

# Christmas Concert 2015



*The Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Of the Good Shepherd  
501 Fairfield Drive  
Greensburg, PA 15601*

*December 13, 2015*

*Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd*  
A congregation of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*"We are a caring family of God nourished by the Word, guided by the Holy Spirit to share the love of Jesus Christ."*

The Rev. Frank S. Podolinski, Jr., Pastor  
Pastor's Cell Phone -- 724-858-7816  
Pastor's e-mail -- [preacherpod@comcast.net](mailto:preacherpod@comcast.net)  
Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday: 9:30 am. – 1:30 pm.

Tuesday: 11:30 am. – 1:30 pm.

Church Phone -- 724-834-1940

Church's e-mail -- [shepherd501@yahoo.com](mailto:shepherd501@yahoo.com)

Church website – [www.goodshepherdgbg.org](http://www.goodshepherdgbg.org)

Rocking Horse Preschool – [www.rockinghorsepreschool.com](http://www.rockinghorsepreschool.com)

Parish Secretary -- Jenny Luffy

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 am. - 2:00 pm.

Music Director

Nancy Flinger

Organist

Jean Brunot

Piano

Greg Bittner

We welcome all visitors with us and ask that you sign our guest register. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to consider the Good Shepherd family.

**ALL BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS** are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Children may come forward for a blessing. During communion, we offer wine and grape juice, if you would like to receive grape juice do not bring a cup, it will be provided by the Worship Assistant.

Our congregation's Stephen Ministry equips gifted lay people to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian Care to individuals in our congregation who are experiencing difficulties in their lives and extends the care that Pastor Frank continues to provide.

If you could benefit from the confidential, one-to-one care and support of a Stephen Minister, please speak to Pastor Frank. Or you may refer to the Stephen Ministry flyers and cards available in the pew racks.

Please take a moment to fill out a yellow RCR card located in the pews. Please place completed cards in the offering plate.

When you see the following symbol "+", please stand.

Service of the Word  
December 13, 2015  
Third Sunday of Advent  
10:30 am.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

*“IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR”* **ORGAN & PIANO**

**+ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.  
**Amen.**

Let us come before God in confession.

To you, O God,  
**We lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Sisters and brothers, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism; your sin is washed away in the name of † Jesus; you belong to Christ you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near. **Amen.**

**+ GATHERING HYMN**

*“O COME, O COME EMMANUEL”* **ELW 257**

(vs. 1-4)

**+ APOSTOLIC GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

**+ LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE**

(THE VERSE WILL BE SUNG BEFORE THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE AND THEN AGAIN AFTER THE ADVENT PRAYER)

*“LIGHT ONE CANDLE TO WATCH FOR MESSIAH”* **ELW 240**  
**Verse 3**

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we wait the Lord’s coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.  
**Amen.**

**ANTHEM**

*“AT CHRISTMAS TIME ALL CHRISTIANS SING”* **SENIOR CHOIR**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**ANTHEM**

*“GO TELL THE NEWS”*  
**SOLOIST – MARK GESALMAN**

**SENIOR CHOIR**

## FIRST READING: ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing  
<sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: ISAIAH 12:2-6



In your midst is the Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not | be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become | my salvation.

<sup>3</sup>**With joy you | will draw water  
from the wells | of salvation. R**

<sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call | on God's name;  
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name | is  
exalted.

<sup>5</sup>**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done | gloriously;  
let this be known in | all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O | royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy | One of Israel. **R**

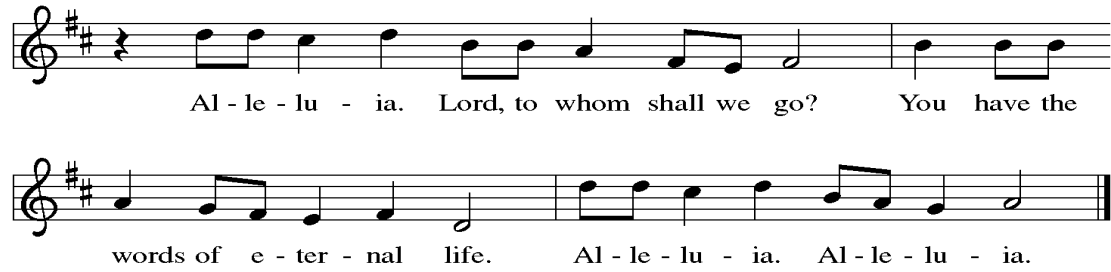
## SECOND READING: PHILLIPPIANS 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18**

The holy gospel according to St. \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup>He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“THE KING SHALL COME WHEN MORNING DAWNS”* ELW 260

**ANTHEM**

**SENIOR CHOIR**

*“AWAY IN A MANGER”*

**OFFERING**

**ANTHEM**

**SENIOR CHOIR**

*“ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH: A CONCERTATO”*

**OFFERTORY**



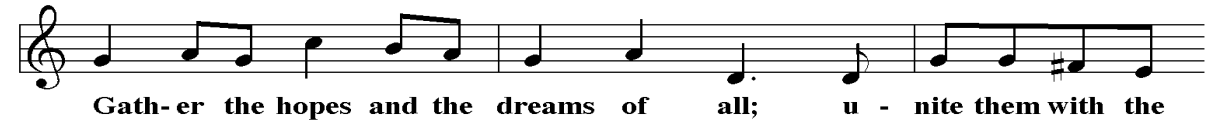
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.



Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.



Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.



Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.



Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**+ OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A God of abundance,  
C we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

HYMN ELW 272

*“LO HOW A ROSE E’ER BLOOMING”*

ANTHEM SENIOR BELL CHOIR

*“JOY TO THE WORLD (HANDLE)”*

HYMN ELW 288

*“GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS REJOICE”*

ANTHEM SENIOR BELL CHOIR

*“SILENT NIGHT”*

HYMN ELW 269

*“ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID’S CITY”*

ANTHEM SENIOR BELL CHOIR

*“GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN”*

HYMN ELW 257

*“O COME, O COME EMMANUEL”* (vs. 5-8)

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Emmanuel has come, is here, and is coming soon. Let us join in prayer for the church, the earth, and those who are in need, that all receive what God promises to give.

*A brief silence.*

For the church throughout the world, for bishops, pastors, and seminaries, for the courage to live out the challenges of our baptism, and for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For the earth, for glaciers, for the protection of dormant vegetation and hibernating animals, and for wisdom in the use and care of the creatures and landscapes we live among, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For the nations of the world, for soldiers and police, for all who suffer political oppression, for our enemies, and especially for (*here places or situations in need of peace may be named*), let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For all those in need, for those who are sick or cold, injured or outcast, for victims of fraud or extortion, for all who will die today, and especially for . . . , let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For this congregation, for joy in Christ, and for our community, for an increase in practices that truly enact justice and compassion, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We praise you, O God, for the lives of all the faithful departed (*especially the martyr Lucy and . . .*). That we complete our baptismal journey in you, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

Receive our prayers, faithful God, as we watch and wait for your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**+ BENEDICTION**

May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**HYMN**

***“JOY TO THE WORLD”***

**ELW 267**

**HALLELUJAH CORUS**

**SENIOR CHOIR & CONGREGATION**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented to the honor and glory of God by John & Beverly Sarp in honor of mother, Donna Sheridan’s birthday.

**LIVING GIFTS** have been designated by:

George & Joan Billig to the Youth Group in general thanksgiving for our seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Jane Croushore to Meals on Wheels in memory of “Skip” Crosby.

**SERVING TODAY:**

10:30

Worship Assistant	Open
Lector	Shelley Cottrill
Acolyte	Ben Podolinski
Crucifer	Zach Petrozza
Greeters	Chuck & Jenny Luffy
Ushers	Chuck & Brady Luffy
Altar Guild	Deborah Fox
Counters	Shelley Cottrill & Janet Ambrose

**PRAYER LIST - Our thoughts and prayers are with the following:**

Lisa Yothers	Henry Poerio	Jackson Petak	Rev. John McLaughlin	Jackson Storey
Carrie Leone	Louis	Helen Lauffer	Margaret Schrieber	Norman Rearick
April Carey	Pam Martin	Charlotte Polesky	Jeanne Kott	Linda McMahan
Joyce Frazier	Karol Handrahan	Aubrey	Jane Misutka	Jesse, Josh & Michelle
William Fealey	Denny Saddler	Amber Pritts	Abby Legler	Lisa
Craig McKenna	Ann Burns	Bryan Rearick	Michael	Chuck Thropp
Bill Cook	Ryan Quinn	Dakota Mutdosch	Susie	Evelyn Soderberg
Kevin Schultz	Connie Brinker	Robert Himler	Jimmy Soderberg	Pastor John Harmon
Mildred Stubbs	Patricia Sarp	Madison Hoopengardener	Chris Kosar	
Raymond Gross	Tim Loughran	Richard Bell	Lucinda Martin	Baby Piper
Bob Clark	Gerry & Jerome	Rowan Rusnock	Margaret Podolinski	Alex LaFranky
Darlene	Trudy Beistal	Lisa	John Askey Sr.	Frank Moore
Ron Livengood	Dylan Fennell	Lou Simek	Karen	Larry Cottrill
Luca Bell	Frank Sierawski	Terri Dunbar	Ted Speedy	
Chip Franklin	Connie Tarr	Kyle Kennon	Joan Brown	Mary McNamara
John Seruga	David Wood	Glenna Latshaw	Jennifer Wonsettler Burns	

**Good Shepherd Members:**

Jeff Ryan	Dennis McIntire	Ray Scherer	Bill Knackstedt
Mary McGee	Joyce Coates	Jean Hawes	Carole Bridges
Jane Croushore	Eleanor Elliott	Carol Stewart	Isabelle Bruggeman
Dorothy Stewart	Melanie Wood	Donna Seiler	Eleanor Besser
Dorothy Flock	Lisa Seiler	Jane Elliott	Roger Sullenberger
Barb Tychinski	Judy Monchak	Charlotte Hein	George Silvis
John Spitznogle	Bernie Miller	Tim Donahue	Ted Johnson

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 13 - 20, 2015

Today is "Meals on Wheels Cookie" Sunday

Sunday	9:30 am.	Camp Genesis
	9:30 am.	Coffee Hour
	10:30 am.	Christmas Concert
	4:00 pm.	Youth Group Christmas Party
	6:00 pm.	Christmas Caroling
Monday	6:30 pm.	Webelos II
Tuesday	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Brunot – Sanctuary
	10:00 am. – 12:00 pm.	Chat-n-Sew
Wednesday	9:30 am.	Kindermusik
	7:00 pm.	Bible Study
	7:00 pm.	Troop 416
Thursday	6:30 pm.	Pack 416
	7:00 pm.	Christmas Choir
	7:45 pm.	Senior Choir
Friday		NO Bridge Club
Saturday	5:30 pm.	Holy Communion
Sunday	8:30 am.	Holy Communion
	9:30 am.	Coffee Hour
	10:30 am.	Holy Communion
	1:30 pm.	Piano Recital
	6:45 pm.	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation

**Those in care facilities:**

Vanita Permar    Audrey Troutman    Peg Hobbs    Ruth Gesalman    Nancy Hebrank  
Ann Shockey    Evelyn Richter    Bernie Fisher    Delver Flock    Eileen Silvis

**Those in the Service**

Lindsey Patrick    Paul Harrold    Adam Neiderhiser    Sean Sabiston    Ryan Cutcliffe  
Michael Shupe    Derek Leach    Ryan Ilich    Tyler Beranek

**Friends and relative of the Good Shepherd family:**

Diana Maron – Breast Cancer – Jim Monnich’s sister  
Nancee Roberts – cancer – Cousin of Cyndi Stiles  
Esther Blackson – cancer of voicebox – requested by Mary Jane Aaron  
Jayme Flock – Childhood Cancer  
Nancy Walsh – Breast Cancer – Requested by Bill & Patti Benton  
Dorinda Dee – Niece of Mary Jane Aaron - Minimal change disease  
Richard Wright & Family – Blood Clots – requested by Joan Rappold  
Frank Moore – Father of Megan Coppetti – needs a liver transplant  
Fran McCallen – Breast cancer – requested by Joy & Michael Stynchula  
Joanne Mazzoni – Heart Issues – requested by Jim Monnich  
Howard Parker – Pancreatic cancer  
Rachael Latshaw – Non-hodgkins lymphoma – niece of Doris & Jack Wood  
Betty Wenzel – requested by Bob & Donna Seiler  
Kathy Seiler – daughter-in-law of Bob & Donna Seiler  
Laurel Beranek – Diabetes – granddaughter of Jane Elliott  
Julie - cancer – requested by Rachel King  
Matthew Miller – awaiting liver transplant – requested by Augie Nicolai  
Paulette Willocheel – Back operation – requested by Dorothy & Jim Stewart  
Rosalie Stewart – Parkinsons’s Disease – requested by Dorothy & Jim Stewart  
Robin – Multiple Sclerosis  
Morgan Krakosh & Family – Morgan is disabled & having lung problems – requested by Jim Monnich  
Cathy Smith - tumor on heart – niece of George Smith – requested by George & Mary Ann Smith  
Natalie Anthony – cancer – sister of Ken Hebrank – requested by George & Mary Ann Smith  
Laura Bell – rheumatoid arthritis  
June Muse – requested by Jim Monnich – heart attack  
Pat Depalma – requested by Joyce Coates  
Wanda – thyroid/heart – requested by Debbie Sullenberger  
Dorothy Kuschar – Internal Injuries – requested by Peg Hobbs  
Judy Shea – Cancer – requested by Lillian Shea  
Amanda & Tim – Expecting a baby and baby may have problems – requested by Doris Wood  
Joseph Misutka - cancer – requested by Debbie Sullenberger  
Marcus Malara – cancer – requested Linda Dunheimer  
Dick Jones – Recovering from major surgery – brother of Marion Bendl  
Orville Tustin -- Lung cancer -- requested by Sharon Greene  
Penny Newmann -- requested by Joyce Coates  
Bob Bayus -- pancreatic cancer -- requested by Monnich family  
Jill Coates -- sister-in-law of Joyce Coates  
Genevieve & Pam Hite -- medical issues  
William Simpson -- 3 yr. old needing heart transplant  
Larry Bowers -- req. R. Atwell and A. LeCuyer  
Randy Barker -- cousin of Joyce Coates

Remember to notify the office of any changes. Thank you....

NEWS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.....

Finance Report: 49 Sundays

Budget -- \$183,138.44

Giving -- \$178,340.61

Behind -- (\$4,797.83)

We are still accepting 2016 Pledge Cards. Thank you to all who have returned their cards, the Finance Committee appreciates your help. Reminder -- we are coming close to the end of the year. All donations must be received by December 27th to be included in your 2015 Statement for tax purposes. If you have any questions about your giving for 2015, please contact Sally Hall, Financial Secretary, she will be happy to help you. Thank you, Sally

**INSTRUMENTALISTS**

Carrie Wolfe – Flute      Frank Podolinski – Guitar      Greg Bittner – Trumpet

**CHRISTMAS CHOIR**

SOPRANOS	ALTOS	TENORS	BASSES
Alice Podolinski	Eleanor Besser	Jim Monnich	Mark Gesalman
Linda Dunheimer	Lillian Shea	Jim Stewart	Greg Bittner
Karen E. Gesalman	Ellen Monnich		Fritz Demi
Debbie Sullenberger	Dorothy Stewart		
Janet Ambrose			

**SENIOR BELLS**

Alice Podolinski	Tami Stewart	Kathy Wolfe	Bill Stewart
Barbara Tychinski	Brian Tychinski	Andrew King	Rachel King
Jacob Podolinski	Bailey White	Shelley Cottrill	Brett Stewart

***Christmas Eve Services***

4:30 pm., 7:30 pm., 10:00 pm. Holy Communion & Candlelight

This is a very busy time of the year for everyone, however, if you are attending a Christmas Eve service, please consider serving in some capacity. There are many openings available. We have a need for Acolytes, Torchbearers/Crucifiers, Lectors, Worship Assistants, Greeters, Ushers, Altar Guild. We also need readers for Lessons and Carols. Please call Jenny (724)834-1940, sign up on the bulletin board or leave a note on the desk. Thank You.

December 27 – Lessons & Carols - 10:30 Service Only

***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

Please be considerate to those around you and observe silence during the prelude and service. This time is designed for personal meditation.

**MITTEN TREE**

This is the last weekend for mitten collection. After that, everything will be delivered to the Salvation Army. Last year our tree was overflowing and many people were warmer because of your generosity.

Please sign up in the commons area if you would like to purchase a poinsettia for Christmas. The cost this year is \$6.00. Thank you.

December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. All ages welcome.



Combined Christmas Party for both the **Junior** and **Senior** youth groups beginning at **4:00 pm. Bring a \$5 wrapped gift to exchange.**

Refreshments will be provided. Parents are welcome to provide cookies, munchies, etc. Following the party the joint youth groups will join **anyone in the congregation** who would like to go **caroling**. We would like to visit our shut-ins so we may need drivers. We will return to Good Shepherd for hot chocolate. Thank you Fellowship Committee!



**Westmoreland County Live Nativity**

Westmoreland County Court House 5:45 pm.

Dec. 17/18

Sponsored by Christian Leaders Mentoring



**JANUARY 17, 2016 - Following the 10:30 am. service**