



The Chronicles

DECEMBER 2015

A newsletter for the friends and family of Christ's Ev. Lutheran Church

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Join us for

- ◆ **Advent Bible Study** on Sunday nights at 7pm
- ◆ **Decorating the Church for Christmas** on Sunday, December 6th
- ◆ **Christmas Caroling** on Sunday, December 20th at 2:00pm
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Worship** on Thursday, Dec. 24th at 7:00pm & 10:30pm.
- ◆ **Lessons & Carols** on Sunday, Dec. 27th at 9am



December

Mary, Did You Know?

¹⁶So the shepherds went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.
¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;
¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.
¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. (Luke 2:16-19)

The Song Mary, Did You Know?

Written by Mark Lowry

Mary did you know that your baby boy
will some day walk on water?

Mary did you know that your baby boy
will save our sons and daughters?

Did you know that your baby boy
has come to make you new?

This child that you've delivered,
will soon deliver you.

Mary did you know that your baby boy
will give sight to a blind man?

Mary did you know that your baby boy
will calm a storm with his hand?

Did you know that your baby boy
has walked where angels trod?

And when you kiss your little baby,
you have kissed the face of God.

Oh, Mary, Did you know?

The Blind will see, the deaf will hear,
the dead will live again.

The lame will leap, the dumb will speak
the praises of the Lamb.

Mary did you know that your baby boy
is Lord of all creation?

Mary did you know that your baby boy
would one day rule the nations?

Did you know that your baby boy
is heaven's perfect Lamb?

This sleeping child you're holding
is the great I Am.

Mark Lowry, who wrote the lyrics to the Christmas song "Mary, Did You Know?" says he's always been amazed by the relationship between Mary and her son, Jesus. He has said that he has questions for Mary, and knowing that he'll have to wait for heaven to hear the answers, he wrote down some of his questions that were put to music in this song.

Mark said that he's always been amazed by Mary's silence at the cross, as her son was being crucified... "Maybe she was remembering back to that first Christmas, when she counted Jesus' fingers and toes. I wonder if she realized then that those were the same fingers that had scooped out the oceans and formed the seas. I wonder if she realized those were the same feet that had walked on streets of gold and been worshipped by angels. Those little lips were the same lips that had spoken the world into existence. When Mary kissed her little baby, she wasn't just kissing another baby; she was kissing the face of God."

Mary silently watched her son die 33 years later, Lowry notes—not just for the world, but also for his mother. "The baby boy she had delivered on that first Christmas was now on a cross delivering her."

As Christians, while we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, we do so knowing how the story ends...with Jesus giving his very life for you and for me.

As we celebrate this holy season with our families and friends in the warmth of our own homes, may we not only remember those who have no home, may we welcome the strangers in our midst to God's home—remembering that God's home is our churches, our own homes, our communities and our country....

With the love, peace, and welcome of God,

Pastor Carol



The virgin will be with
child and will give
birth to a son,
and will call him
Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

INREACH Committee



Memorial Garden



The *INreach* Committee will meet on **Tuesday, January 26th at 8:00pm.** All interested folks are invited to attend!

DECEMBER OFFERING COUNTER SCHEDULE



Dec. 6 Team #3
John D. & Carol D.

Dec. 13 Team A
Pam H. & Erika K.

Dec. 20 Team B
Gary N. & Linda N.

Dec. 24 Team D
(7pm) Richard B. & Volunteer

Dec. 24 Team C
(10:30pm) Frank T. & Bob W.

Dec. 27 Team #2
Ellen B. & Kim M.

Financial Report

October Statistics



MONTHLY

October Offerings (and other income)	\$8,855.49
October Expenses	\$11,893.65
SHORTFALL (—)	\$3,038.16

YEAR TO DATE

Income	\$89,204.
Expenses	\$117,499.
SHORTFALL (—)	\$28,295.

Yours in Christ,
Brian Fenstermacher
Treasurer



Legacy Giving

Remember Your Church in your Estate Planning

Christ's Lutheran has been blessed with many financial contributions over the years, both large and small. As you know, any amount helps to further the ministry of God's church.

In your estate planning, have you thought about leaving an endowment or other offering to your church? These gifts help to carry on the ministry of the gospel in our community. Why not add your name to the list of faithful witnesses who remembered the church before you? Because of generous saints, our church has been sharing God's love and grace for almost 250 years!

Think about how much a gift to the church would mean to you, your family, and the Christ's Lutheran Community.

For more information, contact Brian Fenstermacher or Joan Kratz.



A Note from the Financial Secretary

All contributions for the 2015 tax year must be given to the church by Sunday, December 27th. Contributions received after this date cannot be attributed to the 2015 year.

Any contributions received after this date will be listed on your 2016 Giving Statement.

Thanks, Joan Kratz



2016 Offering Envelopes

The offering envelopes for 2016 will soon be available for pickup in the church narthex. Please stop by and pick them up!

Also, if you can help deliver any to save on postage, please do so!

Thanks!

OUTREACH Committee



Parish Life



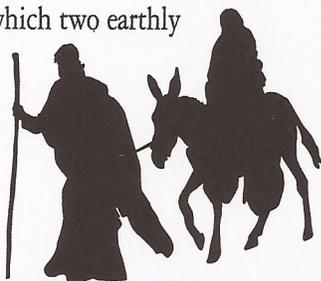
Social Ministry Team Stitches of Love 

The **OUTreach Committee** will meet on **Tuesday, January 26th at 7:00pm.** All interested folks are invited to attend!

Bible Quiz

When Jesus was born, which two earthly rulers were in power?

- A. Quirinius
- B. Pontius Pilate
- C. Caesar Augustus
- D. King Herod



Coffee Hour Sponsors!

- Dec. 6 The Griffith Family
- Dec. 13 Cookie Exchange!
- Dec. 20 **Sponsor Needed!**
- Dec. 24 Pastor Hopcke
- Dec. 27 Brown/Meissner
- Jan. 3 Youth Group



To sponsor a coffee hour means: set up, baking (or buying) goodies, and clean up. If you have any questions, please ask Ellen Brown or June Grove.

Answers: A and C (See Luke 2:1-2.)



GIANT GIFT CARDS Cash for Causes

Thanks to all who participated in our Giant Gift Card Program. All monies received through this program benefit our social ministry projects. The purchaser receives the FULL value of the gift card and the church receives 5%! Money is due upon receipt of the gift card. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Narthex bulletin board.

For more information, speak with Deb Nace.

Evangelism

The Committee on Evangelism, . . . shall try to restore those who have lapsed from active membership, bring new members into the fellowship of the church, and recruit, equip, & support members of the congregation for these activities . . .



Angels among us

In 1809, with Napoleon sweeping through Austria, the world was in such upheaval that nobody paid much attention to baby news. Yet, during that year, Abraham Lincoln, Oliver Wendell Homes, Charles Darwin, Alfred Tennyson, Edgar Allen Poe and William Gladstone were born. Although the attention was on an Austrian Battlefield that year, "History was actually being shaped in the cradles of England & America," writes Charles Swindoll. Similarly, everyone thought taxation was the big news when Jesus was born. But a young Jewish woman cradled the biggest news of all: the birth of our Savior."

"When God wants to speak and deal with us," said Martin Luther, "he does not avail himself of an angel but of parents, or the pastor, or of our neighbor." Never underestimate how powerfully God can use you in the life of a child, a church member, a friend or a stranger.

The Hebrew word for *angel* also means "messenger." **YOU** may be especially chosen to deliver to someone the message of God's love or guidance. Listen intently for what God would have you share with others, then do so faithfully and caringly.

Christ is born! Go tell it on a mountain!

Merry Christmas!
John Daley
Evangelism Chairperson



Longest Night Worship Service

Monday
December 21st

7:00pm

at St. John's Lutheran,
Spinnerstown



This is a service of peace & healing offered to those who may not be as "joyous" as the season expects. It is designed for those who have experienced a loss in the past year, such as the loss of a loved one, a job, or some other life-changing event.

All are welcome!

Stuffed Animals NEEDED!

Gently used and clean stuffed animals are needed as prizes for the Christmas Carnival on **Dec. 12th**. The animals are given as prizes for the Lollipop Pull game at this event.



For more information about the Christmas Carnival, speak with Deb Nace or Joan Kratz. **Thank you!**



SCHOOL NAME: Christ Ev. Lutheran Church School
ID # 06842

Our Sunday School is participating in the **Giant A+ School Rewards Program**, a fundraising program that runs through March 2016. We can earn CASH through this exciting program.

You can help!

Log on to www.giantfoodstores.com/aplus and choose "**Designate Your School**" from the A+ menu to register your card online. Then, each time you shop at Giant using your Bonus Card, you will earn CASH for our Sunday School! We will receive a check at the end of the program.

For more information, speak with Deb Nace.



KIDS DAY OUT!

We are offering Kids Day Out on **Sat., December 5th** from **4pm until 8pm**. The day will be filled with crafts, activities, and movies. Dinner will also be provided.

This time may give Moms & Dads a chance to do some shopping or just dinner without the kids! A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.



Christmas Caroling & Dinner December 20th

At 2:00pm on Sunday, December 20th, we will be gathering at the Church to carpool and go Caroling to some of our shut-ins. Afterward, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for dinner. Please join us for caroling and dinner!

EVERYONE is invited to JOIN US!

We're looking for Faithful Friends!

Whether you've been a lifelong member, or have only recently become involved, you know that sometimes people get "lost in the crowd." When you're going through a busy or difficult time in your life, it may be preferable or seem "easier" to not come to worship, even when that's exactly when you need to be in God's house with God's family.



All we're saying is that we, as God's family, care about each other even when we're not good about saying it or showing it. So, we're trying to put a group of "**Faithful Friends**" together to do just that! We're looking for folks who are willing to reach out to our church family several times a year through phone calls, visits, or even text messages. The contacts will not be about solicitation, a request for money, or even a "Where the heck have you been?" This will only be about checking in with one another to see how folks are doing and if there's anything or anyone that needs to be held in prayer.

There will be an introductory meeting on **January 19th** at **7pm**. For more information, talk to John Daley or Pastor Hopcke.



Quakertown Ministerium FREE Community Dinner December 3rd at 5:45pm

(Doors open at 5:15pm - 1st Thursday of each month)

at

Trinity Lutheran Church
102 No. Hellertown Ave., Quakertown



Meets **Monday, Dec. 7th** at

Trinity Lutheran Church, Quakertown

beginning at **7pm**.



RECYCLING

Please Keep the Aluminum Cans coming! Please rinse the cans first! We have a bin outside the front church doors. This money is used to buy gas for our church mowers!

Thanks for your help!
Bob Hosier



Quilters & STITCHES OF LOVE



The **Quilters** and the **Stitches of Love** groups meet together! They meet on the **2nd Tuesday** of each month at **7pm**. They usually meet for about 1 to 2 hours at the most.

Whether you like to quilt, knit, crochet, or sew, you are welcome! Even if you don't know how to do any of these things, but are willing to learn, you are welcome!

ALL interested folks are welcome to join them no experience is necessary!

The next Quilters & Stitches of Love gatherings: **Tuesday, December 8th at 7:00pm**

Empty Pill Bottles Still Needed!



“Medicine Bottles for Malawi” is a simple, but brilliant project! In Malawi, there is no safe way to carry the meds home when you have most likely walked miles in order to receive them. Sharing our used medicine bottles helps protect the medicine of the Malawi people from moisture, loss, and damage once they get them home. Those orange bottles do more than we think and so can we...

How to Help:

Step 1: Take your meds and when you finish the bottle, don't throw it away! This includes bottles you might receive over the counter like for Advil, Motrin, vitamin bottles, supplements – as long as the bottles aren't too large.

Step 2: Remove the label.

Step 3: Bring them to church and put them in the yellow M&M guy! When we have enough — we'll send them to Malawi!



Advent Worship Series

During advent we will be focusing on the **Song of Zechariah**, the **Song of Mary**, the **Song of the Angels** & finally, the **Song of the Church**.

Please join us each Sunday at 9am and at 7pm for a Bible study on the same theme.

Please Join Us!



News!

We continue to serve new families each week. We are regularly serving 53 families. We are open each Tuesday from 11am until 2pm. We would like to open another day due to the volume of produce we are receiving. We hope to open on Wednesdays. If you are interested in helping, contact Deb Nace (gonace@comcast.net) or Bernadette Secreto (bernsec@yahoo.com).

During December, we will be collecting food items fit for a Christmas meal...

- Ham or Turkey
- White or Sweet Potatoes
- Cranberries
- Canned vegetables, onions, etc.



Regularly needed food items are:

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|-----------------|
| Cereal | Jelly | Peanut Butter |
| Juice | Side Dishes | Mac & Cheese |
| Pasta | Pasta Sauce | Canned Tomatoes |
| Coffee | Pancake Mix | Syrup |
| Tea | Carrots | Peas |
| Rice | Tuna | Pork & Beans |
| Crackers | Condiments | Canned Fruits |

Thank you!

Deb Nace & Bernadette Secreto
Social Ministry Chairperson/Pantry Coordinator

Fall Candy Sale Update!



Thanks to all who have helped to make & sell candy this fall. (There is still a little left at church.)

So far, we've made almost **\$2,400!** \$343 of that total is from stitches and craft items!



We also offer our sincere thanks to **Spor's** and **QNB Country Square** for letting us set up in their space! You helped make this first try a great success!

Thank you everyone!!!

UPREACH Committee



The **UPreach Committee** will meet on **Monday, January 18th at 8:00pm.** All interested folks are invited to attend!



October Worship Statistics

2015 Average Sunday Worship Attendance

October	48
Year to date	53

COFFEE HOUR



Coffee Hour sponsors are needed for December 20th & January 10, 17, 24 & 31!

Please sign-up if you can help! For more information, please speak with June Grove or Ellen Brown.



Christmas Cookie Exchange

Sunday, December 13th

Everyone is invited to bring Christmas Cookies to Church! We will share the cookies at Coffee Hour and then we'll have containers available for folks to take some cookies home with them too!



Bells of Blessings Choir

The Bells will be playing in Church on the 1st Sunday in Advent, **November 29th!**

As always, we invite you to come out and join us for fun, fellowship, and perhaps a little learning too! We are taking off the month of December, but will resume practice on Thursday, January 14th at 8:00pm. For more information, please speak with Marguerite Wilkins or Cathy Heller.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth group is for anyone in grades 6-12.

Join us!



CALLING ALL YOUTH

The following is planned:

- 6:30pm Wed., Dec. 2 Confirmation Class
- 3:30pm Sat., Dec. 5 Help at Kids Day Out
- 10:30am Sun., Dec. 6 Decorate Church & Potluck
- 6:30pm Wed., Dec. 9 Confirmation Class
- 10:00am Sat., Dec. 12 Christmas Carnival at QUMC
- 3:00pm Sat., Dec. 12 Make Christmas Cookie for exchange
- 10:15am Sun., Dec. 13 Christmas Cookie Exchange
- 2:00pm Sun., Dec. 20 Christmas Caroling to Shut-ins w/ pizza in Fellowship Hall to follow
- 7:00pm Mon., Dec 21 Longest Night Worship (St. John, Spinnerstown)
- 7/10:30pm Thurs., Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Worship
- 12:00pm Sat., Jan. 2 Youth-led Worship Rehearsal
- 9:00am Sun., Jan. 3 Youth-led Worship & Coffee Hour
- 6:30pm Wed., Jan. 13 Confirmation Class
- 7:00pm Sun., Jan. 17 Lock-in at Church
- 9:00am Mon., Jan. 18 Lock-in ends with Breakfast (parents)
- 7:00pm Wed., Jan. 20 Planning Meeting
- 2:00pm Sun., Jan. 24 Snow Tubing at Bear Creek (1:30pm Carpool)
- 6:30pm Wed., Jan. 27 Confirmation Class

Join us and bring friends! Mark Your calendars!

ADVENT FAMILIES

The following folks will be lighting the Advent Wreath for us during worship . . .

- Nov. 29 *Advent I*
The Kartsounas Family
- Dec. 6 *Advent II*
The Griffith Family
- Dec. 13 *Advent III*
The Carr Family
- Dec. 20 *Advent IV*
The Sweigart Family

Mark your Calendar!
Annual Meeting
Sun., February 7th
10:15am



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

BULLETIN SPONSORS

- Dec. 6 **Pastor Carolann Hopcke** in loving memory of her grandmother, **Lena Drusback**
- Dec. 13 **Mike & Jen Griffith** in loving honor of baby **Noah**
- Dec. 20 **Pam & Ron Hassler** in loving honor of **Frank's Birthday**
- Dec. 24 **Sharon Stump** in loving honor of her daughters, **Trisha & Stacy**
- Dec. 28 **Linda & Dean Niemenski** in loving honor of their daughter, **Joy's Birthday**



Bulletins

Confirmation will be held on **Wednesday, Dec. 2nd & 9th** at **6:30pm** in the church library. For more information, speak with Pastor Carolann.



CONFIRMATION

**2016
Flower & Bulletin
Sponsors**



The new sign-up sheets are posted.

The cost for sponsoring is as follows:

Bulletins: \$17.50 per week

Flowers: \$35.00* for both vases or \$17.50 for one vase.

**If you're the only sponsor for a Sunday, you are responsible for both vases. A reminder will be sent on a monthly basis.*

Speak with Marguerite Wilkins about your questions and concerns.

ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS



Altar Flowers

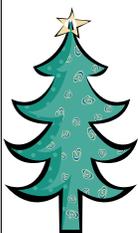
- Dec. 6 **Pastor Carolann Hopcke** in loving memory of her grandmother, **Lena Drusback**
- Dec. 13 **Marilyn Bobb** in loving honor of her mother, **Virginia Parvin's Birthday**
- Dec. 20 **The Griffith Family** in loving memory of **Harry Griffith Sr.'s Birthday**
- Dec. 24 **Sharon Stump** in loving memory of her husband & mother-in-law, **Glenn & Mary Stump**
- Dec. 27 **Ken & Phyllis Heckler** in loving honor of their 20th **Wedding Anniversary**, and by **Bob Hosier** in loving honor of his granddaughter, **Giada's 5th Birthday**



Worship Cancellation

We are registered with Channel 69!

You can now check for worship cancellations due to inclement weather on Channel 69 WFMZ-TV or www.wfmz.com



Help us decorate for Christmas!

On **Sunday, December 6th** at **10:30am** (after worship), we will be decorating our church for the celebration of Christmas! We will be putting up and decorating the Christmas tree!

Everyone is invited to help!

An Advent Potluck Dinner will follow our decorating at about 12:00noon in the Fellowship Hall.

Please mark your calendars! We need your help!



**Christmas Program:
Sing a Song of
Christmas**

**Sunday, January 3rd
9am**

This will be a Christmas worship service offered by the church's youth. If you or your child would like to participate, please speak with Pastor Carolann. The confirmation class will be taking the lead in this production, but we need ALL of the children to help!

Mark your calendars for January 3rd!



President's

Corner



The Selfishness of Skipping Church

At the November Council meeting, Pastor Carolann shared an article Entitled 'The Selfishness of Skipping Church.' I'd like to share a few excerpts:

The church, as an institution whose founder came not to be served but to serve, has been tainted by a ceaseless drum beat of "what can you do for me?" The worship environment, the style of music, the dress code, the church programming, and the overall focus of the church, is no longer about the Lord and His agenda, but about the personal preferences of individual church shoppers.

The problem is demonstrated any given month as families who used to attend church weekly and even several times a week, now attend services one to two times a month. It is impossible to build anything of consequence in any sector of society with such inconsistency. We cannot build godly, committed, and society-changing future generations with a selfish hit and miss approach to church.

The key to the restoration of our culture and society is not the economy, our healthcare system, or even education, but the tone and temperature of our nation spiritually.

The primary issue is a fundamental misunderstanding of why we gather as Christians. True, we gather to worship God, learn the principles of God's Word, and fellowship with one another. But if you read the words of the writer of Hebrews, our priority is gathering so that we can encourage and help one another to progress spiritually in an increasingly secular, pessimistic, and antagonistic culture: "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10: 24-25) Luke tells us that Jesus, the one we say we are following, left an example of faithful attendance explaining, "on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as his custom." (Luke 4 :16) Think about that — Jesus, the Son of God, had a habit of going to the house of God. How much more do His followers need to develop that habit?

The culprits in the current spiritual malaise and indifference in our country are the selfish Christians who fail to consider how they can help, assist, and encourage someone else by coming faithfully to church instead of focusing on and servicing their own wants, preferences, needs and schedules. That single mindset of coming to church not for what you can receive, but for what you can provide is the key to a true spiritual renewal in our land. When you are not in church the gifts and abilities in you are not made available to others. That's why skipping church is selfish and the complete opposite of the example of Jesus, the mission of Jesus, and the commands of Jesus.

If you are a consistent, constant, and faithful church goer, don't let anything stop you from continuing in your dedication. If you have become distant and absenting yourself and your family from the Church, come back and return to a faithful lifestyle and relationship with your local church.

Yours in Christ,
Susan Trainer



December

- 1st Justin Cole
- Ryan Cole
- 2nd Bill Hafler
- 3rd Ryan Gibson
- Dietra Kartsounas
- 6th Denise Heckler
- 7th Mary Lederer



- 12th Matthew Bernabei
- Melanie Christian
- Colin Patterson
- 13th Amy Griffin-Otterberg
- 18th Jonathan Sell
- 20th Teresa Carr
- Frank Rota
- 21st Irene Knickerbocker
- Marguerite Wilkins
- 24th Stacy Seifert

Birthdays!

- 27th Trevor Nace
- 28th Joy Berton
- Tom Karwowski
- Kevin Nace
- 29th Heather Gendeloff
- Fred Reith
- 30th June Grove
- Hilary Mashas
- Trudi Williams



SOCK, MITTEN & GLOVE TREE!



Once again this year we are adding mittens and gloves to our sock tree! We have placed a small tree in the Narthex to collect warm mittens, gloves and socks!

These items will be collected throughout the month of December and then given to needy folks in our community. We will use the ongoing ministries of the Opportunity Council, Salvation Army and the Seafarer's Institute to distribute all that we collect.

The socks will benefit men, women and children, so donate them in all shapes, sizes and colors!

Thanks for your help!

Angel Ornaments



Again this year, we are offering Angel Ornaments. Sponsored angels will be placed on our Christmas Tree in the sanctuary.

These ornaments may be purchased in honor or memory of loved ones. The names of loved ones will be displayed on the angel ornament. All proceeds from these ornaments will benefit our deficit reduction efforts.

The cost of an angel ornament is \$10. To order, simply complete the form below by **Dec. 13th**. Samples of these wooden angel ornaments are on display in the narthex.

..... Speak with Marguerite if you have any questions.

In HONOR of:

In MEMORY of:

Angels @ \$10. each x _____ = _____
 TOTAL Due: \$ _____

Your Name: _____



Holiday Dinner at North Penn Gun Club January 3rd at 4pm

The OLVreach Committee has planned a Holiday Dinner at the North Penn Gun Club on Tollgate Road for Sunday, Jan. 3rd at 4:00pm. The cost is \$25 per adult & \$10 per child (12 & under). The cost includes house salad, entrée, rolls & butter, dessert, coffee or hot tea, and tip.

Alcohol is available for purchase on an individual basis. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Narthex bulletin board.

Entrée Choices:

- NY Strip Steak (w/ twice baked potato & vegetable)*
- Crab Cakes (w/ twice baked potato & vegetable)*
- Chicken Francaise over Pasta*

Children's Choice:

Chicken Fingers & Fries

*Please join us & bring family & friends!
 For more information, please speak with
 Linda Niemenski.*



Advent Schedule

Sun., Nov. 29 9:00am 7:00pm Sun., Dec. 6 9:00am 10:30am 7:00pm Sun., Dec. 13 9:00am 7:00pm Sun., Dec. 20 9:00am 7:00pm	First Sunday of Advent The Song of Zechariah Ringing in New Church Year w/ Bells of Blessings Holy Communion Advent Bible Study Second Sunday of Advent The Song of Mary Holy Communion Decorate Church for Christmas Advent Bible Study Third Sunday of Advent The Song of the Angels Holy Communion Advent Bible Study Fourth Sunday of Advent The Song of the Church Holy Communion Advent Bible Study
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Christmas Eve Worship 7pm & 10:30pm Thurs., Dec. 24

Candlelight Worship
 with Holy Communion

Lessons & Carols

First Sunday of Christmas
Sunday, Dec. 27th at 9am

Youth-led Worship & Christmas Program
 Second Sunday of Christmas
Sunday, January 3rd at 9am





Church:

Phone: 215-536-3193

E-mail: Christselca@verizon.net

Web Site: http://www.christslutheran.com

Church Officers:

- Susan Trainer, President (215) 538-1896
- Bob Hosier, Vice Pres. (610) 346-6608
- Amy Wulffleff, Council Sec. (215) 536-7434
- Brian Fenstermacher, Treasurer (215) 529-9118
- Joan Kratz, Financial Sec. (267) 249-8153
- Rev. Carolann Hopcke, Pastor (215) 529-1473

Committee Chairpersons:

INREACH:

Communications

Dietra Kartsounas (215) 538-3638

Finance Committee

Brian Fenstermacher (215) 529-9118

Memorial Garden

Bob Hosier (610) 346-6608

Mutual Ministry

Bob Hosier (610) 346-6608

Property Committee

Brian Fenstermacher (215) 529-9118

Stewardship Committee

Carol Detweiler (267) 772-3964

Pam Hassler (215) 536-3367

OUTREACH:

Evangelism Committee

John Daley (215) 872-6160

Parish Life Committee

Ellen Brown (215) 536-1213

Social Ministry Committee

Deb Nace (215) 536-7152

UPREACH:

Bells of Blessings

Marguerite Wilkins (610) 838-7745

Christian Education

Gail Bambu (610) 691-3276

Milestone Ministry

Amy Ruscavage (215) 529-0595

Worship & Music Committee

Marguerite Wilkins (610) 838-7745

Youth Ministry

Dietra Kartsounas (215) 538-3638

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Gerald Arnowitt
- Joanne Cardine
- Michelle Copeland
- Gail DeReiter
- Jessie Fluck
- Clyde & Vicky Griffin
- Jeff
- Steve Latshaw
- Esther Meyers
- Betty Nace
- Mary Roberts
- Jillian Ruscavage
- Kellie Smith
- Nate Sweigart
- Bob Wilkins

- Dorothy Brinkman
- Pr. Paul Chapman
- Debbie Dawson
- Dietra
- Lester Fox
- Nancy Hepler
- Emily Keller
- Laura Ann
- Evelyn Miller
- Phoebe
- Robin Rogers
- Miriam Schaub
- Brooklyn Spears
- Mary Trumbauer

- John Buhman
- Christine
- Hilda Deily
- Janet Drago
- Evelyn Gerhart (Paul)
- Matthew Hudson
- Lily Kate Landis
- Vicky Manning
- Rowan Milne
- George Roberts
- Miriam Rumberger
- Edith Sigmans
- Lois Sweigart
- Chloe Yerk

Families of Clarence Alderfer, Doreen Brothers,
Pr. Steve Cordes & Pr. Fred Niederheiser



Our Military Personnel:

Nicholas Bitting, Zachary Gerhart,
Josh McCarty, Erin Shepherd,
James Shepherd, Christine Taylor, Matt Toft

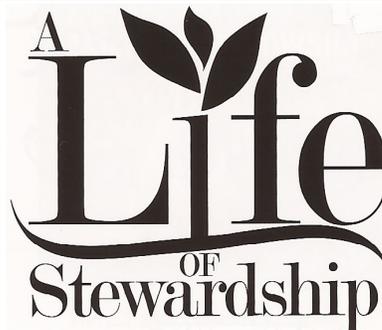


People will remain on the prayer list for a month. Please notify the church office if someone needs to be included beyond that time. It's helpful to use prayer list forms.



CHURCH COUNCIL

CHURCH COUNCIL
WILL MEET ON
SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 13TH
AT 10:45AM.



DECEMBER COUNCIL COORDINATORS

Dec. 6	Brian Fenstermacher
Dec. 13	Pam Hassler
Dec. 20	Bob Hosier
Dec. 24 (7pm)	Dietra Kartsounas
Dec. 24 (10:30pm)	Deb Nace
Dec. 27	Susan Trainer

Christmas Angel Giving Tree

Christmas is coming . . .



Social Ministry will be putting up the annual Angel Tree of Giving. This year there will be local families that we know. Watch for the Christmas Angel Tree in the narthex and more information in the Sunday church bulletin and December newsletter.

For more information, speak with Deb Nace.

What is Stewardship?

*Stewardship is not just a matter of raising funds;
it's about raising Christians.
Stewardship is not a matter of budgets;
it's a matter of Faith!*

PEOPLE SPOTS

Heather Gendeloff

Heather was born on December 29th in Abington, PA. She grew up in Huntingdon Valley where she lived with her parents and one sister. Her father was a factory worker and her mother stayed at home. Heather attended Lower Moreland High School where she says she was a quiet student who kept to herself. After high school Heather held several different jobs including, K-Mart, fast food restaurants, and factory jobs.



Heather is a mom to three great kids. She has a daughter Bonnie who is 9 and two sons, Tommy who is 7, and Chris who is 5. She enjoys taking her kids to the library, to the park, and for walks. Heather also enjoys taking walks by herself and playing computer games, like Candy Crush, in her free time.

Growing up, Heather traveled up and down the east coast with her family. Her favorite vacations were to Disney World and Niagara Falls.

Heather was raised Roman Catholic, but now enjoys our church. Her favorite thing about our congregation is that it is small, welcoming and very friendly. Heather and her children are a wonderful addition to our church family! We are blessed by their presence with us!

Submitted by
Dietra Kartsounas

Please make the following update to your church directory...



Adele Hoiler

Brittany Pointe Estate, WBC-223
1001 S. Valley Forge Rd.
Lansdale, PA 19446

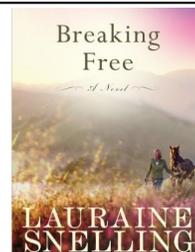
Breaking Free

by Lauraine Snelling

January Book Club Book

(Books are available for \$5.)

We'll meet on Thursdays at 7:30pm
beginning on January 21st.



Maggie Roberts is starting over again after her reckless driving led to a 10-year prison sentence and the devastating loss of her son. Having learned to repurpose retired thoroughbred racehorses through an inmate training program, Maggie finds a way to rebuild her life. But it's not until she meets single father Gil Winters and his wheelchair-bound son, Edward, that she finds her calling. In helping Edward with his therapy using horses, Maggie begins to come to life again. But when a shadow from the past returns, she is forced to choose between her new-found freedom and getting Edward the life-saving help he needs.



The **Jr. Girl Scout /Brownie Troop**
meets at our church
on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday nights at
6:30pm

Mutual Ministry Reminder



In our ongoing goal of keeping communication open, please contact Pastor Carolann if any of the following situations apply:

- 1) You know someone who is "shut-in" and is in need of pastoral care or communion.
- 2) You are aware of a former member of Christ's Lutheran who is considering returning to our congregation and would like a pastoral contact or visit.
- 3) You have information of someone who has expressed an interest in visiting or joining our church.
- 4) You know that someone is in the hospital and could use a pastoral visit or contact.

In peace,
Bob Hosier
Mutual Ministry Chairperson

Looking for the perfect Christmas Gift?



Give the gift that keeps on giving. Honor a loved one with a brick in the Memorial Garden. The cost of the bricks are \$75 for a 6x6" or \$100 for a 6x9". A symbol may be added for \$10 per brick.



Order forms are available on the wire rack in the narthex.

For more information, please speak with Bob Hosier or Pastor Carolann.



YOUTH GROUP HOAGIE SALE! THANK YOU!!

On Saturday, Nov. 21st, the youth group made **150 hoagies!** Thanks to Spor's for preparing all the hoagie supplies!

Thanks also to your generosity, the youth group made over **\$400. for our Mission Trip next summer!** We really appreciate your help! **Thanks for your support!**

Bulletin Sponsors

are needed for
January 2016!
Cost is \$17.50 per week.
Please help if you can.

Flower Sponsor is Needed for January 2016!

Cost is \$17.50 for 1 vase or \$35 for both vases.



Emma's Popcorn Fundraiser!
Delivery in time for Christmas!

All orders are due by **Sunday, Nov. 29th!**
Pickup will be on **Wednesday, Dec. 16th!**
(You can pick up between 11:30am-4:30pm & 6-8pm)

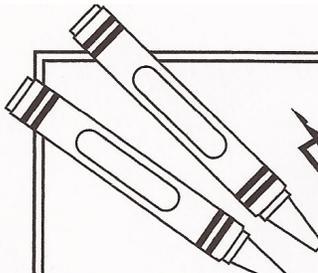


Snow Shoveling Volunteers Needed!



If you are able to help shovel the apron by the front doors of the church and the sidewalks, please sign up on the Narthex bulletin board. We've been blessed to have Ron Hassler do this for many years by himself, or with Pam & Ryan's help. If you are willing and able to help, simply sign up and you will be called when needed!

Thanks for your help!



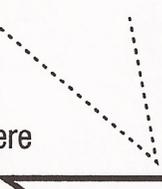
PUZZLE

The star of Christmas

When Jesus was born, a star led the wise men to him.

Directions: Place the words in order, by their numbers, on the blanks below to complete Matthew 2:10, NIV.

1 When



2 they



3 saw



4 the



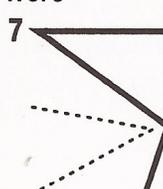
5 star



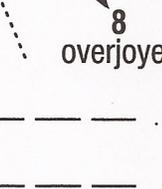
6 they



7 were



8 overjoyed



9 Matthew



10 2:10



“ _____ , _____ , _____ ”

_____ : _____ , NIV

Answer: "When they saw the star, they were overjoyed." Matthew 2:10, NIV

STAR OF BETHLEHEM

Make a mobile to remind you of Jesus' birth.



What you need:

- Paper plate
- Hole punch
- Thin blue ribbon
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Yellow craft foam
- Marker

What you do:

1. With the paper plate upside down, punch evenly spaced holes along the rim. Gently fold the plate and punch a hole in the center.
2. Cut pieces of ribbon, thread them through the holes as desired and tie the ribbons securely.
3. Trace several small stars and one larger star on the foam and cut them out. Punch a hole atop a point of each star.
4. Tie one small star to each outer-rim ribbon.
5. Thread a longer ribbon through the center hole and tie the large star to the other end.
6. Write a verse on the plate or large star. Hang the mobile from the ceiling with another piece of blue ribbon.



Thanks for your Help!

We offer our thanks to Brian Fenstermacher & Larry Sweigart for replacing the sanctuary light bulbs in October! It's so much easier to see now — Thanks!

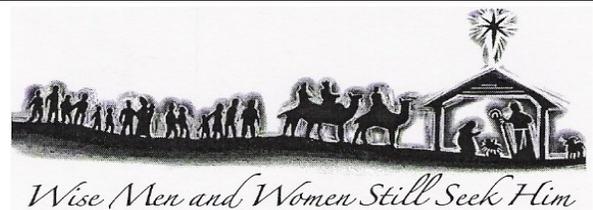
We also thank Ronnie Hassler for repairing the toilet in the upstairs ladies room. You're a lifesaver!

We are so blessed to have such wonderful volunteers!



Girl Scouts.

The Girl Scouts meet at our church on Monday nights at 7:00pm.



Thanksgiving Food Baskets



The Social Ministry Committee offers their heartfelt thanks to everyone for helping to provide Thanksgiving Food Baskets for 35 families in need! This was done in cooperation with our F.E.A.S.T. Pantry. Thanks also to the Trumbauersville Lions Club, Spor's, the Milford Democrats, the Girls Scouts & some of our youth & their families for donating, sorting, and helping to deliver these baskets on Saturday, Nov. 21st. It was a joint effort of blessings!

For more information, or if you have any questions, please contact Deb Nace.



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Congregational Meeting Update!

At the November 22, 2015 congregational meeting, the following folks were elected to serve on the church council for

3-year terms: Gail Bambu, John Daley,
Erika Krauthauser & Deb Nace
1-year unexpired term: Pam Hassler

All terms begin in January. We are grateful for the willingness of these folks to serve the Lord in this leadership position. May God bless them in their important work.

2016 Proposed Budget was adopted as presented.

F.E.A.S.T. Pantry — Director, Bernadette Secreto gave a wonderful update on the pantry and how well it is supported within the community. The congregation voted unanimously to make this a permanent part of our ministry! They will submit yearly reports like all the rest of our ministries.

Rejoice in the Lord jar — the meeting ended with the reading of all the blessings from the jar! The highlights included members of our congregation, helping those in need, making Christmas cookies with the youth, the 2014 Christmas Cantata, and more...

Annual Congregational Meeting — Sunday, February 7th!

Thanks to all who were able to stay for this important meeting. We appreciate everyone's input!

Dear Christ's
Lutheran Church,
Thank you for
your gift of \$100



BUCKS COUNTY
OPPORTUNITY
COUNCIL, INC.

toward offering opportunities to low-income individuals and families who are determined to achieve economic self-sufficiency. Your support sends a message of hope that motivates them to persevere and, ultimately, succeed.

Thanks to your generosity, we serve more than 8,000 people and support 31 food pantries that distribute 463,000 meals annually. Since the 1990's, 275 people have permanently left poverty, and our nationally recognized Economic Self-Sufficiency program has saved \$4 of welfare subsidies for every \$1 invested.

The Bucks County Opportunity Council connects people with resources to thrive. Our mission is to help low-income families in Bucks County achieve and maintain economic self-sufficiency. We believe equipping people with the education, training, resources and skill necessary to permanently leave poverty is far more beneficial than helping them cope in poverty.

Your support is sincerely appreciated. Keep up with all the ways you're helping by visiting our website at www.bcoc.org.

Sincerely,
Erin Lukoss
Executive Director



Join us for
a Potluck & Games
on Saturday,
January 30th
(Snow Date: January 31st)

The Potluck Supper begins
at 5:30pm
with games to follow at 6:30pm.

All are welcome!



Sight & Sound Trip
Bus will leave from the church at 10:00am!
Thursday, April 28th
2:45pm Show

Cost: \$ 91 per person
 Cost includes bus, lunch at Shady Maple(11:45am) & Show Ticket
 We have room for 50 people.
 A sign-up sheet is posted on the narthex bulletin board.
 \$25.00 deposit is due by January 31st
 Balance is due by March 15th
 Make checks payable to: Christ's Lutheran Church



CHRISTMAS BAG DELIVERY

The Evangelism committee will be delivering Christmas bags to our neighbors. This year we are focusing our efforts on the **Woodview Development in Trumbauersville**. The bags will be filled with information about our church, the true meaning of Christmas, and a "treat."

A sign-up sheet is posted with how many houses are in each street in that development. If you are able to help, sign up for a street or two. We're asking that the bags be delivered between Nov. 29th and Dec. 13th. Simply place the bags on the front doorsteps of each house.

For more information, please speak with John Daley.

Thanks in advance for your help!



Sunday School Winter Quarter to begin!

The **Deep Blue Adventures** Sunday School Curriculum continues through the winter! There is a free app everyone can download to help reinforce the lessons each week!

We are in need of Sunday School Teachers. A schedule of lessons to be taught on specific Sundays is posted. If we have enough teachers, folks will only teach about once a month!

For more information,
 please speak with Gail Bambu

Yoga Classes

December 10th — February 25th

Thursdays from 6:15 to 7:45pm

(in our Fellowship Hall)

Cost: \$100. for 10 weeks

Please call **Alice Zander** at 267-414-4942 to register.



Leave your Checkbook at home.



We now accept electronic donations!
EFT (Checking/Savings) Credit/Debit Card



A Simple, Generous Choice

Electronic giving is a convenient way to provide consistent financial support to our church. Forms are available on the rack in the narthex. For more information, please speak with Brian Fenstermacher.

Participate Today!



Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church



One Luther Lane
PO Box 569
Trumbauersville, PA 18970



Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Quakertown, PA
Permit #27

Dated Material — Please Expedite
Address Service Requested

DECEMBER

We gather to **WORSHIP** God, **EQUIP** people with a faith that works in everyday life,
and to **SERVE & WELCOME** all with God's grace.



Table Grace

(Tune: Rock Around the Clock)

God is great, God is good
and we thank Him for our food.

We're gonna thank him
in the morning, noon and night.

We're gonna thank our God
'cause he's out of sight!

Amen (ch-ch-ch-ch-ch-ch-ch)
Amen (ch-ch-ch-ch-ch-ch-ch)

Newsletter DEADLINE

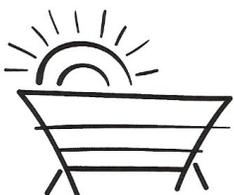
January Newsletter
Deadline is
Sunday, Dec. 13th



Christmas Program: Sing a Song of Christmas

9 am on Sunday, January 3rd
Rehearsal will be on
Saturday, Jan. 2nd at 12:00pm.

Please join us if you want to participate!



Christmas Worship Schedule
Christmas Eve Worship
7pm & 10:30pm
Lessons & Carols
9am on Sunday, Dec. 27th

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS