



**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
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## **St. Paul's Lutheran in Lionville Hosts a Special Christmas Worship Service Welcoming Individuals with Developmental Disabilities**

LIONVILLE, PA, December 2003 – St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 104 S. Village Avenue, Lionville, invites the community to its December Christmas *Rejoicing Spirits* worship service for children and adults with developmental disabilities on **Sunday, December 7 at 3:45 pm**. This worship service reaches out and encourages these special individuals to become part of a faith community. The environment is accepting and welcoming to *all* Children of God.

Susan Crawford, Rejoicing Spirits Ministry Coordinator, says, "Our newly-launched *Rejoicing Spirits* worship services have been extremely well received. This is the only community worship service in the Delaware Valley area specifically designed to capture the interests of these individuals, their caregivers, families, and other supportive members of the community. Participants feel accepted and part of an uplifting, love-filled environment." A hearty invitation is extended to the community to join in this faith-filled experience. All faiths are welcome. The *Rejoicing Spirits* service focuses on music and joyous singing along with brief, meaningful messages and fellowship with other Christians. "December will be a very special month," added Crawford. "We need to remember the 'reason for the season'. The birth of Jesus is a symbol of love, joy and hope for us all."

According to statistics from the American Association of Mental Retardation there are an estimated 4,000 children and adults in Chester County (1% of the present population) who have some form of mental retardation. When other developmental disabilities are considered, this number increases dramatically.

The *Rejoicing Spirits* worship service is held the first Sunday of each month at 4 pm. December's worship begins earlier with Christmas music starting at 3:45 pm. For more information, contact Susan Crawford at [rejoicingspirits@stpaulslionville.org](mailto:rejoicingspirits@stpaulslionville.org), the church office at 610-363-6264, or visit [www.stpaulslionville.org](http://www.stpaulslionville.org). St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a Christian-based community located in Lionville, Pennsylvania near Routes 100 and 113. The facility is wheelchair accessible and FM receivers are provided for the hearing impaired.