

The Messenger of Arndt's Church

JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 2011

You may access our newsletter on our Website: www.arndtslutheran.org



Join us for our Annual Birthday Social on Sunday, January 30, 2011, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. This event celebrates everyone's birthday at the same time and includes games and refreshments. This year, entertainment will be provided by "Sing for America". This talented group's website reads:

We are SING FOR AMERICA and our goal is to celebrate the USA!

We would like to thank all former and currently active military personnel for the sacrifices they have made by giving a "freedom offering" to their families.

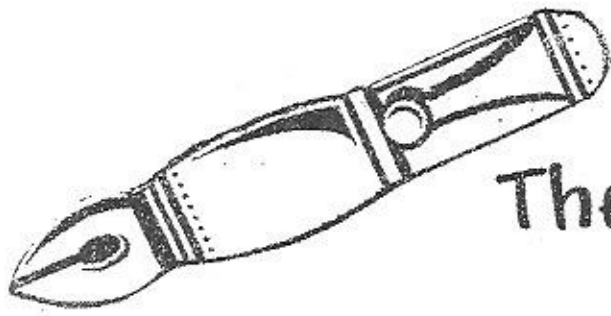
We raise these "freedom offerings" through song and dance performances.

Kids For America salutes the heroic efforts of our brave men and women.

We are here to thank them for protecting the freedoms our families enjoy each day as Proud Americans.

Arndt's Birthday Social is sponsored by our WOW women's group.

Come and celebrate your birthday!



The Pastor's Pen

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy New Year! As we begin this new year, the first celebration we have in the church is the celebration of Epiphany-- Epiphany, when the magi from the east came to Bethlehem to worship and present gifts to the babe in the manger. And in presenting those gifts their lives were changed forever.

The offering of gifts is nothing new to us. However, I wonder if we sometimes get hung up on the idea of gifts. Do we think of beautifully wrapped presents? Do we think of donations that cost a lot of money? Do we think of something that will take a great deal of time?

Gifts don't have to be any of these or they could be all of these. This year I am challenging you to use the gifts that you have in a different way. Rather than trying to accomplish things by ourselves, this year I am suggesting that we share our gifts with one another in a different way.

For example, if volunteering at Open Arms is impossible, think of coming and eating your lunch with the participants; if it is too costly to donate two bouquets of flowers for the altar, think of sharing the cost with someone or place a single centerpiece arrangement in front of the altar; if making the entire entrée or dessert for the Safe Harbor meal is too much, think of dividing the work between two or more people; if attending the adult Sunday Forum or Tuesday night Bible study is too demanding, join us when you can so that you may share your ideas with the group; if being on the worship minister schedule is too demanding, speak with Ruthann and ask for certain dates that you are able to assist. And the list goes on and on. God is all around us in so many ways...giving us so many gifts to offer in so many ways.

I ask you to try something different in this new year. So just as the magi, your lives may be changed in a way that will stay with you forever.

Peace and Blessings in the New Year,

Pastor Jean

JANUARY PRAYER CALENDAR

Each day you are asked to say a prayer for the member listed on that day. All of the members of our church family will be prayed for many times throughout the year. Members are listed alphabetically. If someone is missed, please contact the secretary in the church office.

- January 1 - Jordan, Andy and Emma Spatig
- January 2 - Eric and Rebecca Wagner, Christopher, Matthew and Catherine
- January 3 - Nelson Walters
- January 4 - Spencer Walters
- January 5 - Tom and Nancy Walters
- January 6 - Ken Weidner
- January 7 - Roy Werkheiser
- January 8 - Melanie and Stuart Whiteleather
- January 9 - Sherri Wilson
- January 10 - Heather and Mike Varju
- January 11 - Shirley Wilson
- January 12 - Erik and Wendy Wood, Ashlee and Carter
- January 13 - George and Rawlynn Wood
- January 14 - Kyle, Carly and Gabriella Yanders
- January 15 - Bob and Barb Young
- January 16 - Rich and Denice Adams
- January 17 - Mike and Sharlotte Affa, Brittany, Madison and Blake
- January 18 - Carolyn Albert
- January 19 - Sue Artz
- January 20 - Mary Barba
- January 21 - Patricia Barbera
- January 22 - Jerry Baucom
- January 23 - Janice Beck
- January 24 - Elizabeth Beverly and Michael Grant
- January 25 - Jim, Barb and Jenna Bialker
- January 26 - Jason Bialker
- January 27 - Sarah, Jeremy and Jameson Bialker
- January 28 - Tom and Marianne Billiard, Andrew and Katie
- January 29 - Ann and Bill Bogari, Adrian and Alyson
- January 30 - Rich and Elizabeth Booser, Eric, Kate, Kyle and Ethan
- January 31 - Mel and Marie Bortz

FEBRUARY PRAYER CALENDAR

Each day you are asked to say a prayer for the member listed on that day. All of the members of our church family will be prayed for many times throughout the year. Members are listed alphabetically. If someone is missed, please contact the secretary in the church office.

February 1 - Mitchell Bortz
February 2 - Jeff and Lisa Bowman, Ryan and Brendan
February 3 - Joanne Boyer
February 4 - Dan, Patti and Caitlin Brettell
February 5 - Kevin and Emily Brettell
February 6 - Patrick Brettell
February 7 - Carole Brown
February 8 - James and TerriLynn Brown
February 9 - Marshall and Janie Brown, Emma, William and Gracie
February 10- Nancy and Gary Buckman, Andrew Merlo and Justin Osmun
February 11- Steve Bueker
February 12- John Butz
February 13- Wil and Chris Candisky
February 14- Don and Lois Caputo
February 15- Jon and Kerry Castro, Mia and Megan
February 16- Lindsay and Kacy Chakot
February 17- Chuck and Karen Chapman, Kelsey and Connor
February 18- Jennifer and Michael Cleffi
February 19- Alecia Coates
February 20- Michael, Lisa and Joseph Courtade
February 21- Angela Coxe and Steven Berkowitz
February 22- Lou and Carol Ann Coxe
February 23- Jessica and Shannon DeForest
February 24- June Dentith
February 25- Judd and Nancy Deutsch, Joe and Allison
February 26- Betty Dietz
February 27- Denise and David Dingus, Daniel and Davis
February 28- Tim, Debbie and William Donbar

Community Outreach ministry

MEALS FOR RESIDENTS OF SAFE HARBOR.

Thanks to the following members of the congregation for donating food for the December meal:

Denice Adams, Mary-Elizabeth Fritchman Grube, Barb Bialker, Karen Muller, Alice Lefebvre, Trudy Sporman, Nancy Walters, Pat Rondinelli and Dave Siegfried. Special thanks to Dave Siegfried for transporting some of the food down to Safe Harbor on Thursday afternoon. Our next meal will be the fourth Thursday of January, which is January 27th. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the hallway.

MEALS ON WHEELS- Meals are delivered to the homes of Easton Seniors every second Wednesday of the month. We are always looking for new volunteers to help deliver on our assigned day. Call the church office if you would like to help out with this rewarding ministry.

INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY - Arndt's Lutheran Church in Forks Township is partnering with the ProJeCt of Easton Interfaith Food Pantry to become a local drop off location for area residents who wish to donate to the food pantry. Members from Arndt's will transport donated items weekly to the downtown food pantry and hope to be able to increase substantially the amount of food that is donated from suburban families, particularly from Forks Township. Non-perishable food can be taken to Arndt's during office hours which are generally 9:30 am – Noon weekdays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am – 3 pm and during services on Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

ProJeCt's Interfaith Food Pantry is the largest food pantry in Northampton County, providing two-to-three day supplies of food to more than 2,500 households each year. It is located at St. John's Lutheran Church on Ferry Street in downtown Easton. Last year, the food pantry distributed two-to-three day supplies of food to more than 4,300 individuals in nearly 3,000 households.

Families who would like to make donations of non-perishable food to the Food Bank drop off center at Arndt's Lutheran Church can do so at the church. Food must be delivered when the church is open, and should not be dropped off outside of the church.

FOOD PANTRY DONATION REQUESTS JANUARY and FEBRUARY

cereal
peanut butter
jelly (12 oz. jars)
tomato sauce and/or canned tomato products
juice (cans or bottles)

Any other non-perishable food items are always welcome. Since many clients live in rooms and only have access to a microwave oven in the lobby of the building, they are limited as to what they can make. Easy, individual meals are helpful for these people.

Diapers and hygiene items are always needed and are appreciated. Also, large brown paper bags (like from the grocery store) are needed to pack the groceries for each client.

All items may be placed in the shopping cart in the coat room area.

Thank you to everyone who supports this ongoing community project.

2011 Congregational Council Representatives

Kathy Fogel, 2013
Bruce Sandt, 2013
Yvonne Osmun, 2011
Tom Walters, 2012
Scott Lewis, 2012
Alecia Coates, 2012
Steve Bueker, 2013
Karen Beverly, 2011
Charlie Miller, 2011

Jessica Leuschner, Youth Representative

Interesting Items from December Council

- A \$400 donation will be given to Lutheran Congregational Services. This amount is half the proceeds from the recent spaghetti dinner.
- Steve Bueker was given permission to proceed with the chimney and wall repairs in the sanctuary.
- Council asked the Property Committee to check on the stove wiring in the kitchen. (Steve Bueker has ordered and will install new breakers).



In the event of inclement weather on a Saturday or Sunday, please tune to B104 FM on your radio or to WFMZ Channel 69 on the television for information on cancellation of services.

Workshop Retreat: Dare to Encounter Christ

Date: January 15, 2011

Time: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Place: St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Corner of Stones Crossing and Freemansburg Ave.

* Lunch provided...Sign up sheet in the Narthex or call Sue Moretti at 610-428-2294

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Special Sunday School Program

On Sunday, February 6th, during the 9:00 a.m. Sunday School hour, we will be visited by William Wilkinson, III, the author of the children's book, "The ABC's of Scripture". This book, published by Angels of Agape, "is a book that not only helps children to identify letters but also teaches children the words of scripture, while at the same time reinforcing strong Christian beliefs and characteristics that will last a lifetime."

All Arndt's Sunday School children will receive a free copy of this special book and Mr. Wilkinson will be available to sign the book for each child.

Mark your calendar for this wonderful day at Sunday School.

Visit angelsomagape.com for more information.

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ANNUAL BOY SCOUT BREAKFAST

Remember Sunday, February 13th for the annual Boy Scout Breakfast. The scouts and their families will prepare and serve a free breakfast for the Arndt's congregation to say "thanks" for Arndt's sponsorship and support throughout the year. Watch for sign-up sheets for the four breakfast sittings—they will be in the narthex some time in January.

2011 Flower and Bulletin Charts

New Altar Flower and Worship Bulletin charts for 2011 are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Sign your name on the chart on the week/weeks you would like to be a sponsor and complete a dedication form. Payment for flowers must be received two weeks in advance. Order forms are self-explanatory.

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Newsletter Schedule

- January/February - deadline 12/15
- March/April - deadline 2/15
- May/June - deadline 4/15
- July/August - deadline 6/15
- September/October - deadline 8/15
- November/December - deadline 10/15

Any person or group who wishes to include information in the newsletter should submit their article to the church office (emailed articles are preferred but handwritten/typed will be accepted, too).

Arndt's Preschool

Happiness is being a child at Christmas time. We experienced this feeling when the students put on a Christmas program for their families, the Open Arms senior adult group and friends.

A special event in December was a surprise visit from Santa Claus. He read us a story, listened to our wishes and gave out candy canes. Thank you, Santa, for visiting us and making our Christmas parties very special.
Happy New Year!

An Open House for Arndt's Preschool will be held on Thursday, February 17, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Please visit our school to learn about our programs and to register your child for the 2011/2012 school year.

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Fastnachts for Shrove Tuesday

We are looking for a volunteer to oversee the fastnacht sale for Shrove Tuesday. Orders need to be tallied, the order called in to Easton Baking and picked up early on Tuesday, March 8th. Back at the church, the orders need to be bagged and labeled so they are ready for pickup by members around 7:30 or 8:00. If you are able to help with this project, please let Sue or Pastor know.



Women Of the Word [Second Monday of the Month]

W.O.W. will meet on Monday, January 10, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., at the church. All women are welcome to participate.

All women are invited to join with us for discussion topics and to participate in church projects and events.

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BOOK CLUB

January/February

PROMISE BRIDGE - January

This month the book club is reading "Promise Bridge" by Eileen Clymer Schwab

Summary: "This is a promise bridge, and it bridges a promise flowing from your heart to mine. It can't never be broken...the promise is part of you now, understand."

Thus begins an unlikely friendship between Hannelore Blessing, a plantation mistress, and a slave girl named Livie. As the young women are launched on a harrowing journey of awakening filled with shared risks and nurtured promises amid whispers of the Underground Railroad and the rising tension preceding the Civil War, they discover their ability to trust, love, and ultimately take action.

Aided by Colt, a devoted suitor hoping to win her heart, Hannah comes to understand that true

friendship means letting go, so that Livie can be free to find a life and destiny all her own. However, a vicious slave catcher stalks the two women-and his unseemly motives and relentless pursuit threaten all that Hannah holds dear, as well as put her loved ones in unimaginable danger.

Please join us in the lounge in Monday, January 24, 2011 at 7:00 as we discuss this book with the author, who resides in Tatamy

HERE WHEN YOU NEED ME - February

When the oldest of Kate Braestrup's four children was ten years old, her husband, a Maine state trooper, was killed in a car accident. Stunned and grieving, she decides to pursue her husband's dream of becoming a Unitarian minister, and eventually began working with the Maine Game Warden Service, which conducts the state's search and rescue operations when people go missing in the wilderness. Whether she is with parents whose six-year old daughter has wandered into the woods, or wardens as they search for a snowmobile rider gone under ice, or a man whose sister left an infant seat and a suicide note in her car by the side of the road, Braestrup provides solace, comfort and spiritual guidance when it is needed most; and, she comes to discover that giving comfort is both a high calling and a precious gift. In her account of her own life, and the events of her unusual job, sometimes joyful, sometimes heartbreaking, Braestrup is warm, unsentimental (no one is immune to the plucky widow stories), and generous. "HERE WHEN YOU NEED ME" is a funny, frank and deeply moving story of faith and hope.

Please join us in the lounge on Monday, February 28, 2011, at 7:00 as we discuss this book.

WORSHIP AT ARNDTS

Sunday, January 9, 2011 – Baptism of Our Lord - Holy Communion

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

Sunday, January 16, 2011 - Second Sunday After Epiphany- Holy Communion

Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One, and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.

Sunday, January 23, 2011 - Third Sunday After Epiphany – Service of the Word

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God's grace and mercy.

Friday, January 30, 2011 – Fourth Sunday of Epiphany – Service of the Word

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, mourners, the meek, those who hunger for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers. In baptism, we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

Sunday, February 6, 2011 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany – Holy Communion

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

Sunday, February 13, 2011 – Sixth Sunday after Epiphany – Service of the Word

In today's reading from Deuteronomy we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. Much of today's gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments. Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. We, too, are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear of retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us.

Sunday, February 20, 2011 – Seventh Sunday after Epiphany – Holy Communion

In today's first reading we hear, “You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.” Yet we know we cannot achieve perfection. Our attempts to love neighbors and even our enemies fall short of what God desires for us. Yet in Jesus we see one who loved even those who persecuted and killed him. We are made holy in baptism, and forgiven at the table of God's mercy. As a people made holy by God, we go in peace to love as we have been loved.

Sunday, February 27, 2011 – Eighth Sunday after Epiphany – Service of the Word

Christians recognize that the source of all good things is the God who feeds the birds and clothes the grass of the field. We rejoice that we are held in the palm of God's hand. God cannot forget us any more than a woman could forget her nursing child. Nourished at the Lord's table, we share these gifts with those who are anxious, hungry, poor or in any kind of need.

Arndt's Announcements

Please submit any special information you may want to share with the rest of the membership to the "Arndt's Announcements" page of The Messenger.

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Memorial Service

Carolyn Phillips
Raised to Eternal Life – December 21, 2010
Memorial Service – December 30, 2010

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Thank you to . . .

Kathy Mellwig and Janice Beck for organizing and carrying out the fall spaghetti dinner; and to everyone who donated food and time.

Nancy Walters and everyone who helped with and participated in the Live Nativity.

Organist Jeff Kline, the choirs and all volunteers who helped with the Christmas Eve services.

Thank you from . . .

Pastor Jean. Thank you for all the cards, gifts and holiday wishes to me and my family. They were enjoyed and appreciated.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Jan. 1 - No Saturday Service
- Jan. 2 - Communion Service with Lessons and Carols at **9:30 am**
- Jan. 15 - Dare to Encounter Christ Retreat/Workshop at St. Andrew's Lutheran 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Jan. 30 - Date Change - Birthday Social
- Feb. 6 Author William Wilkinson at Sunday School
- Feb. 13 Boy Scout Breakfast
- March 8 Shrove Tuesday – Watch the bulletin for fastnacht order forms.
- March 9 Ash Wednesday

Copies of the Open Arms monthly newsletter are available in the narthex. Please take one.