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NEWS RELEASE

More information: Pastor Adam- Miller-Stubbendick – 839-1314

2nd ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-ALONG AROUND THE BONFIRE AT CROSSROADS LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SNYDER SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

On Saturday, December 8th, starting at 6:30PM, the corner of Main Street and Burroughs Drive will light up with the warmth of a bonfire and the sound of Christmas carols. This event will run until 8:00PM. Two area food trucks—Cheesy Chick and Babz BBQ will be there! The Snyder Volunteer Fire Department and Santa will be on hand, too. The singing will be led by the Amherst Central Alumni Chorale.

This year, in addition to the festivities outside, the church will be open for those who desire respite from the cold. Inside the church, there will be activities for children and a bake sale to benefit Family Promise of WNY.

The evening will also be an opportunity to collect food for The Tiger's Den Food Pantry. This outreach is a partnership of the Lutheran Churches of St Paul's in Eggerstville and Crossroads in Snyder. This Food Pantry has been open at St. Paul's since 2017. We encourage everyone who comes to the event on December 8th to bring a non-perishable food item.

Last year about 200 people attended the Christmas Carol Sing-Along. "This year, we hope that even more people come and make this an annual tradition that brings the Snyder and Eggertsville communities together in celebration of the Christmas season," comments Kelley Omel, the event chairperson." Everyone is welcome!

A Brief History of Christmas Carols:

Carols were first sung in Europe thousands of years ago, but these were not Christmas Carols. They were pagan songs, sung at the Winter Solstice celebrations as people danced round stone circles. The word "Carol" actually means dance or a song of praise and joy!

Early Christians took over the pagan solstice celebrations for Christmas and gave people Christian songs to sing instead of pagan ones. In 1223, St. Francis of Assisi started his Nativity Plays in Italy. The people in the plays sang songs or 'canticles' that told the story during the plays.

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When Oliver Cromwell and the Puritans came to power in England in 1647, the celebration of Christmas and singing carols was stopped. However, the carols survived as people still sang them in secret. Carols remained mainly unsung until Victorian times. New carols services were created and became popular, as did the custom of singing carols in the streets.

The tradition of carols has continued through the ages and has become an integral part of Christmas celebrations throughout the world. Come join us around our bonfire on December 9th as we celebrate the season with carols and fellowship.

More information about this event and the supported charities can be found at www.CrossroadsLutheranChurch.org.

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