December 2025

ST. EDWARD'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Scepter

Reflection From the Rector's Desk

By The Rev. Dr. Richard C. Bauer

"Advent teaches us that waiting is not passive. Waiting is an act of trust, and an act of courage. It's a spiritual practice that refuses to give in to despair, because waiting believes that what is needed is already on its way."

We arrive at Advent each year carrying different stories, different hopes, and different weariness. Yet even with all the complexity of our lives, this season has a way of gathering us into a shared posture: a posture of leaning forward. Advent isn't simply a countdown to Christmas or a gentle prelude to a busier holiday season. It is, instead, a quiet invitation to attend—carefully, courageously—to the subtle movements of the Holy that press upon our lives. In this sense, Advent isn't about nostalgia or sentiment. It's about readiness. It's about expectation. It's about learning, once again, how to wait for what is *already* seeking us.

One of the great gifts of Advent is that it refuses to rush us. It doesn't demand that we manufacture cheerfulness or wrap our grief in ribbons. Advent is honest. It begins with the long night; with shadows that lengthen; with the deep intuition that something in us is yearning for light we cannot yet see. The Church, in wisdom, places Advent at the darkest time of the year—when ancient peoples watched the sun retreat further southward and wondered whether it would ever return. Long before the familiar stories of Bethlehem were told, human beings felt the ache of diminishing light and responded with ritual, fire, song, and community. They knew, in a way that's easy for us to forget, that our lives are intertwined with the larger rhythms of creation.

As we approach the winter solstice, we stand where our ancestors once stood: on the edge of the longest night, waiting for a turning. They, too, knew the language of longing. They, too, felt expectation rise in their chests, not because they controlled the world around them, but because some deep trust told them that the world was trustworthy—that light would return, that life persistently breaks through darkness, that renewal is woven into the structure of things. Advent gathers up that ancient trust and sanctifies it. It allows us to name our hopes honestly. And it reminds us that longing is not a deficiency but a doorway.

And for followers of Jesus, the Incarnation isn't merely a singular event in history but an ongoing way that God chooses to be present with creation. Because when we speak of incarnation, we aren't speaking only of a moment in time; we're speaking of a divine pattern, a divine preference, a divine habit. God takes flesh. God meets us in matter. God saturates the world with presence—presence that waits to be perceived. And Advent invites us to tune our senses, to imagine that the Holy is nearer than our breathing,

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Special points of interest:

- *• Worship services and Parish hours are on the back cover of the Scepter*
- *• Staff and Vestry Members are listed on the back cover of the Scepter*

Reflection

closer than our own hearts, waiting to become visible in unexpected ways.

This is why Advent is as much a season of perception as it is a season of preparation. It trains our imaginations to recognize that what we call "ordinary life" is permeated by the extraordinary. The Incarnation, after all, is the assurance that God delights in the material world, that God chooses the language of our lives—our conversations, our meals, our neighborhoods, our disappointments, our commitments—as the terrain for divine encounter. Incarnation means that the sublime doesn't evade the mundane; it saturates it. It means that God's presence isn't far removed from our daily concerns but hidden within them, waiting to be seen.

And as the world around us accelerates toward the frenzy of December, Advent quietly invites us to slow down, to notice, to breathe. It reminds us that expectation doesn't require hurry. In fact, expectation is often most alive when we allow ourselves to dwell in the in-between spaces of our lives—the unresolved, unpolished, unhurried places where grace is still taking shape. Advent teaches us that waiting is not passive. Waiting is an act of trust, and an act of courage. It's a spiritual practice that refuses to give in to despair, because waiting believes that what is needed is already on its way.

This year, as we move through the shortening days and feel the weight of the world's sorrows and uncertainties, Advent offers us a simple but powerful invitation: look for the light that hasn't yet arrived, but will. And not only globally or cosmically—but personally. What is the light you long for? What broken place in your life, or in the life of the world, aches for healing? What new beginning is quietly growing roots beneath the surface of things? Advent gives us permission to name these yearnings, to pray with them, to carry them tenderly.

And yet, Advent also teaches us that the Holy doesn't always emerge in the ways we expect. The breakthrough of God's presence is rarely dramatic or sensational. More often, it comes like dawn—almost imperceptible at first, then growing, warming, drawing us out of our fear and into new possibility. Dawn doesn't erase the night; it transfigures it. In the same way, incarnation doesn't bypass our humanity; it blesses it. It teaches us that God isn't waiting for us to become perfect before drawing near. God meets us precisely where we are—whether we arrive with joy or exhaustion, clarity or confusion, faith or faltering hope.

Perhaps the most countercultural aspect of Advent is its insistence that divine presence is already stirring in the dark. And this isn't something we produce…it's something we receive. We don't make the light return at solstice; we witness its return. We don't bring about the turning of the seasons; we participate in the turning. Advent reminds us that our role isn't to command the dawn but to accompany it; to make space for it and to practice noticing when its first glimmer appears.

This year, I invite you to approach Advent as a season of sanctified attention. Consider what might shift if you treated your ordinary routines as potential sites of incarnation. What if the email you dread responding to is an opportunity to practice kindness? What if the difficult conversation you've been avoiding is a place where compassion might take flesh? What if the loneliness that creeps in as the days grow short is not an indictment but an invitation—an invitation to reach toward others, or to allow others to reach toward you?

And so, as the nights lengthen and the solstice approaches, let us remember that the early Christians were deeply attuned to the symbolism of cosmic rhythms. They understood that God's revelation in Christ was set against the backdrop of creation itself—a creation that moves from darkness to light, from barrenness to blossoming, from silence to song. They perceived that the pattern of incarnation resonates with the turning of the seasons: God comes to us in ways that honor our fragility, our rhythms, our need for hope. The winter solstice, with its promise of returning light, became a natural canvas upon which early believers painted the mystery of divine nearness.

And as we wait—together—through the long night toward the turning of the year, may we discover again that expectation isn't a burden…it's a gift. It's the quiet assurance that the world is not abandoned, that God is not absent, that light is always on the way. Peace be with you friends,

Rick+

Parish Office Hours

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday- Friday: 11:00 – 4:00PM

Parish Administrator: Michelle Bentley

Scepter Production Staff

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hj_miller@outlook.com

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Mary Snyder
starleo1328@yahoo.com

If you're the last person to leave the building following Sunday services or an event, please take the time to make sure all the lights are turned off (including the rest rooms) the thermostat is reset and the doors are locked.

Vestry

Near Torque DeVon

Scattering moms ashes in Dartmouth Devon, UK harbour

By Dan Sanders

Who would believe that we have already entered the Christmas season? I can't believe it has been six months since my wonderful pilgrimage to London, Bath, Cornwall and Devon, where I scattered my mom's ashes in the harbor town she was born in. Seems like the older we get the faster time flies by. As a new member of Vestry, I am quite humble and thankful for being a part of this cohesive team.

November was a positive month for our congregation, especially our Basket Raffle goal of $7,00 to $9,500. We also saw an increase in visitors and a few new members, some rentals for our parish hall and our overall giving. A special Thank You to Ginny Kloepping for overseeing the upkeep of our plants and gardens. Also, to Mac Miller for putting together and editing our monthly Scepter newsletter. We give praise to all our volunteers who are a key success to the faith, friendship, and fellowship within our church body. We unanimously voted to change Michelle Bentley's title of Parish Administrative Assistant to Parish Administrator.

As December is upon us, we enter the Christmas Season. A time of giving and stewardship and giving. Not only financially but by our time and compassion. Maintenance of the building and grounds is a never-ending necessity. Windows in the sanctuary need caulked and water damage to wood frames need fixed along with checking gutters for damage or clogs and some exterior paint touch ups.

We look forward to the many activities this month including the Cookie and Craft Sale, Kris Kindling, Jesse Tree, Sock Drive, Hempfield Food Pantry, Rahim Family Collection, and Christmas Services. Please continue to check your e-mails, our website and weekly Sunday bulletins for dates, times and details of our many events this month.

Let us pray for a season of light and love, compassion and peace, within each of us and the world. May you all be blessed with hope, happiness and health this Christmas and in the New Year.

Military News

Please keep in your prayers those close to us who are serving in the military.

★Richard Mutari

Please advise Michelle Bentley in the Parish office or HJ Miller@ Outlook.com if these names should remain on our list:

★Justin Carnahan
★Brandon Fox
★Gordon Frankenfield
★Matt Fuhrman
★Jack Hawk
★Drew Johnson
★William Justice
★Anthony Koser
★Alex Kube
★John Lewis
★David Peck
★Capt. Andrew Pfeiffer
★Mike Spurr
★David Sternberg
★Clayton Tennies
★Connor Tennies
★Evan Westgate
★Seamas Whitesel
★1st Lt. Thomas Whitesel

Our Church Family Outside the Pews

Randy and Meredith Westgate

Current president Jamie Alton, was excited to present a $5,000 gift from our Rotary Club of Lancaster Foundation to Erin Conahan, Director of Advancement for the Lancaster County Food Hub!

Rick and Freda Dombach at the Fulton

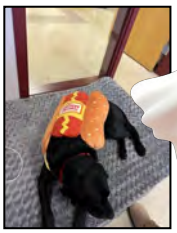
Rayelenn Casey dressed for Halloween

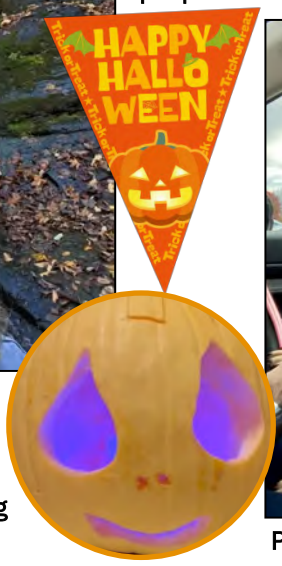
Mary and Jodi hiking in the "dry" Los Vegas desert

So we voted! And guess who coloured in all the little squares for Granny? We talked about how we make decisions when we are a group of people and people in the group have different ideas about what is best for us. We talked about accepting the decision for the group even when it isn't the thing we wanted. We got stickers and candy and met a lot of people who were also voting.

Josh Irons on the job at Halloween with the school's dog as the hot dog to go with his ketchup and French fries

Steve and Catherine Donohue add another waterfall to their list





Rayelenn's winning Pumpkin

Pippa "Driving Miss Libby"

Kid's Corner

The magic of Autumn leaves

Westgate's Halloween Party

Christmas Card treasures

Turn old Christmas cards into beautiful keepsake ornaments! It's a fun, simple way to give new life to cards you've received and add a handmade touch to your tree.

What you need:

- Christmas cards
- Scissors
- Glue
- Circle pattern (cut from cardboard or trace around object)
- Hole punch
- Yarn or ribbon
- Glitter (optional)

What you do:

1. Trace a circle onto two Christmas cards.
2. Cut out the circles and glue the backs together.
3. Decorate the edges with glitter or ribbon for extra sparkle.
4. Punch a hole at the top and thread yarn or ribbon through to hang.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights. – James 1:17 (NIV)

PUZZLE

GOOD NEWS TO THE SHEPHERDS

What did the angel of the Lord say to the shepherds?

Directions: *Write the first letter of each picture on the lines.*

"_____ _____ _____ _

Won't You Host a Coffee Hour?

Pictures by Mary Snyder and Mary Gibson

By Beth Lynch

Every week there is an hour between the services and a coffee hour is hosted by one of our parishioners. You can be one of those individuals, It is an easy lift and help is nearby.

Here are a few things that would help you understand what hosting Coffee Hour entails: 1) You are responsible for providing the snack for the morning, 2) You are asked to clean up at the end of the coffee hour, 3) The coffee will be made by either Barb Jakiel or Michelle Bentley so your duty with the coffee is to make sure it is not running low, 3) Provide the creamer from the refrigerator and service any other beverages that may need refilled.

That's it!

Michelle and Fr. Rick share birthday cakes

A chance to wish Fr. Rick a Happy Birthday

Occasional Craft Sundays

You can still create a tree to add to our collection

Small gifts are made to send to home bound parishioners

The Coffee Hour Band performs once each month

Our forest of decorated trees that represent personal connections with our St. Edward's family

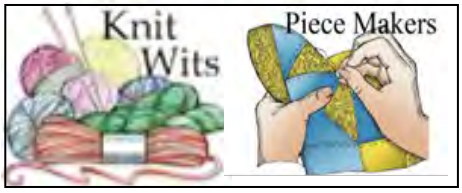
A great time for food and fellowship

Needle Arts

Members of this group, plus volunteer crafters, work all year to create a variety of items for the cookie/craft sale. They also make items such as prayer shawls and baptism blankets, as well as hats and scarves to be donated to any in need.

All are invited to be a part of this enjoyable and productive group. Yarn, patterns and "expert assistance" are available, so you do not need to have a project started to join in the fun.

Remember, everyone's always welcome to pop up at a Needle Arts meeting on Tuesdays at 1 PM in the lounge. No reservations required-just bring your sense of humor with you.



This group of knitters, crocheters, quilters and crafters is fondly known as the Knit Wits and Piece Makers.

Debbie McGuigan

Making Christmas Crackers for the Cookie/Craft Sale

Gail Irons

Gloria Kacinko

Irene Achey

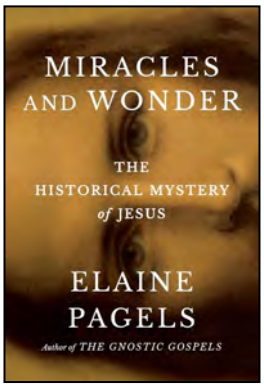
Men's Group

Saturday Men's Group: 2nd Saturday of the month from 8 AM -10 AM. **Join us for two hours of fellowship,** including Morning Prayer. Coffee and donuts will be served.

Next meeting Saturday, December 13

"Jesus did not come to make God's love possible, but to make God's love visible."
—Author unknown

Lunch and Learn



"The depth of spirituality she uncovers is profound." —*The New York Times Book Review*

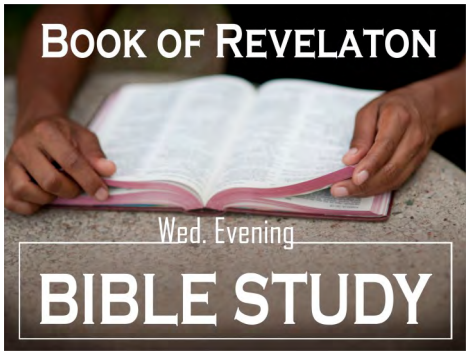
Our next Friday Lunch & Learn will begin Friday, November 7th at 12 noon via Zoom. We are very excited for our new book *Miracles and Wonder - The Historical Mystery of Jesus* by Elaine Pagels. We invite you to read a synopsis of her work and please consider joining us in our next session as we discover, together, how Pagels does more than solve a historical mystery. She sheds light on Jesus's enduring power to inspire and attract.

Her New York Times Bestseller reads like a historical mystery, with each chapter addressing a fascinating question and answering it based on the gospels Jesus's followers left behind. Why is Jesus said to have had a virgin birth? Why do we say he rose from the dead? Did his miracles really happen and what did they mean?

The story Pagels tells is thrilling and tense. Not just does Jesus come to life, but his desperate, hunted followers do as well. We realize that some of the most compelling details of Jesus's life are the explanations his disciples created to paper over inconvenient facts. So Jesus wasn't illegitimate, his mother conceived by God; Jesus's body wasn't humiliatingly left to rot and tossed into a common grave—no, he rose from the dead and was seen whole by his followers; Jesus isn't a failed messiah, his kingdom is a metaphor: he lives in us. These necessary fabrications were the very details and promises that electrified their listeners and helped his followers' numbers grow.

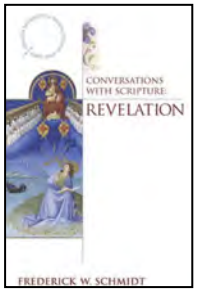
Link to a sermon Elaine Pagels gave at the he National Cathedral April 2019
https://youtu.be/iPEWfhz-Dno?si=G-v_XKdpRttl2kb2

Wednesday Evening Bible Study



Roadmap, myth, or history? An accessible review of The Book of Revelation for today's audience.

Conversations with Scripture: Revelation



is the first book in the Anglican Association of Biblical Scholar Study Series. Written in accessible language and sensitive to those who have little or no experience in reading the bible, each book in the series focuses on exploring the historical and critical background, as well as how the biblical texts written centuries ago can still speak to readers today.

Frederick W Schmidt

Frederick W. Schmidt, also the series editor, explores the approaches that have dominated the interpretation of John's Apocalypse and offers the reader an accessible means of understanding and evaluating them. With this grounding in hand, Schmidt explores how Revelation can shape our understanding of God, and nurture our spiritual lives in unexpected ways. Leaving behind "left-behind" theology, Schmidt offers instead an approach that allows this obscure, almost opaque text to speak to us anew about God, faith, hope, and justice.

Schmidt is an ordained Episcopal priest and holds a bachelor's degree from Asbury College, a master of divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary, and a doctor of philosophy from Oxford University, where his original academic work was in New Testament studies.

Basket Raffle

Pictures by Mary Snyder, Mike Freshwater, Irene Achey and Mac Miller

Fr. Rick
"Let it Be"
The Beatles

Christian
"Heart
Shaped Box "
Nirvana

Blair Lord
"Stand by
Me"
Ben E
King

Mary Snyder
and Jodi
Good "Wild
Flowers"
Tom Petty

Bob Mosebach, Bill Deegan
and Bruce Lynch The Flint-
stone's Theme Song

Amy Yo-
vanovich
"Rainbow
Connec-
tion" Ker-
mit the
Frog

Command
Central

Mary Gibson and Julie Hoff pulling winners

Mark Jakiel says "I can't
read hieroglyphics!

June Klemm and
our MC

A great turn out for a very fun event

Total collected more than $9000.

Krist Kindling

By Meredith Westgate

It's hard to believe that Advent begins already on November 30! Krist Kindling begins on Monday, December 1. Since the ending of our 33 years of nighttime, door-to-door visits, this activity continues to change and evolve, so please read these instructions carefully!

Our prayer messages of last year have morphed back into gift giving this year. Each family delivers a gift for their secret family once each week during the three weeks prior to Christas. To simplify the shopping, this year, please limit your shopping to your local grocery store. Also to make things a little easier, each week will have a theme. It will be fun to see how creative we can be!` Please limit your weekly spending to the $10-$12 range.

All gifts must be delivered to the church. You may do this anytime during the day or evening, Monday-Friday. **Please do not bring them to church on Sunday mornings**. There will be bins outside the main doors of the church for you to place your gift. These will be taken into the church each morning and put in a secure place. Please clearly label your gift with a card or tag so it can be easily found by the recipient (but don't put your name on it!) Gifts will be placed on a table in the Parish Hall for pick-up on Sunday mornings at coffee hour. When you find your gift, take it home! If you can't attend on a Sunday, we will keep it for you!

The dates and themes for gift giving are:

December 1-5 (pick up December 7) – Eats and Treats

December 8-12 (pick up December 14) – Seasonal Sights and Smel

December 15-19 (pick up December 21) – Hope, Peace, Joy, Love

Please remember your person/couple/ family in prayer during the Advent season.

We will gather for a soup and salad lunch on Saturday, January 17 to chase away the winter blahs and enjoy some time together. I will be sending out an email in December with information about the event.

I hope everyone enjoys this version of a long-time tradition at St. Edward's which began in 1989. Thank you for participating!

If you have any questions or problems, please call or text me (Meredith) at 717-575-2119

Or email me at miamessages@gmail.com so I can investigate. Happy Krist Kindling!

Collection boxes are found to the right of the front doors under the portico, The table from which to pick up gifts each Sunday is in the Parish hall.

Advent Word —"Quietness"

Quietness brings me back to the old hymn "Blessed Quietness, Holy Quietness." I sang it as a kid without really knowing what I was singing. Now I view quietness as a rare and holy gift. The world can be so busy and loud, yet every so often a soft stillness shows up and makes room for God. In those pauses, peace slips into the noise and the Spirit reminds me that Christ is near. Quietness is not just empty space. It is full of presence, hope, and rest for worn-out hearts and weary spirits. This Advent, I invite you to welcome those sacred pauses and listen again for the voice that meets us in silence, so we can notice the love that has been there all along

From Forward Movement

ST. EDWARD'S STEWARDSHIP 2026

As we enter this season of stewardship, I invite you to listen for how God may be calling you to give. May this be, for all of us, a season of gratitude, renewal, and faith. May we give joyfully, knowing that what we offer helps build a Church where love is made real—where all are welcomed, and Christ's presence is known. And may our stewardship this year reflect the generosity of the One who gives us everything, asking only that we love in return.

- Father Rick

We encourage folks to bring in/mail in their pledge forms over the course of the 4-week campaign so we can lift up our challenge together!

We invite you to consider becoming a steward of St. Edward's.

Stewardship never stops!

We are here to answer any questions you may have about what it means to be a steward of St. Edward's.

We give our deepest thanks to you for your commitment to support the mission & ministry of this spiritual home!

ST. EDWARD'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

sainteds.org
717.898.6276
stedsoffice@comcast.net

WE ARE ONE WEEK AWAY FROM MAKING THIS THE BEST COOKIE & CRAFT SALE EVER!!! INVITE YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY!!!

THE CRAFTS ARE ABUNDANT, AND IF YOU HAVEN'T TURNED IN YOUR CRAFT DONATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT GAIL IRONS OR GLORIA KACINKO.

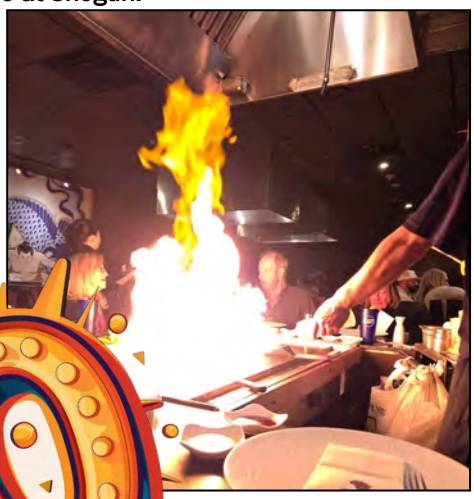
DON'T FORGET, WE COULD ALWAYS USE MORE COOKIES!!!

THIS SEASONAL FUNDRAISER IS A GREAT SUCCESS BECAUSE OF YOUR BAKING & CRAFT CREATIVITY!!

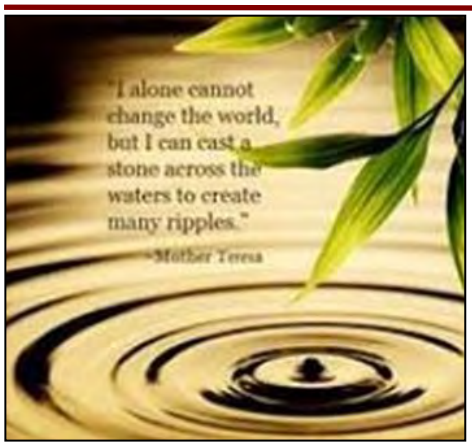
SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX FOR ALL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES! THE SETUP IS ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, AND WE COULD USE VOLUNTEERS ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH AT 7:30 AM.

Our Church Family Celebrates Fr. Rick's 50th Birthday

A fun evening was had by all who attended an impromptu dinner at Shogun Japanese Restaurant to celebrate Father Rick's 50th birthday. On a cold windy night, it felt warm and joyous to be entertained by the chefs, and indulge in delicious hibachi cuisine at Shogun.



Dear friends,
I am so humbled by the generosity of spirit in the many, many ways you lifted me up in celebration of my 50th birthday! In all of the ways you gifted me and infused your joy, kindness, caring, and love into my day truly made it special, and made me feel very special as I crossed this once-in-a-lifetime milestone. Thank you, so very much, from the bottom of my heart.
Rick+



Parishioners Helping Parishioners

By Beth Lynch

Faith In Action has a program that focuses on St. Edward's. We call it "Parishioners Helping Parishioners." It has been in place for 5 to 6 years. Yes, it is important to show that we at St. Edward's proactively help the community, find ways to feed people locally and world-wide, and clothe our fellow human beings. It is just as important to take care of OURSELVES.

There are many ways we can help members of our St. Edward's family. Recently several parishioners helped Victoria Wallace with her move.

We have more and more individuals who are giving up the keys to their cars. Yes, these individuals can always stream the service into their homes, but they lose the camaraderie of worshipping together in person.

If you are willing to provide a Ride To Church for someone, please let Beth Lynch know at 336-707-0140 so she can match you up with a parishioner in need

On a Fall Monday in late October I took the day off of work to get some errands done. My morning was devoted to the Saint Edward's errands I had on my list. Early in the morning by 8 o'clock I had delivered a frozen ham to the Hempfield Food Pantry. Upon return to my house I unloaded a bag of donated items to be placed on Marketplace in which I have now posted about 5 items. Shortly after that my son James and I loaded his car with 5 full boxes shoes that were donated for the Soles for Souls program. We dropped them off at Bev Achey's house and then continued on to St. Edward's church. While at the church we collected the item that we had won in the raffle and also added to the car the Rahims items that have been donated for delivery later today. After that we left the church calling Carl Cotnoir to let him know we were on our way to help him with getting rid of some books he wanted to donate. We filled the back of our car with the books and headed to the library in Mount Joy and donated them for their book sale. We did all of this and were home by noon..

Some of the items that were delivered

Several people helped build furniture for Victoria Wallace this week. Thank you Art Hagan, Mike Freshwater, Mark Jakiel and Bruce Lynch.

"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day."

—Sally Koch

KINDNESS

Lunch With the Chosen

Hosted by Blair Lord

Happy start of Advent! Just as this is a season of anticipation, *The Chosen* is entering one of its own. Last month, we watched episode 4 of season 4, "Calm Before." In a way, it was a calm "after" the tragedy that befell Thomas and the grief and confusion with which all the disciples were left to struggle. After the episode, our group reflected on how we cope with tragedy and the question of why God does not step in to fix everything. Then we had John and his brother James asking to sit at Jesus's right and left hand in his kingdom, leaving their friends and rabbi very displeased (for different reasons). And yet, the episode brought back some joy when Gaius, now a friend of Matthew and Simon Peter, professed his belief that Jesus could heal his servant. So, we take the light and the dark together. Rather fitting as we draw closer to the longest nights of the year as well as the celebration of the Light coming into the world.

We hope you will join us this Sunday, **December 7th**, for episode 5, "Sitting, Serving, Scheming." Jesus and his students leave Capernaum for the last time, and they stop in Bethany on their way to Jerusalem. A cheerful reunion with Lazarus and his sisters nevertheless presents more questions about what is to come, especially for Lazarus, Judas, and Jesus.

We look forward to seeing you with your bagged lunch in the parish hall after the 10am service.

If you'd like to pencil in the next lunch with *The Chosen* (it's the holidays, we get it), mark **January 4th** on your calendars for episode 6, "Dedication." Hint: it's the Hanukkah episode!

If you want to continue watching *The Chosen* beyond our monthly luncheon, you can access it for free at thechosen.tv You can download The Chosen App to your Amazon FireTV, Apple TV, or Roku, and on your phone from the Apple Store or Google Play Store. Additionally, the show is available on Amazon Prime.

Candles That Tell a Story

Lighting its candles each Sunday is a treasured tradition during the four weeks of Advent.

Each part of the wreath carries symbolic meaning:

The wreath: Its circular shape represents the everlasting love of God, having no beginning or end. The green symbolizes eternal life.

The four candles: Mark the four weeks of Advent. One tradition says that each candle also represents 1,000 years, totaling 4,000 years from Adam and Eve to Christ's birth.

Blue candles: Blue is a color often used as a symbol of royalty. Some churches use blue candles to symbolize the night sky and the anticipation of the announcement of Christ's birth. Blue also symbolizes the beginning of a new creation as in the waters of Genesis 1.

The pink candle: Lit on the third Sunday, it represents Joy and marks the halfway point of Advent.

The white candle: The large white candle in the center is the Christ candle. Its light symbolizes Christ the Savior — "the light of the world."

The beauty and brightness from the glow of all five candles is a reminder that Christ's life was the light for all earth's people — "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5, NRSV).

The Advent wreath is more than just greenery and candles—it's a symbol of watchfulness and growing joy as Christmas draws near.

Sunday Prayer

Sunday Evening Prayer, at 7:00 PM

We use the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer* and the readings for the Sunday Lectionary. It is a quiet service and a good way to end the weekend and prepare for the week to come. :

Anyone interested can send me an email to be put on an email distribution list:

drutledge1225@gmail.com

Sunday Evening Prayer@ 7:00pm
Join Zoom Meeting

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84700614072

Meeting ID: 847 0061 4072

Passcode: SunEP

Wednesday Noon

Looking for a meditative complement to Sunday services? Need a peaceful break mid-week? Join us for the Wednesday Noon Contemplative Eucharist and Meditation in the Parish Hall chapel. Each Wednesday, about 16-20 of us gather for reflection, meditation, and Eucharist, led by Father Rick. It truly is a refreshing reset to the week. For some, this is their weekly service they attend. We welcome donations to our free-will offering plate at this service.

Taizé Worship

Saint Luke Episcopal 209 South Market St. Mount Joy, PA.

The first Saturday of every month @ 5pm.

Interested in experiencing meditative worship with candlelight, chanting with live musicians (harp, piano, guitar), scripture interspersed with short periods of silence? Join us as Br. David Rutledge or The Rev. Martha Harris lead worship.

Hempfield Food Pantry

Current items requested:

Peanut butter (1 pound size)
Tomato paste
Diced tomatoes
Spaghetti sauce
Spaghetti
Lentils (1 pound bags)
Dry beans
Mandarin oranges
Pears
Peaches
Corn
Peas

(No Glass Containers Please)

The mission of the Hempfield Area Food Pantry is to show the underserved the gracious love of God by feeding the body, mind and soul of it's clients with dignity!
The pantry is open Monday and Wednesday from 10 am to 1 pm

ONGOING MINISTRIES:

Books for Prisoners
Hempfield Food Pantry
Collection areas are in the narthex

UPCOMING MINISTRIES:

Nov 1 - 16	Turkey Drive
Nov/Dec.	Jesse Tree
Nov/Dec.	ALERT Sock Drive
Jan. 27 2026	First Reformed Dinner
Feb.18-Mar 29	Soles4Souls
Mar 5	Blood Drive
Mar. 21-22	Feed Starving Children
Mar. 25	Race Against Racism
April / May	4th Annual Blood Drive
May 12	First Reformed Dinner
July—August	School Supply Drive
Sep. 1	First Reformed Dinner

Volunteers Needed At Hempfield Food Pantry

The Hempfield Food Pantry is looking for volunteers to help them at their bread line station on Monday and Wednesday distributions according to your availability. This would involve handing out the types of breads that each family would be entitled to plus being there as a welcoming face. The position of bread distributor will be in the mornings from probably 8:30 to noon and would include a lot of standing. If interested please contact: Diane Gerlach at dlsgerlach@comcast.net

ALERT Sock Drive

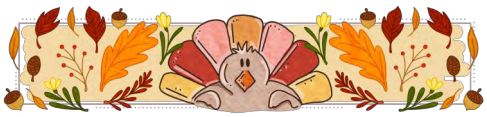
The chill and winds of late fall are upon us and even though it is not winter, it can feel very isolating and unprotected when one is homeless and without the proper outerwear. That is where we can help!!! Imagine the difference a pair of warm thermal socks, a hat, and fleece gloves can make to a person who spends all day outside? Many of these items can be picked up on sale, at big box retailers, or even at our "Dollar" stores. There is a box in the narthex for drop off. Thank you for spreading some community warmth to others!

Knitted hats and gloves thanks to Irene Achey via the Knit Wits

Annual Turkey Drive

By Richard Irons

Turkeys in our freezer

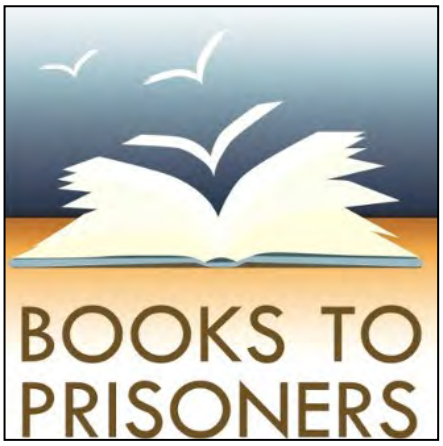


Our turkeys on the way to the Hempfield Food Pantry

Tom, always a helpful hand delivering turkeys at the Hempfield food bank, 10 more turkeys for a total of 24 birds, with frozen fruits thanks to St. Edward's Community

UTO Thanksgiving Campaign Nov. 3—24

Collect your small change and engage in a season of gratitude. Last year, St. Ed's donated $249.50 to the United Thank Offering Ingathering. 100% of your gift supported water projects. We will begin the UTO Thanksgiving campaign on November 3 and hold the Ingathering on November 24. Supplies will be in the narthex.



Books for Prisoners Program: In our ministry, we are now accepting monetary donations for our Books for Prisoners program. There is a box in the narthex to place your donations in. Please contact Randy Westgate with any questions.

Rahim Family Collection

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for the ongoing Rahim collection. Items needed are: Paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, shampoo, toothpaste, body wash, hand soap, laundry detergent, fabric softener, dish soap, dishwasher tablets, kitchen garbage bags, hand sanitizer.

Please leave donations in baskets under the counter in the Narthex.

Looking Ahead

Lent Madness

We've almost recovered from our Halloween candy hangovers. We've belted out all eight verses of the classic All Saints hymn. Returning Lent Madness fans will know what that means: it is now ALL BRACKETS DAY... with a twist for 2026. Our new Supreme Executive Committee declares this the start of All Bracketstide!

We're not just giving you a day… we're giving you a SEASON of bracket build up! Starting November 15, we'll drop a brand-new first-round matchup every single day leading up to Advent. Follow along on Facebook, Instagram, or right here on this website https://www.lentmadness.org/

as each matchup is revealed. Click here

For more from Michael:

As a reminder, or if you're new to this online devotion, here's how Lent Madness works: on the weekdays of Lent, information is posted at www.lentmadness.org about two different saints. Each pairing remains open for 24 hours as participants read about and then vote to determine which saint moves on to the next round. Sixteen saints make it to the Round of the Saintly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the Golden Halo.

The first round consists of basic biographical information about each of the 32 saints. Things get a bit more interesting in the subsequent rounds as we offer quotes and quirks, explore

"O Lord, I want to be in that number when the saints go marching in. "

Christmas Eve Services

Liam Update

You may recall that we have been following Liam's story since prayers were requested for him when at age 11 he was diagnosed with Burkitt's Lymphoma/Leukemia .The disease resulted in Liam having his arms and lower legs amputated. Liam DeBerry's mom recently posted on FB that she and Liam attended an "Enhancing Skills for Life" conference for arm and quad amputees. She said there were 110 amputees with limb difference and "over half were quads like him." She added, "He is overjoyed to be here." There were some pictures of him learning to do ordinary things like walk up a ramp. Every task is monumental and each achievement is a real victory,

October Services

Pictures by Mary Snyder, Gloria Kacino and from live stream

Fr. Rick

Worship SERVICES

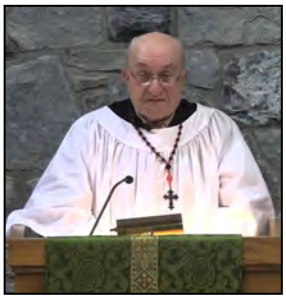
Weekly Sermons

Fr. Rick and Bob Mosebach

Kathleen Spencer

Peter Weber

Cindy DiStefano



Buddy Yeager

Beth Lynch

Jamie Alton

Kiki Davis-Brugmann

Blair Lord

Kim Kline

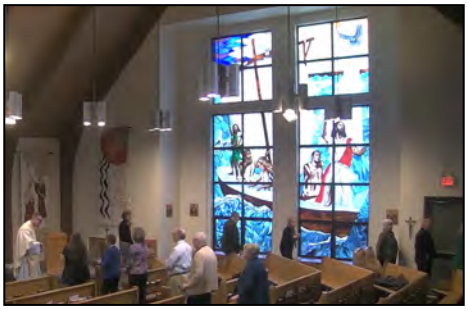
Donna Esbenshade and Linda Lentz

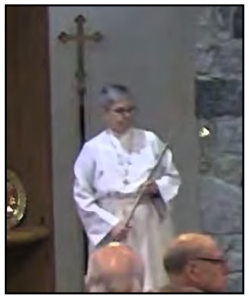
Fr. Rick and Vanessa Helsel

Jay Miller

The Eucharist

Peter Weber's solo "Deep River"





Beth Lynch

ST. EDWARD'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Lancaster, PA 17601

Phone 717-898-6276

Email: stedsoffice@comcast.net

www.sainteds.org

LOOK FOR US ON THE WEB!
www.sainteds.org

Staff

The Rev. Dr. Rick Bauer, Rector

Michelle Bentley, Parish Administrator

Karen E. Waddill, Director of Music

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday:
11AM – 4:00PM

Vestry
(year term ends)

- **Mike Freshwater(2027) Vestry Clerk**
- **Mary Gibson(2028)**
- **Ethel Lawrence (2027)**
- **Blair Lord (2026) Vestry Clerk**
- **Jay Miller (2026) Senior Warden**
- **Bob Mosebach (2026)**
- **Donna Ray(2028)**
- **Dan Sanders(2028)**
- **Kathy Spencer (2027)**

Worship Services

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I (said)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

Wednesday

12 Noon: Contemplative Eucharist and Meditation