



# BRETHREN HIGHLIGHTS

Lancaster Church of the Brethren

December 2015

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## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

On Christmas Eve there are 2 worship options. First, at **5:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center**, there is the Christmas Eve Family Service. Come and experience a Night Like No Other! The children's music classes will perform in this service. There will be plenty of opportunities for ALL children in attendance to participate throughout the service. You won't want to miss this meaningful time for the whole family!

Rather than offering childcare on Christmas Eve, we welcome all children (calm, fidgety, quiet, squirmy children) in all of our Christmas Eve Services. Come celebrate the birth of our Savior as a family!

On **Christmas Eve in the Sanctuary**, we continue our annual tradition of the gentle, contemplative service known as the "Festival of Lessons and Carols." This service combines readings from scripture with choral anthems, congregational carols, and an appearance by the Holy Family. This year the Chancel Choir will present three anthems: *As the Dark Awaits the Dawn* by Christopher

*Aaspas, Oh, Little One Sweet* by Cecilia McDowall (from *A Winter's Night*), and *Away in a Manger* arranged by Gilbert M. Martin.

It is a time to set aside the hectic pace of our lives during this busy season and meditate on the true meaning of Christmas. Again continuing an annual tradition, the service concludes with the congregational singing of *Silent Night*, as each person raises his or her candle to symbolize the light of Christ spreading throughout the world.

The service in the **Sanctuary begins at 6:30 p.m. with the**

**Christmas Recital**, in which the talented musicians of our congregation present music celebrating Christmas and the Christ Child. We are so blessed by the musical talent in our church—come let them bless you with their gifts during this holy season! **The Candlelight Lessons and Carols will follow at 7:00 p.m.** This popular service always fills the Sanctuary, so be sure to arrive early to begin celebrating the birth of Jesus!  
--Pastor Jeff Rill



*O Come  
Let Us  
Adore Him*

## CHRISTMAS FAMILY BREAKFAST AND CHRISTMAS CAROLING

**December 12 at 9:00 a.m.** - Come hungry! We'll begin with a yummy pancake breakfast. Then there will be crafts and cookie-decorating for the kids. We'll move out of the church and hit the road as we sing carols through the community. It's a special morning not to be missed! --Jamie Nace



Lancaster Church of the Brethren is a working, worshiping, learning Christian community, open and accepting without discrimination or force in matters of belief and practice.

# SERVING THIS DECEMBER

## GREETERS

7:40 a.m. Charles Guyer & Chuck Neslund  
 8:40 a.m. Ruth & Glenn Shultz  
 8:40 a.m. Calvin & Shirley Wenger  
 9:50 a.m. Donna & Doug Lunger  
 9:50 a.m. Dan & Judy Errett  
 10:15 a.m. Melode & Mark Forsha



## USHERS

**CHAPEL SERVICE 8:00 a.m.**  
 Jerry Brown & Jere Tankesley

**SANCTUARY SERVICE 10:15 a.m.**

\*Clyde Angle      Bev Angle      Gibson Alvino  
 Courtney Hartman      Bob Finkbiner      Clyde Wenger  
 Shirley Wenger      Wendy Young  
 \*Head Usher

## CHURCH LIBRARY

Staffed Sunday 9:45—10:15 a.m.



Committee Member

## ACOLYTES

Week 1: Maria Ramirez  
 Week 2: Brooke Smith  
 Week 3: Luke Wenger  
 Week 4: Sadie Bowser  
 Week 5: Jack Smith



## VAN INFORMATION

Bob Gish  
 203-3329



## ATTENDANCE

October 18—321  
 October 25—347  
 November 1—323  
 November 8—314

## DIRECTORY CHANGES

Coming soon to a church mailbox near you—the 2016 Church Directory!

Also, in mailboxes this month will be 2016 offering envelopes.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Renea Snyder  
 Leah Mae Biemiller

2 Alaina Snyder (Mark- father)  
 3 Clair Greiner

4 Ellen Weaver  
 Tom Wolf

5 Amy Wiggins  
 Carol Kramer

8 Peggy Bates  
 10 Nicole Putt

11 Shane Heck  
 Jack Wilson

14 Doug Deihm

17 Jean Deemer

18 Greta Kernicky  
 Ashley Wenger  
 Carol Graham  
 Marvin Harnish

21 Sarah Shreckise  
 Deb Neslund

23 Pat Shreckhise

25 Fred Kreider  
 Diana Wiker

26 Ray Leckrone  
 Logan Wenger

27 Ryan Bookman

28 Alex Truit

29 George Murray

30 Mark Frace  
 Allen Mellinger



# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Advent, from the Latin *Adventus*, means coming, that is, of Christ. Advent is the celebration of the impending arrival of Jesus at his birth, which we celebrate on Christmas Day, December 25<sup>th</sup>. The church year begins on the first Sunday of Advent. According to the *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, "Four Sundays in Advent...always precede Christmas Day." When Christmas Day falls on a Sunday, as it does in 2016, Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas Day.

The season of Advent refers to three events: (1) Jesus' coming as the Babe of Bethlehem, (2) His advent into the hearts of people who will receive him, and (3) the Second Coming of Christ to judge the world and to reign supremely.

Historically in the Church of the Brethren, worship and preaching during Advent emphasized penitence, thanksgiving for God's reconciling gift in Jesus Christ,

joyous anticipation of Christ's coming again, and spiritual preparation for the Christ event. Themes for the various Sundays of Advent are typically Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy.

As we prepare to enter into this holy time of year, let us eagerly anticipate the celebration of God's great love for us in the birth of his Son, Jesus. Let us renew our commitment to Christ and the church. Let every heart prepare him room!

I encourage you to invite someone, some couple, or some family, who is not active in a church to join you in worship here at Lancaster Church of

the Brethren for the blessings it offers.

--Pastor Jeff Rill



## STARLIGHT TEA EPIPHANY CONCERT - CELEBRATING THE BIRTH!

Each year at Lancaster Church of the Brethren, we celebrate the music of Advent, Christmas and the New Year with our **Starlight Tea Epiphany Concert**. This year's concert is **Sunday, January 3, 2016 at 7:00 pm** in the sanctuary. It is wonderful, after the hustle and bustle of family celebrations for Christmas and New Year's Day, to pause and take one more look at the music of the season, in a much more relaxed frame of mind!

This year the Chancel Choir will perform TWO major works, the *Magnificat* of G. B. Pergolesi, and a new work by British composer Cecilia MacDowall entitled *A Winter's Night*. We will have a string ensemble as special guests, who will accompany the *Magnificat* along with Margaret Marsch on harpsichord. *A Winter's Night* features



arrangements of five beloved carols, with a stun-

ning organ accompaniment. The choir will also sing anthems by John Rutter (*What Sweeter Music*), Gilbert M. Martin (*Away in a Manger*), Dan Forrest (*The First Noel*) and Mark Hayes (*Mary, Go Tell It!*).

The Carillon Bell Choir will open the concert with a beautiful setting of the Advent hymn *In the Bleak Midwinter*, arranged by Martha Lynn Thomas, and will later ring a medley of carols entitled *At the Manger*, arranged by Michael Helman.

This concert promises to be a delight for all who love the music of Advent and Christmas! Please be sure to join us and invite friends and family, and be sure to stay for the Starlight Tea in the Family Life Center, featuring cookies from the chefs of our congregation!

--Emery DeWitt

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP 2016 EVENTS

**January 30**

Jen's Pottery Den (Feb 6 Snow Date)

**March 5**

ANE Women's District Conference at LCOB

**May**

Mother and Daughter Banquet Sponsored by the Maranatha Women

**September**

Spiritual Retreat Lead by the Maranatha Women

**September 22**

Pie Baking for Disaster Relief Auction

**September 24**

Volunteering at the Disaster Relief Auction

**October 22**

Sheri Weaver, Speaker

**December 3**

Christmas Breakfast

Please add these events to your calendar and join in the fun and fellowship with other women in our church body. Women's fellowship is for all age groups. Questions? Contact Myrl Greiner.

***Don't Forget...***

**2015 Christmas Breakfast and White Elephant exchange**

December 5 in the FLC from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

## COFFEE/DONUT HOSTS

Attention.....Do you love the Gathering Place? Do you want to meet people that attend LCOB that you may not know? Do you have a Sunday or two during the year that is open to serve God by serving others? If so, please consider helping to provide coffee and donuts in the morning before Sunday school until the 10:15 worship time. Your costs (if you wish) are usually covered by the donation basket that is provided. Calvin Wenger strives to get volunteers to do this very important service every week of the year. Please contact him at 664-6325 with your willingness to help. Thank you for your consideration. --Diana Wiker, Hospitality Ministry Team



## CLIMBERS FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, December 12, at 4:30 p.m. the Climbers Fellowship will gather for Christmas caroling at Brethren Village. Climber members should watch for a flyer in their church mailboxes for complete details. All LCOB members and friends are invited to join us for group caroling in the Fieldcrest Great Room at 7:00 p.m. Any questions, contact Mary Ann at 725-3197. --



Committee: Bob & Mary Ann, Elvin & Linda and Mo & Rachel

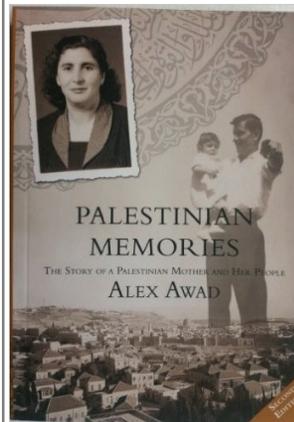
## LIBRARY LINES

Christmas will be here in a few short weeks. We invite you to take some time to relax and enjoy the special moments of the Christmas season by visiting our church library. We have a large collection of inspirational books and movies to share with you and your family. You will find them displayed in the library and out in the gathering place. May the wonder and the mystery of Christmas touch your hearts this season.

--Deborah Hall, Library Chairperson

The following is a book review by Suzanne Schaudel:

At the 2015 Annual Conference in Tampa I had the pleasure of meeting Rev. Alex Awad, a Palestinian Christian who pastors a Baptist church in East Jerusalem and directs the Shepherd Society, an organization that assists struggling Palestinians of the West Bank to meet basic needs such as food, utilities, employment and medical care. On behalf of our church library, I purchased the book that Rev. Awad wrote, Palestinian Memories – The Story of a Palestinian Mother and Her People. The book is filled



with the Awad family history and the stories of Palestinians and the injustices they have suffered often with the support of Christian Zionists from the US who think that it is God's will that Israel should rule over all the land without regards to the rights of the Palestinians. This book helps us Western Christians to understand what has been going on between the Jews and Palestinians. I encourage you to read the eye-opener book.

### HEALTH KIT PROCESSING

On **Thursday, December 17**, there will be a trip to Church World Service in New Windsor to help process health kits. Volunteers are needed! We will leave the church at 7:00 a.m. and return around 5:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Please contact Rus Adsitt at 569-0278, if you plan to attend by December 14.

### 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PRAYER BREAKFAST – SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2016

Yes...30 years ago – January 15, 1986 – a Prayer Breakfast was held at Lancaster Church of the Brethren on a cold Wednesday morning. And, each Wednesday morning since then (with a few exceptions for weather and Holidays) the faithful have gathered to lift up prayers of praise and petition to God.

So that many more people are able to enjoy this time of prayer, praise and celebration for 30 years of Prayer Breakfast at LCOB, a special Saturday edition of **Prayer Breakfast will be held on January 16, 2016. Breakfast at 8:00 a.m., Prayers at 8:30 a.m. and Closing Remarks at 9:30 a.m.** The keynote speaker will be the President of Water Street Mission, Jack Crowley. --David Hosler



### BV NEWS

There will be a **Brethren Village Christmas Craft Bazaar and Cookie Sale on Friday, December 4, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Wolfe Auditorium.** Donations of cookies are also needed for this sale. Please drop off your labeled cookies in the Welcome Center anytime the week of December 1. Come and purchase your Christmas cookies because there will be lots of delicious homemade cookies for sale.

Remember to stop in at the **Brethren Village Gift Shop**, open Monday thru Friday 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and every Saturday 9:30 to noon, during the month of December. Also, the **Thrift Shop** is open Tuesday-Friday 9:30 a.m. to 4:00pm and the first Saturday of every month, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The **BV Work Shop** is open Monday-Friday 9-4 and Saturday 9-12noon. Come and see what is for sale at these three shops.

--Marilyn Hummel, BV Key Person, LCOB

### COMMUNION & 2¢ A MEAL

#### DATES FOR 2016

Our custom, whenever we hold Bread and Cup Communion or Love Feast, is to bring non-perishable food items for the Lancaster County Council of Churches Food Bank. There is always a need for the following: *Small Peanut Butter & Jelly, Canned Chicken / Tuna Fish, Macaroni & Cheese, Spaghetti Sauce, Diced Tomatoes, Rice, Canned Beans & Dried Beans of all types.* Fresh fruits and vegetables such as: *apples, oranges, potatoes and sweet potatoes* are also welcome. Please place your donations in the grocery carts located in the Gathering Place or Heritage Center.

#### Food bank with communion dates:

February 14	March 24
May 15	November 27

#### 2¢ a Meal dates:

January 10	March 13
June 5	September 18

#### WOULD YOU SHARE 2¢ A MEAL?



2¢ -	A Meal!
6¢ -	A Day!
42¢ -	A Week!
\$1.82 -	A Month!
\$21.84 -	A Year

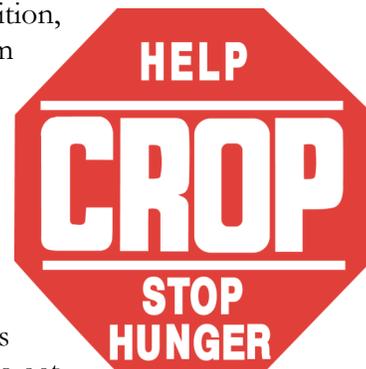
Someone will appreciate your help and sharing!

### LCOB RESULTS OF CROP WALK 2015

Thanks to members and friends of our congregation for their generous contributions to the annual CROP Walk. 70 families donated a total of \$1,900 to Carlos Schaudel who spearheads our church's participation in the CROP Walk.

The CROP Walk is a program of Church World Service that helps to fight hunger in 80 countries around the world. In addition, 25% of the proceeds from the Lancaster Walk go to support the Lancaster County Food Bank. Contributions from CWS/CROP also go to areas struck by disaster. Another way that donations to CROP are used is by teaching people how to get enough food through self-development.

Thank you, LCOB, for your great support of the CROP Walk!



## Drumming to a New Beat

You can help Morning Psalm replace its 15-year-old drum kit by contributing to "2K4D" (*Two Thousand for Drums*). All are invited to give toward the purchase of a new drum kit.

Checks can be made to LCOB with "2K4D" in the memo line. Please see Tim Dunbar with questions or for more information.



## GIFTING OF APPRECIATED SECURITIES

As 2015 draws to a close, many people may be looking at their investments. Some members also consider making special gifts or "catch – up" gifts to the Church – Plan of Ministry and Outreach.

These two actions can come together in the form of making a gift of appreciated securities - stocks, mutual funds or bonds – directly to Lancaster Church of the Brethren. We maintain accounts at several firms. The Church receives the most beneficial treatment at Charles Schwab in terms of the costs incurred to handle donated securities. However, the Church is happy to receive gifts of this kind wherever it works best for the member.

If this is something that might be of interest to you, simply contact the Church Office for further information and a copy of a printed page of instructions, including the account numbers to use. Donors receive a receipt from the Church acknowledging the value of the security on the date it was received by the Church. Usually this will be the amount of deduction allowed for income tax filing purposes and without incurring any capital gains or other tax as would be the case if securities were sold and a cash gift made with the proceeds.

Finally, keep in mind that such direct gifts of securities can be useful at any time of the year; not only at yearend. Also, such gifts may be designated to multiple causes supported by the Church. Members of the Stewardship Ministry Team stand ready to help anyone understand the many possibilities.

--David Hosler, Moderator; Frank Fox, Treasurer & Moderator Elect; Debra Chillas, Treasurer Elect

## CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

### REPORT OF OCTOBER 25, 2015

On Sunday, October 25, 2015, Moderator, David Hosler called the congregation together in the business of the church after a soup and salad lunch hosted by the Youth. Devotions were given by Senior Pastor Jeff Rill.

Approved for Ministerial Licenses for another year were: Judith Breidenstine, John Breidenstine, James Bridgemen and Luis Bosch.

Additional action taken by the congregation was the approval of the 2015 Plan of Ministry (budget) of \$776,777 (an increase of 1.7% from the previous year).

The Outreach & Scholarship Fund Distribution was approved with a \$1,800 grant to Habitat for Humanity and \$3,000 grant to Beth Shalom House of Peace, a program of Tabor Community Services.

The congregation approved the following to leadership positions: Frank Fox, Moderator; Matt Kramer, Assistant Moderator; Stewardship Ministry Chair & Church Treasurer, Deb Chillas, Stewardship Ministry Assistant Chair, Doug Deihm; Outreach Ministry Chair, Ray Leckrone; Outreach Ministry Assistant Chair, Dave Koser; Education Ministry Assistant Chair, Susan Adsitt; Morning Psalm Ministry Assistant Chair, Jodi Yingling; Traditional Worship Ministry Co-Assistant Chairs, Josh & Stacy Bashore-Steury; Leadership Search Chair, Barb Morrow; Leadership Search Team members, Myrl Greiner, Grace Cox & Fern Bucher; Annual Conference Delegate, Ray Leckrone.

Announced was that Senior Pastor Jeff Rill will be representing the Atlantic Northeast District on Standing Committee of Annual Conference. Also announced that Kelsey Murray will not be continuing after December 31, 2015, as Director of Youth Ministries. Kelsey was commended by Assistant Moderator, Jay Wenger and Education Ministry Chair, David Ebersole for the excellent job that she provided this past year. --Jay V. Wenger

## DECEMBER PMT ENERGY TIP

**LED Christmas bulbs**, are now available in many colors. They're safe to touch and won't burn your children's hands! They save up to 80-90 percent of your energy costs, and are long lasting. Make sure all lights you purchase contain the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) label, which means they meet UL safety requirements.



## OUR CHERISHED MEMORIES OF THE 2015 VISIT TO THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The 2015 visit of the BEST and the Women Choir Group of the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria (EYN) to USA was one of a kind and like no other ever. The Lancaster Church of the Brethren hatched the idea, crafted and packaged the entire one month long visitation program. It lasted from July 22 to August 21, 2015. The design and implementation of the program was very ingenious and flawless. Every event, activity and the minutest detail was carefully thought out and meticulously put together which reflects the commitment of lots of resources of people, man hours and dollars.

The places we visited and the events we experienced were very exhaustive and quite memorable. We were in many states, about 13 and many more cities of the entire width and breath of the United States, from the east coast to the West Coast. The entire group was split into few sub groups to visit specific CoB Districts for specific functions in effort of covering most of the CoB Districts in the United States. We (Michael Tarfa and Danjuma Gwany) were privileged to visit some CoB Congregations and places of interest in the California South West District. We felt very happy because both of us had always loved and hoped to visit the State of California. The congregations and individuals we met interacted with and all those who hosted us were very awesome people. We were particularly moved by the interest and concern that the CoB congregations expressed about the situation in Nigeria. We were very happy because we had the opportunity and time for long presentations and discussions after each presentation we did on the Nigerian crisis and the predicament of the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria (EYN).

After each presentation the congregations were emotionally devastated by the plight of people living in the North Eastern part of Nigeria in general and the members of the EYN specifically. Most of the Congregations and individuals expressed the desire and willingness to help in stopping the killings and destructions and also in alleviating the sufferings of escapees and the Internally Displaced People (IDP). They were willing to sacrifice even their "widow's mites." We had wonderful quality time with many of the Brethren there. Danjuma was also privileged to present a research proposal developed for an alternative education opportunity for the displaced school aged children who have been out of school for about two years now due to the terrorists killing of school children and the destruction of schools in the North East of Nigeria.

Our hosts in California CoB and the other Districts

and places all over US were very pleasant people to stay with and we interacted quite well with all of them. We were overwhelmed with the generosity, hospitality and treatment we received from the Brethren in US. They were extremely organized and prompt in welcoming and receiving us from point to point at the numerous points of the entire visit. We were treated with brotherly love, given Comfortable accommodation; sumptuous meals and general welfare were generously provided to us.

We were thrilled with the visit to places of interest such as New Port and Laguna Beaches on the Pacific Ocean Coast of California, the food valley and the hills, mountains and the general countryside of Southern California. We also enjoyed the visit to the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, the Social Park in Chicago, Camp Ethel in Orlando Florida. We think they are all wonderful places of interest to visit. Our short visit to Washington DC is also Memorable. Our visit to Germantown in Philadelphia brought to memory the great evangelical works of Alexander Mark which left us with an indelible memory of the enormous sacrifice that our forefathers in Christ made to bring the gospel to us. It also helped in linking the history of the movement of the members of the Church of the Brethren from Germany to the United States then to Northern Nigeria.

One other thing we also cherished was the very long bus rides to many cities and places and the short stays at many Country inns and other places of interest. We really enjoyed every bit of the visit that was organized with every consideration, including the choice of summer time instead of winter and other extreme details for the visit. We believe that it was the best visit in the entire life of BEST. And so we feel really blessed for being part of this eventful visit for which we are extremely grateful. We pray for God to bless everybody who contributed in any way towards the success of the visit and for God to replenish their resources many folds.

Michael and Danjuma.

### CHIBOK GIRLS KIDNAPPED (APRIL 2014)

273 girls taken by Boko Haram, most of them from the EYN (Church of the Brethren), taken from a school built by the Church. At last report 54 Chibok girls have escaped and are being supported by families around the world. Returning to school anywhere is scary as the girls and their families fear revenge from Boko Haram. As the escaped Chibok girls return to school and society, one of them reported, "Education gives me the wings I need to fly." Please continue to pray for the remaining 219 girls. <http://www.brethren.org/nigeriacrisis/>

*Trying to be better stewards of our resources this letter comes to you via the newsletter, instead of printing another sheet of paper, another envelope and spending more on postage.*

Dear Member or Associate

It gives me a great pleasure to occasionally address our congregation and express my excitement about being able to be associated with, and serve, LCOB. Over the past few years I have been pleased to work as your Treasure and Chair of the Stewardship Ministry Team. In this position I have had a bird's eye seat to see all the wonderful activities and acts of love carried out within our midst.

I have been able to watch the dedication and commitment your congregational leaders have displayed in carrying out their duties. Occasionally we may squabble a bit, but the exciting thing to see is the passion "to walk the talk" as Brethren by engaging in all of our outreach and inreach activities.

You may be aware that we currently have a Plan of Ministry (operating budget) of \$743,000 for 2015. You may not be aware that we likely have \$100,000 -200,000 in spontaneous outreach giving that does not pass through our Plan of Ministry budget. We are indeed a very giving congregation, and that is something to be very proud of.

As I now leave the position of Treasurer in 2016, I thank each of you for all the ways that you have supported our mission. I have, however, one last task that I would like you to help me complete. Currently our Year-to-Date contributions are running about \$20,000 - \$30,000 behind our expenses and I would like to close that gap before the end of the year.

I am asking you to consider a period of "**Extraordinary Giving**" between now and the end of the year to help us end the year in a positive position.

In addition, we would like to maintain our giving momentum into the New Year. In that light we are asking you to complete a financial pledge card indicating your commitment to the 2016 Plan of Ministry Budget. Please indicate your intention by placing your card in a collection plate on Sunday, December 13, or by returning it to the office by December 16. This action will greatly assist with our financial planning.

As my term as Treasurer ends, I am humbled that you have asked me to serve as the Moderator of LCOB. The church has always maintained a significant place in my life and fulfilling the obligations of this position will be one of my top priorities. My pledge to you is that I will extend every effort to move our church forward, in a harmonious fashion, to fulfill the missions the Lord has appointed for us. In closing I refer to Pope Francis' plea – **Pray for me.**

*Frank Fox*  
Treasurer

Support intention cards will be put in mailboxes and there will be extra available on **Pledge Sunday, December 13.**

*Lancaster Church of the Brethren*  
*2016 Support Intention*

I am willing to support my church

Yes       No

Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, I intend to give: (check one or indicate amount)

Weekly:    \_\_\_ \$5    \_\_\_ \$10    \_\_\_ \$20    \_\_\_ \$40    \_\_\_ \$60    \_\_\_ \$100    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ other amount

Monthly:   \_\_\_ \$50    \_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_ \$250    \_\_\_ \$500    \_\_\_ \$750    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ other amount

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Malachi 3:10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.*

*I understand that this giving intention may be changed at any time by notifying Tiffany Dickel, Church Administrator.*

## ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

December 2015

9:00 - 9:45 Sunday Mornings

*The following classes are open to everyone. All are invited.  
Even though these groups are "ongoing," they are always looking for new members.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** On December 20, there will be no **Adult Sunday School** classes. Instead, you are invited to a **"Meet-&-Greet"** in the Gathering Area. Come and enjoy light refreshments as you mingle with old friends and meet new ones.

The **Chapel Bible Study Group** meets in the chapel. Their theme for the Dec. – Feb. quarter will be *In the Fullness of Time*, focusing attention on the birth of Jesus Christ as a gift from God and calling us to celebrate the arrival of God into the material messiness of our world. In December we focus on *What we bring to God*, based on Old Testament writings, as well as the gospels of *Matthew* and *Mark*. Teachers will be **Al Cott, Bob Frick** and **Calvin Wenger**.

The **Sacred Parenting Class**, led by **Linda Husted**, meets in room 170. In December we will continue our discussion of the book, *Christmas is Not Your Birthday*, by Mike Slaughter. Our discussion will focus on how to cut through the holiday hype that can leave us exhausted and broken at the end of the year, and how to approach Christmas differently, being transformed in the process.

The **Thoughtful Life Class**, meeting in rooms 162-163, features resource persons who lead stimulating discussions in a variety of topics. In December we focus on different traditions of celebrating Christmas:

Dec. 6 – Christmas as celebrated by our **Sudanese** friends.

Dec. 13 – The Latino Christmas Story, as presented **Arelis Sable**.

**Dec. 20 – Meet & Greet in the Gathering Area (no class)**

Dec. 27 – German Christmas as explained by **Otto and Suzanne Schaudel**.

**Connections** is a casual conversation group meeting in Room 200 for coffee. It is open to everyone interested in connecting with other people on a more personal level. Loosely organized discussions each month are focused as follows:

First Sunday: Brethren beliefs and history

Second Sunday: Hot topics based on current events

Third Sunday: Game day. Games and casual conversation

Fourth Sunday: Comparative religions and denominations

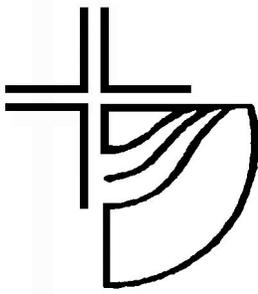
Fifth Sunday: Pot-luck breakfast

Follow the **Connections** signs to Room 200 on the second floor. For details, contact Rick Bowser at 201-8734 or [rbowser4@yahoo.com](mailto:rbowser4@yahoo.com).

The **Maranatha** ministry offers an adult Sunday School class in Spanish and English, taught by **Arelis Sable**. Further details are available from her.

I MAY NOT BE A "WISE MAN," BUT AT  
LEAST I NEVER GOT SO LOST I HAD TO ASK  
HEROD FOR DIRECTIONS.





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 1601 Sunset Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17601-4329  
 (717)-397-4751 lancob@comcast.net  
 www.lancob.org

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

<p><b>LANCASTER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN</b></p> <p><b>VISION STATEMENT</b>        To be and make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.</p> <p><b>MISSION STATEMENT</b>        To be the heart, hands, feet, voice, and mind of Christ locally and globally.</p> <p><b>GOALS</b>        Radical Hospitality        Passionate Worship        Intentional Faith Development        Risk-Taking Mission and Service        Extravagant Generosity</p> <p><small>(Adopted by the Lancaster Church of the Brethren, 10/07)</small></p> <p><b>CHURCH OFFICE HOURS</b>        Mon - Thur 8:00am—4:00pm        Friday 8:00am—1:00pm</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES</b></p> <p>8:00 a.m. Chapel        10:15 a.m. Family Life Center        10:15 a.m. Sanctuary        10:15 a.m. Maranatha</p> <p><b>WORSHIP FOR CHILDREN</b></p> <p>10:15 a.m. Praise Kidz        (Age 4—3<sup>rd</sup> grade)</p> <p><b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b></p> <p>9:00a.m. Children &amp; Adults</p>	<p><b>Our Staff</b></p> <p><b>Jeffrey B. Rill</b>        Senior Pastor</p> <p><b>Cindy E. L. Lattimer</b>        Associate Pastor</p> <p><b>J. Calvin Wenger</b>        Pastor of Caregiving</p> <p><b>Alix Sable</b>        Associate Pastor</p> <p><b>Emery A. DeWitt</b>        Director of Music</p> <p><b>Margaret Marsch</b>  <b>Jeanne Heck</b>        Organists</p> <p><b>Jamie Nace</b>        Director of Children's Music        Director of Children's Ministry</p> <p><b>Kelsey Murray</b>        Interim Director of Youth Ministries</p> <p><b>Tiffany L. Dickel</b>        Church Administrator        Newsletter Editor</p> <p><b>Linda Harnish</b>        Secretary</p> <p><b>Troy Nace</b>        Custodian</p>
<p>The deadline for every issue is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous month.</p>		