



# ST. PETER'S

Lutheran Church, Chester Springs, PA

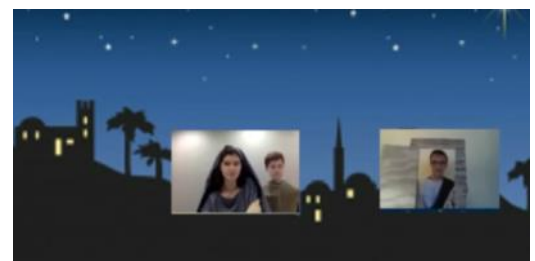
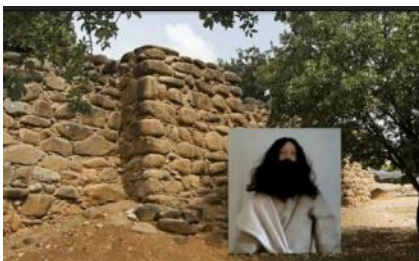


## The Herald

January 2021

Volume 23 Issue 1

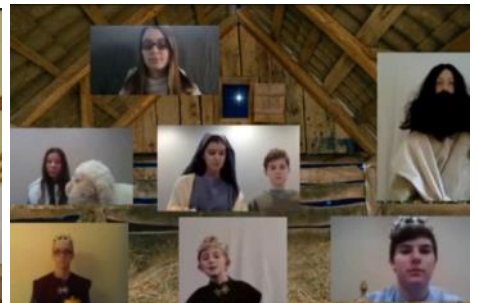
### A ZOOM HOLY NIGHT



Not being able to hold a live nativity pageant this year didn't stop the youth of St. Peter's from doing a wonderful job of telling the story of the birth of Christ. The performance was done virtually and then posted on YouTube and Facebook.

Phil Grant found a script online to use as an inspiration and then Kristy Young tweaked the writing to help make it our own. It was Gabriel Rebolla's creative video editing skills that pulled it all together.

Thank you to all of the youth who participated, as well as all of the adults who helped coordinate this event. Your willingness to put on the pageant this year was truly a blessing, not only to our congregation, but to others as well.



#### Cast

<b>Isaiah:</b>	Rodger Grant
<b>Angels:</b>	Ethan Eckerdt, Nathanael Grant
<b>Angel Gabriel:</b>	Kira Young
<b>Three Magi:</b>	Ethan Eckerdt, Nathanael Grant, Cole Young
<b>Mary:</b>	Kayla Reidy
<b>King Herod:</b>	Anna Eckerdt
<b>Joseph:</b>	Caden Reidy
<b>Chief Priests:</b>	Kayla Reidy, Caden Reidy
<b>Inn Keeper:</b>	Cole Young
<b>Shepherds:</b>	Anna Eckerdt, Rodger Grant

A new year. An opportunity for renewed hope. Hope might be understood as one of the great themes of the Bible. Adam and Eve hoped to be like God (that did not turn out too well); Abraham and Sarah hoped for a child, an heir and land (the child came to them late in life and the land he got to see); the people of God suffered in slavery and hoped for freedom and the Promised Land (they received both in time); all of God's people hoped for the promised Messiah of God (Jesus came into our world—God's Son and Mary's Son—who saved us from our sin). And after Jesus' resurrection and ascension, Christians began to hope for Jesus to return and make all things right (he is with us and helps us, but he has not yet come to make all things right).

- What are our hopes? Mine are:
- 1) we put an end to the current political divisiveness, violent threats and racial inequality;
  - 2) the vaccine will be quickly distributed and prove to be completely safe and effective;
  - 3) we will be able to return all children to their classrooms and schools;
  - 4) our underemployed and unemployed workers will be able to return to former jobs or find newly established jobs;
  - 5) St. Peter's can improve upon its livestreaming capabilities;
  - 6) St. Peter's will have a wonderful 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, with multiple events and celebrations;
  - 7) St. Peter's will continue to thrive and minister to its members and the community;
  - 8) On a personal level, my family will continue to prosper and share family and Jesus' love.

Hope is a wonderful thing! I want you each to make your own list of hopes. Today we live, we struggle, we prosper, we suffer, we thrive, we die and through it all, because we have Jesus in our lives, we keep hoping and praying. My message to you is that Jesus will not disappoint you. In the end and during much of our lives, we will experience fulfilled hope in the amazing ways and comforting love of God in Jesus Christ. Be of hope and pray in this year of 2021 and continue your hopes and prayers in the years beyond!

And be open to prayers that are answered in the most unexpected of ways.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**CHURCH STAFF**

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

**CHURCH COUNCIL 2021**

John Young	President, Fellowship
Al Burk	Vice President, Finance
Joanna Sheffer	Secretary, Finance
Doris Sterner	Treasurer
Betty Ryberg	Chris. Education/Youth
Erin Johnson	Evangelism
Tom Grant	Music & Worship
Joe Cannizzaro	Outreach
Cole Young	Outreach
Betsy Burns	Property
Doug Beck	Stewardship

Office Hours: T-TH, 10 am to 3 pm  
 Worship Service: Sunday, 10 am  
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 Chester Springs, PA 19425  
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 E-mail: [office@stpeterschestersprings.org](mailto:office@stpeterschestersprings.org)  
 Website & Online Giving:  
<https://www.stpeterschestersprings.org/wordpress/>  
 After Hours Emergency Contact:  
 Pastor Wesemann: 610-933-4639

**PASTORAL ACTS**

**Funeral Scheduled:**  
Betty McCardell 1/2/2021

**Scattering Garden Funeral:**  
(To be scheduled)  
Esther Altmann

**New Members to be Received**  
(To be scheduled)  
Kevin Kloss  
Stuart Sullivan  
Joe and Connie Fleming



*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  
Karil Abrahamsen  
Glenn Allen  
Midge Bates  
Leroy Bauman  
Bernadette Bender  
Peggy Burnley  
Stephanie Bilash  
Al & Marilyn Burk  
Michael Cesario  
Adalyn Chicra  
Calvin Clifford  
Harry Cornog  
Terri Crimi, Lewis Branin,  
Nicholas & Christopher  
Gary Derr  
Kenneth Dobson  
Sigi Eichinger  
Daniel Frey  
Wade Frey  
Erin Johnson  
Family of Dorothy Kerrigan  
Laurie Leonard  
Linda Lilienfeld  
Family of Betty McCardell  
Atea McArel  
Peter & Jean Marchianco

Mike Mazoué  
Mulcahy Family  
Anthony Napolitano  
Debbie and Rod O'Hara  
Linda Patton  
Sally Peirson  
Mary Beth (Skurka) Prager  
Kevin & Michelle Ralph  
Dennis Reed  
Family of Reynolds/Yeager  
Schwartz family  
(Ethan, Martrese, Eric & Julianna)  
Lloyd & Mary Ann Seavers  
Floyd Segner  
Gary Segner  
Dorothy Schmidt  
Amanda Smith  
Dorothea Streit  
Mary Lou Tate  
Family of Mary Twaddell  
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**

**Marilyn Burk 610-517-1147**

## **IN-CHURCH WORSHIP**

I can't help but feel wonderfully blessed. We have been following the rules (masks, social distancing and hand washing) and have been able to enjoy in-church worship for at least a portion of our membership. Many of the same people have been worshipping each week, including newbies Kevin, Stuart, Connie and Joe, who are visitors and regular visitors attending most Sundays. We are thankful that they found their way to our doors.

In-church worship has, in some ways, helped our livestreaming by giving us more of a feel of real community. But remember, in-church worship is not everything.

Because of the rapid and current spread of Covid in PA and our concern for the health of our membership, Church Council voted to suspend in-church worship as of December 27. One member called for a congregational vote. An email was sent out to all members so that they could express their opinion and vote. In the end, we received 46 votes, 24 members plus 1 regular visitor in favor of stopping in-church worship temporarily and 20 members plus 1 regular visitor in favor of continuing it. The membership decision supports the vote of Church Council.

Pastor Wesemann will continue to lead worship from the church but with less than ten people in attendance. That number will include only those needed to lead and broadcast the service.

We will continue to worship together. Whether in-church, livestreaming or both, let's give thanks to the Lord for giving us these opportunities to worship together and enjoy church community.

- Pastor Wesemann

## **BIBLE STUDY**

We will meet for Bible Study via Zoom on January 27 at 1:30 pm. At that time, we will be studying parts of Mark, chapter 6. All are invited to participate.



The Zoom invitation will be sent out to all of our membership list, but it is not restricted to members and anyone can call in from their phone and participate.

If you do 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

## **MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**

If everything goes as planned, we will meet as a congregation to review committee, officers' and Pastor's reports on January 17, at 11:15 am. This will include the Treasurer's and the President's reports. It will also include a report from those planning our congregation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We hope that you will plan on attending via Zoom. Please watch for an invitation to join through Zoom during the week of the meeting.

While I am not expecting a lot of surprises, it is important that we all attend, so that we are all aware of what is going on in our church.

- Pastor Wesemann



## **IT SEEMS I'M ALWAYS SAYING ...**

We needed some electrical work done at Holman House. Brian and Orville March stepped up to do the job.

Thank you for your time and your professional and expert work.

A tree came down in the church cemetery blocking access to two small graves. Having asked around, my son, his father-in-law, brother-in-law and his son went to work cutting up the tree. Granted, they took the wood for use in their fire place, but they cleaned up a lot of mess and even cleaned around the two small graves blocked by the fallen tree. Thank you.

Walter Supplee generously arranged for a Christmas tree to be displayed in our church gazebo. Thank you to Walter and to Mike Derr for setting it up.

The visitor bookstand was in dire need of repair as it was coming apart. Bill Smith took it home and restored it. Thank you.

A special thank you to Dave Schreier and his Four Seasons workers for taking down 4-5 dead trees plus branches on the church property.

- Pastor Wesemann



## **COUNCIL & COMMITTEES**

The following church officers were elected to Church Council for 2021. John Young is President, Al Burk is Vice-President, Doris Sterner is Treasurer and Joanna Sheffer is Secretary.

The Church Council liaisons to the different committees are as follows:

Christian Education  
Evangelism  
Fellowship  
Finance  
Music & Worship  
Outreach  
Property  
Stewardship

Betty Ryberg  
Erin Johnson  
John Young  
Al Burk & Joanna Sheffer  
Tom Grant  
Joe Cannizzaro & Cole Young  
Betsy Burns  
Doug Beck

Thank you to David Schreier, Jay Eckerdt and Christine Reidy on their excellent service over their past years on Church Council and committees.

- Pastor Wesemann

## **SPECIAL CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS**

The entire staff of St. Peter's would like to thank all of you who contributed generously toward a gift for each of us during this Christmas season.

- Pastor Ron & Cathy, Denise and Gabriel



## **NEWS FROM OUR HEALTH MINISTER, DORIS STERNER**



***“But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore it is said, ‘When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.’”*** - Ephesians 4:7-8

“Christmas has come and gone; gifts have been given and received. A new year begins but it is never too late to give these eight gifts that don’t cost a cent: the gift of listening, the gift of affection (kisses, hugs, pats on the back and handholds when we can again connect outside our own ‘bubble’), the gift of a written note to thank someone for help or to affirm how wonderful they are, the gift of a sincere compliment, the gift of a favor (do something kind for someone else), the gift of solitude (allowing a family member to be by themselves when they ask to do so), the gift of a cheerful disposition, and the gift of a smile which will be wonderful to see when we no longer have to wear a mask! In fact, these gifts will help build respect and empowerment for all who dare to give them away.”

*(From Healthful Hints, Vol.2, Church Health Center)*

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## **GOD, WHAT IS MY PURPOSE?**

“What is my purpose in life?” I asked.

And just then, I heard a small voice in my heart. “What if I told you that you fulfilled it when you took an extra hour to talk to the kid about his life?” said the voice. “Or when you paid for that young couple in the restaurant? Or when you saved that dog in traffic? Or when you tied your father’s shoes for him? Your problem is that you equate your purpose with goal-based achievement. God isn’t interested in your achievements; just your heart. When you choose to act out of kindness, compassion and love, you are already aligned with your true purpose.”

- Source Unknown

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## **ST. PETER’S 250<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF MINISTRY**

I wonder how many of our members really care about how long St. Peter’s church has been in existence. Do we care? We are certainly not the oldest church around, but we are far from the youngest. What does it matter if we have a celebration? For those who do care, you might ask the question, “What can each of us do to help with the planning of our 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary?”

A milestone of 250 years of ministry is not reached by many churches. To put this in perspective, St. Peter’s was a church before our country was a country. Our original church building was used as a hospital for George Washington’s sick and injured troops, as was Zion’s church building and Yellow Springs. This church has some fascinating history. At one time, it served as the site for a synod assembly. Our cemetery has become home for deceased soldiers of various wars, victims of a rather large train accident and even the cinematographer who made “The Blob”.

I asked, “What can each of us do?” We have contacted the local historical society at Yellow Springs and plan to contact the Historical Society in West Chester for more information. We can help the committee with the planning of celebratory events. We plan to contact the Archives at the Lutheran Seminary. We can look through our old stuff and see if we have things connected to St. Peter’s that could be put on display. We may be asked to purchase anniversary plates and maybe shirts. We may be asked to make an anniversary donation. We can simply volunteer to help.

Our anniversary task force is made up of Mary Eckerdt, Kristy and John Young, Betty Ryberg and Pastor. Ask them what you can do to contribute to the success of our celebration.

- Pastor Wesemann

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## ***PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM LOAN***

When the initial COVID restrictions began in March of 2020, we at St. Peter's began holding all worship services online. Council tracked our very reduced current giving totals. While some of the church expenses decreased as a result of not holding in-person worship, staff salaries, which is our largest expense, remained the same.

As the months went on, Council made the decision to apply for a loan from the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) through Phoenixville Federal Bank and Trust. These loans were to cover payroll costs and covered utilities. On August 10, 2020, we were approved for the loan of \$20,407, with the option to apply for loan forgiveness.

Since our receipt of the funds, the government has declared that all PPP loans under \$50,000 will be forgiven and we will submit the forms for that forgiveness in February, 2021.

If you have any questions about this PPL program, feel free to contact me.

- Doris Sterner

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## ***THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS***

In December 2020, we received \$24 from Thrivent, making a total received of \$2,722 this year. Thank you to everyone who designated their Thrivent Choice Dollars for St. Peter's in 2020.

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.

- Pastor Wesemann

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## ***GOVERNMENT STIMULUS PROGRAM***

It looks like many of us will, again, receive stimulus checks from the federal government. When (If) you receive these checks, please consider your level of need. Personally, I am not sure that I need this money. You may not need it as well. This will be a great time to exercise your generosity muscles. The church will need some assistance during this time, but there are many agencies feeding the hungry and sheltering the homeless which are struggling to meet the needs of these people. Many good, hard working men and women have become underemployed or unemployed because of the pandemic restrictions. Many are struggling to feed their families. Some have lost their homes and apartments because of their financial instability. They need our help. Supporting places like PACS, St. Mary's Shelter and Good Samaritan Services will help some of those who are currently struggling.

If you really do not need the money from the stimulus check for your own needs, please consider donating all or part of it to one of these agencies or another such agency of your choosing. Let it be said of all of us, that when we saw someone hungry, homeless or naked, we helped them out of compassion and love just as Jesus taught us to do.

- Pastor Wesemann

January 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Year's Day	2 1:00 pm Funeral Betty McCardell
3 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas 10:00 am Worship - Communion Sunday School Livestream on Facebook	4	5	6 Epiphany	7	8	9
10 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany Baptism of our Lord 10:00 am Worship Livestream on Facebook	11	12 6:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting	13	14	15	16
17 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 am Worship - Communion Sunday School 11:15 am Congregational Meeting Livestream on Facebook	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	19 6:30 pm Council Meeting	20	21	22	23
24 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 am Worship Livestream on Facebook	25	26 1:30 pm Bible Study	27	28	29	30
31 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 am Worship - Communion Sunday School Livestream on Facebook	1	2	3	4	5	6

*January Celebrations*

Birthdays

Elizabeth Casperite	Christopher Schmidt
Anna Eckerdt	Lee Segner
Brayden Frey	Jenna Sharpless
Tom Grant	Nola Sharpless
Robert Jones	Charles Sposetti
Guinevere McNamee	Elaine Stromberg
Debbie Phillips	Beverly Twaddell
Kayla Reidy	Dana Twaddell
Jennifer Reynolds	Carm Venezia
Clyde Reynolds	

Anniversary

Paul & Alicia Wesemann



*Coming Up in February*

02	Groundhog Day
09	6:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting
12	Lincoln's Birthday
14	Valentine's Day
15	Presidents' Day
16	6:30 pm Council Meeting
17	Ash Wednesday Random Acts of Kindness Day
22	Washington's Birthday
23	1:30 pm Bible Study

Jan	Assistant Schedule				
	3	10	17	24	31
Greeters	--	--	--	--	--
Ushers	--	--	--	--	--
Lector	--	--	--	--	--
Cantor	--	--	--	--	--
Communion Assistants	--	--	--	--	--
Acolytes	--	--	--	--	--
Altar Flowers	Un-sponsored	Un-sponsored	Beck	Un-sponsored	Un-sponsored
Bulletins	Supplee	Un-sponsored	Beck	Supplee	Un-sponsored
Fellowship	--				
Altar Team					
Counters	Jay Eckerdt and John Young				
Bread/Wine	Bread: Un-sponsored		Wine: Un-sponsored		
Paper Goods	Un-sponsored				

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:**

*THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF FINANCES  
JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER, 2020:*

Total Income: \$139,976  
 Total Expenses: \$135,617  
 Total Surplus (Deficit): \$4,359

*“If today gets difficult, remember the smell of coffee, the way sunlight bounces off of a window, the sound of your favorite person’s laugh, the feeling when a song you love comes on, the color of the sky at dusk, and that we are here to take care of each other.”*

- 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.*

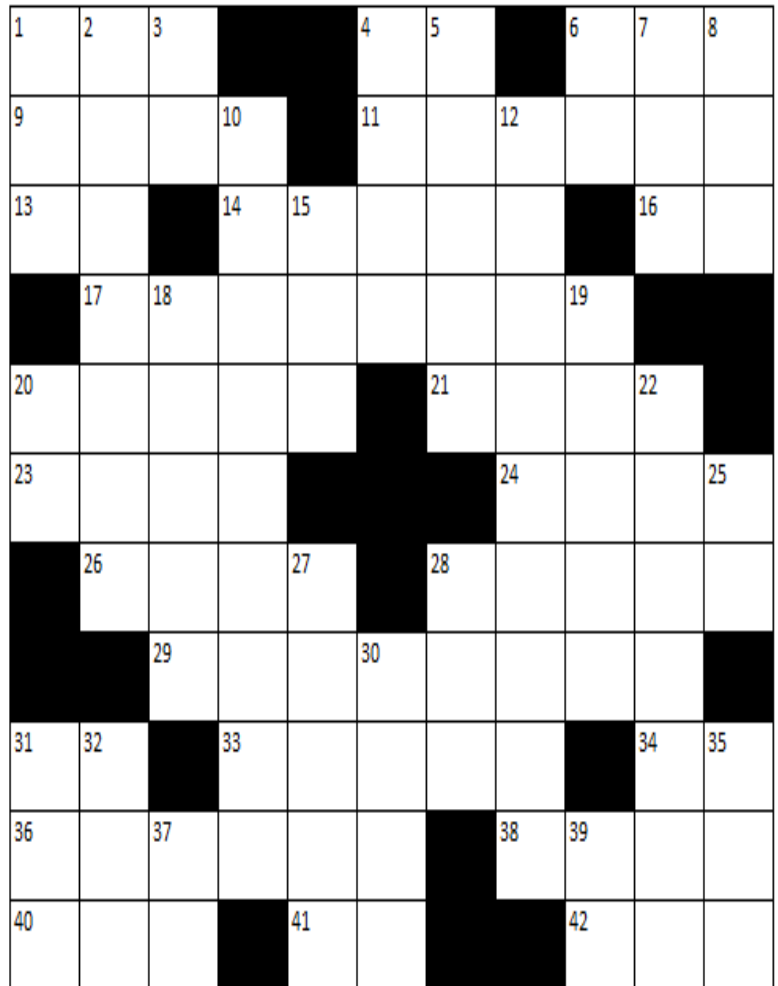
*OUR VISION is to be a center of activity and a welcoming congregation of worshipers growing in faith, while encouraging community outreach through various ministries.*



## 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 which touch 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



### 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.)

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

**Solution to the December puzzle shown at right.**





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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 EVE SERVICES***

Our 4 pm Christmas Eve service was not held in the warmth of the church as usual, being surrounded by a great number of poinsettias, a Christmas tree, beautiful music and freshly lit candles.



Rather, our service was held outside under the pavilion, in the wind, rain and cold with greens all about us, Mary, Jesus and Joseph figurines on display and some beautiful music.



Pastor read the Nativity accounts from Scripture as though spoken by Joseph. It was quite refreshing and inspiring.



Our 7 pm service was moved inside the church because of the increasing inclement weather but followed the same service format. A quarter of the way into the service, the church lost power but only for a few minutes. We continued on and made

our worship service about Jesus' birth as planned. I pray that everyone who participated in the services this year felt the Holy Spirit's presence.



Next year, we will probably return to our usual Christmas Eve services, but I rejoice that we could worship in the way we did this year.

- Pastor Wesemann



## ***CHRISTMAS BLESSING***

*This was the last message delivered in the Christmas pageant this year:*

This Christmas, as you celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we hope and pray that you are able to find light in any darkness that may be around you.

If you can, share the light of the love of Jesus with others and pass on the good news this story has to offer. Just as the visitors to the stable joined with the angels in glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, may we, too, go on our way, with praise and wonder in our hearts, giving glory to God for the gift of love given to us in Christ.



This is a handicap-accessible facility.