

# The Parish Helper

## Emmanuel Lutheran Church



January 2019

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

*"...on the twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, twelve drummers drumming..."*

The utterly relentless song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" reminds us that Christmas does not end on December 25, but continues for twelve full days until its conclusion on the night of January 5, known in Great Britain and elsewhere as "Twelfth Night." In days gone past the merriment and frivolity that we often associate with the days leading up to Christmas were not celebrated until the 25<sup>th</sup> of December. But once Christmas Day arrived it was time to pull out all the stops, head to the streets and start partying non-stop! By Twelfth Night bonfires lit up the sky burning the Christmas greens people had used to decorate their homes, the figgy pudding filled their bellies and the rum-punch flowed like water. No wonder that in certain areas, like the Netherlands, Twelfth Night celebrations were banned because they had gotten too raucous.

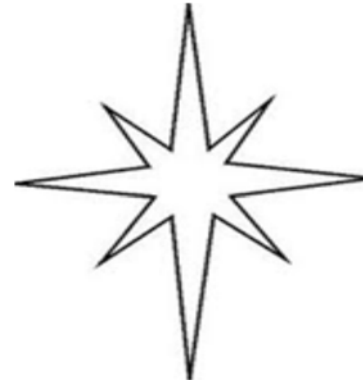
The day after Twelfth Night is January 6 which is celebrated as the Epiphany of Our Lord. In the Eastern Churches (Greek and Russian Orthodox, as well as other Orthodox churches) the Epiphany celebrates the Baptism of Jesus. Lots of traditions surround Orthodox Epiphany like blessing the waters and taking a cold, winter swim. This is the basis for many New Year's "Polar Bear" swims we hear about. Why do the Orthodox focus on Jesus' baptism? It's because in the gospels our Lord's baptism is really his first public appearance as the Son of God. The word "epiphany" means a "manifestation," or "revealing." This is probably the earliest way the festival of the Epiphany was celebrated.

The Western Churches (Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican, etc.) celebrate Epiphany by emphasizing the visitation by the Wise Men or Magi to the newly born Christ child. The Wise Men represent Jesus' manifestation to the gentiles, or non-Jewish world. Because the Magi brought gifts to the Christ Child the Epiphany celebration has become the chief gift-giving day in certain parts of the western church. Other traditions include Three Kings Day festivities including a Three Kings Cake (though in New Orleans the Kings Cake is often associated with Mardi Gras).

Sadly, in much of the modern American church Epiphany seems to fall behind. Maybe it's because we begin our Christmas celebrations immediately after Thanksgiving and by December 25<sup>th</sup> we're just worn out. We've eaten and drunk our fill and on January 1<sup>st</sup> we've all resolved to eat less and lose weight in the New Year. One more festival just seems like too much to handle.

This year January 6 falls on a Sunday so we will be celebrating the Epiphany of Our Lord on the Lord's Day. It's also our "First Sunday Fellowship" so that means we'll even be doing a little feasting. The most important reason we celebrate, of course, is the revealing of Jesus as the Son of God who is the savior of all people. His star is rising for all to see and calls us to come and worship him.

*Pastor Kurt Strause*



First Sunday Coffee  
January 6  
~following worship~

Goodies will be provided by  
**Property & Social Ministry  
Committees**

## Adult Sunday School

9:00 – 10:00 ~ Fireside Room

January 6: *A Thrill of Hope*

~ the Flight into Egypt in word and art

January 13 – February 10

*The Protestant American Experience:*

A Free Market for Faith

### **Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, January 27, 2019 immediately following the morning worship service.

Items on the agenda include:

Consideration of 2019 Budget

The 2019 Budget Proposal will be available at church a week prior to the meeting and on the church's website: [www.emmanuelncaster.org](http://www.emmanuelncaster.org). If you desire a copy of the Proposed Budget to be mailed to you please contact the church office.

**Altar Flower Sponsorship Sign Up for 2019**

There are still dates available to sponsor flowers in memory of a loved one, or to give thanksgiving for or to honor a loved one. The cost for one vase of flowers is \$25.00. Both vases of flowers costs \$45.00. Call or email the church office if you wish to sponsor flowers on the following dates:

January 13	1 vase	January 20	2 vases
January 27	1 vase	February 17	2 vases
February 24	2 vases	March 3	1 vase
March 10	2 vases	March 17	1 vase
March 24	1 vase	March 31	1 vase
April 7	1 vase	April 14	2 vases
April 28	2 vases	May 12	2 vases
May 19	2 vases	May 26	2 vases
June 2	2 vases	June 16	2 vases
June 30	2 vases	July 28	2 vases
August 11	1 vase	August 18	1 vase
September 1	2 vases	September 8	2 vases
September 22	1 vase	October 6	2 vases
October 20	1 vase	October 27	1 vase
November 10	1 vase	November 17	2 vases
December 1	1 vase	December 22	1 vase
December 29	1 vase		

## *Gutenberg Gabs*

~ a book discussion group ~



## **Crazy Rich Asians**

By Kevin Kwan

**Monday, January 7 ~ 1:30 to 3:00**

**Hostess: Suzanne Burkholder**

**NOTE: This is a book change from the original list!**

Deadline for the February Parish Helper is  
Wednesday, January 16.

Please send all information to [office@emmanuelllancster.org](mailto:office@emmanuelllancster.org)

**Emmanuel to Sponsor**

**Lancaster County Council of Churches Community Meal**

**East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church**

January 14, 2019 at 5:30 PM  
 Volunteers are needed:  
 Pre-Meal Preparation ~ Set Up ~ Serving ~ Clean Up  
 Interested in helping?  
 Contact: Deb Barrett, 717-872-2113 or  
 Sign up in the Narthex



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



1	Michelle Styer	25	Rein Mutso
11	Alexa Danielle Stewart	26	Richard Smith
13	John Rutherford	27	Emalyne Grace Rineer
14	Daniel Smith	28	Bill Hannegan
15	Anne L. Lefever	30	Lindsay N. Rineer

### From the Financial Secretary

- ⇒ **Contribution Statements for 2018** will be available on the table in the rear of the church on Sunday, January 13, 2019. Please pick up your copy at your convenience.
- ⇒ **Fruit Basket Contribution** We received a total of \$257.25 which will greatly help towards the Christmas fruit baskets given out. Thank you for your generous support

### **Financial Report**



	November	YTD
General Fund Income	\$11,539	\$146,797
General Fund Expense	\$8,416	\$153,303
Difference	\$3,123	\$(6,504)

# January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
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## ASSISTING ON SUNDAYS

January 6

Acolyte  
Lector  
Deacons  
Ushers  
Greeters  
Spark

Ivan Shrom  
Deb Barrett  
Roger and Lisa Strause  
Gini Horn, Cindy Hughes  
Andy Geist, Phyllis Strittmater  
Lisa Nissly

January 13

Acolyte  
Lector  
Deacons  
Ushers  
Greeters  
Spark

Tommy Hockenberry  
Keith Frey  
Pastor Roger Burkins, Lois Strause  
Keith Frey, Deb Barrett  
Lori and Ed Hockenberry  
Lois Strause

January 20

Acolyte  
Lector  
Deacons  
Ushers  
Greeters  
Spark

Cecilia Shrom  
Bob Miller  
George and Diane Ehemann  
Bob Miller, Mark Moffett  
Barbara Dirks and JoAnn Alexander  
Diane Ehemann

January 27

Acolyte  
Lector  
Deacons  
Ushers  
Greeters  
Spark

Faith Siegrist  
Mary Kay Mulcahy  
Keith Frey, Deb Barrett  
Mary Kay Mulcahy, Suzanne Burkholder  
Marcus and Margaret Thomsen  
Lori Hockenberry

Usher captain - Tim Smith

# The Parish Helper

Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
540-546 West Walnut Street  
Lancaster, PA 17603

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Lancaster, PA  
Permit No. 426

**DATED MATERIAL**

**“Return Services Requested”**

**The Rev. Kurt S. Strause, Pastor**  
**Pastor's email: [pastor@emmanuellancaster.org](mailto:pastor@emmanuellancaster.org)**  
**Emmanuel Office: 717-397-6195**  
**Email: [office@emmanuellancaster.org](mailto:office@emmanuellancaster.org)**  
**Website: [www.emmanuellancaster.org](http://www.emmanuellancaster.org)**  
**Valerie Lefever Hughes, Director of Music**