The Joyful Noise Newsletter



## Schoeneck Moravian Church December 2024

Oh there's no place like home for the holidays, 'Cause no matter how far away you roam....

Depending on your generation, you probably have Perry Como's version of that beloved Christmas song in mind, or the Muppets, or that Carpenters album from the 80s...or the 1993 Sears commercials. Regardless, the sentiment, and let's face it, the sentimentality, is grand.

I've been pondering what it means for our church to be a home for the holidays. Traditions that haven't changed since childhood, shared experiences when things didn't go right... remember the great power outage of '23? The deepest part of the pandemic when everything was different? The great snowstorm when I was stuck at home with the kids? No Nana, that was 1948, I was born in '72, but it's such a great story, can you tell it again?

It's more than just traditions though, the recognition, affirmation, and praise of God's incarnation, coming into the world to bring hope, peace, joy, and love to the midst of a world of turmoil and angst, lessons for us to apply in our own lives, hearing that message for ourselves and living it out for others.

The holidays are also a time of figuring out where you fit in, how we live into the roles in our various systems...am I going to get those same tired questions about my relationship status? If I show up with a new partner in my life, will they be on display and up for discussion behind closed doors? Are we going to have currents of tension around new people coming into our beloved traditions? Is somebody's nose going to be out of joint because I don't care for cranberry with my turkey? Are my well-informed and deeply held political beliefs going to be accepted, mocked, or will somebody put their foot down and say we're not talking about that at this table? Actually, except for my thought about cranberry, I've heard each of those brought up as reasons to stay away from church, even during the holidays. Balanced out, of course, by those who can't wait to bring a new partner to church to involve them in an important part of their lives...and maybe show them off a bit...and those who want to have important deep conversations with their church community, because that's what it's there for.

So this is my multi-part invitation: Come home to church for the holidays, whether or not you've been scarce over the rest of the year. For those of us who are the regulars, the well-meaning stewards of our traditions, make church a welcoming home. Do your best to be really glad to see people, even the newcomers who don't yet know the way we do things here.

"I'll let the verse of the song carry the rest of the message...

When you pine for the sunshine of a friendly gaze, For the holidays You can't beat home sweet home, If you want to be happy in a million ways, for the holidays You can't beat home sweet home."

Pastor Ian

### 2024 WATCHWORD TEXT FOR THE SCHOENECK CONGREGATION

"In accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home." 2 Peter 3:13

## **Worship the Lord with Us!**

Advent, from Latin *adventus* "coming," is the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ; a season of candlelight, reflection and expectation.

The season of Advent is four Sundays with four messages: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. It ends on Christmas Eve.

Sunday, December 1—Worship Services-8:00 AM & 10:30 AM-Joyful Noise

**First Sunday of Advent.** The first Sunday of Advent is Hope, to assure us that God will fulfill all his promises through the birth of Jesus.

Advent Holy Communion Service at 4:30 PM, followed by a dinner in Fellowship Hall.

"Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.""

Luke 21:33 Watchword

Wednesday, December 4—Worship Service-7:00 PM.

**Quiet Christmas.** This is similar to the Blue Christmas service we've held in the past.

"The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."

James 3:18 Watchword

Sunday, December 8—Worship Services-8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

**Second Sunday of Advent.** The second Sunday of Advent is Peace. The word peace is a Hebrew word *shalom* which means completeness or well being. Jesus came to be the Prince of Peace.

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them."

Luke 1:68 Watchword

Sunday, December 15—Worship Service-only at 10:30 AM. Third Sunday of Advent. Sunday School Christmas Program.

The third Sunday of Advent is Joy, as we ask the "Holy Spirit to show us the beauty of Jesus in His Word and in His Work." Retrieved from: www.todaydevotional.com "Bear fruits worth of repentance." Luke 3:8 Watchword

Sunday, December 22—Worship Services-8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Fourth Sunday of Advent. The fourth Sunday of Advent is Love, "Love is a gift: a Gift from God."

Retrieved from: www.todaydevotional.com

"God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly."

Luke 1:52 Watchword

CHRISTMAS

Tuesday, December 24—Christmas Eve Lovefeast & Candlelight Services 4:00 PM, 6:30 PM, 8:30 PM

Moravian Christmas Eve Lovefeast, with beeswax candles wrapped in red are distributed to everyone present. "All shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that he has given you."

Deuteronomy 16:17 Watchword

Sunday, December 29—Worship Service-only at 10:30 AM

First Sunday after Christmas. "Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven."

Psalm 148:13 Watchword

Tuesday, December 31—Worship Service-7:00 PM

**New Year's Eve Lovefeast:** distribution of Watchwords for 2025 and the selection of one for the congregation. *"This is God, our God forever and ever. He will be our guide forever."* Psalm 48:14 Watchword



### **2025 Future Worship Services**

Sunday, January 5—Worship Services 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM Second Sunday after Christmas. Epiphany Holy Communion.

Sunday, January 12—Worship Services 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM First Sunday after Epiphany.

Sunday, January 19—Worship Services 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM Second Sunday after Epiphany.

Sunday, January 26—Worship Services 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM Third Sunday after Epiphany.

### **ELDERS PERSPECTIVE**

To quote a famous Christmas song, "He knows when you are sleeping, he knows when you're awake, he knows if you've been bad or good, so be good for goodness sake." I always thought how much this phrase reminds me of Jesus. He knows me when I'm awake and when I'm asleep. How comforting it is to know Jesus as my friend, guardian, and Saviour. Have you asked Jesus to come into your life? If not ask Pastor Ian. He will show you how, and help you in your continued growth in your relationship with Jesus.

Meanwhile, let's all look forward to the joy of worshiping during the four Sundays of Advent services, and the Christmas Eve Services at Schoeneck. We sing "Hosanna" as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Saviour! We sing "Joy to the World our Lord Has Come" at the birth of our Saviour. But let us also prepare ourselves for the return of our Saviour, Jesus Christ! Halleluiah!

Luke 2:8-14 "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were so afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

I wish you all a Joyous Christmas as we celebrate the Birth of our dear Saviour! Amen!

Bill Heiser, Elder



### **Joint Board Members**

### **Board of Elders**

Pastor Ian Edwards, Chair Jim Makovetz, Vice Chair Melody Stocker, Secretary Elaine Bittner Brian Dishong Bill Heiser Linda Meylach (in memoriam) Mike Rampulla Pamela Stampf Ann-Louise Taylor

### **Board of Trustees**

Sue Dreydoppel, President Bob Sweitzer, Vice President Sue Anascavage, Secretary Lori Deutsch Pastor Ian Edwards, ex-officio Marisa Graver Andrew Majczan Dwayne Moyer Kim Samsel Troy Schoeneberger

### Board of Elders

November Board of Elders meeting:

- Continued progress with congregational outreach communications.
- Advent Candle lighting worship components are being determined.
- 3. Advent Workshop on December 7, 2024. Come One! Come All!

### Board of Trustees

November Board of Trustees meeting:

- 1. Selected Troy Schoeneberger to work with Lorena Roberts on becoming the next Cemetery Coordinator.
- 2. Discussed reduced financial giving.
- 3. Approved a contribution to Visions of Eagles for community assistance.
- 4. Decided not to mail 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter financial statements: If anyone wants a report of their envelope giving to date, please contact the church office.



### The Advent season is upon us already!

**CEM** is planning an **Advent Workshop** in conjunction with the **Decorating Committee** decorating the church sanctuary on Saturday, December 7th from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM. This is a church event and we hope that you and your family will come join in the fellowship with your other church families, help decorate the church and participate in a few family crafts to prepare your hearts for Christmas. CEM will provide a morning snack with coffee and tea and also a light lunch. We are asking you to bring an ingredient to add to our "Stone Soup" that will be served for lunch before you leave with your new Advent/Christmas crafts. While the adults are in the sanctuary decorating, CEM members have activities to keep the Sunday School age children busy with setting up the tree in the Fellowship Hall and decorating it with items that they have just crafted. If you feel you are unable to help decorate the sanctuary you are welcome to join in the crafting in the Fellowship Hall. There will be easy crafts for both children and adults. The children also will be decorating their Sunday School room doors to beautify the hallway leading up to the sanctuary.

It's been a long time since we have had a congregation event, we hope that you will want to come and join us before the Christmas rush begins! A sign-up sheet will be posted on the Christian Ed bulletin board (by the water fountain) just so we can have an idea of what to prepare for. If you forget to sign up, come anyway and bring your friends and family.

Hope to see you December 7th!

Pamela Stampf Sunday School Coordinator

### Women's Bible study

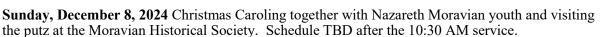
Thursday mornings from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM



**Men's Bible Study** Wednesdays at 7:00 PM.

### **Jr Youth Upcoming Dates:**

**Friday, November 29** (changed from December 1) at 11:00 AM to make cards and bake cookies for Homebound Members.



Open to all youth grades 3-7, bring a friend and spread some holiday cheer to our community!

For more information, contact Lanie Yaswinski & Courtney Schnyderite, Jr Youth Co-leaders

# SANCTUARY DECORATING All are invited



To help decorate the sanctuary on **Saturday**, **December 7th**, at 9:00.

The sanctuary tree, the garlands, and the nativity all need to be set in place, as well as preparing the church for the many people who will be worshiping during the Christmas season.



# CHURCH NEWS



## Schoeneck Moravian Church Community Dinner

Monday, November 25, 2024 Thanksgiving Ham Dinner 4:00 - 5:30 PM (or while supplies last)

Volunteers please arrive at 10:00 AM to begin preparations.

## Non-perishable Donations for Nazareth Food Bank

The Community Dinner Team invites the congregation to join them in the collection of non-perishable items for Nazareth Food Bank.

There is a container located in the Narthex for your much appreciated donations.

Sunday, November 24, 2024 is the last day for collection.

Thank you, Community Dinner Team

### CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES ARE DUE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1ST

Filled Christmas Shoe Boxes may be placed on the window sills in the Sanctuary. There is a wooden box marked "Gift Cards for Holiday Hope Chest" to place the gift cards in—on window sill next to the piano.



ADVENT DINNER—SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1st Following the 4:30 PM, Holy Communion Service Please sign up by Sunday, November 24th Sign-up sheet is on the church bulletin board.

Schoeneck Moravian Health Ministry blood pressure screening will be Sunday, December 15, 2024 after 10:30 service.



### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Will not be meeting in December.

The next meeting will be
Wednesday, January 22nd at 11:00 AM
in the Fellowship Hall.

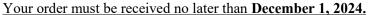
### SCHOENECK NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for January Newsletter is Monday, December 16th . Thank You!



## TIME TO ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias are \$10.00 per plant.



There are order forms posted on the church bulletin board and on the table outside the church office. You may take your plant home after the 8:30 PM Christmas Eve Service.

digin digin







## SCHOENECK MORAVIAN CHURCH UNITY PRAYER WATCH SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 13, 2024

Every moment of every day someone in the world wide Moravian Unity is praying for the church and the world.

Schoeneck participates in this sacred tradition on **Friday, December 13, 2024.** 

There is a sign up sheet with the listing of prayer times and topics for prayer and prayer concerns from provinces around the world located on the church bulletin board.

### PLEASE NOTE OUR SNOW POLICY

If the conditions are hazardous (ice, excessive snow, winter weather emergency conditions, etc.), please consult any of the following to find out whether worship has been cancelled, or the schedule altered:

- WFMZ, Channel 69 (Check the crawl on television, but they have indicated to us that they will only post the announcement on their website, www.wfmz.com, unless there are "extreme weather conditions").
- The church voicemail message (610-759-0376)

• Schoeneck's social media.

We will make every effort to arrive at an appropriate decision prior to 7:00 AM on Sunday mornings. If you are unsure about safe travel conditions, please stay home and watch the service on livestream.



# THANK YOU



I am so grateful to my Schoeneck family for the many many cards, emails, texts, and visit from Loraine along with the lovely prayer shawl. I am wrapped in your love as I progress through my chemotherapy. It's been a tough road, but I am making my way down the path one day at a time. I have now completed 8 infusions and have 8 more remaining through mid-February with multiple surgeries to come after that. I am so thankful for your continued prayers!

In addition, I would like to thank Cindi, Pastor Ian and all the faithful scripture reader volunteers for stepping up to help fulfill the schedule in my absence.

With many thanks,

Lisa Moyer

Dear Schoeneck Congregation,

On Sunday, October 27th, myself, my brother and sister-in-law, along with Kevin can't thank those of you enough who sponsored us in the Kidney Cancer Walk. It was an emotional walk, as it would have been mom's birthday. We gave the foundation \$3,270, and finished in second place. Thanks, again!

Love, Sandy, Robert, Megan, and Kevin.

Due to the generous support of the Community Dinner Program by the members of Schoeneck and the community, the balance in the fund has grown to more than is needed to support the program. We are grateful to announce \$200 has been donated to the Essentials Café, \$200 to the Nazareth Food Bank, \$200 to the Board of World Mission to repair the Moravian Camp destroyed by a hurricane in NC and \$418 was donated to the Jamaican Relief Fund in memory of Bishop Hopeton Clennon. The program has been self-supporting since the beginning, and now other programs are benefiting from this successful program.

God is good!

October 29, 2024

Schoeneck Family,

Thank you for allowing us to use the Fellowship Hall as part of the planned activities in memory of my Mother, Anne Marie Berger. We really appreciate the ability to get the extended family together at the place so many have grown with the church and our Lord.

Jeff & Maria Berger, and Family

Thank you to everyone who helped in the wrapping of candles; we were especially excited to have the Jr Youth Group helping. Altogether 300 candles were trimmed.

I would like to give a big thanks to Terry Berger for assistance in the baking for the Lovefeasts.

Lori Hahn, Diener Coordinator

Friends at Schoeneck Moravian Church.

Thank you for supporting the vital work that we do here at Safe Harbor Easton with your contribution of \$630 on November 5, 2024. Know that we take trust in us seriously and will put your gift to the best possible use.

Sarah Stehlin, Director of Development Safe Harbor Easton is a 501© (3) non-profit organization

### Hurricane Jamaica Relief Contribution

In November, Schoeneck sent a check to the Moravian Board of World Mission for \$2,700 for Jamaica Hurricane Relief in memory of our former pastor, the Rt. Rev. C. Hopeton Clennon. This is a wonderful contribution from our congregation.

The funds came from a number of sources. The recent congregation-wide bake sale raised \$682. Individual contributions totaled \$1100. The Trustees designated \$500 to the cause from congregation funds, and \$418 came from contributions to the Community Dinner.

The congregation should be very proud of its efforts to assist fellow Moravians who are victims of weather disasters.



The proceeds from the "**Staff Christmas Gift**" envelope will be shared between our new pastor and other dedicated staff, both paid and volunteer. Please be generous to all our staff members who work hard on our behalf. Make your contributions for the Staff Christmas Gift by Sunday, December 15, so that the gifts can be distributed on Christmas Eve.

# New Trees

Four new maple trees have been added to the Schoeneck Grove. Two closest to the play area are replacements for trees planted several years ago in memory of June and Sterling Fehr. Two new trees, between the parking lot and the Pavilion, are in memory of John Kostenbader. Thanks to LandCare for the trees and the labor to plant them.



### **SPECIAL ENVELOPES:**

"Roof Replacement" envelope will be for the rest of this year. So far, that is a future project. The "new" Fellowship Hall and its roof are now 27 years old, and we know that the need to replace the roof is approaching. The Trustees are starting a fund now, so that when the new roof project is needed we already have some funds.



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December envelope is for **FUEL** to help pay our heating bill during the winter.

### ELECTRONIC GIVING TO SCHOENECK

Interested in e-giving to Schoeneck?

It's simple. Simply go to: <a href="https://mmfa.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit\_id=1134">https://mmfa.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit\_id=1134</a> (or mmfa.com; Giving Portal; click on S, then Schoeneck) and sign up!

You can make a one-time contribution or a recurring contribution on your schedule. There are no fees, either to the contributor or to Schoeneck.

### A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

As we enter the month of December, I'm requesting that payments for sponsorships for 2025, such as flowers, bulletins, and lovefeast be held until January of 2025. I know some of you like to pay early, but it affects the final reported receipts for those items for the 2024 year end financials. Therefore, please do not make 2025 payments in December of 2024.

Also, when requesting reimbursement for items purchased for the church, please turn in receipts with an explanation of what the items are for, so the items are charged to the correct budget item.

When a purchase is made on the church credit card, please make sure a receipt is turned into me with an explanation of the charge and what it is used for. It's been very difficult reconciling the monthly credit card statement because receipts have not been turned in. Your cooperation in matters would be greatly appreciated.

# **Worship Helpers This Month**

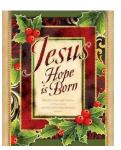
### SPONSORS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

### FLOWERS - <u>\$10.00</u>

- 12/1 Debbie Knecht
- 12/8 Brian & Jennie Dishong
- 12/15 Cookie Knauss
- 12/22 TBD
- 12/24 Joanne Smith
- 12/29 TBD
- 12/31 Dennis Silvius

### **BULLETINS - \$10.00**

- 12/1 Cookie Knauss
- 12/8 TBD
- 12/15 TBD
- 12/22 Glenn & Carolyn Hertzog
- 12/24 Kim Knecht
- 12/29 Cookie Knauss
- 12/31 Dennis Silvius



### **DECEMBER ELDER(S)**

**Shared** 

### **DECEMBER TRUSTEE**

Sue Dreydoppel

### **DECEMBER LOVEFEAST \$100**

Sponsor(s):

**Christmas Eve Lovefeast** 

4:00 PM—Robert & Catherine Hahn

6:30 PM—Cookie Knauss

8:30 PM—Lou & Deb Dishong

New Year's Eve Lovefeast—Dennis Silvius

### **DECEMBER SAFE HARBOR**

**Ann Dalton** 

### **DECEMBER RECYCLING SPONSOR(S) \$43**

Gloria Floyd

Date	Time	Ushers	Greeters	Scripture Readers	Nursery	
Sunday, December 1	8:00 AM &	Louis Murante & Mary Schweitzer	Ann Dalton	John Beitel	Lorena Roberts & Catherine Hahn	
	10:30 AM	Roger & Laurie Woolley	Kevin & Sandy Love	Glenn Hertzog		
Sunday, December 1	4:30 PM	TBD	TBD	Pastor Ian	N/A	
Wednesday, December 4	7:00 PM	TBD	TBD	Pastor Ian	N/A	
Sunday, December 8	8:00 AM & 10:30 AM	Terry Berger & Melody Stocker Mim Stoudt & Gloria Floyd	Joanne Smith Mike & Lisa Koehler	Katie Elliott Laurie Woolley	Sue Anascavage & Sharon Schuler	
Sunday, December 15	10:30 AM	Roger & Laurie Woolley	Sunday School	Sunday School	Mim Stoudt & Gayle Searock	
Sunday, December 22	8:00 AM & 10:30 AM	Ralph & Jane Barthold  Pam Stampf & Anthony Stampf	Terry Berger  Lorena Roberts	Ann Dalton Pam Stampf	Andy & Brenda Loiacano	
Tuesday, December 24	4:00 PM	Glenn & Carolyn Hertzog	Allene Rampulla	Laurie Woolley	N/A	
Tuesday, December 24	6:30 PM	Cathee Butz	Ron & Linda Minnich	Katie Elliott	N/A	
Tuesday, December 24	8:30 PM	Cathee Butz	John & Lori Deutsch	John Beitel	N/A	
Sunday, December 29	10:30 AM	Glenn & Carolyn Hertzog	Catherine Hahn	Laurie Woolley	Mike & Allene Rampulla	
Tuesday, December 31	7:00 PM	Youth Group	TBD	Pastor Ian	N/A	

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas 29 10:30 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School-All	4" Sunday of Advent 22 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School-All	t Idren ogra ogra I-All try reeni R 11 Rm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent 8 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School-All 11:30 AM Jr Youth Caroling- Reserved Fellowship Hall 2:00 PM GS Troop 8220, R 10 2:00 PM GS Troop 893, R 6	1st Sunday of Advent 1 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Joyful Noise 9:15 AM Sunday School-All 4:30 PM Advent Holy Communion followed by a dinner in Fellowship Hall	SUNDAY
30	23	16 5:30 PM GS Troop 8435, Rm 6	9 5:30 PM GS Troop 8435, Rm 6 6:00 PM GS Troop 81043, Rm 10	2	MONDAY
31 7:00 PM New Year's Eve Lovefeast	Christmas Eve Candlelight & Lovefeast 4:00 PM Children 6:30 PM Christmas Eve 8:30 PM Christmas Eve	6:00 PM Mission & Evangelism Zoom 6:30 PM CEM, Rm 10	7:00 PM Trustees Meeting/Zoom	3 7:00 PM Elders Meeting-Rm 6/Zoom	TUESDAY
	CHURCH OFFICE 25 CLOSED  *	<b>≒</b>	11 1:00 PM AFSCME, R/11 6:30 PM Grief Support Zoom 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study, Rm 6	4 7:00 PM Quiet Christmas (aka Blue Christmas) 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study, Rm 6	WEDNESDAY
Dec.	26	9:00 AM Women's Bible Study, Rm 6 6:15 PM Jr Handbell 6:45 PM Sr Handbell 7:30 PM Sr Choir	9:00 AM Women's Bible Study, Rm 6 6:15 PM Jr Handbell 6:45 PM Sr Handbell 7:30 PM Sr Choir	9:00 AM Women's Bible Study, Rm 6 6:15 PM Jr Handbell 6:45 PM Sr Handbell 7:30 PM Sr Choir	THURSDAY
mber	27	20 10:30 AM Shake n Boogie Program	13 10:30 AM Shake n Boogie Program	6 10:30 AM Shake n Boogie Program 3:00 PM CEM setup for Advent Workshop-FH	FRIDAY
2 2	28	21	14	7 9:00 AM Decorate Church 9:00 AM Advent Workship-FH	SATURDAY



# The Joyful Noise



Schoeneck Moravian Church 316 North Broad Street Extension Nazareth, Pennsylvania 18064-9522

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

schoeneck@schoeneckmoravian.org https://schoeneckmoravian.org 610-759-0376



# Schoeneck Moravian Church

## Our Lamb has conquered, let us follow him.

In Essentials, Unity; In Nonessentials, Liberty; In All Things, Love.



DECEMBER 2024

Rev. Ian Edwards, Pastor Ryan Morrow, Director of Music Cindi Kessler, Administrative Assistant

### Our Mission Statement

"To follow the example of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to love and serve all."

Regular Worship Service 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM Worship in the Sanctuary & 10:30 AM Livestream

