



# JANUARY

## NEWSLETTER

## JANUARY 2025

Dinke Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church  
1742 Dinkey Road  
Lehigh, PA 18235  
Church office: 610-377-4242  
Email address: [cdinklc@ptd.net](mailto:cdinklc@ptd.net)

### CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Reverend Anthony Pagotto	610-377-4242
Church Secretary	Jan Schwartz	610-377-4242
Music Director	Bridgette Gorman	
Financial	Kelli DeLuca	
Treasurer	Laura Moyer	
Sexton	David Arndt	

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship 9AM  
Sunday School 10:15AM  
[www.dmlcashfield.com](http://www.dmlcashfield.com)  
Zoom ID: 586 370 219

## 2025 Church Council

Rev. Anthony Pagotto

Charles Bierman  
Rich DeLuca  
Jay Frey  
Laura Moyer  
Karen Schleicher  
Kenny Schleicher  
Todd Schleicher  
Trell Schleicher  
Daniel Schwartz  
Kurt Steigerwalt

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday 9AM-2PM  
Thursday 9AM-2PM  
Friday 9AM-2PM



## Weekly Zoom Events

### Wednesday Morning Prayer

Pastor Tony hosts a  
Morning Prayer on Zoom every Wednesday  
Morning at 9AM

<http://zoom.us/j/87911224>

Meeting ID: 187 911 224

Call in: 1-929-205-6099

### Thursday Bible Study

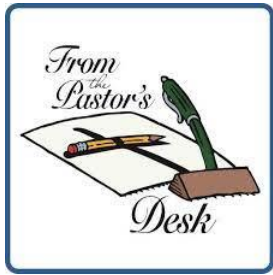
Pastor Tony hosts a Bible Study on Zoom  
Every Thursday morning at 9:30AM

<http://us02web.zoom.us/j/376540617>

Meeting ID: 376-540-617

Call in: 1-929-205-6099

**Community Food Pantry is held the third  
Thursday of every month from 3:30-5PM.  
If you know someone in need please contact  
Pastor Tony.**



## The Christmas Season

Merry Christmas! That's right, Merry Christmas! You might be thinking, "Pastor, Christmas is over," but actually it's not. Christmas is a season and not a day. It's a 12-day season, hence, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, and ends on January 6 with the Day of Epiphany.

Ironically, Christmas wasn't even celebrated in the early church. For the first 300 years after Jesus' life Christians did not celebrate his birth in any way. But by the 5<sup>th</sup> century it had become common to celebrate Christmas. No one knows when in the calendar year Jesus was born, but there are theories as to why the celebration has settled on December 25.

One theory proposes that such a festival in late December has prehistoric roots in the peoples of the northern hemisphere observing the winter solstice. In the dark of the year, with vegetation dormant and food sources closely monitored, people celebrated with candles, evergreens, and feasting what must have seemed to them a magical restoration of the life of the universe: the return of the sun. (*Keeping Time: The Church's Years, 2009, Augsburg Fortress*)

Christmas was meant to celebrate the hope people felt as daylight began to lengthen and the darkness of night subsided. Although there may be a couple months of winter remaining there was still the hope of new life in Spring to look forward to. However, over time that focus began to change.

The intensity of the Christmas celebration grew over the centuries. Several times throughout history, church leaders attempted to rein in the cultural excesses: in the colony of Massachusetts from 1659 to 1681, any celebration of Christmas was illegal. In the 19th century, gift-giving, especially to children, became commonplace, especially when St. Nicholas, commemorated on December 6, became associated with Christmas. (*Keeping Time: The Church's Years, 2009, Augsburg Fortress*)

I don't think there is any chance of reining in the gift-giving at Christmas in today's society. It's become commonplace and isn't necessarily a bad thing. Erica recently told me she heard someone share on a podcast something to the effect that a good thing about the consumerism aspect of Christmas is that it encourages generosity. My only encouragement is to extend the celebration from a day to a season. The fact that God is here with us, that Hope has come into the world, is a great reason to turn our celebration from a 1-day event into a 12-day long party! Realizing and recognizing God is stepping in during our darkest hours so that we are not alone is something to truly be cherished and celebrated.

Merry Christmas!

Pr. Tony



01/02 Tyler Bierman  
01/02 Stephen Bowman  
01/02 Elliot Yanchek  
01/03 Mitchell Reinheimer  
01/03 Austin Williams  
01/04 Grace Bowman  
01/04 Benjamin Cordova  
01/04 Kathryn Leadbetter  
01/04 Tanner Manogue  
01/05 Richard DeLuca  
01/05 Harriet Kenny  
01/05 Ryver Markley  
01/07 Tucker Gutzeit  
01/07 Piper Uyvari  
01/08 James Barth  
01/08 Mary Hawk  
01/10 Kelli DeLuca  
01/10 Allie Hawk  
01/10 Lexi Riley  
01/12 Kaylee Frable  
01/12 Claudia Pagotto  
01/13 Chase Passehl  
01/14 Kendyl Heckman  
01/15 Natalya Kessler

01/16 Amanda Biehl  
01/16 Justin Graver  
01/17 Sharon Kidd  
01/18 Deborah Szacska  
01/19 Shane Eckhart  
01/19 Timothy Eckhart  
01/19 Ernest Frack Jr  
01/19 Chelsea German  
01/19 Zane Nolan  
01/19 Maci Peffer  
01/20 Debra Kuehner  
01/20 Theresa Michalik  
01/20 Andrea Schafer  
01/21 Owen Eckhart  
01/24 James Andreas  
01/24 Emily Williams  
01/25 Echo Bretz  
01/25 Jackie Howard  
01/25 Kyle Neff  
01/26 Marie Reinhart  
01/27 Tanner Schleicher  
01/30 Sharon Schell  
01/30 Catherine Schleicher  
01/31 Daniel Borger





SUNDAY SCHOOL  
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



# December 2024 Council Highlights

The following actions occurred and reports were shared at the December 19, 2024 council meeting:

- ❖ Approved the proposed constitution for presentation at the next congregation meeting.
- ❖ Regretfully accepted the resignation of Trell Schleicher as Sunday school coordinator effective May 25, 2025.
- ❖ Reviewed a proposed capital campaign letter for the stained glass window project.
- ❖ Set the next congregation meeting for Sunday, February 16, 2025 to review reports for 2024, present the proposed updated constitution for approval, present the stained glass window project for approval, and present the sound system upgrade project for approval.
- ❖ Asked all committees and groups in the congregation to submit year-end reports to the church office by January 26, 2025.

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 6:30PM. A reminder to everyone that council meetings are open to all members of Dinkey Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church.

**Financial Reports:** Financial reports are available upon request from the church office.

**Thank you:** Thank you to all who helped our five churches with the free Community Drive Thru Thanksgiving meal. Two hundred meals were made available to local families by those who made monetary donations, food donations (especially Lehigh Ford for the free turkeys), and all the volunteers who helped. It was greatly appreciated by Ben Salem UCC (Lehigh), Dinkey Memorial (Ashfield), St. John's (Mahoning), St. Peter's (West Penn), and Zion's Stone Church (West Penn).

THANK  
YOU

*Dear People at St Peters 11/23/24  
Ben Salem Zion's Church  
Dinkey Memorial this  
is Beverly Lynn and  
Alan I want to thank  
you for the very good  
meal I hope you  
can do that next  
year*

*Beverly  
Alan*

**Anniversary Celebration:** In 2026 Dinkey Memorial will be celebrating the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the congregation in 1851. A team is being formed to coordinate the celebration and we are looking for people interested in sharing the history of the congregation and having some fun while doing so. If you are interested, please speak with Pr. Tony for more information. The initial meeting will be January 8, 2025 at 6:30 PM.

**2025 Flower & Bulletin Chart:** The flower and bulletin charts for 2025 are on the bulletin board at the top of the stairs for anyone interested in sponsoring a date. Sign up on the charts or call the office (610)377-4242.

**Fermenting our Faith:** Join us on February 12, 2025, 7:00PM at St John's Mahoning to explore our faith in a relaxed setting. Pizza will be ordered and drinks will be supplied by St John's.

**Fundraising:** Pick up your Papa Sarge's Homemade Pierogies on January 15, 2025 from 2:00- 6:00PM (snow date January 16, 2025 from 3:00- 6:00PM. Dinkey is also selling Zook's frozen meat pies; chicken & sausage are \$7, beef is \$8; pick up every Sunday from 10:00 – 11:30 in the social hall.

**Altar Guild:** We are in need of people willing to help with the altar guild. Responsibilities include setting up and cleaning up communion, refilling candles, updating the hymn boards, and changing paraments. Our goal is to form altar guild teams that will rotate on a monthly basis. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Pr. Tony (610-377-4242 or [prdinklc@ptd.net](mailto:prdinklc@ptd.net)).

**Annual Reports:** Annual reports for the February Congregational meeting are needed by January 26, 2025. Please drop them off at the office.



Those in need of prayer:

Family of Sherwood  
Andrews  
Eli Bowland  
Willard Doll  
Lauren Dugan  
Candy Everett

Joseph Gorman  
Sonny Hack  
Steve Hoffman  
Joe Kluk  
Deb Lilly  
Family of Larry Markell  
Kenny Schleicher

Lukas Schleicher  
Todd Schleicher  
Madalin Smale  
Sherry Smith  
Patti Walck  
Betty Weber

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:

Tess Hinger  
Ruth Keck  
Debbie Meckel

Alice Scitney  
Gordon Scherer  
Debbie Strohl

# Events to make note of

**FERMENTING OUR FAITH**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025**  
**ST JOHN'S MAHONING**  
**7:00 – 9:00PM**

All are welcome to gather and explore our faith together in a relaxed format where we can share our questions, ponderings, and even doubts. Contact Pr. Tony if you have any questions.

570-386-9960  
 prdrinkc@ptd.net

**ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 826 Mahoning Drive W.  
 Lehighton, PA 18235

**FOOD**  
 Pizza and Drinks

**FELLOWSHIP**  
 Friends sharing time

**FAITH**  
 Where is God?

# Christmas Word Search

G Q C E L V E S Z L I G H T S  
 D C Z L F J S R V N U L B Z B  
 C E L E B R A T E W M J E Y F  
 Q F D C W G N R E I N D E E R  
 P F Z E H J T G C O O K I E S  
 G R A N C R A I R I W B I H C  
 O M E M N O I U K S F V A Z A  
 R I I S I N R S N D O H J D N  
 N M M S E L E A T E C Q B W D  
 A G Z D T N Y C T M J C P R Y  
 M I I I U L T T W I A B T E C  
 E V H N Z W E S S Q O S B A A  
 N I E N A Q Q T F T P N J T N  
 T N G E P Q I C O P Y Z S H E  
 D G A R J W D E Q E Y P E B S

- |             |             |           |           |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| Decorations | Candy Canes | Christmas | Mistletoe |
| Celebrate   | Ornament    | Reindeer  | Cookies   |
| Lights      | Presents    | Family    | Elves     |
| Giving      | Dinner      | Wreath    | Santa     |



During Advent, we are all God's construction workers preparing the way of the Lord.







### **Trees for Troops**

A thank you to all who donated money to send a tree to military families.





**Stained Glass Window Project:** On Sunday, January 12, 2025 there will be a presentation following worship on the proposed project for our stained-glass windows. This presentation will clarify what work needs to be completed in order to preserve our stained-glass windows. The snow date for the presentation is January 19.

# JANUARY 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
				9:30AM Bible Study via ZOOM 6:30PM Choir		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9AM Worship Christmas 2 10:15AM Sunday School	6:00PM Grief Share (SJ)		9AM Morning Prayer via ZOOM 6:30PM Anniversary Celebration meeting	9:30AM Bible Study via ZOOM 6:30PM Choir		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9AM Worship Baptism of our Lord 10:15AM Sunday School	10:00AM Palmer House Hymn Sing		9AM Morning Prayer via ZOOM 2-6PM Pick up perogies 6:30PM Council Meeting	9:30AM Bible Study via ZOOM 3:30PM Community Food Pantry 6:30PM Choir		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9AM Worship Epiphany 2 10:15AM Sunday School	6:00PM Grief Share (SJ) 		9AM Morning Prayer via ZOOM	9:30AM Bible Study via ZOOM 6:30PM Choir		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9AM Worship Epiphany 3 10:15AM Sunday School 12:30PM Confirmation(SJ)			9AM Morning Prayer via ZOOM	9:30AM Bible Study via ZOOM 6:30PM Choir		

**We are in need of volunteers as greeters/ushers, lectors, communion assistants and alter guild. Please let the office know if you are willing to volunteer.**

## **SPONSOR OUR NEEDS**

Flowers	\$25.00
Bulletins	\$13.00
Cemetery Pole*	\$21.00
Strength For the Day*	\$20.00
Devotions Booklet*	\$20.00

(\*donates monthly)

Please contact Jan in the office at 610-377-4242  
to request a specific day or month to sponsor.

## **MORE WAYS TO HELP MY CHURCH AND CHURCH FAMILY**

Purchase Giant gift cards by contacting Kathy Steigerwalt at 540-250-6539  
Cards are in \$25 and \$50 denominations.

We are still collecting:

Aluminum Tabs

Ink Jet and Toner Cartridges for Recycling

Worship Assistants for January

01/05 A: J Markell/ C Solt G: Everett L: T Schleicher CA: Erica Pagotto/ L Schleicher

01/12 A: B Schleicher G: Frey L: Jan Schwartz

01/19 A: D Spitzer G: Wetzel L: Brian Schell

01/26 A: M Spitzer G: Bierman L: K Steigerwalt