

Press Release: For immediate release

December 8, 2009

Event date: Thursday, December 17, 2009

Contact: Larry Gradwohl, 610-837-1179; Dennis Lutterschmidt, 610-285-6326; Shirley Conner, 610-264-2979

Belznickel to visit the Pennsylvania German Friends

The Belznickel will make an appearance at the annual Christmas gathering of the Pennsylvania German Friends at 7 pm on Thursday, December 17. He will be anxious to learn “who was naughty, and who was nice”. The public is invited to this free meeting at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, 1933 Hanover Avenue, Allentown.

The Belznickel was a traditional character in Germanic Folklore predating the arrival of Christianity to their region. Originally the Belznickel was “demon in furs or pelts”. However, after their conversion to Christianity, he became “sanitized” to be “Nicholas in furs” and would make his appearance on St. Nicholas Day (December 6). The Pennsylvania Germans brought that tradition with them when they emigrated here and continued to practice it into the twentieth century. Later the Belznickel simply became synonymous with Santa Claus.

The Pennsylvania German Friends organization meets the third Thursday of the month at the church. Parking available in lot across the street; use ground floor “Office” entrance. For further information, call 610-264-2979.

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