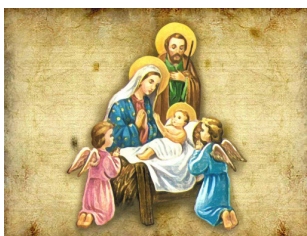


# KOINONIA

January – February 2022



LUTHERAN PARISH OF NORTHERN DUTCHESS

PASTOR JAMES MILLER



## A NOTE FROM PASTOR JIM

Dear Friends in Christ. As you all know, Martin Luther was an amazing person. In addition to being a pastor, professor, and theologian, he staked his very life on his faith by challenging the hierarchy of the Church. He was a prolific writer of sermons and treatises which have been collected into over 70 volumes. And if all this wasn't enough, he also wrote hymns. We are all very familiar with his *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*, but you might be surprised that he wrote over 40 hymns in total. One which comes to mind in the Christmas season is *Vom Himmel Hoch* which we know as *From Heaven Above*. His inspiration for this hymn is found in Luke 2: 8-14 which tells of the angel appearing to the shepherds in the field. The hymn employs a rousing tune (written by Luther as well) to retell the story and Luther was not miserly with his text. What Luke reports with 7 verses, Luther expands to 14 verses! You can find the entire hymn in our hymnal #268, but I want to share with you some of those verses now.

*“From heaven above to earth I come to bear good news to every home! Glad tidings of great joy I bring to all the world and gladly sing. To you this night is born a child of Mary chosen virgin mild; this new-born child of lowly birth shall be the joy of all the earth. This is the Christ, God’s Son most high, who hears your sad and bitter cry, who will himself your Savior be and from all sin will set you free.*

I want to point out a few things here. First of all, how personal this message is meant to be---not to only those shepherds, but to you and me as well. The angel said “for unto you” and Luther wants us to understand how personal this is by saying that this good news is brought to “every home”. Also, while the angel’s message focusses only on the birth, Luther expands on the greater meaning involved here. It’s not just this miraculous birth in which Jesus comes to us as a child: keeping his divine nature and adding to it human nature. There’s more. He comes with a purpose: to hear our sad and bitter cry and to be our Savior who will set us free from our sins.

Luther also wants us to understand that this gift of God in Jesus is not only a gift for all people---it is a gift for each individual person who will receive Jesus---each person---each one of us. *Ah dearest Jesus, holy child, prepare a bed, soft, undefiled, a quiet chamber in my heart, that you and I may never part.*

To have Jesus residing in our hearts is meant to be a very calming image, but notice that out of that calm comes exaltation. *My heart for very joy now leaps; my voice no longer silence keeps; I too must sing with joyful tongue the sweetest ancient cradle song. Glory to God in the highest heaven, who unto us the Son has given. With angels sing in pious mirth a glad new year to all the earth!*

May we all feel that combination of calm , peace and joy of the Christmas season with us throughout 2022 and beyond.. Vom Himmel Hoch!

Christ’s peace, Pastor Jim

## Message from St. Paul's

Our year is coming to a close. I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas with family and friends.

As we start 2022, many people are facing hard times with the loss of their homes and grieving the lost of loved ones who were killed from tornados that devastated many parts of Kentucky and Indiana. Lutheran Disaster Relief is working with the synods of Kentucky and Indiana to get help to the people in need. If you would like to make a donation, please do so by January 9, so we can send the money off. Please mark your donation for Lutheran Disaster Relief or tornado victims. 100% of your donations will go directly to the people in need through the Lutheran Disaster Relief.

On January 23, St. Paul's will have their annual meeting after church. We will be ordering sub's and Rob Frey will make his delicious potato salad. Hope you will be able to attend. All reports will be due by January 12. Reports will be available Sunday, January 16, for review.

On January 30, Third will host a Joint Service at 10:00 am. There will be no services at Memorial or St. Paul's that day. Pastor will be attending Third's Annual Meeting after the Joint Service.

Lastly, one of our faithful and long time members, Emma Walker, will be celebrating her 95th birthday on January 21! Sadly, we have missed seeing Emma in church this past year and a half due to safety precautions regarding Covid-19. May we all join in celebrating her milestone birthday this month!

I pray everyone will have a Healthy and Happy New Year!

God Bless,

Marilyn Heuer

Council President.



### ***January Birthdays***

1 Bob Unson  
5 Debra Kazantzis  
5 James Baisley  
7 Nabile Ayoub  
13 Charlie Lueck  
14 Randy Lydon  
15 Glenn Murray  
21 Emma Walker  
23 Rob Frey

### ***February Birthdays***

1 Chris Murray  
9 Alexandra Piaget  
9 Sandy Lydon  
10 Ian Buccala  
12 Marshall McConville  
18 Don Campbell  
20 Pat Holden  
25 Ruth Queen

## **Special Worship Opportunities**

Joint Worship Service — January 30, 2022 10:00 am @ Third

Joint Ash Wednesday Service— March 2, 2022 @ Third Please watch for further details.

## **Meetings**

Third W&M	February 1 @ 4:00 pm
Parish Council	February 15 @ 6:00 pm
Joint Session of Councils	February 15 @ 6:30 pm
Congregational Councils:	January 11 (Third only) @ February 15 @ 7:00 pm

*Council meetings in February @ St. Paul's*

### **Annual Congregational Meetings**

Memorial	January 16 @ 2:00 pm
St. Paul's	January 23, 2022 Reports due 1/12/22, Reports available on January 16, 2022
Third	January 30, 2022 Reports due 1/16/11, Reports available on January 23, 2022

## **Faith Building Opportunities**

### **Confirmation Class**

Pastor Jim is meeting with 7 students every month at various times.

### **Bible Study**

with Pastor Jim

Every Thursday @ 10:00 am

**Third Rhinebeck— in Upper Meeting Room**

**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 Reyero*

*518-697-7608*

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

### **Operation Christmas Child**

The Parish collected 41 boxes!

### **Seafarer's International**

The Parish assembled 16 satchels plus extra items for the Seafarers Christmas at Sea!

**Thank you!**

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

## Worship Under Relaxed COVID-19 CDC Guidelines

### Ongoing Sunday Morning

Please consider your personal health and comfort circumstances in your decision to attend an in-person worship service. Persons at higher risk of complications from COVID-19 are encouraged to consider viewing the worship service video available on the Parish YouTube Channel.

#### Please Note:

**In consideration for the health and safety of all congregants anyone who:**

- tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 14 days,
- has flu-like or other COVID-19 symptoms, or a fever, or
- has been exposed to the virus or to someone who has tested positive within the past 14 days, or
- returned from a COVID-19 hot spot within the past 14 days and is required or recommended to quarantine, should not attend an in-person worship service or gathering.

### Worship Services on Video

**YouTube Channel: LutheranParishNorthernDutchess**

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.***

Pastor Jim continues to be available for pastoral care, conversation, and prayer:  
phone 914-441-4360 or email [circuitpastorjim@aol.com](mailto:circuitpastorjim@aol.com).

### Reminder — Donations from Amazon

Our Parish is registered as a qualifying charitable organization with the AmazonSmile Foundation. Amazon has set up a process by which non-profit organizations such as our parish can receive a percentage of purchases made on Amazon. Each quarter Amazon then remits an electronic payment to the charitable organization as selected by the purchaser.



To support our parish such that it receives a percentage of your purchases, instead of signing in to Amazon.com in the usual manner, use the following sign-in:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/61-1704361>

Although the sign-in contains the word “smile”, you are directed to the regular amazon.com homepage on which you can place your order as usual.

Many of us frequently use Amazon to purchase various items. By taking a few moments to set up your access, your purchases will provide a financial benefit to the Parish.

Contact: Gary Hack, Parish Treasurer at [hackg@citlink.net](mailto:hackg@citlink.net) if you would like further information

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

Dated Material    Address Correction Requested

To:



## KOINONIA

Lutheran Parish of Northern Dutchess

Pastor James Miller

[www.lutheranparishnortherndutchess.org](http://www.lutheranparishnortherndutchess.org)

Like us on Facebook: [lutheranparishnortherndutchess](https://www.facebook.com/lutheranparishnortherndutchess)

*Contributors: Pastor James Miller, Monica C. Gabryszewski (Third),  
Tandy F. Walker (Memorial), Marilyn Heuer (St. Paul's),*



**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 : Marilyn Heuer**

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

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

*Parish email: [tlcr@frontiernet.net](mailto:tlcr@frontiernet.net)*

*Secretary hours are Wednesday & Thursday, 10am– 3pm*