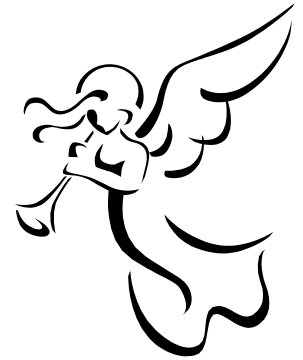




ST. PETER'S

Lutheran Church, Chester Springs, PA



The Herald

December 2020

Volume 22 Issue 12

IN-CHURCH WORSHIP

We began worshipping in the church again on November 1 with 30 members and four visitors in attendance. I made a seating chart in advance so that we would be prepared to adequately seat people and allow for social distancing. It was a joy to be back in church.

We are continuing to worship in the church for the time being. However, if someone gets sick, we will return to only providing live streaming on Facebook as our way to gather for worship.

If you plan on attending the worship service in person, please do not come if you are sick or have been exposed to COVID-19. Remember that we will have no singing (humming is good), we will all wear masks, we will socially distance and you will need to let me (Pastor) know that you are coming. I know that this is not as comfortable as we all might like, but please remember that worship is about our expressing our love to God and thinking of the well-being of those who worship with us. Worship is not just about what we want and what makes us feel good.

- Pastor Wesemann

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Imagine what it must have been like on that first Christmas. The surroundings were simple but practical and out in the fields the shepherds were surrounding by a sky full of stars and the sound of a chorus of angelic voices. This Christmas Eve we hope to capture some of the simplicity and beauty experienced by Mary, Joseph and the shepherds.

We are planning to have two worship services on Christmas Eve; one at 4 pm and another at 7 pm. At both service times, we will join Mary, Joseph, Jesus and a donkey out in the pavilion. We will join together in prayer, hear the Nativity Story read and hear the beautiful voices of some of our choir members singing on the hillside. As there is a very good possibility of it being cold on Christmas Eve. This year we will not be offering the wonderful red, pink and white poinsettias. Instead, we will be decorating more simplistically and humbly with wreaths, swags, trees and luminaria.

We hope that the time we share together on Christmas Eve will warm our hearts and spirits. Everyone will be expected to wear masks and socially distance as best as possible. We will not put together a seating chart for these worship gatherings but we do ask that you call or email the church telling us if you are attending and at which time. It is important that we keep a record of those attending, in case of an illness.

It is our hope that we will all get a feel for how it must have been that first Christmas. We are excited to be a part of these different worship services. We pray you will come out and join in this worship. We pray that you will have a wonderful, inspirational and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

- Pastor Wesemann



Can this be the year? It was this kind of year back in the day of Mary and Joseph! They went through so much and then they were required to travel to Bethlehem in Mary's ninth month to register and be taxed, in order to appease the emperor who oppressed Israel, their nation. Our year has been one of disruption, disease, fear, loneliness, often suffered in separation and discomfort. For us it will continue to be a different year even on Christmas. It would not be safe for us to pack ourselves into the church and yet we most certainly cannot permit Christmas to go by without a wonderful celebration.



The first Christmas was celebrated in almost complete anonymity with the Holy family hidden away in a stable. The angels sang to the glory of God, witnessed by just a few shepherds out on a lone hill, as most of the world slept through that night not knowing that anything magnificent had even occurred. There was a special, bright star enlisted by God to guide the foreigners (wise men) on their very lengthy journey to the house where Jesus and his parents later resided.

Living under Rome was not easy for Mary and Joseph and for God's people, just as living amidst this pandemic has been hard on us. Know that our Lord is with us as we worry and suffer loneliness and adjust to many changes in the way we do things. Jesus knows what kind of suffering we are enduring and may continue to endure for the months ahead. What might the end of this year bring? We will soon find out, but whatever it brings we can trust that the Lord will be with us. This goes for the years to come, as well. If we all commit ourselves to continue to live faithful and loving lives, imagine how things might change for the better.

CONTACT INFORMATION

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Ronald Wesemann	Pastor
Denise Rich	Parish Administrator
Gabriel Rebolla	Music Director
Jessica August	Nursery Attendant
Cheryl Smola	Newsletter Editor

CHURCH COUNCIL 2020

David Schreier	President
Doris Sterner	Vice President, Stewardship
Joanna Sheffer	Secretary, Finance
Al Burk	Treasurer
Jay Eckerdt	Chris. Education/Youth
Erin Johnson	Evangelism
Doug Beck	Fellowship
Tom Grant	Music & Worship
Joe Cannizzaro	Outreach
Christine Reidy	Property

Office Hours:	T-TH, 10 am to 3 pm
Worship Service	Sunday, 10 am
Address	1239 Clover Mill Road Chester Springs, PA 19425
Phone:	610-933-9611
E-mail:	office@stpeterschestersprings.org
Website & Online Giving:	https://www.stpeterschestersprings.org/wordpress/

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

PASTORAL ACTS

Dedication of Headstone: Luanne Skurka	11/01/20
Scattering Garden Funeral: Esther Altmann (To be scheduled)	

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On November 8, we met as a Congregation to approve our budget for 2021 and elect men and women to Church Council. Due to the Pandemic and our desire to follow CDC rules, we met immediately following our worship service in the sanctuary. The budget was approved, knowing that there were some revisions still necessary from those entrusted to Church Council.

We also elected two women, one man and one youth to Church Council. We will welcome Betty Ryberg, Betsy Burns, John Young and Cole Young to our Council meeting on December 15. At that meeting, we will express our appreciation to our outgoing Council members, welcome these new members, elect new officers and assign committee responsibilities.

- Pastor Wesemann



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 | Atea McArel |
| Karil Abrahamsen | Peter & Jean Marchianco |
| Glenn Allen | Mike Mazoué |
| Midge Bates | Mulcahy Family |
| Leroy Bauman | Anthony Napolitano |
| Bernadette Bender | Debbie and Rod O'Hara |
| Stephanie Bilash | Linda Patton |
| Al & Marilyn Burk | Sally Peirson |
| Michael Cesario | Mary Beth (Skurka) Prager |
| Adalyn Chicra | Kevin & Michelle Ralph |
| Jill Clark | Dennis Reed |
| Calvin Clifford | Schwartz family |
| Harry Cornog | (Ethan, Martrese, Eric & Julianna) |
| Terri Crimi, Lewis Branin, Nicholas & Christopher | Lloyd & Mary Ann Seavers |
| Gary Derr | Floyd Segner |
| Family of George Dobson | Gary Segner |
| Kenneth Dobson | Dorothy Schmidt |
| Sigi Eichinger | Amanda Smith |
| Daniel Frey | Dorothea Streit |
| Wade Frey | Mary Lou Tate |
| Shirley Harp | Bernd Warner |
| Erin Johnson | Fred Wesemann |
| Family of Dorothy Kerrigan | Rita Wesler |
| Laurie Leonard | Jo Ann Willenbrock |
| Linda Lilienfeld | 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

Marilyn Burk 610-517-1147

IT SEEMS I'M ALWAYS SAYING ...



St. Peter's has been very fortunate in having very good leadership from men and women who have given up their time and talents to plan, work and speak up for our congregation. Three of our leaders will not be returning to Church Council in 2021 and so they should be recognized for their dedication.

Christine Reidy took on leadership of the Property Committee, dealing with contractors, insurance agents, repairs and maintenance concerns. She didn't lead alone but her services will be missed. Jay Eckerdt took on the leadership of our Christian Education Committee and, with the help of others, energized our Youth Group and Sunday School, keeping it going online even during this pandemic. And, I can't say enough about Dave Schreier. His leadership of Church Council and the Finance Committee has been exceptional. Who among us will not miss his Sunday morning time at the microphone during announcements?

I want to thank these three leaders and everyone who is continuing to serve on Church Council, as well as those newly elected.

- Pastor Wesemann

BIBLE STUDY

We will not be meeting for Bible Study in December. We will continue our study of the book of Mark via Zoom on January 27. At that time, we will be studying parts of Mark, chapter 6.

All are invited to participate. The Zoom invitation is sent out to all of our membership list, but it is not restricted to members and anyone can call in from their phone to participate. If you did not receive an invitation and would like to attend, please email or call me and I will make sure that you get the necessary information.

- Pastor Wesemann

GOD EQUIPS US FOR NEW THINGS

“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” — Isaiah 43:19

“Advent and Christmas are all about celebrating that most amazing “new thing” God brought about for our sake—incarnating God’s divine essence in the human form of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. We prayerfully ask at the beginning of every church year, “To what ‘new things’ is God calling us?” But this Advent the question holds special significance. With its racial unrest, political divisiveness, riots, wildfires, hurricanes and COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 will be remembered as one of the most troubled years in recent history. And everybody is bracing for a “new normal” that is still unknown. The pandemic has caused us to cancel many of our cherished Advent and Christmas observances. We pray the Holy Spirit will give us the creativity and wisdom to find new ways faithfully to steward the mystery of the incarnation and tell God’s story.

More broadly, we also pray for guidance to steward our lives that we may be, as Jesus directed, the salt of the earth and light to a world that needs us more than ever. As we listen for God’s direction, preparing us for “new things,” the four traditional Advent themes may offer a path. We cultivate these themes in our hearts and congregations and share them with the world:

- Hope as an antidote to the culture of despair.
- Peace in our hearts to bring to an angry world.
- Love for our friends and enemies alike.
- Joy in Christ, who makes all things new.

God, who promises to make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, will prepare us and equip us to do “new things” to steward our lives and congregations to meet the challenges ahead.”

– Rob Blezard

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Christmas season is fast approaching!
It's time to place your orders for
wreaths, swags & luminaria to decorate the church.

Wreaths are \$25.00 each & swags are \$12.00 each.
Luminaria are no cost, please place names on following page.

Donations are also welcome for greens & luminaria
to decorate the outside sanctuary & church exterior.
Funds are used for garland, wreaths
and replacement candles.

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

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

Orders must be received no later than December 4, 2020.
(Payment must accompany order)

Any questions, please contact Carmella Venezia
at 610-323-0897.



Greens & Luminaria Order Form

(Please Print Clearly)

Your Name: _____

Phone No.: _____

Select green: _____ Wreath _____ Swag _____ Luminaria

# _____ wreath(s) at \$25.00 each	\$ _____
# _____ swag(s) at \$12.00 each	\$ _____
# _____ luminaria	\$NO CHARGE
Donation for greening of the church	\$ _____
Total amount	\$ _____

Please indicate individual(s) for memorial or honorarium

In loving memory of (deceased):

In honor of (living):

Greens are presented by:

- I WILL BE PICKING UP MY GREENS AFTER THE LAST SERVICE
- I WILL NOT BE PICKING UP MY GREENS AFTER THE LAST SERVICE.

Please return all order forms with payment by **December 4, 2020**.
Please denote 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

NEWS FROM OUR HEALTH MINISTER, DORIS STERNER



“If you have all these things and keep growing in them, they will keep you from being of no use and from having no fruit when it comes to knowing our Lord Jesus Christ.” — 2 Peter 1:8

Now, as votes across our country are cast and the elections are nearly over, Congress returns to Washington to complete the urgent work that must be done to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Congress must respond to the continuing health and economic crisis in every community in our nation—particularly for vulnerable populations including healthcare and front-line workers, the unemployed and under-employed, businesses, indigenous, and black and brown communities. Our voices are needed now more than ever in urging Congress to complete the bi-partisan negotiations to address COVID-19 before the holidays and congressional adjournment.

Congress is considering a new supplemental package to address the economic impacts of COVID-19. We thank lawmakers for the measures already taken to help our nation through this pandemic. As negotiations continue, lawmakers need to hear from faith-based advocates. As impacts cascade, ministry demands expand and more workers are left without employment, our role to care for our community and each other is more valuable than ever.

Based upon [ELCA Advocacy priorities](#), here highlighted are critical issues being discussed in conjunction with federal support. **A unique letter in your faith-informed voice, discussing what is happening in your location and in your and your congregation’s experience, can have impact.** Consider these critical issues that affect those of us in the greatest need and raise your view with your lawmakers. Refer to additional information on these points in [a longer letter to ELCA Advocacy network members](#).

HUNGER RESPONSE: In any economic crisis, the risk of hunger always increases in our communities as unemployment and financial hardships rise. Congress should increase the maximum Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit by 15 percent during this emergency to ensure households have enough resources to avoid the hard choice of choosing between paying for their bills or for food. Funding for Puerto Rico’s Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) must also be extended beyond provisions’ July 31st expiration which leaves 190,000 vulnerable people without food access benefits.

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE: Because of the scale of this global crisis, more resources are needed to address the needs of vulnerable communities around the world. The next COVID-19 bill must include addition funding resources in international assistance to ensure effective global responses that will protect all of us here at home and around the world.

MIGRATION RESPONSE: Expand access to care to ensure all immigrants can access testing, treatment and needed assistance. The national coronavirus stimulus package that was passed by Congress didn’t include migrant workers, documented and undocumented, although many of these workers are considered “essential.” The needs of undocumented and documented immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers must be taken into account and addressed in the fourth COVID-19 stimulus package.

FARMWORKER FOCUS: Farmworkers should be eligible for paid sick leave or unemployment insurance in all states, regardless of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. The federal government must also ensure that all workers, regardless of their immigration status, are afforded free testing to determine whether they have COVID-19, as well as the medical care that they need.

CHILDCARE PROVIDER FOCUS: Congress should list childcare facilities as examples of small business recipients for aid, such as recovery microgrants. Families require childcare in order to return to work.

IMMIGRATION DETENTION FOCUS: Reducing the number of people in immigration detention centers by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as soon as possible, particularly low-flight-risk detainees, would promote lifesaving. Deaths from influenza have occurred in federal detention centers, including deaths of minors, highlighting dire conditions and lapses in care.

HOUSING RESPONSE: Initial reports indicate that people who are experiencing homelessness and contract COVID-19 are much more likely to be hospitalized and require critical care than the general public. Providing additional housing funding and broadening a freeze on evictions could also help prevent homelessness and save costs in the long run.

Take time today to make a difference. Write a message to your lawmaker about your greatest concerns and what you think should be included in an equitable federal response at this time.

- From the ELCA Advocacy Action Center



December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	30	1	2	3	4 Christmas Greens Orders Due	5
6 2nd Sunday of Advent 10:00 am Worship - Communion Sunday School In the Sanctuary and Livestream on Facebook	7 Pearl Harbor Day	8 6:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting	9	10 Hanukkah Begins (sunset)	11	12
13 3rd Sunday of Advent 10:00 am Worship - Communion In the Sanctuary and Livestream on Facebook	14	15 6:30 pm Council Meeting	16	17	18 Hanukkah Ends	19
20 4th Sunday of Advent 10:00 am Worship Sunday School In the Sanctuary and Livestream on Facebook	21 Winter Begins	22 No bible study	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship Services 4:00 & 7:00 pm	25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa Begins
27 First Sunday of Christmas 10:00 am Worship - Communion In the Sanctuary and Livestream on Facebook	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	1	2

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

Blake Burnley
Peggy Burnley
Michael Cesario
Andrew Daniel
Jacqui deNight
Jim Devereaux
Rick Ford
Rebecca Frey
Anita La Coff
Annie Lacey
Beverly Ludlow
Michele Maholland
Shawn Maholland
Leroy McCardell
Suzanne Murphy
Gabriel Rebolla
Thomas Reidy
Sarah Schreier

Nicole Vaughen
Kayden Wise
Nathan Woodland
Kristy Young



Anniversaries

Joe & Karen Cannizzaro
Bruce & Kathy Hartman
Dave & Sarah Schreier
Lloyd & Mary Ann Seavers
Michael & Gabriele Streit

COMING UP IN JANUARY

01 **New Year's Day**

06 **Epiphany**

10 11:30 am Annual Congr. Meeting

12 6:00 pm Executive Committee

18 **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

19 6:30 pm Council Meeting

26 1:30 pm Bible Study

Dec 2020	Assistant Schedule					
	6	13	20	24		27
				4:00 pm	7:00 pm	
Greeters	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ushers	--	--	--	John Young & Cole Young		--
Lector	Doug Beck	Bob Patton	Kathy Hartman	--	--	Al Burk
Cantor	--	--	--	--	--	--
Communion Assistants	Doug Beck	--	Kathy Hartman	--	--	Al Burk
Acolytes	Doug Beck	Bob Patton	Kathy Hartman	--	--	Cole Young
Altar Flowers	Maholland	Cannizzaro	Hartman & Young	Church Family		Beck
Bulletins	Un-sponsored	Un-sponsored	Young	Un-sponsored	Un-sponsored	Beck
Fellowship	--					
Altar Team	Kira Young	Cathy Wesemann			Carm Venezia	
Counters	--					
Bread/Wine	Bread & Wine: Al & Marilyn Burk					
Paper Goods	Un-sponsored					

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

*THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF FINANCES
JANUARY 1 THROUGH OCTOBER 20, 2020:*

Total Income: \$103,276
 Total Expenses: \$127,233
 Total Surplus (Deficit): (\$ 23,957)

“Not everyone will understand your journey.
 That’s fine.
 It’s not their journey to make sense of.
 It’s yours.”

- Source Unknown

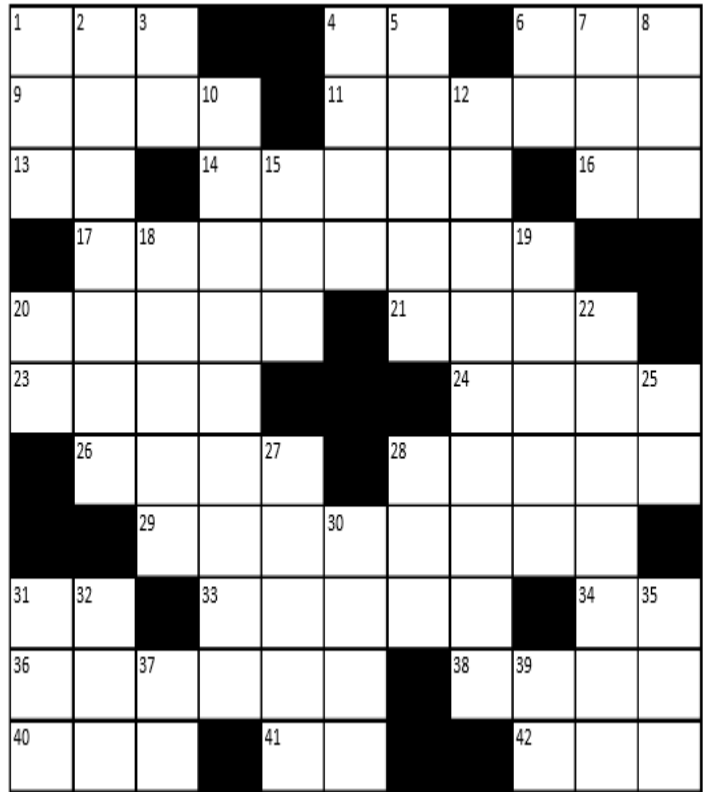
ST. PETER’S MISSION is to fulfill our calling as the Body of Christ. We will be a worship center in the community. We will learn and teach the meaning of God’s Word. We will share our Christian Faith with others. And we will support individuals in their time of personal need. As we accomplish these things, 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. Winding curve
4. Lead prosecutor of a country or state (abbr.)
6. Large coffee maker
9. Narrow hole for coins
11. Evening worship service
13. River in Italy
14. Justice Kagan
16. Prosecutor in a city (abbr.)
17. Wide view
20. Stop, yield, no parking, etc.
21. County where Miami is located
23. Subject line on a memo
24. Capital of Italy
26. To feed or pasture
28. Only parts of the car that touches the ground
29. Helper
31. Bone, in anatomy
33. Animal shelter in Oklahoma
34. "Do not pass ___"
36. Shopping forays
38. Require
40. Unhappy
41. Opposite of yes
42. Use a plus sign



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

Solution to the November puzzle shown below.

N	Y	F	D		S	U	V		P	O
S	A	A	L		T	H	O	M	A	S
	M	I	X	E	R		R	O	I	L
M	A	L	I	B	U		T	O	R	O
O	H			E	M	B	E	R		
W	A	T	E	R		E	X	E	R	T
		E	A	T	E	R			H	A
L	E	N	T		V	E	N	D	O	R
A	L	O	E		E	T	H	A	N	
W	A	R	R	E	N		R	I	D	S
S	N		Y	E	T		A	S	A	P

DOWN

1. Sixth sense
2. Tilting
3. Common introductory conjunction
4. State
5. General Admission (at a live event)
6. Opposite of down
7. Color with longest visible wavelength
8. Gun rights organization (abbr.)
10. Home state of Davey Crockett
12. Parable of the Good ____
15. ____ Angeles
18. Sour, in Spanish
19. Love
20. Yes, in Spanish
22. Came out of
25. Is, in Spanish
27. Port city in Germany
28. Store where you can buy farm supplies (abbr.)
30. ____ facto
31. CIA predecessor
32. Resort feature
35. Not even
37. Designation like St., Ave., or Blvd.
39. Each (abbr.)



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 Art@LNF.com Janet.Rubino@LNF.com
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Would you like to advertise your business here and help sponsor The Herald?

Contact the Church Office for further details.
 Ads cost \$35 per quarter.

CHRISTMAS MIGHT BE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR



Typically, Christmas is such a hectic, yet joyous time of year. This year, most of us are finding creative ways of adjusting to this new way of living. However, this year some of our holiday traditions may be altered in many ways in an effort to minimize the spread of this virus. That may not seem like a big ordeal for some people as we are all trying to find ways to adjust. But, it could be incredibly traumatic for people who live alone, for people who have been living under quarantine-like settings for many months, and for those who try to cope with the daily struggle of anxiety, addiction recovery, and/or depression. Now, more than ever, we need to be mindful and educate ourselves on recognizing signs of severe depression and relapses. You would think it would be easy to notice someone who is depressed but you might be surprised to learn that many people suffering with depression will not show outward signs and often do so quietly. At some point, there could be a dramatic downward spiral of emotions which are caused by the most insignificant of things, let alone the environment we live in today.

People don't simply wake up one morning and think "I would like life to be even more miserable today." It's not a choice anyone would intentionally make. If you are having a difficult time coping with life, either now or anytime in the future, please reach out to someone. I'll be the first to offer to be that person if needed. And, if someone who is depressed reaches out to you, don't be dismissive. Don't try to resolve their problem as it may not be any one thing causing it and don't undervalue the importance of their feelings. Feelings, whether they are based on reality or they are a perceived reality, are unique to every person and are very real. Instead, just be willing and open to truly listen to the person. Ask them (or yourself), "Are you depressed?" Sometimes in saying the words "I'm hurting" or "I may be depressed" out loud will help people to recognize what the problem is. There are also many resources available online or through a healthcare professional that could be of tremendous value, either for you, a family member or a friend.

Christmas might be different this year. This year, make a heartfelt, concerted effort to contact people more often by phone, a card/letter, email, text, or in-person if possible. Check in on people more often and you just may be giving them the most priceless gift ever. Have a blessed Christmas and remember to not only be a blessing to someone else, but also remember to take care of yourself.

- Cheryl Smola



This is a handicap-accessible facility.