

# KOINONIA

**November—December 2024**

LUTHERAN PARISH OF NORTHERN  
DUTCHESS  
PASTOR JAMES MILLER

## **A NOTE FROM PASTOR JIM**

Dear Friends in Christ,

In these next two months, we approach the end of the year. Or, I should say, the end of the years---plural. This is because our Church Year will end one month earlier than our secular year. Our Church Year ends on November 30, a few days after we celebrate Thanksgiving; our new Church Year begins on December 1 which is the first Sunday of Advent. As we consider this, I want to share some comments from Martin Luther about Harvest Thanksgiving and Advent.

Commenting on this verse from Psalm 145:15: “The eyes of all wait upon You; and You give them their food in due season”, Luther writes, “we should learn here that God makes the wheat grow, and we should praise Him and give thanks to Him on that account. We should also recognize that it is not of our working, but of His giving and blessing that wheat, and grapes, and all kinds of fruit grow, which we need for food and drink. The Lord’s Prayer proves this when we say, ‘Give us this day our daily bread’. In the word ‘give’ we confess that it is the gift of God, and not our own creation, and if He did not ‘give’, not a grain would grow and our tilling would be in vain. For how soon might all the grain in the soil go bad, or be frozen, or rot, or be eaten by worms, or be drowned by floods! Or if it is growing well, how soon it might be destroyed by heat, or hail, or cold, or be eaten by beetles or other creatures! A devout and believing heart well perceives how all our ploughing and sowing and the like would be lost, unless God’s goodness were here at work, and notwithstanding that we must do our work diligently and seek our food from the soil, we must in no way put our trust in our work as though our hands made the harvest. More is needed than our human hands. God’s blessing is essential to growth, and also His mighty keeping.”

For Advent, Luther comments on this verse from Zechariah 9:9: “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion, shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold your King comes to you: He is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon a donkey, and upon the foal of a donkey.” Luther

writes: "Yes, of a truth, He will be a king, but a poor and wretched king who has in no way the appearance of a king if He is judged and esteemed by outward might and splendor, in which worldly kings and princes like to array themselves. He leaves to other kings such things as pomp, castles, gold, and wealth; but the craft which Christ the poor beggar-king knows, they do not know. He helps not against one sin only, but against all my sin; and not against my sin only, but against the whole world's sin. He comes to take away not sickness only, but death; and not my death only, but against the whole world's death."

As we move forward in the next two months, let us all have a joyous Thanksgiving, giving thanks to God for all of His blessings which He gives us, and then move forward into our Church New Year in Advent, preparing ourselves to celebrate the miraculous birth of Jesus, and preparing ourselves for when He will come again.

In Christ, Pastor Jim

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On October 27, 2024, Reformation Sunday, Grace Fitzgerald, granddaughter of Nancy and Arther Kelly, and daughter of Susan and Christopher Fitzgerald, was confirmed at Memorial Lutheran Church. Nancy told me that her ancestor was a founding member of Memorial Lutheran Church, and that Grace is the seventh generation of family members of the congregation. Below is a list of the links in this faithful family tree:

1. J Conrad Battenfeld VIII
2. Helen Battenfeld Flack
3. Margaret Katherine Flack Weaver
4. Kathryn Margaret Weaver
5. Nancy Ann Vogel Kelly
6. Susan Margaret Kelly Fitzgerald
7. Grace Fitzgerald

Congratulations to Grace!

# Memorial Lutheran News

We were happy to be able to participate in the Red Hook Fire Department's fund drive with donations of food, cleaning supplies, clothing and money for the Elk Mills Fire Department in Tennessee that was destroyed by hurricane Helene.

We are saddened by the closing of the Astor Head Start Program due to under enrollment. They will be leaving some day care/nursery school furniture behind, so if anyone knows of someone who is looking for a place to move, or start a day care/nursery school, please contact us. The parish hall can also be used for other purposes.

We celebrated the Confirmation of Grace Fitzgerald on September 27 with a one hour service.

Many of us enjoyed participating in Oktoberfest held at St. Paul's. There was delicious food, great music, and good fellowship among the Parish. Thank you to all at St. Paul's.

We wish everyone a blessed holiday season.



Birthdays!



<u>November Birthdays</u>	<u>December Birthdays</u>
9 Jean Bard	29 Joy Peterson

# St. Paul's Lutheran News



Birthdays!



<u>November Birthdays</u>	<u>December Birthdays</u>
2 Jean Bard	2 Joy Peterson
10 Katherine Baldwin	7 Art Smith III
18 Brian Williams	7 Frank McConville
23 Cole Piaget	17 Lolly Humphrey
23 Pastor Jim	20 Jenifer Baldwin
29 Mike Bo	26 Art Smith Jr.

# Third Lutheran News

This year we continued upgrades to our facilities with the installation of new carpeting in the Sanctuary. Thank you to Carole Hack for coordinating with assistance from Susan and June.

At the recommendation of the Worship & Music Committee, the Baptismal Font has been refurbished. Thank you to Cara for coordinating this project as well as coordinating the new cabinet to be built in the Sacristy in memory of Elaine Silvernail. The face frame and doors from the existing cabinet, lovingly built by Ken Giek and Pastor Leonard Torcello, will be hung in the Parish Hall main stairwell.

Ernie has compiled the new Memorial Book for Third beginning with the Pulpit given in memory of Mr. Willett R. Traver in 1894 through August 8, 2024. The data, roughly 1200 lines, is entered in an excel spreadsheet with printouts placed in the Memorial Binder given in memory of Jacob A. (Jake) Cronk by Carol Cronk in 2001. We are looking forward to a presentation of interesting finds from Ernie at an upcoming coffee hour!

Please see information regarding this year's Advent Festival at Third below. Invite family, friends, neighbors, and "strangers" to participate!

A Blessed Advent and Christmas Season

God Bless,

*Monica C. Gabryszewski*

914 – 475 – 6613 gabrymc@frontiernet.net

## **Advent Festival at Third – more details to come! Parish Invited**

**November 24 10:45 am** Advent Wreath Making - Fellowship Hall @ Third.

**December 8 12:30 pm** Advent Brunch @ Third! Brunch, Carols, & Crafts!

**December 15** Decorate the tree after service! Potential special music during service.

**December 20** Afternoon Caroling with hot coca around front lawn fire pit  
Caroling for shut-ins followed by fellowship

**December 22** Service of Lessons and Carols with Nativity Play and Communion

## Special Worship Opportunities

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service	November 26	4:00 pm @ St. Paul's
Christmas Eve—Candlelight	December 24	5:30 pm @ Third 7:30 pm @ St. Paul's
Christmas Day	December 25	10:00 am @ Memorial
Joint Worship Service	December 29	10:00 am @ Third

## Meetings

Third Worship & Music Committee	December 3	4:00 pm @ Third
Congressional Councils	January 14	4:30 pm @ Third

*Council meetings in November @ Memorial, in December @ Third*

## **Faith Building Opportunities**

### Bible Study with Pastor Jim

Every Thursday @ 10:00 am @ Third Rhinebeck

**Contact Pastor Jim, 914 – 441 – 4360**

**All are Welcome!**

**Invite a Friend!**

## **Service Opportunities**

### Crafty Christians

**We are meeting in person**

**Every Thursday at 11:00 am!**

**Third Rhinebeck**

*All members and friends of the Parish and members of the community are welcome to participate!*

*Contact Bonnie Rehero 518 – 697 – 7608*

***Please invite a friend to join us!***

### Hope on a Mission

The Poughkeepsie based charity serving addicted homeless people that we supported last year with blankets, is gearing up for the cold weather. Darker colored blanket sizes double (full) and smaller, or even warm shawls are needed. King and Queen are too large to carry around.

**Collection point — Third Lutheran**

### **Day Top Village Mission**

Drug and Alcohol Addiction Rehabilitation Center in Rhinebeck  
*Collecting gently used seasonal clothing items, all sizes,  
for men & women.*

Contact Carole Hack @ 845 – 867 – 7344

See more details in the next section of this newsletter

***Thank you for your participation in our Parish mission of service***

### **Day Top Village Mission**

Day Top Village in Rhinebeck facility is a drug and alcohol addiction rehabilitation center.

As Winter approaches, there is a need for coats, jackets, hats and gloves in addition to other warm clothing. Because some of their residents must make Court appearances, business wear is also needed. Men are in need of suits, dress shirts, ties, belts and shoes, while women are in need of dresses, skirts, slacks, blouses and shoes. All donated items must be clean and in good condition.

It would be great to have this be a parish-wide event. And thus, members of St. Paul's and Memorial are invited to bring clothing to their church. It will then be brought to Third and be delivered to Day Top. A complete list of items needed will soon be distributed as inserts in your church bulletin. For further information please call Carole Hack at 845-867-7344.

### **Worship Services on Video**

**YouTube Channel: [LutheranParishNorthernDutchess](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)**

Weekly uploads

*If you missed a Sunday, the services are still available on the channel for easy access.*

**Access Videos: Parish Webpage: [www.LutheranParishNorthernDutchess.org](http://www.LutheranParishNorthernDutchess.org)**

Click on Pastor Jim's picture on the Home Page. This will take you to the YouTube channel for the Parish. Select the readings or sermon you would like to view.

***Please share via your social media networks, Like the Parish Facebook page, subscribe to this YouTube Channel, and/or forward the weekly emails.***



Return: Lutheran Parish of Northern Dutchess  
31 Livingston Street  
Rhinebeck, NY 12572

Dated Material Address Correction Requested

To:



**LUTHERAN PARISH  
OF NORTHERN DUTCHESS**  
Three Churches, One Body

# KOINONIA

Lutheran Parish of Northern Dutchess

Pastor James Miller

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*Contributors: Pastor James Miller, Monica C. Gabryszewski (Third),  
Carole Hack (Third), Tandy F. Walker (Memorial), Brad Patton (St.*



**Memorial Lutheran Church, 8:30 am Service, 1232 Rte. 308, (Rock City) Rhinebeck, NY 12572 Council President: Tandy Walker**

**Third Lutheran Church, 9:45 am Service, 31 Livingston Street, Rhinebeck, NY, 12572 Council President: Monica C. Gabryszewski**

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 11:00 am Service, 7412 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571 Council President : Brad Patton**

Pastor James Miller, Cell phone (914)441-4360,  
[CircuitPastorJim@aol.com](mailto:CircuitPastorJim@aol.com)

Parish Secretary, Christine Murray, Parish office:845-876-4471