PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH Associate Member: United Church of Christ



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PalmSchwenkfelder@comcast.net

PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2014 CHRISTMAS EVE CANTATA

Canticles in Candlelight

In faithful succession, the sacred flames of Advent's candles shine against winter's cold gray shadows with an unrelenting message of hope, peace, love, and joy. Against a seemingly endless night, the candles gleam with sparkling promise. "A Light shines in the darkness, yet the darkness has not overcome it."

With great expectation, we gather close to the flickering flames and gather strength for our journey to dawn. We warm our spirits at the hearth of worship. We linger in the glow of prayer and devotion and discover the illumination of truth and the warmth of fellowship.

As we gaze into the dancing gold we discover a deeper truth; we are the candles. We are a light on a hill and a beacon of hope, peace, love and joy in the night. We are torches of truth, ignited by grace and refined by fire. As we are consumed, we shine forth the glory of God! Animated by winds of the Spirit we give ourselves to the miracle of the message: "Jesus, the Light of the World has come and we are His children of Light."

Joseph M. Martin, Composer, *Canticles in Candlelight*

Pre-Service Music

Ian Althouse

Chimes

Prelude

"Kelvingrove" Charles Callahan

(Bill Ludlow – guitar, Peg Jacob – organ)

Welcome and Announcements

Senior Bells

"Let Heaven and Earth Shout Out and Sing"

*Call to Worship

"O Come All Ye Faithful" (1st verse)

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem. Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels! O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

"Prologue"

(Instrumental)

"Processional"

(Choir)

"Prepare and Celebrate"

(Choir)

Carol

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 1 and 5)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; Bid envy strife and quarrels cease; fill all the world with heaven's peace. (Refrain)

"Advent Longing"

(Choir)

* "Come, Long Expected Jesus"

(Congregation & Choir)

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free. From our fears and sins release us. Let us find our rest in Thee. Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art; Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all Thy grace receive. Suddenly return and never, never more Thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above. Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Prayer for the Evening

"Awake! Arise! Rejoice!" (Choir)

"Carols of Joy and Hope" (Choir)

Children's Sermon

* "Joy to the World"

(Congregation & Choir - verses 1, 2, & 4)

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns; let all their songs employ; While field and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, And wonders, wonders of his love. "A Christmas Madrigal"

(Choir)

Offertory

"Away in a Manger" (Ethel Soffa – piano, Peg Jacob – organ) arr. Ethel Smith

"Turn Your Heart to Christmas" (Choir)

* "A Festive Christmas Flourish"

(Congregation & Choir)

The first Noel the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; *In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,* on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old, From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king; Peace on earth, and mercy mild; God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful all ye nations rise; join the triumph of the skies. With th' angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King."

Then let us all, with one accord, sing praises to our heav'nly Lord; That hath made heav'n and earth of naught, and with His blood mankind hath bought. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Candle Lighting Service

During the Sharing of the Light to the Congregation, the ushers will give light to the first person in each pew. Pass the light to the person next to you. (Please hold the lit candle upright and tip the unlit candle to receive the light. Tipping a lit candle will result in spilled hot wax.)

When the sanctuary lights are turned on after the benediction, please extinguish your individual candle. The person nearest the center aisle may pick up the decorated can under the pew. The last person in the pew may then place the can on the floor beneath the pew.

Sharing the Light
"Stars Over Bethlehem"

Rob Roy Peery

Christmas Blessing

Carol

"Silent Night! Holy Night!"
1st verse: English; 2nd verse: German

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright 'round yon virgin mother and Child, holy infant so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht! Alles schlaft, einsam wacht Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar. Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar, schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

Choral Response

Postlude "Joy to the World"

arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

Carillon

*All those who are able, please stand.

Mission Statement of Palm Schwenkfelder Church:

Our task is to proclaim the Living Word of God, which empowers us to care for and share with our community and the world.

Vision Statement of Palm Schwenkfelder Church:

Serving the glorious God, claimed by Jesus, and inspired by scripture, honoring our history, with renewed commitment we will reach out to our community and the world through worship, spirit enriching programs, and outreaching mission.

Relay for Life Luminaries

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| 10 | |

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| Harrison Miller | Marguerite Fries |
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| Our Grandparents | Jeff & Luanne Stauffer |
| Our Parents | Andrew & Sandra Kriebel |
| Our Parents | Ethel & Francis Soffa |
| Beth Pusey - My Daughter-In-Law | Joan Pusey |
| Tracy Reifsnyder | Anne Goda, Daryl Leh, Whitney & Victoria Leh |
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| Helena Riegner | Lee Schultz |
| Joseph Riegner | Lee Schultz |
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Mr. Lawrence J. Yokl, Jr. Patti Yokl

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Yokl, Sr. Patti Yokl

... Things of Interest to Our Palm Schwenkfelder Family...

This week, please keep in your daily prayers:

Mary and Heinz Herrmann, Bob Jones, Rick Jones, Walt Master, Deb Callodonato, Molly Werley, Bryan Schwoyer, Clara Graber, Anna Bieler, Earl Yerger, Donald Long, Jen Fries, Vera Boykin, Jean Gentry, Doris Masemore, Wanda Gentry, Charlie Krauss, Margaret Wallinger, Reverend Ed Winslow, Ernie Guldin, Vern Weller, Betty Serff, Mary Jane Burianek, Karen Freed, Donald Cook, Dave Jaeger, Robert Margerum, Mary Hartman, Helen Miller, Rob Ziegler, Kathy Bartman, John Hathaway, Betty Pope. Please also keep in your prayers the men and women serving in the United States Military. This month from our Schwenkfelder Prayer list we uplift the staff of Palm Schwenkfelder Church.

Snow Tubing

Join us on Friday, January 30th from 6:00 – 9:00pm at Bear Creek Mountain for a fun night of snow tubing. Palm youth 18 and under are free and adults are \$24 each. Some chaperones will be needed. Please sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, January 18th.

Ladies' Aid

The Ladies' Aid January 6th meeting time has changed to12:00 noon. This will be the lunch and Epiphany Party. Please meet us in the fellowship hall and bring a covered dish to share. Instead of a gift exchange, a monetary collection will be taken for Open Link. The monthly business meeting will be held after lunch.

Quilting

The Ladies' Aid will not be quilting next Tuesday, December 30^{th} . They will return for quilting on Tuesday, January 6^{th} , 2015.

Give the Gift of Warmth

Time has flown, as time is wont to do, and the Christmas season is once again upon us. One of the wonderful chances that we have to share with those less fortunate during this season is the Christmas Mitten Tree. Help decorate our Mitten Tree with new warm mittens, gloves, caps, and scarves for children and adults. Also appreciated are new socks or other warm winter clothes. After Christmas, these gifts will be given to Open Link for distribution to those in need.

"Trees, Trains, and Gingerbread"

From November 29, 2014 to January 18, 2015, come to the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum where you'll see an exhibit featuring a Schwenkfelder Christmas tree decorated with cookie cutters, and a showcase with German cookies and Schwenkfelder information on display. There will also be trees decorated with railroad themes and railroad gingerbread buildings and trains. A large O-gauge operating layout with a Reading Company theme will also be part of the exhibit. The Schwenkfelder pieces are thanks to Lee Schultz, and Bill and Sallie Wright. Museum hours are 10:00am - 4:00 pm on Saturdays, noon - 4:00pm on Sundays. Admission; adults \$7.00, seniors (65+) \$6.00, ages 5-12 \$3.00, children under 5 and active military are free. Free parking. For additional information visit www.readingrailroad.org/museum

PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH 833 Gravel Pike

PO Box 66 Palm PA 18070 Office Phone: 215 - 679 - 5321 Fax: 215 – 679 – 2650

Pastor Nick's Cell Phone: (267) 374 - 5691

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service 10:15 a.m.

Church Office Hours Tuesday through Thursday 8:00am – 4:00pm Friday 8:00am - 3:00pm

www.palmschwenkfelderchurch.com

Church Administrator E-mail: palmadministrator@comcast.net

Church Office Email: palmschwenkfelder@comcast.net

Pastor's E-mail: palmpastor@comcast.net

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Serving You at PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Ministers: All Church Members Pastor: Rev. Nicholas Pence Pastor Emeritus: Ronald R. Krick Director of Music: Ed Bieler Children's Choir: Gail Ferry

Children's Choir Accompanist: Joan Pusey

Junior Bells: Beth Croll

Senior Bells: Joanne and David Luz

Organist: Peg Jacob Church Administrator: J. Daniel Ferry

Youth Director: Barbara Master

Sexton: Kevin Master 484 - 358 - 1684

Greeter: Gregg Hoffman

Ushers: Scott Kriebel, Darrell Manley, Matt Wright, Pierce Wright

Prayer Chain: Nancy Hoffman 610 – 845 – 7208