



Welcome to Alive Church Ephrata
An Anabaptist Congregation

To offer Hope, Life, and Love in Jesus

December 8, 2024

9:00 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL (Ages 2—Adult)

10:00 AM – WORSHIP SERVICE

Prelude	Laina Martin
Call To Worship	Pastor Jeff High
Advent Reading	Lon & Gloria Myers
Offering	
Pastoral Prayer	
Worship in Song	Buch Family
Message	Pastor David Buch
	<i>“Anticipate: Confident Expectation”</i>
	Luke 4:14-30

Sending Song

Benediction

Greeters Roy & Marlene Buch

Nursery Care is Available Attendants: Janet High & Janey Martin

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, December 11, 7 PM – Prayer Time

Sunday, December 22, 9 AM – Christmas Tea

Sunday, January 12 – Kevin Martin’s Ordination

BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 9 – Molly Hurst

13 – Carol Martin

ANNIVERSARIES

WITH SYMPATHY

Our prayers and thoughts go out for Mike & Peg Nolt as they grieve the passing of Peg’s sister, Petrina, on December 1.

“May you know God’s peace and comfort in your time of grief.”

2024 CHRISTMAS PROJECT

You are invited to participate in the Loaves and Fishes Feeding Program through New Life Mission – Haiti by giving a monetary gift to provide food for community meals to those in need in Haiti. This ministry is organized by Zachary and Stevie Estime – missionaries supported through Alive Church. Please place your monetary gift in the “BREAD BANK” located on the display table in the narthex. Checks should be made payable to Alive Church Ephrata. Our goal is \$1,500.00.

CHRISTMAS TEA

On Sunday, December 22, we will be having a Christmas Tea during the Sunday School hour. All adult, youth and children’s classes will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9 AM for food and fellowship. Please bring a FINGER FOOD to share. Coffee, tea, and juice will be provided. The regular morning service will begin at 10:00 AM. Contact Raneë if you have any questions.

PHONE/ADDRESS DIRECTORY

The church directories are being updated for 2024. Information forms are in your mailbox. PLEASE return ALL forms to the church office mailbox no later than Dec. 15. If you do not have a mailbox and would like to be included in the directory, please pick up a form at the Welcome Center. Complete and return it to the church office mailbox. Any questions, please call 717-733-6688 or email info@alivechurchephrata.com.

GREETERS NEEDED

If you are interested in being a greeter once a month, please contact John Gehman as soon as possible.

CHRISTMAS LUMINARY WALK

Roland Park, Akron, Saturday, December 14, 5:30-8 PM. See bulletin board for more information.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Church Family

- Earl Martin – recovering from surgery
- Grace Martin – as Earl’s key caregiver
- Karen Beyer – recovering from foot surgery
- Carol Martin – recovering from a broken foot
- Mike & Peg Nolt – grieving the loss of Peg’s sister

Mission

- Zacharie & Stevie Estime, New Life Mission Haiti
- Austin Kline, YWAM Lancaster
- Andrea Martin, YWAM Montana Ending Bible Poverty Now
- Daniel & Marlene Martinez, Uruguay

Outreach

- Alive Winter Guard
- Friday Night Skate
- Oyate Hope Academy
- PACE Afterschool Program
- TNT Youth Ministries
- Woodcrest Retreat

Next Sunday’s Service

- Kevin Martin, Preacher
- David Buch, Worship Host
- The Congregation

Pastoral Leadership Team

Jeffrey High, Lead Pastor
David Buch, Associate Pastor
Kevin Martin, Associate Pastor
Jean Martin, Congregational Care Coordinator
Brian Martin, Bishop

Council of Ministries

Calvin Zimmerman, Church Board Admin Chair
Delmar Brubaker, Church Life Chair
Austin Kline, Mission Chair
Ken Sweigart, Nurture Chair
Ranee Zimmerman, Worship Chair



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Church Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
9 AM-1 PM

ADVENT – ANTICIPATE THE COMING CHRIST

Monday: Make Room for God – Matthew 6:17-18

1. So what gets in the way of God during your Christmas?
2. Ask God to help you set aside something for a day (or more) as you make room for God to do something big in your life.

Tuesday: Do You Hear What I Hear? – Matthew 11:28-30

1. Practice “Listening Prayer.” Practice asking God throughout the day, “What is Your Will for me right now?” And then listen. Listen until you hear an answer. And then Act! WARNING! This may slow you down and make you WAIT, but isn’t that the goal?

Wednesday: Let it Go, Let it Go, Let it Go – Isaiah 43:17-18

1. Christmas is the time for new beginnings. God says to you today, “Do not dwell on the past.” He is doing a new thing in your life. Let go of the past, confess those sins and receive God’s grace that will make a new way. Let this Christmas be a new birth for you.

Thursday: Do You See What I See? – Philippians 1:9-11

1. Examine your spiritual growth as you wait using “The Prayer of Examen”
 - a. Review the past 24 hours
 - b. Write down or list in your head all your encounters and activities during that time.
 - c. Give thanks for the times you were obedient to God. Confess your sins when you discover that you’ve gone your own way.

Friday: Here We Go A Serving – Hebrews 9:14

1. How can you serve God in the weeks ahead?
2. What acts of kindness and mercy can you share with those around you?
3. Who needs to see God’s love manifested through your humble service?

Saturday: A Silent Night – Habbakkuk 2:20

1. As you prepare for worship tomorrow, plan some silence into your personal worship. Maybe you leave early and sit silently in the sanctuary, or send the other people into church and stay in the car for a few moments just being still. God wants to meet you as you wait