



THE EVANGEL

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

Temple Lutheran Church

January/February 2020

Toy Story Christmas Pageant Shines

By Jeanne Daniels

Hey, it is Mr. Potato Head here. I guess you thought that I was just a Toy Story decoration hanging on the pew end. Well, it is time you realized that potatoes have eyes. No, not those squiggly things that grow, I mean real eyes. The children created me and gave me real eyes and yep I saw the whole Toy Story skit from the pew end. You know what happens when you go around blabbing that you have real eyes? You are asked to write-up a review of the Christmas Pageant! Well here it goes:

Honestly, I have eyes but that doesn't mean I enjoy watching children's Christmas skits. I get enough of children and the stuff they do as is. However, I must say, WOW! I really enjoyed the Christmas Pageant. It was a Temple Lutheran Church original that captured the chaos that breaks out in Andy's bedroom when he is not around. It is my time to be sarcastic and the other toys are all set free for the moment to express their feelings all at once. And Woody, he just can't seem to find Christmas joy and he was depressed. Our fearless leader was depressed! We just had to cheer him up! The writer of the skit,

Sarah Foss, really knew how we toys feel!

Sarah Foss wrote the skit exactly depicting what really goes on in Andy's bedroom. I do not know how she knew because our army soldiers are always on the alert for humans spying on us. Anyway, Andy did not get any toys for Christmas. Yeah! We were not replaced! Pastor Tim even



Temple kids take their bows after performing in the annual Christmas pageant.

realized the stress we go through and how depressed Woody was and wrote three parodies to Christmas songs. Well, we were able to cheer Woody up with the good news that Christmas brings by acting out the Christmas story and the birth of Jesus. Hearing the news that Jesus is our Messiah brought joy to all!

What really brought joy to me is seeing the kids who usually play with us actually wanting to dress up as toys. Their costumes were amazing, and they really looked like us. Amy Mensch and Jennifer Comerchi created wonderful costumes and Slinky Dog was really connected with a wire slinky! The Praise Band played along with the singing children. This year there were many soloists, which only makes the songs more enjoyable. Thanks to all for a wonderful skit that was really like what goes on in Andy's room when you are gone. The secret is out and now you know that it is not easy being Mr. Potato Head and getting your eyes plucked out by some kid.

Join us for Worship

Sundays, January 12, 19

February 2, 9, 16, 23

*8:30 Organ Led Worship
with Holy Communion*

9:45 Sunday School / Café

*10:45 Praise Band Led
Worship with Holy Communion*

Sunday, January 26

*9:30 a.m. One Service with
Holy Communion*

Potluck brunch and Annual

In This Issue

- Christmas Pageant
- Christmas Eve Services
- Food Pantry Luncheon
- Cookies and Cocktails
- Christmas Donations
- New Sermon Series
- Mara's Baptism
- Holiday Dine-Around



Temple Angels Sing a Joyful Song on Christmas Eve

The Christmas Eve service was as close to heaven as earthly life can be. Warm and cozy, with hot cider. (Oh, I hope heaven has hot cider!) Quiet except for the choir of angel voices and their heavenly instruments. And emanating with welcome and love for mission partners, their visiting families and those coming to Temple for the very first time.



Florrie accompanies Zoe as she performs her violin solo.

Pastor Tim began his sermon by singing, "We need a little Christmas, right this very minute ..."

He said that it was time for Christmas, after the wait of Advent and all the preparations. But the song related to a Christmas miracle that he needed to make happen for one of his and Mary's children. We've all been there, whether it's a small miracle to make a child happy or a big miracle to make a child cured. The miracle of Jesus's birth gives us the strength and courage to make these miracles happen — or to cope if we can't.

After communion the church was darkened, and then from a single candle the congregation's candles were lit, one by one, until the church blared with light and we sang out, "Joy to the World!"



Florrie directs the bell choir during the Christmas Eve worship service.

Thank you to all who helped make this worship service so moving, especially the choir and musicians who worked so hard to prepare and who gave us heaven on a chilly winter's night.

Special thanks to:

Director of Music Ministries: Florrie Marks (Music Director, Organist, Pianist, Guitarist)

Handbell Choir: Kyle Barger, Susan Best, Mira Boston, Beatrix Lay, Wendy Long, Darcy Mannion, Declan Mannion, Lynn Santo Domingo

Clarinet Soloist: Julianna Pierdomenico

Violin Soloist: Zoe Boston

Soprano Soloist: Amanda Quillen

Alto Soloist: Susan Best

Festival Choir: Kyle Barger, Susan Best, Sarah Foss, Nancy Hallowell, Roy Hallowell, Karen Kampmeyer-Mannix, Anna Mannix, Noah Mannix, Rob Mannix, Lillian Middleman, Amanda Quillen, Bob Quillen

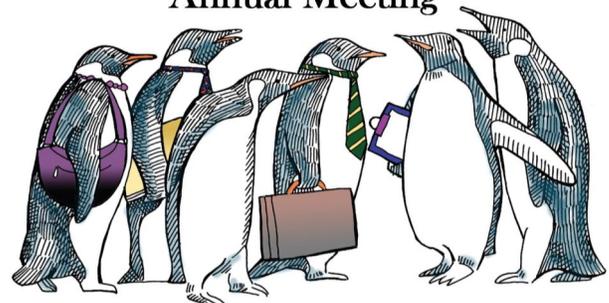


Children's Service: Making a Joyful Noise

By Campbell McCormack V

Every year at this time we start our Christmas celebration with a Christmas Eve service. First, you enter the church and kids are welcome to take a figurine about Jesus's birth like a Wiseman or Town's person. When Pastor Tim starts the service he will tell you, "Jesus was born for you!" then the Congregation says, "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" This year Juli, our new Children, Youth and Family Minister, led the service. Then a reader tells us a part of Jesus's birth until Jesus is born. After each part is read the kids are invited up to put their figurines at the stable. Once every figurine is at the stable, one more time we say HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS! We end the service by singing Joy to the World.

Annual Meeting



Sunday, January 26

9:30 a.m. Worship

Potluck Brunch and meeting to follow

Food Pantry Post-Christmas Luncheon Extends Holiday Spirit

Although Christmas was celebrated three days earlier, the Christmas spirit was very much felt on December's food pantry day. Twenty-eight families came to shop for groceries and share in an extensive meal, consisting of turkey, ham, mac and cheese, stuffing, vegetables, beverages, and sweets. This year, as a large crowd was expected, mission partners were asked to prepare items for the meal. The response was overwhelming. Bridget Keaveney organized it all, from sign-ups to preparation to serving to clean-up. Thanks to her hard work and the abundance of servants, everything ran smoothly. There was enough food left over to package meal trays for the patrons to take home for dinner. They were greatly appreciative.

Outside of the kitchen, food pantry shopping proceeded as usual with the addition of a produce room, full of fresh fruits and vegetables provided by a generous donor. Girl Scout Troop 5393 helped with the produce distribution. The shopping went without a hitch, thanks again to many servants and the leadership of Cam and Bridget McCormack.

The expressions of gratitude from the food pantry patrons were heartfelt and many. Please know that your servants, your food preparation and all of your donations are needed and appreciated. Let's keep this holiday spirit going throughout the year!



Temple servants serve a turkey and ham luncheon to our food pantry friends.

Kids and Parents Enjoy Cookies, Cocktails and Karaoke

By Delaney Mannion

Saturday, December 21 was an amazing night. There was karaoke, food, and cookie decorating. Pastor Tim made, as always, delicious food. People lined up across fellowship hall waiting for their turn to get food. Darcy Mannion set up amazing cookie decorating tables. All the kids gathered around the tables to make awesome Christmas cookies with frosting and sprinkles. Baltazar Rubio setup a brilliant karaoke station. People were singing and dancing along to the music and everyone had an amazing time!



(Left) Bernie, Ann, Bridget and Jeanne team up for Karaoke, while Baltazar mans the technology.



(Right) Pastor Tim croons a tune with help from DJ Baltazar.



Sani-Tree Donations Top \$1,200

This year we decorated a Christmas tree with decorated party liners, each one signifying a \$5 donation. We are raising funds to purchase personal hygiene items for women in shelters or experiencing financial insecurity. So far we have raised over \$1200. The appeal lasts until January 12. Thank you to everyone who participated.



There's still time to donate!

You can send a check to the church office. Memo: Sani Tree



More Christmas Generosity

In another Christmas season project, we were able to collect 79 gift bags filled with personal care items that were donated to Chester East Side Ministries, a home for formerly abused women. They were delighted to receive the bags.

Also, 100 gifts were donated for foster children and unaccompanied migrant children through Bethany Christian Services. Thank you to Vanessa Wallace for organizing the project and to all who contributed to both projects.



Some of the 79 gift bags donated for the Chester East Side Ministries.



Many of the 100 gifts donated for foster children and unaccompanied migrant children.

New Sermon Series Begins on January 12

Where was  **God** when...?

A sermon series beginning January 12

This series will explore the spiritual implications of God's presence, particularly in suffering. If you have any questions, ideas, or reflections about the series, feel free to contact Pastor Tim.



STRIKE UP SOME FUN!
SUPPORT DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT WITH NEW AVENUE FOUNDATION

Join us on **JAN 18TH**
From 4:00 - 6:00 PM
AT SPROUL LANES

Ticket includes 2 hours of bowling, rental shoes, pizza, and soda.
B.V.O.B if age 21+

Questions? Contact andrea@newfdn.org

Tickets: bit.ly/nafbowling **\$30 Per Bowler**
Reserve a lane for 6 people - \$150.

Welcome, Mara Taylor!

On December 29, parents Jill Surkin and Despina Kontos presented daughter Mara for baptism at TLC. Big brother Eli, along with other family members and mission partners of Temple, promised to help Mara know Christ and make Christ known.

As Eli had also promised the week before, he brought cupcakes to celebrate his sister's big day.



Jill and Despina with children Mara and Eli as Pastor Tim leads Mara's baptism ceremony.

December Dine-Around at UUMC

Outside it was wet, chilly and miserable, but inside Union United Methodist Church it was dry, warm and cheery. A group of Temple mission partners and their friends joined with Union United and several other local churches to share a delicious Christmas luncheon, view a Christmas angel collection, and sing Christmas hymns lauding angels and celebrating the birth of Christ.

The Union United crew catered to our every need and served a fine meal of ham, green beans, pineapple bread, and ice cream — very decadent for the middle of the day!

The Dine-Around lunch and entertainment was the perfect remedy for surviving another cold, dreary December day. Thank you, Pastor Mary Jane Kirby and all the gracious UUMC servants.

The next Community Dine-Around luncheon will be a spring picnic held at St. James United Church of Christ on May 11. The cost is only \$7.00. See Sue Cook or contact the church office by the Wednesday prior to the luncheon.



A group from Temple enjoy the food and entertainment at the December Community Dine-Around.

TACKLE  **HUNGER**

Sunday, February 2 at Noon

UPCOMING EVENTS



- Tuesday** **Life Center Meal**
January 14 Meet at Temple
6:00 PM
- Saturday** **TLC Food Pantry**
January 25 Open—Servants Welcome!
1-3 PM
- Sunday** **Annual Meeting**
January 26 One Service, Brunch to follow
9:30 AM Temple Lutheran Church



- Sunday** **Souper Bowl Sunday**
Feb. 2 Services at 8:30 and 10:45
Noon Soup Luncheon
- Saturday** **TLC Food Pantry Service Day**
Feb. 22 Servants Welcome!
1-3 PM
- Wednesday** **Ash Wednesday**
Feb. 26 Morning Worship, TLC Parlor
7:30 AM Ashes to Go
6:00 PM Evening Worship, at Union Methodist
7:00 PM 200 Brookline Blvd., Havertown

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26 following the worship service at 9:30 AM (one service). Potluck brunch to follow.

Men's Group, Women's Group

Temple's Men's and Women's Groups meet on the third Sunday of the month after the second worship service. For more information, contact Mike Schneller: mike.schneller23@gmail.com or Lisa Schneller: lisaschneller23@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 ELCA World Hunger. After worship, you are invited to join us for a soup lunch. Feel free to bring a soup or just come hungry!

Sani-Tree Christmas Project

Temple's Sani-Tree Christmas project runs until January 12. For each \$5 donation an ornament will be hung on the tree in memory or in honor of a loved one. Proceeds will provide personal hygiene products to women in need.

Spaghetti Dinner Prizes Needed

We are looking for people to donate Raffle Prizes for the Spaghetti Dinner, a fundraiser for the church's general fund. Please consider contributing a gift to make this event a success.

Reconciling Works

Continuing in January, Café will focus on what it means to be a Reconciling in Christ congregation. We will be focusing on better understanding our LGBTQIA+ siblings and look at what it means to be intentionally welcoming to them. Please join us in Café at 9:45 each Sunday as we discuss this proposal from your church council.



Contact Us

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

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Visit us on the web at
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