

LITITZ CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



OBSERVER



13th ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S DAY—PORK AND SAUERKRAUT DINNER—JANUARY 1, 2012

Inside this issue:

The Desk of Bob	2
New Year's Day Dinner	5
Young Adult , College	6
Heifer Project	8
Report of Witness Com.	9
Directory Changes	11



11:00 AM—3:00 PM (or until sold out)

LITITZ CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

300 W. Orange Street, Lititz, PA

Buffet Style (One time through)

Adults \$10.00 Children, ages 3-11 \$4.00

No charge for children under 3 years old

BENEFITS YOUTH FOUNDATION FUND

Musical Entertainment in the Sanctuary as follows:

11:45 Teen Challenge Choir

12:15 Bob Kettering—Organ and Piano

12:45 John Huber—Organ

1:15 Matthew Miller—Piano

1:45 Glenn Compton—Piano

2:15 Jacob Huber—Piano

Handcrafted items available for purchase in the Gathering Area
Tickets may be purchased at the door, McElroys Pharmacy, Stauffers of Kissel Hill, Lititz Mutual Insurance Company, or the Church Office

DEACONS CALLED - INSTALLATION SERVICE ON JANUARY 15

Deacons who have accepted the call of the Lititz Church for a three year term beginning January 1 as a result of the Fall Council are as follows:

incumbents: Scott & Cindy Bingeman, Gerry & Carol Kurl, Jane Tennis

newly called: Scott & Cheryl Garner, Don & Becky Becker, Mike & Lynne Keller

An additional deacon will be called in January to be a part of a deacon team with Jane Tennis. The installation of deacons will take place during the morning worship services on January 15.

CHURCH LEADERS TO BE CONSECRATED ON JANUARY 15

Church leaders serving in 2012 will be installed and consecrated at both worship services on Sunday, January 15. We praise the lord for many who have agreed to take on ministry assignments in 2012. Please pray for those taking on leadership roles with our church.

Deacon To Be Called On January 8

Melanie Lutz, a former deacon, has agreed to serve on a deacon team with Jane Tennis beginning in January for a three year term. Her call will need to be affirmed by the congregation during a very brief business meeting during the worship services on January 8.

Events

January 1

10:00 am Combined
Worship; 9:00 am Sun-
day School

11:00–3:00 pm
Pork & Sauerkraut

Dinner

* * *

January 8

Communion

* * *

January 15

9:00 & 9:15 am
Worship Services:
Church Leadership Con-
secration & Installation
of Deacons

* * *

January 22

3:00 pm Music at Mid
Month: A Musical Block
Party

FROM THE DESK OF STEVE. . .

You will be getting this newsletter just around the time of our New Years Day Pork & Sauerkraut lunch. What a great way to start the year. We begin with one of the greatest outreach experiences that we have in the entire year. In late October Joan Hershey led us in a study of what it means to reach out, greet and connect with visitors. January 1 is a great opportunity to put hospitality into practice. Most of us think of our church as a warm and friendly place. We must remember that the news will focus on the violence, robberies, and traumas of society. This means that persons carry around a lot of concern and fear. People don't want to experience the rejection of being the stranger in a room. Our own discomfort with strangers will affect our hospitality. Today people in general have very mixed feelings about the church. The church gets a lot of negative press in the media. Some are offended by what seems to be a political stand of the church. Some say the church is irrelevant to society. Sometimes we like the church the way it is. Warm and real hospitality is not optional for the church. It is the key to our survival and future growth. Hospitality is a biblical value. It is not a strategy; it is the way of God's Kingdom. May God give each of us new grace to reach out in hospitality as we begin the New Year. May God's hospitality be the hallmark of all of our gatherings. May God give you a blessed New Year.

SERMON SERIES ON CORE VALUES OF THE BRETHREN TO BEGIN JANUARY 1

The Mission and Ministry Board of the Church of the Brethren adopted eight core values to help carry out their vision for the Church of the Brethren which is to *wholly engage in the reconciliation of all people to God and to each other*. The core concepts are reflected in the colorful 2011 Church of the Brethren Annual Report which will be in each family's mailbox which describes the ministries of the Church of the Brethren around the world.

Pastors Bob, Steve and Ralph will present eight sermons beginning January 1 with a focus of each of the core values in a sermon series entitled *Hearers and Doers of the Word: Eight Core Concepts for Christians*.

The weekly focus for the sermons in the series for the month of January will be:

- January 1 "Christ-likeness: *Reflecting the love and heart of Jesus*
- January 8 "Servant Leadership: *Serving the church with both humility and boldness*
- January 15 "Peacemaking: *Acting as an instrument of reconciliation and justice*
- January 22 "Simplicity: *Living simply so that we have room in our lives for God and for others*
- January 29 "Hospitality: *Following Jesus' example of respecting all people and inviting them into his fellowship*

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS ALIVE BEGINS NEW ADULT CLASSES - JANUARY 4TH

The popular Telling Our Stories series begins with Ethan and Meryl Gibbel sharing their story of Trekking in Nepal. Retired Pastor Richard Shreckhise will be teaching a Bible Study on the book of John. He will take an in depth look at pivotal passages and how they shaped Christianity over the centuries. The SoulSisters Women's Group continues to meet. Brochures are in the racks by the entrance doors to the church.

TELLING OUR STORIES - WEDNESDAY NIGHTS ALIVE

TELLING OUR STORIES

Wednesday Nights ALIVE
Lititz Church of the Brethren
January 4 - February 1, 2012
6:15 - 7:30 PM
Fellowship Hall

January 4 *Trekking in Nepal*
Ethan and Meryl Gibbel

January 11 *Journey to Greece*
Don and Marsha Campbell

January 18 *Stories of Brethren Service*
J. Kenneth Kreider

January 25 *Breaking the Cycle of Revenge - Israel/Palestine*
Ron and Judy Zook

February 1 *Women Empowerment in India and Nepal*
Pam and Dave Reist

BREAD AND CUP COMMUNION - JANUARY 8, 2012

Bread and Cup Communion will be offered at both worship services on January 8. Begin the new year by partaking of the Bread and Cup as we renew our commitment to Jesus, our Lord, and remember His broken body and shed blood on Calvary's cross.



FAMILY OF THE WEEK TO BE FEATURED BEGINNING JANUARY 8

Beginning January 8, each week a young family from our church will be featured as the Family of the Week. The name of a family and something about the family will be shared each week. Individuals and Sunday School classes will be asked to pray for the featured Family of the Week and some may want to send a card or other remembrance to the featured family. The Family of the Week will help us focus on the young families of our church and help us to become better acquainted.

NEW YEAR'S DAY DINNER WILL BENEFIT YOUTH

This past summer, over twenty youth and five advisors participated in a work camp in West Virginia. This work camp experience gave the youth the opportunity to work with other youth to help needy families there and to grow in God's love by sharing it with others.

Along with their advisors and parents, the youth worked diligently at holding fundraisers to earn enough money to help pay for the cost of the trip. Members of the church and community will have the opportunity to support them in future endeavors by attending the Thirteenth Annual Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner. The dinner will be held on Sunday, January 1, from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. or until sold out.

This event has become a yearly tradition to many people from Lititz and surrounding communities. Over 100 volunteers, including the youth and their parents, will help to prepare and serve the feast, under the direction of Mark and Marty Hershey, Gerry and Carol Kurl, Rodney and Carol Young, and Ken and Joanne Hess.

This year, the meal will be held following the Sunday morning Worship Service. Take outs will also be available and may be picked up by coming in the back entrance of the church.

The buffet style (one time through) menu will include roast pork, hot dogs (for the kids), "real" mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, homemade Cortland applesauce, rolls, a variety of desserts, and coffee, tea, or lemonade. The cost will be \$10.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children, ages 3-11. There is no charge for children under three years of age.

Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance at McElroy Pharmacy, Lititz Mutual Insurance Company, or the courtesy desk at Stauffers of Kissel Hill.

Many items for this dinner are donated by church members, and proceeds will go to help to defray the cost for the youth to attend National Youth Conference, work camps, Creation and other worthwhile activities. During the summer of 2012, the youth and their advisors are planning to attend work camps.

Following the dinner, there will be musical entertainment in the sanctuary. Beautiful handcrafted items made by the Golden Needles group of the church will be available for purchase in the Gathering Area. All the profits from these purchases will go to the church's Debt Reduction. The Kindred Outreach program will continue to be used for needy families to attend the dinner through donations from local businesses and individuals from the community.

For delicious food and a chance to relax, socialize, share your blessings, and support the youth, plan now to attend the Thirteenth Annual New Year's Day Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner at the Lititz Church of the Brethren.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRIES - CALENDAR

January 1..... No Sunday school for Senior High Youth
Help with Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner

20-22..... Winter Retreat at Camp Swatara

22Hang Time - All LCoB Youth and their friends attending the
Ski Trip MUST attend!
6:30 pm

27-29.....Ski Trip

Looking Ahead to February

5.....Soup & Salad Fundraiser (TENTATIVE) at 11:30 a.m.

12.....Ice Skating with Pastor Bob at 11:30 a.m.

26.....Hang Time: Reading Rocks and Laser Quest
Time and Coordinator for this event to be announced soon.

COLLEGE STUDENT NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to Erin Flynn, who graduated December 22, 2011, with a Master of Arts in Ethnomusicology from University of Maryland, College Park, MD. Wedding plans are set for June, 2012.

ATTENTION, YOUNG ADULTS, COLLEGE STUDENTS!

Check the College bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for more information on summer opportunities -

Camp Swatara
National Young Adult Conference
Ministry Summer Service
Youth Peace Travel Team
Young Adult Workcamp
New Community Project Learning Tours

Registration opens in January for some of these programs. Don't miss your chance to grow, make a difference, make new friends and serve in a meaningful ministry!

ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT YOUNG ADULTS -NIGHT IN LANCASTER CITY

Date & Time: January 13, 2012, 7 pm

Where: The Community Room on Prince (19 North Prince St, 3rd Floor above Price Street
Café Cost: \$0

Details: College age young adults (or somewhere just beyond that!) this is for you! A time to connect with friends, make some new friends, plan games, listen to live music (Matt Wheeler) and have some coffee and dessert!

THE BOOK CLUB

The Book Club selection for February 2012 is *Forbidden* by Wilma Wall. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the friendship between Mennonite Annie Penner and Japanese American Donald Nakamura seems doomed by a prejudice and clashing cultures. Donald becomes a decorated hero, and when the war ends, their romance doesn't. Everything seems to work against them—their families, a scandalized community, the laws of California. Despite the pressures, they believe God will bless their forbidden love.

We will meet on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at the home of Verna Moseman, 101 Moravian Avenue at 7:00 pm. Note the change from our usual Monday meeting time.



MINISTERS OF MUSIC PLANS FLORIDA TOUR IN JANUARY

The Ministers of Music, a male quartet of which Bob Kettering is a charter member, have been ministering in music since 1979. A Florida tour is planned with the following itinerary:

- Friday, January 27 Bahia Vista Mennonite Church in Sarasota 7:00 PM
- Saturday, January 28 Sunnyside Christian Fellowship near Arcadia 7:00 PM
- Sunday, January 29 Good Shepherd COB in Bradenton 10:30 AM
- Sunday, January 29 Sebring COB 7:00 PM
- Monday, January 30 United Methodist in Venice 7:00 PM

CHILDREN'S WING REDECORATING PROJECT

The Children's Wing redecorating project continues. Please feel free to stop by the children's wing after Sunday school or during the week to see all the changes. If you do stop by during the week, we just ask, for the safety and security of the Preschool that you check in with the office first. The Preschool program meets Monday through Friday in our Children's wing.

If you would like to help paint, please contact Nancy Compton at gncompton@gmail.com or call her at 627-8625



HEIFER PROJECT ON THE MOOOOOOVE! - LAST EDITION

We want to thank the entire congregation for its answer to the call to participate in the Heifer Project. Here is an excerpt from Heifer's [The Most Important Gift Catalog in the World](#) as this is what you have made possible:

"The Gift Ark goes around the world - Latin America, Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas. Wherever we find hunger, poverty, and hopelessness, we answer with Heifer animals and training.

"What does this generous gift mean? It means ... oxen, donkeys and water buffalo ... cows, sheep and goats ... even bees, chicks, and rabbits and more ... healthy, hardy animals that will go forth and multiply, improving lives for countless families and children, and passing on your spirit of faith and charity again to places in the world where your generosity, kindness and vision are needed most.

"2 cows to bring milk and income to a village in Armenia, 2 sheep to help families in Arizona produce wool, 2 camels to help families in Tanzania earn income by transporting agricultural and industrial materials, 2 oxen to pull plows and carts in Uganda, 2 water buffalo to help families in Thailand increase rice production through animal draft power, 2 pigs to enable families in Arkansas to attain greater self-reliance, 2 beehives to help families in Albania earn money through the sale of honey and beeswax, 2 goats to help families in El Salvador provide milk for their children and earn extra income, 2 donkeys to supply animal draft power for farmers in Kenya, 2 trios of ducks to help families in Ghana generate income through the sale of eggs and birds, 2 trios of rabbits to provide food and income for families in Guatemala, 2 trios of guinea pigs to help families in Ecuador add protein to their diets and increase income, 2 flocks of geese to help families in Georgia better their nutrition and income through the production of eggs and meat, 2 flocks of chicks to help families in China improve nutrition and generate income through the sale of eggs, and 2 llamas to improve livestock bloodlines and produce wool and income for Peruvian families."

Without your phenomenal gifts, none of this would have been possible! Keep your eyes open for a final amount in one of the Sunday bulletins. Kudos and a grateful Amen from -- the families receiving animals provided by your gifts as well as the Heifer Committee (Clarence Keener, Phyllis Martin, and Bill & Linda Saylor)!

BUILDING DEBT PLUMMETS NEAR THE \$100,000 AT YEAR'S END

A secret hope lay deep within the Capital Gifts Committee's dream to reduce our debt under \$100,000 by the end of the 2012 year. And we celebrate the achievement of this significant milestone! It is exactly 10 years ago when the initial construction of our \$3,781,304.00 new and renovated facilities began. After much sacrificial giving and three financial campaigns, we now can visualize a debt free congregation. We praise the Lord for that and thank the many committed persons who assisted in reaching this goal.

The 2011 year began with an indebtedness of \$322,667.00, a reduction of 65.1% as of December 11. In addition to the church staff, the appointed committee members includes, Lamar Brumbach, George Gerdes, Jim Gibbel, Susie Hess, Jim Ross and Earl Ziegler. Phyllis Martin serves as the recorder for the campaign commitments. The committee will meet on Thursday, January 5 to evaluate the progress and share creative ways to address the remaining debt.

As of December 27 our church debt totals \$103,748.00.

REPORT OF WITNESS COMMISSION TO CHURCH BOARD

LITITZ CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN—DECEMBER 14, 2011

One Hundred Thirteen Operation Christmas Child boxes (Samaritan's Purse International Project) were filled (about \$30-\$50 per box) by our families and were dedicated on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 21. This ministry was coordinated by Scott and Cheryl Garner.

Bill and Linda Saylor have directed the Heifer International project with the goal to fill an ark which is \$5,000. They introduced the idea of passing on the gift of an animal to another needy family both to the children's and youth departments. A very impressive display in the Gathering Area tells the story. As of this past Monday (Dec. 12), the gifts totaled \$4,900.00.

Forty-five shut-ins or older persons whose names were hung on a Christmas Tree in the Gathering Area were presented by church persons with the gift of a poinsettia. Both the recipient and the messenger find a blessing in this visiting time together. Many thanks to all who claimed a name and made the personal visit.

What a joy to announce several important milestones in the lives of our "Karen" refugee families. Bway (wife of Shee Sho) earned her driver's license the week of Thanksgiving. She is applying for part-time work at the Lititz Family Cupboard. Diamond Johnny will be employed full time by Moravian Manor beginning December 27. Angel (wife of Diamond) will work every other weekend at Luther Care beginning January 1. Please pray for them and encourage them.

The Global Missions Partnership in Elgin has invited Earl Ziegler to coordinate a mission trip on February 25 - March 5 for the purpose of erecting a church building in Sabana Torso, located an hour out of the capital city of Santo Domingo. Needed are several block layers, an electrician, a welder and laborers, as well as finances. See Earl for details.

The Pathfinders Sunday School Class challenged the church to buy a Christmas present for a Warwick school child (up to age 17) whose family lives on the poverty level. Fifty-seven names were plucked from the Christmas tree in the gathering area and 57 gifts were returned. Thanks to all who brought a surprise gift (\$10-\$20) to a local child to have a merrier Christmas!

The TNT leadership reports they have been meeting every Tuesday evening from 7:00 to 8:30 with 20 or so staff for the last six weeks for the purpose of training individuals and to educate them about youth culture. The staff chose Monday nights for Middle School youth and Tuesday nights for High School youth. The goal is to open the center in the beginning of February using our facilities. The staff are super excited, feel a great team of leaders has emerged and believe that God will be doing awesome ministries through this youth center.

– Earl K. Ziegler, chair

BRIDGEWATER COLLEGE CHOIR TO PERFORM ON MARCH 23

Mark your calendars! The Bridgewater College Choir will be returning for a concert in our sanctuary on Friday, March 23 at 7:30 PM. Jesse Hopkins, director, will be retiring following the Spring semester. Housing will be needed for the college students following the concert. More information will be in future Observers.

HOW TO GET PUBLISHED IN THE OBSERVER

If you are interested in submitting an article or letter, here's how to do it!

1. The deadline is always published on the last page of the Observer (under the Sermon Schedule).
2. Your article can be submitted to the office handwritten, typed or electronically submitted. Electronically submitted is best! Diane Lamborn can cut and paste directly into the Observer.
3. Email to the church office at dlamborn@lititzcob.org.
4. Please do not extensively format emailed submissions. Simple paragraph form is best. An attached file should be in a *Word* document.
5. Mail any submissions to the church office, attention Diane Lamborn, or place them in Diane's mailbox which is located at the help desk.

RENOVARE ESSENTIALS CONFERENCE

What do you get when you combine a retired author and the Leffler Chapel at Elizabethtown College?--A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. On Saturday April 21, 2012, the Atlantic Northeast District is sponsoring a Renovare Essentials Conference from 9am to 5:30pm with registration starting at 8am. Richard Foster, author of *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*, will be coming out of retirement to speak at this special event. If you are seeking ways to stretch and grow your walk of faith then this conference is for you. Renovare Essentials include such topics as meditation, prayer, fasting, study, simplicity, solitude, submission, service, confession, worship, guidance, and celebration. Early registration must be in by March 1st to receive a discount, but it is quite possible the event will sell out before March 1st. The registration form includes a sign up for nursery/child care which includes special sessions and a lunch. Contact Doug Balmer if you would like a registration form.

SAVE THE DATE

Vacation Bible School

@ Lititz Church of the Brethren with

Hosanna Fellowship

July 16-20, 2012

Watch for more details in the coming
Observers!

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Ron & Cindy Martin, telephone no. is 575-6182, email is rem53@ptd.net.
Verna Hevener, 502 Dogwood Dr., York, PA 17406, 717-252-6466

Death—Scott Zeird on December 9, 2011

SYMPATHY TO:

Bill and Gwen Zeird and their daughter, Stacy McSparren and her family on the death of their son Scott Zeird, who passed away on Friday, December 9.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Rachel and Nathan Brumbach on the birth of a son, Holden Isaac Brumbach, on November 30. Congratulations to grandparents Vicki and Lamar Brumbach.

THANK YOU:

We would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards, visits and encouragement we have been given during this time. The love and concern that has been shown to us and my family is wonderful. Thank you again for everything.
- Anthony and Tyelisa Young

I have read so many "thank you" notes from others in the past and can now truly appreciate the words of gratitude. Thank you seems too little. I am so very grateful to the LCOB congregation for the many thoughts and prayers, cards and gifts that I have received since my breast cancer diagnosis in October. The outreach of our congregation in times of need is simply amazing. I had no idea that prayers and cards could literally buoy me up through such hard times. Your cards continue to come and your words are so uplifting. My faith has been fortified through my LCOB angels. May God grant you all health, love and fortified faith through the next year.

- Dana Baxter

**LITITZ CHURCH OF
THE BRETHREN**

300 W. Orange Street
Lititz, PA 17543
Phone: 717-626-2131
Fax: 717-626-8031
www.lititzcob.org

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

US POSTAGE PAID

LITITZ, PA 17543

PERMIT NO. 94

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

The Observer is in your mailbox at Church unless you specified that you need it mailed. You may also access the Observer at www.lititzcob.org.

The *Observer* is published monthly by the

LITITZ CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN 300
W. Orange St., Lititz, PA 17543 Tele-
phone: (717) 626-2131 Fax: 626-8031

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:
Robert D. Kettering

Associate Pastor:
Steven R. Hess

Volunteer Pastor of Visitation:
Ralph Z. Moyer

Director of Christian Nurture:
Deborah E. Evans

Administrative Assistant:
Diane Lamborn

Proofreader:
Elaine Gibbel

Circulation Manager:
Barbara Shupp

Printer:
Gerry Kurl

JANUARY SERMON SCHEDULE

January 1 "To Be or Not To Be? That Is The Question"
Matthew 16:24-26; I Peter 2:21-25

January 8 "What Makes A Great Person?"
Mark 10:35-40

January 15 "Are You Called A Child Of God?"
Matthew 5:9-12; II Corinthians 5:16-21

January 22 "Why is It So Complicated To Live Simply?"
Matthew 6:19-21; James 5:1-6; I John 3:16-18

January 29 "Who Really Care?"
Matthew 25:31-46

Transformed by Christ, Radically Loving, Living To Serve

Deadline For February Observer is January 15, 2012