Devotionals are available for the Advent Season. Please pick one up. The short daily devotions were written by professors, students and staff of the United Lutheran Seminary (formerly Philadelphia and Gettysburg Seminaries). Advent worship begins on December 1 at our regular worship time. Sunday School will meet but will be a mix of learning and preparation for the Christmas Pageant.

During this season we will all be given the opportunity to buy gifts of animals and such for our special friends and family members that will go to help struggling families and individuals around the world. Look for the display in the Pikeland Wing of a Christmas tree with givable ornaments offered by the ELCA Good Gifts. Cathy and I have given these to friends in the past couple of years.

Different groups will oversee the decoration of the church, courtyard and gazebo. Greening of the church will take place on Sunday, December 22.

Our Christmas Pageant will be built into our worship service on Sunday, December 22. Don't miss the opportunity to see our children act out the Christmas story. On Christmas Eve, we will again have three opportunities to celebrate the birth of Jesus; 4:30 pm, 7:30 pm & 11 pm. It is hoped that all of you will attend at least one of these services, but for anyone who wants to attend all three, a different sermon will be offered at each.

There are two Sundays this year in the Christmas season, December 29 and January 5, 2020. Our worship schedule will not change for those Sundays, but we will certainly keep the Christmas spirit going.

- Pastor Wesemann

#### YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Our church youth went to the Southeastern PA Synod Youth Gathering which had a theme centered around the Apostles Creed and what it is we believe.

They gathered to sing and listen to speakers including Bishop Patricia Davenport. Plenty of activities kept them busy learning the language and meaning of the Creed. They also had a chance to have some free time to interact with the other youth in attendance.











# 2020 Question

We have a great Youth Group now meeting with excellent leadership, but we have run into questions of how to best offer worship and Christian educational opportunities for all of our youth. Some are unable to attend worship and Sunday School because of scouting and sports programs. Pastor Wesemann would love to hear from the parents of such youth and see, if together, the church can find a way to be of service to these youth to provide them with worship and educational opportunities, at least occasionally. Give pastor a call, send a note or an email. Thank you.

#### DO NOT BE AFRAID

Evangelism is easier than you think!

When we initially thought of Evangelism, it conjured up images of the prophets in the Bible standing on corners and shouting the word until the authorities dragged them off to prison or of preachers such as Joyce Meyers, Billy Graham, Beth Moore—those who make or made big names for themselves publicly with the Word of God.

Evangelism does not need to be that way. It is as simple as talking to your neighbor, co-worker, friend or family member, when the conversation comes up naturally. There are a few ways to evangelize in a safe manner that will not offend others:

- Show love and compassion to all you meet, even those who appear to be marginalized.
- Commit acts of kindness without expecting anything in return and always be willing to help others in a time of need (as long as it is not at the expense of your own health and well-being).
- While talking about your weekend plans, bring up the fact that you are going to church on Sunday. Don't be afraid to let them know the location of your church and invite them if it feels comfortable. If your church is having an event on a Friday or a Saturday evening, include that as a way to bring God into your environment.

Evangelism is the act of sharing the Word of God and it can be done in any method possible. With this age of social media, you have the option of Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc. And you can share your story one-on-one or invite people to church. The important thing is to not be afraid and when you feel that nudge from God, don't ignore it!

- Erin Johnson & Elaine Stromberg

Please help to defray some costs to the church by sponsoring altar flowers, bulletins, communion wine/bread, paper products and Fellowship Hour.

Sign-up sheets are already posted for 2020.

Please remember to honor your pledges for 2019 and pay up before the end of this year.

# News from Our Health Minister, Doris Sterner

"Yet I said to myself, 'This is my sickness, and I must endure it." Jeremiah 10:19

Pneumonia is an infection of one or both of your lungs. It affects the air sacs of the lungs or the alveoli. As these air sacs become inflamed and infected, they fill with fluid, making breathing more difficult and reducing the flow of oxygen throughout your body. Cases range from fairly mild to dangerously severe. Seniors and children under 5 are most affected by its complications. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 1 million people in the U.S. are hospitalized from pneumonia each year. Pneumonia can be caused by bacteria or viruses, affecting treatment choices.

It can be hard to tease out whether symptoms you're experiencing are due to a common cold or pneumonia, and if you need to be seen by a doctor. It is the length of time symptoms persist that can alert to the need to see your physician. Pneumonia symptoms can include: cough that persists; purple to cough with greenish/yellow phlegm; blood-tinged phlegm; fever and chills; wheezing; breathing difficulty; night sweats; nasal flaring and rapid breathing in infants; chest pains; general malaise or decreased energy; appetite loss.

Pneumonia that's treated at home typically involves oral medication and supportive measures. Antibiotics are used to treat bacterial pneumonia. Usually within 48 hours of antibiotics you will start feeling better. Experts emphasize the importance of taking antibiotics as prescribed and finishing the entire course. Completing the antibiotic course helps prevent any remaining bacteria from becoming drug-resistant. Viral pneumonia does not respond to antibiotics and antiviral medications like oseltamivar (brand name Tamiflu) may be prescribed. Supportive measures including over-the-counter medication such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen to reduce fever, staying hydrated, a cough suppressant and rest are helpful.

#### Movies & Faith

Movies & Faith Group will come together on January 18, 2020 at 5:30 pm to watch "War Room". A discussion will follow at 7:30 pm. Please bring a snack to share or your own supper.

#### FISHING FOR GOLD

Congratulations to the recent winners in our Fishing for Gold fundraiser:

#### **November Winners:**

- 1. Kristy Young
- 2. Deb Francis (Memorial Fund)
- 3. Charlotte Luksic

The next drawing will take place on Sunday, 12/29. Please make sure you are paid up a week before the drawing so you will be eligible to win each month.

Speak with Joanna Sheffer for more information or to make a payment.

# THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

In November 2019, we received \$187 from Thrivent. We have received this year a total of \$876. Thank you to Doug Beck, Bob Patton and John Young for designating their Thrivent Choice dollars for St. Peter's this month. Please remember to designate your Thrivent Choice dollars periodically. Your designations to St. Peter's through Thrivent are very much appreciated.

When you go to the Thrivent website St. Peter's is listed as "St. Peter". If you have a hard time finding it, Al Burk or John Young are willing to help.

Thanks again for your support.

#### Stewardship Note

The people of St. Stephen's, New Kingston, encountered Jesus camping in their picnic pavilion and followed him into ministry at a truck stop down the road. Michael, the man they met, told Pastor Matthew Best that there were many like him, living out of their cars at the Flying J because of its showers and laundry facilities. With the cooperation of the truck stop manager, the congregation began a ministry that includes help with laundry, assistance navigating social services and shared meals with laughter and honest conversation. Along the way, they have learned much about homelessness, the startling ease with which it happens and the difficulty of escaping the cycle that traps more than 15,000 Pennsylvanians who lack permanent shelter on any given day. The congregation can speak to the issues that perpetuate that cycle and is working with community leaders to meet immediate needs and address underlying issues.

"Serving at the truck stop is how we live out our faith," said Best. "Advocacy is part of this ministry. It moves us from just trying to make sure people are clean and fed, to asking the question, why are people hungry and in need of a shower and laundry? We have an opportunity to advocate on behalf of people who are ignored by society, so that their voice can be heard and our society can be changed. It's really about participating in the unfolding of the Kingdom of God in our midst."

LAMPa (Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania) advocates for wise and just public policies in the state of Pennsylvania that promote the common good and equips Lutherans to live out their baptismal call to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Subscribe to their action alerts at **lutheranadvocacypa.org**.

# December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:00 am Worship - Communion	2	3	4	5 6:15 pm M&W Committee	6	7 Pearl Harbor Day
8 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:00 am Worship - Sunday School 11:30 am Evangelism Committee Christian Ed. Committee Outreach Committee  Christmas Flower Orders Due	9	10 6 pm Executive Committee	11	12	13	14
15 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:00 am Worship - Communion Sunday School 11:30 am Property Committee	16	17 6:30 pm Council	18	19	20 6 pm Youth Group Christmas Party	21 10 am Pageant Rehearsal Winter Begins
9:00 am Adult Forum 10:00 am Worship Christmas Pageant 11:30 am Greening of the Church	23 Hanukkah Begins	24 4:30, 7:30 & 11 pm Christmas Eve Services	25 Merry Christmas	26 Kwanzaa Begins	27	28
29 1st Sunday of Christmas 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:00 am Worship - Communion Sunday School 11:30 am Fellowship Committee	30	New Year's Eve	1 Happy New Year!	2	3	4

#### **DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS**

# Birthdays

Blake Burnley
Peggy Burnley
Michael Cesario
Andrew Daniel
Jacqui DeNight
Jim Devereaux
Rick Ford
Rebecca Frey

Annie Lacey Anita LaCoff **Beverly Ludlow** Leroy McCardell Michele Maholland Shawn Maholland Suzanne Murphy

Gabriel Rebolla Thomas Reidy Sarah Schreier Nichole Vaughen Kayden Wise Nathan Woodland Kristy Young

# Anniversaries

Joe & Karen Cannizzaro Lloyd & Mary Ann Seavers 37 34 Bruce & Kathy Hartman 39 Michael & Gabriele Streit 22 David & Sarah Schreier 6

	COMI	NG UP IN JANUARY
1		New Year's Day
1 2 5 6	6:15 pm	Music & Worship Committee
5	11:30 am	Outreach Committee
6		Epiphany of Our Lord
12	11:30 am	Evangelism Committee
		Christian Education Committee
14	6 pm	Executive Committee
18	5:30 pm	Movies & Faith Group
19	11:30 am	Property Committee
20		Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
21	6:30 pm	Council
26	11:30 am	Fellowship Committee
20 21 26 28		Evening Bible Study
29	12:00 pm	Bible Study/Bag Lunch

Adult Choir 7:15 pm Thursdays & 9:15 am Sundays Youth Choir: 11:30 am Sundays Bell Choir: 12:00 pm Sundays

Dec.			Assi	stan	t Sch	iedule			
2019	1 0 15 22		22		20				
	1	8	15	24	4:30 pm	7:30 pm	11 pm	29	
Greeters	Marilyn Burk	Cam Cloeter	Bruce & Kathy Hartman	Larry Smola		Bruce & Kathy Hartman	Chris Reidy	Kristin Wright	
Ushers	Dave Sterner Caden Reidy	Luanne Skurka Mike Derr	Christine & Kayla Reidy	Bob Patton Steven Hartman	Betsy Burns	Larry Smola, John & Kira Young, Kayla Reidy	Dave Sterner	Doug Beck Gary Segner	
Lector	Elaine Stromberg	Carm Venezia	Al Burk	Rebecca Cannizzaro	Kristin Wright	Ted Weicheld	Doris Sterner	Bob Patton	
Cantor	Cheryl Smola	Doris Sterner	Hannah Weicheld	Sue & Ted Weicheld		Kristy Young	Doris Sterner	Al Burk	
Communion Assistants	Karen & Rebecca Cannizzaro		Cam Cloeter Joanna Sheffer		Joanna Sheffer	Luanne Skurka Mike Derr		Bruce & Kathy Hartman	
Acolytes	Kira Young	Bruce Hartman	Anna Eckerdt	Chris Reidy		Torch Bearers: R. Grant, C. Young Crucifer: E. Eckerdt Acolyte: A. Eckerdt		Bob Patton	
Altar Flowers	Maholland	Cannizzaro	Hartman	Young		Church Family		Beck	
Bulletins	Unsponsored	Peggy Burnley	John & Kristy Young	Bruce & Kathy Hartman	Frank & Diann Riepen Unsponsored				
Fellowship	Unsponsored	Unsponsored	Unsponsored	Unsponsored	Unsponsored				
Altar Team	Jacqui d	eNight	Carol M	aholland	Marilyn Burk Doris Sterner Carm Venezia				
Counters				Dou	g Beck	•			
Bread/ Wine				Bread & Wine:	Al & Marilyn Bu	rk			
Paper Goods	Unsponsored								

# FINANCIAL UPDATE:

THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF FINANCES
JANUARY 1 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2019:

Total Income: \$97,499
Total Expenses: \$113,531
Total Surplus (Deficit): (\$16,032)

"Be true to your work, your word and your friends."

-Henry David Thoreau

**ST. PETER'S MISSION** is to fulfill our calling as the Body of Christ. We will be a worship center in the community. We will learn and teach the meaning of God's Word. We will share our Christian Faith with others. And we will support individuals in their time of personal need. As we accomplish these things, we will be faithful Stewards of God's Gifts.

**OUR VISION** is to be a center of activity and a welcoming congregation of worshipers growing in faith, while encouraging community outreach through various ministries.

#### CROSSWORD PUZZLE - BY BOB PATTON

#### Across

- 1. Website link
- 4. A railroad north of the border (abbr.)
- 6. Not used
- 9. Peruse
- 11. **Borealis**
- 13. Greek N
- 14. Chicago's biggest airport
- 16. Alternative to DC
- 17. Part of the longest river in Africa
- 20. Light tan
- 21. Female horse
- 23. 1/12 of a foot
- 24. Rikki-Tikki-
- 26. Bottled water brand owned by Pepsico
- 28. "He is \_\_\_ indeed" 29. "Your sins are \_\_\_"
- 31. News service
- 33. Student of a New England college
- 34. 49, to the Romans
- 36. Pure
- 38. Prefix meaning "China"
- 40. German for "one"
- 41. A common diphthong
- 42. Ovum

#### Down

- 1. Large coffee container
- 2. Sandwiches with Russian dressing, sauerkraut and corned beef
- 3. Largest city in CA (abbr.)
- 4. Actor James
- 5. Jewish holiday based the book of Esther
- 6. Opposite of yes
- 7. Time period
- 8. Female soldier in WWII
- 10. WWI soldiers
- 12. Family
- 15. Haw (old TV show)
  18. An Indian life insurance co. (abbr.)
- 19. Get rid of a pencil mark
- 20. Prefix meaning "two"
- 22. Start of the night
- 25. Not out
- 27. One of the Greek muses
- 28. Mini gaming keyboard
- 30. TV show featuring high school singers
- 31. High card
- 32. Greek letter that sounds like "F"
- 35. Item used to build a cabin
- 37. Article
- 39. Latin abbr. meaning "that is"

Solution to this puzzle can be found in the next issue of The Herald.

Solution to the November puzzle below.

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Would you like to advertise your business here and help sponsor The Herald?

Contact the Church Office for further details.



Christmas season is fast approaching!!!
It's time to place your orders for poinsettias and greens to decorate the church.

Poinsettias are \$10.00 each. Color choices are red, white and pink.

Donations are also welcome for greens to decorate the sanctuary and Pikeland Wing. Funds are used for garland, wreaths and replacement candles.

Please use the order form provided to place your order and denote your tribute/memorial.

On the memo line of your check, please note poinsettia/greens.

Orders must be received <u>no later than December 8, 2019</u>.

(Payment must accompany order.)

Any questions, please see or call Carmella Venezia at 610-323-0897.





This is a handicap-accessible facility.

Greens	and	Poinsettia(	s	) Order Form

(Please Print Clearly)
Your Name:
Phone No.:
Select color:redwhitepink  #Poinsettia(s) at \$10.00 each = \$  Donation for greening of the church \$  Total amount included \$
Please indicate individual(s) for memorial or honorarium
In loving memory of (deceased):
In honor of (living):
Flowers are presented by:
☐ I WILL BE PICKING UP MY FLOWERS AFTER THE LAST SERVICE
$\hfill\square$ ) WILL $\underline{NOT}$ BE PICKING UP MY FLOWERS AFTER THE LAST SERVICE.
Please return all order forms with payment by <u>December 8, 2019</u> .  Please denote poinsettia/greens on memo line of your check.  Make checks payable to St. Peter's Lutheran Church and mail to:

St. Peter's Lutheran Church Attention: Church Office 1239 Clover Mill Rd., Chester Springs, PA 19425