THE MESSENGER DECEMBER 2020

GILEAD LUTHERAN CHURCH

PO BOX 26 CROPSEYVILLE, NY 12052

 CHURCH PHONE: 279-9270

 gileadlutheran.org gilead2@verizon.net

Service time 10:30 AM

**A WORD FROM PASTOR JEFF SILVERNAIL**

December 2020 Newsletter –

Pastor Jeff



“The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light; those who lived

in a land of deep darkness – on them

light has shined.” Isaiah 9:2

The Season of Advent has been

traditionally marked as a time of waiting. For the children they are of course waiting for the joy of Christmas morning and for those of us a bit older we look forward to getting joy from seeing their joy. We wait for the celebration of the birth of Jesus and we also remember we are waiting for him to return.

So often though, the sense of waiting and marking the days of Advent is lost in the

hectic rush up to Christmas. We scurry from store to store, web site to web site trying to get gifts for all on our lists.

This year has been different so perhaps this season will be different. We worry about going into stores. We avoid crowds. The office Christmas party if it happens at all won’t be the same. In some ways we are in touch with the darkness and we are waiting for light to shine on us. We resonate with the ancient ones who waited and watched for the Lord to come.

The people of God have endured difficult and dark days in the past and no doubt we will encounter them in the future. In our darkness let’s take a little time to wait, to watch and remember that even in the midst of the darkness we are loved, cared for and we will be God’s people forever.

And though the Christmas celebration may be more subdued this year. Remember it is a celebration. Our God has come to deliver us and this world.

“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us, authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

Wishing you a hope filled Advent and a joy filled Christmas!

Pastor Jeff

**GILEAD’S VISION STATEMENT**

We ring out a joyous message of welcome and togetherness to neighbors near and far through the Spirit of Christ!

**VALUES FOR GILEAD LUTHERAN CHURCH**

PRAISING GOD through Traditional and Contemporary music and Lutheran liturgy.

GROWING IN FAITH through Fellowship, Study, Prayer and Service.

STAYING CONNECTED with each other and reaching out to others in the community.

LISTENING for the Spirit’s guidance in all we do.

AFFIRMING each person as worthy of love and respect.

Please keep our homebound and those that can’t be with us in your prayers:

Bill Beck, John Grassman, Linda Romano, Mike Boomhower, Matthew Raymond, Tom Spade, Jim Spiak, Kelly Nutter, Bob Guerin, June Boomhower, Rick Brown, Peter Valdeon, Liam, Dove Sheldon, Flip Coonradt, Joe Carista, Allen Sheffer, Deb Henderson, Issiah Burnell, Bev Kantrowitz, and Chuck Boomhower.

 **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Joseph Danner 2 Jack Rifenburg 25

Bradlee Bugbee 29 Allen Sheffer 25

Robin Jones 13 Eleanor Bode 27

Gerald Flynn 23 Pastor Houlihan 28

 **DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

 Keith and Lisa Kreiger 16

 Robert and Regina Button 28

 Jon and Cindy Price 31

 DECEMBER CHURCH CALENDAR

**2nd Sunday of Advent, Dec 6th 4th Sunday of Advent, Dec 20**

Holy Communion Holy Communion

 1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11 1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

 Psalm: 85:1-2, 8-13 Psalm: 89:1-4, 19-26

2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-13a 2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8 Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

**3rd Sunday of Advent, Dec 13th Christmas Eve. December 24th**

Holy Communion Holy Communion

1st Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 1st Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm: 126 Psalm: 96

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonian 5:16-24 2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28 Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

**Christmas Day, Dec 25th 1st Sunday of Christmas, Dec 27th**

Holy Communion Holy Communion

1st Reading: Isaiah 62:6-12 1st Reading: Isaiah 61:10 62:3

Psalm: 97 Psalm: 148

2nd Reading: Titus 3:4-7 2nd Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20 Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

**WORSHIP LEADERS READERS**

December 6th Pastor Dan Hahn December 6th

December 13th Deacon Jim Netzer December 13th Andrea Keefer

December 20th Pastor Dan Hahn December 20th Eleanor Bode

December 24th Deacon Jim Netzer December 24th

December 27th Deacon Jim Netzer December 27th

 **WORSHIP**

Gilead is OPEN!! We are offering 3 service options for you. We are worshipping inside the sanctuary every Sunday morning at 10:30am. Due to Covid-19 the council has set guidelines to follow and keep us safe, including mask wearing, social distancing (including the elevator and restrooms) with your family group, no congregating in the back of the santuary. We continue to broadcast our service via low frequency radio to the parking lot, channel 107.5. If you are not comfortable coming inside you can still hear the service. We also Live broadcast our service every Sunday to our Facebook page. It is then uploaded to our YouTube channel later in the afternoon, both links can be found on our website, gileadlutheran.org. Please join us. If you have questions or concerns please reach out to someone. Call the church and leave a message 518-279-9270 or call John Shanahan 518-279-9552

 **CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS**

It may seem a little early to put this out there but as I grow older I need to do

things when they are fresh in my mind. I have the prices for this year’s flowers.

6” pots are $10.00 and 10” pots are $20.00. You may choose either red or white and if this is a memorial, we will need the name of the loved one.

There will be a signup sheet at the rear of the Sanctuary or you may call me @ 518-279-9552 or email me @ jmike50@aol.com to have your name added. The last day to order is December 13th.

If you wish to mail a check to the church. Please mark your memo spot flowers and mail to P.O. Box 26, Cropseyville, NY 12052.

 **COOKIES NEEDED**

It’s time once again to show how much our friends mean to us.

Yes, I am talking about the State Police, Mohawk Ambulance, and the

Town of Brunswick Road Crew. I have been one of the lucky people to

see the look on their faces as we give them their package. I think it is

important to show these people how much they are appreciated.

Please consider baking a few extra cookies again this year. The deadline

for bring them to church is December 20th. If you are unable to bring

them that day, please contact the Shanahans and arrangements can be

made to pick them up.

 **COMMUNITY MINISTRY**

Thank you to all who helped make our Thankgiving Baskets possible. We were able to give 12 families a full Thanksgiving meal in a box! Did you know the soda bottles collected through out the year are used to help make this project possible? Each year Sue Anthony collects bottles to help fill our Thanksgiving Baskets in Memory of Sue Alderman.

We will once again be collecting hats, mittens, scarves and socks for the homeless. We are also helping to provide Christmas gifts to 4 families. Please contact Lisa Kreiger 518-279-3576 for details

 **CHRISTMAS EVE**

The Worship and Music Committee and Council are currently working on arrangements for Christmas Eve. There will be a 4:00 PM Carol sing in the parking. This would be the place where singing is allowed. If you enjoy singing this is the place to be.

The 8:00 PM service will take place in the Sanctuary. We will be limited to the number of people who can attend an inside service. We believe that number to be around 70 or slightly higher. We will continue to have the same old problem of social distancing. Once we have reached the maximum number allowable in the Sanctuary you are more than welcome to worship in the Fellowship Hall where our

Facebook stream will be broadcast on the TV.

For those people who may still have concerns about being inside a public building you can view the service on Facebook or come to the parking lot where we will broadcast over radio station 107.5 FM.

We are asking you to please contact Andrea @ 518-598-2231 or John 518-279-9552 with the number of people in your party and the service(s) you would like to attend. This may seem harsh or picky but this has been a very difficult year for us. We are trying to keep the church open while still obeying NYS rules.

All the above depends on whether the virus numbers rise and requirements are changed prior to Christmas Eve. We plan to continue Facebook and parking lot

broadcast no matter what happens.

 **LOOKING AHEAD**

Somethings to remember:

Multi Committee Meeting December 1st 5:30pm, all are welcome

Community Ministry continues to hold their monthly food pantry and have begun serving meals again, this is currently drive thru only, the last Thursday of every month from 3-6pm. This is a donation driven mission and can always use volunteers. Please contact Lisa Kreiger 518-279-3576 for information

Hanging of the Greens will take place on November 28th at 10am, many hands make easy work. Please join us

December 13th will be the deadline for ordering Christmas Flowers

Christmas Eve Services, council is considering 2 services this year, due to current Covid-19 guidelines the number of people we can have at a time in the church is around 50. Having an estimated number of how many people would plan to attend services would be very helpful in planning. Our current thought process is a carol sing in the parking lot at 4pm, geared towards the children and then our normal candle lit service at 8pm, subject to change. If you are thinking about coming please let us know, leave a message at the church office 518-279-9270. Thank you

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**: this is the big one, this is the meeting that you can hear about how this year has gone and our plans for the future. We will have council seats open that need filling, if you are on a committee this is a meeting you should be attending. It is currently scheduled for **January 24th** following the service.

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**CROPSEYVILLE, NY 12052**

**READ ME, SEE WHAT’S NEW!!**





 **Gilead Lutheran Church**

 **Brunswick, New York**

 **Founded 1742**