



THE EVANGEL

Evangel - from the Greek euangelos meaning good messenger, or good news.

Temple Lutheran Church

February 2023

Holy Night Followed by a Festive Morning

Temple Lutheran Church celebrated Christmas Eve with a mask-optional in-person service (also available on livestream), and it seemed that we were just about back to normal pre-Covid mode. The church was full, in spite of bitter outside temperatures and a crucial Eagles playoff-qualifying game still being played as the service began.

At 7:00 PM the various musical components of TLC set the mood with sacred Christmas carols, both instrumental and choral. Led by Music Director Florrie Marks who opened on piano with *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*, the Handbell Choir (Kyle



The Handbell Choir performs a series of Christmas carols at the Christmas Eve candlelight service.

Barger, Susan Best, Beatrix Lay, Darcy Mannion, Florrie Marks, Maureen O’Ryan, Lynn Santo Domingo) displayed its talents with six presentations of beautiful music. Zoe Boston played *Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella* on violin. (She also performed on snare drum.) The Festival Choir (Susan Best, Sarah Foss, Nikita Johnson, Karen Kampmeyer-Mannix, Lillian Mittleman, Maureen O’Ryan, Larry Passmore, Amanda Quillen) finished up with two more carols, the second accompanied by handbells.

In the worship service, Pastor Tim reiterated the sacredness and awesomeness of this holy night, reminding us, as always, of how much God loves us. The wondrous music continued, led by cantors Susan Best, Sarah Foss, and Amanda Quillen. The service concluded with the candle lighting and a moving *O Holy Night* solo by Amanda. Thanks are due also to videographers Kyle Barger and Brian Lay.



Pastor Tim cooks and serves up eggs at the Christmas morning Breakfast Service.

Earlier that afternoon a children’s service was held, allowing the TLC young ones to understand the Christmas story at their own level and take part in celebrating its joyfulness.

On Christmas morning a group of mission partners, their families and friends celebrated Breakfast Church. Attendees were welcome to come in their pajamas. Pastor Tim fried up eggs on the griddle, and an array of breakfast goodies was enjoyed along with a more informal, yet meaningful, worship service.

*Join us for Worship
Sunday School 9 a.m.*

*In-Person Worship,
Live Streamed
at 10:00 a.m.*

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Temple's Children Give Us "The Best Present of All"

By Jeanne Daniels

Temple Lutheran's 2022 Christmas pageant brought back one of our greatest hits of the past pageants, the Donut Man and the Donut Repair Club's *The Best Present of All*. When the Donut Man suggests that the theme of the Christmas play could be the gifts that we all can bring Jesus, Landon is embarrassed as he compares his homemade construction paper heart with the more expensive, storebought gifts. But in the end, he is reassured that in the same way that Jesus gave him the best present of all, His love, he has returned that gift with the best present he could give to God, the gift of himself. Songs included: *O Come All Ye Faithful*; *Gentle Mary, Humble Mary*; *What Can I Give?*; *You Are the Lamb of God*; *The Best Present of All*; and *Happy Birthday, Jesus*.

TLC's children once again presented us with a heartfelt and fun-filled pageant that demonstrated to all the true meaning of Christmas. Great job, kids!

Thank you to Jeanne Daniels, Joyce Quillen, Florrie Marks and the Praise Band, Ms. Dani, Ms. Michele, Ms. Emily, and Pastor Tim for all their time and hard work with the children.



TLC's 2022 Christmas pageant, "The Best Present of All," is presented by the church's children.

TLC's Generosity Helps Reunite Ukrainian Family

The Tatarchuk-Gadzhaman family moved to Havertown from war-torn Ukraine in 2022. Olga and Alex are raising their three children and doing their best to assimilate while coping with the trauma of losing their home. Olga's parents, Igor and Elena, safely made it to the United States in December 2022, and the family was reunited.



The Tatarchuk-Gadzhaman family is grateful for the generosity of TLC in helping Olga's parents to be reunited with the family.

Temple Lutheran's Advent project this year was to raise funds to help this family. One hundred percent of everything donated is going towards getting Igor and Elena set up with an apartment while they learn English and look for jobs in the U.S.

We look forward to helping this family get set to thrive in the United States! Thank you for the generosity shown by our congregation, families, friends, and the community! We have raised over \$11,400 to help Igor and Elena in their new life. Welcome to the entire Tatarchuk-Gadzhaman family!

Reconciling in Christ Sunday Reminds Us of Our Mission

Temple Lutheran Church has always been known to its mission partners as the church that welcomes everyone unconditionally. It was a formality that we became a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) church, but that official title allows us to be listed as such, thus allowing those searching for a welcoming congregation to know our stance.

On a recent Sunday we celebrated this component of our mission statement, reminding us of our promise to welcome unconditionally and to encourage those seeking a welcoming environment to join us in worship. The music, the readings, and the sermons stressed this inclusion. Please know that Temple Lutheran Church welcomes everyone, no matter their age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, color, origin, or abilities. Let us carry this over into our everyday lives and help to make the whole world a better, more welcoming place.



Welcome, Ericka!

Ericka Esposito was elected to the church council during the Annual Meeting. Ericka is an attorney who lives in Blue Bell,



She and her fiancé Joey will be married in June by Pastor Tim. Ericka eagerly looks forward to serving on the council, and we are happy to have her!

Scout Sunday



On February 5 at 10 AM we invite all girl scouts, boy scouts and families in the area to worship with Temple Lutheran Church. There will be fellowship with smores in the courtyard after worship, and scouts will receive a Scout Sunday patch! Pass the word to anyone you know involved in scouting.



Annual Meeting Brings TLC Together

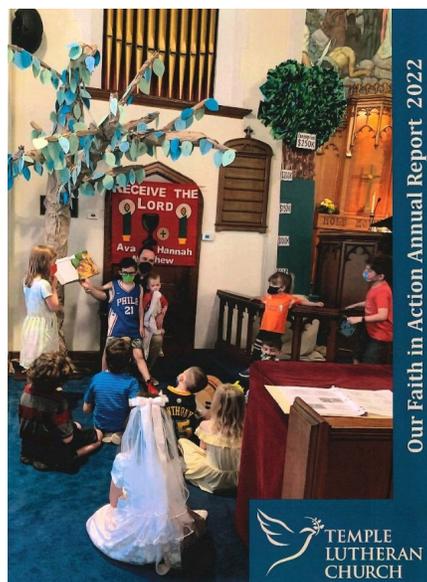
For the first time in three years Temple Lutheran's Annual Meeting was attended in person by its mission partners. Attendees agreed that it was good to get together, share a potluck meal, and not stare at a computer screen — except for Amanda Quillen, our president, who was away for work and attended virtually. (We were glad to have you there, Amanda, even from afar.)

The meeting covered many aspects of the church, but the main topics were the president's report, the pastor's report, the election of council members, the treasurer's report, the approval of the 2023 budget, the building and Green Team update, the food pantry report, the voting on constitutional amendments, and the status of the 2022 Capital Campaign funds. The emphasis was on the growth and vitality of Temple Lutheran and the generosity of its people, both monetarily and in service.

Four council members reached the end of their terms: Sarah Foss, Despina Kontos, Beatrix Lay, and Bernie Toth. Three of those (Sarah, Despina and Bernie) ran for a second term, along with Erika Esposito (see the sidebar). All were elected unanimously. We also thank our continuing council members: Tom Gaspar, Lisa Jennings, Nikita Johnson, Dave Nichols, Amanda Quillen, Eric Sacks, Lynn Santo Domingo, and Mike Schneller. Thank you, too, Bea, for your service these past years.

Council members are working hard to get the budget balanced and decrease our deficit. The building repairs are just about finished, and the search for a Family, Children and Youth Minister has been ongoing. That money from the Capital Campaign has been reserved for this purpose, and other funds have been used to pay down the building loan, thus reducing interest and future payments.

The meeting was adjourned (unanimously!), but we would be remiss if we did not express our gratitude to Pastor Tim for his constant and deep dedication to TLC and to us. It is not an easy job, but to him — and to us — it is not just a job but a calling, a vocation, and the chance to make Christ known to everyone. Thank you too to all who helped set up, prepare food, and clean up, especially Karen Kampmeyer-Mannix, who was there before, during and after, pitching in and making sure that all went smoothly.



Girl Scouts Help in the Food Pantry

January's Food Pantry had tremendous volunteer support and was joined for the first time by members of Girl Scout Troop 542 who helped patrons shop for the groceries that they needed. Nineteen people came to shop in person, and eleven deliveries were made. Three new patrons were welcomed, and thanks to one of our mission partners, Sharon Eubank, patrons were provided with warm hats and scarves. Thank you to all who helped out or donated food and personal items.

The next Food Pantry day will be February 25. If you would like to help out or would like more information, please contact Bridget McCormack or the church office.



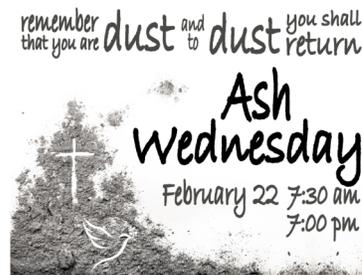
UPCOMING EVENTS



- Sunday
February 5
10:00 AM** **Scout Sunday**
All area scouts welcome!
S'mores after worship.
- Sunday
Feb. 12
10:00 AM
11:15 AM** **Souper Bowl Sunday**
Service at 10:00 a.m.
In-person & live-streamed
Soup Luncheon
- Tuesday
February 21
6:00 PM** **Margi Gras**
Fellowship Hall
Pancakes, Donuts, Karaoke
- Wednesday
February 22
7:30 AM** **Ash Wednesday**
Service at Temple
Ashes to go following
- Saturday
Feb. 25
1-3 PM** **TLC Food Pantry Service Day**
Servants Welcome!



- Monday
March 6
7:30 PM** **TLC Book Club**
- Tuesday
March 14
6 PM** **LIFE Center Meal**
Contact: Ingrid Burd
- Saturday
March 25** **TLC Food Pantry Service Day**
Servants Welcome!



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Book Club Meeting
Our next book for the TLC Book Club will be **The Women of the Bible Speak: The Wisdom of 16 Women and Their Lessons for Today** by Shannon Bream.

Please join us on Monday, February 6 at 7:30 PM for great discussion and fellowship. Even if you haven't read the book, you are very welcome to join! For more details on how to join the video chat, contact Despina at despina.kontos@gmail.com.

SOUPer Bowl Sunday

As we do each year, we welcome you to a special SOUPer Bowl celebration as we seek to tackle hunger by inviting you to donate money and "vote" for which team

you'd like to win at the big game. Donations will go to Lutheran World Relief. Worship will be on February 12 at 10 AM, in-person and livestreamed. Then join us for fellowship and a soup lunch. We are looking for soup makers, set up crew, serving crew and clean up crew. Questions: Contact Rob Mannix.

College Care Packages

We are collecting lightweight items, "store bought" treats such as raisins, dried fruit and nuts, gum, lollipops, popcorn, peanuts, pretzels, crackers, cookies, Valentine's Day candy, small packs of coffee, tea or hot chocolate, instant soup. NO POTATO CHIPS or CRUSHABLE SNACKS, PLEASE. Collection boxes in rear of church, gray tub outside glass doors, conference room. Please bring donations by Sunday, February 5.



Contact Us

If you have any questions, or if you have suggestions or submissions for the upcoming Evangel:

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