

# Church & Community



## PASTOR'S CORNER

By Pastor Peter Crynes  
St. Therese's Church

### Family!

The word "family" brings many different memories to each of us. Family is something we all share in common, yet the experience of family is so unique and special to each individual. Even within the same nuclear family, psychologists tell us there are as many recollection and stories as there are individuals.

Therefore, the most significant gift we can offer to any person is the respect for her/his own story. Because of our varying personalities and temperaments, each person experiences a life in a different manner. When we tell our story, we need to know that the uniqueness of our story also contains the power of the Christ story within.

One of the great gifts of the renewal of the study of the Bible has been the realization that our own story needs always to be seen and reflected upon in the light of the story of Jesus.

We know very little about Jesus' early life, yet the experience of Jesus in His adult adulthood can assist us in understanding and appreciating what those early years of family life must have been.

As we reflect upon our own family and our memories, we can recognize the actions of our good and loving God in each moment. Whether it is a moment of extreme joy and happiness, the sadness of death or distance, the pain of separation and family discord, each event allows for the recognition of the presence of God.

Our responsibility as disciples of Jesus is to know the love of God is with us at all moments of life. Jesus knew family life. He lived in a "holy" Family, which does not necessarily mean a "perfect" family as in the projections that each of us might have of how life ought to be lived. We know that the life of the "Holy" Family became a life of perfection because it was lived in the constant awareness and gift of God's love for each and all.

The joy of family life is the joy of knowing and learning the gift of relationship — the gift of encountering each person as a unique and special manifestation of the presence of God. To see the gift of life manifested in each and every person with whom we live is to find the presence of God in the ordinary and the every day. How incarnate is God's love in your heart, your life, your family, your every day?

## CHURCH NOTES

### Idetown United Methodist

Idetown Rd., Lehman  
The Idetown Congregation will be joining with their sister congregation Lehman UMC at Lehman through March 2004 for Worship services and Christian Education on Sundays. The Idetown Church is not closed, only joining with Lehman for these months as we journey on as the church of Jesus Christ and please note the times for worship and Sunday School under Lehman Methodist below.

### Lehman United Methodist

1011 Mt. View Drive, Lehman  
Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School for preschool through adult, 9:30 a.m.  
2nd and 4th Sundays, Youth group at 7:30

### Mt. Zion United Methodist

Mt. Zion Rd, Harding  
Feb. 7 - All-you-can-eat Soup and Salad Supper, 4:30-7 p.m.  
Soups, chili, salads, breads, desserts and beverages. Adults \$5, children under 12 \$3.  
All welcome

### Shavertown United Methodist

163 North Pioneer Ave. Shavertown  
Prayer time Wednesdays, 7-7:15 p.m.

### St. Luke's Lutheran

Tunkhannock Rd., Noxen

Sunday School is 9:30 a.m. and Church Service at 11 a.m.

### St. Paul's Lutheran

RR 4 Box 627A (off of 118), Dallas  
Saturday Evening Service at 5:30 weekly.  
Annual reports by committee chairpersons and organizations are due in the church office no later than January 2.

### St. Therese's Catholic Church

64 Davis Street, Shavertown  
Back Mountain Youth Council accepting new members for junior high grades 6-8 and high school grades 9-12. For more info. call Denise at 696-1144.

January 19, Elizabeth Ministry Women's Pamper Night. Call Maggie Baker to reserve a spot, 674-0997.

Married couples' night away, February 20 and 21.

February 27-29, International Student Leadership Weekend for 9-12th grade students. For more info., Call Denise at 696-1144.

### Trinity Presbyterian

105 Irem Rd., Dallas  
Saturday evening services will not be held during the month of January. They will resume Feb. 28.

### Trucksville United Methodist

40 Knob Hill Rd., Trucksville  
Sunday Services are at 8:30 and 11 a.m.  
Sunday School classes for all ages are held at the Educational Facility on Sundays, 9:45-10:45.



### Prince of Peace parishioners help WVIA raise funds

As an outreach project, members of the Prince of Peace Church in Dallas recently assisted WVIA in its fund raising efforts. Members manned the phone banks and tallied pledges.

Pictured first row, from left: Two Bit Charley (Dave Schooley plays Two Bit Charley as a member of the Prince of Peace Clown Ministry), Michele Makarewicz, Lisa Braen, Liz Plashinski. Second row: Jesse Hobbs, Ashleigh Napierkowski, Alexandria Napierkowski and Fern Schooley.

### Chorale Ensemble of N.E.P.A. to perform at St. Paul's Lutheran in Dallas

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Dallas, will be hosting the Ecumen Chorale Sunday, January 18 at 3 p.m. The premier Eastern European Choral Ensemble of Northeastern Pennsylvania, directed by Patrick Marcinko II, performs sacred choral works written by composers of Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, and Belarus. The concert is open to the public; there will be a free offering. A reception will follow.

### Winter Gala at St. Therese's

St. Therese's Winter Gala will be Friday, Jan. 30 from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. at Appletree Terrace. Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, buffet, open bar and music by Windfall will be featured. Cost is \$30 per person. For information call the rectory at 696-1144.

### Back Mountain Senior Citizens

The Back Mountain Seniors meet on the first Thursday of the month, starting at 1 p.m. in St. Therese's Hall at Pioneer Ave. and Davis Street in Shavertown.  
For information call Lil at 696-1828 or Marie at 696-3095.

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