



# Christ Lutheran Church

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December 2019

## A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that in a few days we will be beginning the season of Advent. Advent signals the beginning of a new church year, and is one of my favorite times of year. Although the season can be busy preparing for the big holiday, it is also a time of joy as we anticipate the celebration of the Christ Child's birth.

My wish for each of you this year is that you will take the time to slow down and enjoy the season, savoring the small things in life. Instead of seeing things as just one more thing you can check off your list, look for the joy. There is joy in drinking a cup of hot chocolate with a peppermint candy cane in it. There is joy in writing notes in Christmas Cards to those you do not see very often and there is joy in just thinking about the birth of the Christ Child so long ago; savoring the light that knowing and trusting Christ has brought into your life.

These past couple of weeks our Gospel lessons have centered on the second coming of Christ. Advent not only means that we are anticipating the celebration of Jesus' birth, but we are also anticipating His second coming. It also symbolizes the journey of individuals and congregations, as they affirm that Christ has come, that Christ is present with us today in the world, and that He will come again in power. Advent is not only a time of joy, but a time for each of us to contemplate what Christ means to us in our personal life.

This holiday season also gives each of us the opportunity to show our generosity, and our kindness to those around us who are in need. Let us each mark the season by letting the light of Christ shine in us as we reach out to family, friends, and yes, strangers.

May you and your family have a joyous Christmas.

Pastor Linda

## MARTIN LUTHER AND CHRISTMAS:

In the theological tumult that was Martin Luther's life, the great reformer seemed to be heartened each year by the great festivals of the church, particularly Advent and Christmas. The man who "invented" the Protestant parsonage was also sustained by a blazing sense of humor and a happy home life. It was open house all year in the large converted monastery at the east end of Wittenberg where Luther, his wife Katie, and their six children lived, along with numerous students who stayed there as well. One of them wrote that as Christmas approached, Luther grew increasingly cheerful: "All his words and songs and thoughts concerned the incarnation of our Lord. Then he sighed and said, 'Oh, we poor people that we should be so cold and indifferent to this great joy that has been given us. For this is indeed the greatest gift, which far exceeds all else that God has created. Yet we believe so sluggishly, even though the angels proclaim and preach and sing, and their lovely song sums up the whole Christian faith, for 'Glory to God in the highest' is the very heart of worship."

From "Christian History" on-line



You will not want to miss the worship service on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, the first Sunday in Advent, with the hanging of the greens. This wonderful service is a great kick off to the holiday season, and is sure to get you in the mood for the whole month as we anticipate the celebration of the Christ Child. Why not invite a friend or neighbor to join you this Sunday?

### "UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER SUNDAY"



Please fill free to wear your "Ugly Christmas Sweater" on Sunday, December 1st. Who knows, you might win a prize!!!!

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING DEC 1, 2019 following worship

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of the Proposed 2019 Budget and for your service to this congregation. As of this writing, we still have four spots open on Council.

Changes to the Constitution and By-law will be discussed next year since we have several areas the Synod wants us to look at to bring our Constitution and By-Laws into compliance.

**Join us for Second Sunday Sweets  
following our meeting.**

# Thanks

**To Kim Hummel and Dwayne Womer for their years of service on the Council.**



**NO "FIRST WEDNESDAY"**  
this month. Instead join us for

### **ADVENT BIBLE STUDY – "It's A Wonderful Life!"**

This advent we will be watching the Christmas Classic, it's a Wonderful Life, and following the story of George Bailey as we study the biblical principles of Goodness, Godliness, Prayer, Miracles, Counting our Blessings, and others like the importance of community.

The Bible Study will take place in the Church's Sunday School Room and will meet on **Wednesday the 4th, 11th, and 18th of December at 1:00 p.m.** I hope to see you all there. If you plan to attend, please sign the sheet in the Narthex so that I know how many handouts, etc. to have ready.

This Christmas, rejoice in Jesus Christ — the wonderful life that came into the world to save sinners!



**Congregation Council meets  
December 10 at 7 p.m. in the  
Sunday School Room**



### **"MORNING GLORIES"**

The "Morning Glories" will meet on Monday morning, **December 9<sup>th</sup>** at 9:00 a.m. at the Church.  
All are welcome.



### **"NOISY OFFERING Continues"**

The children of the church will continue to collecting change at the Sunday services December. This is a wonderful way for them to learn about giving to others and about Mission. At the beginning of January, the children will use the money to select "Good Gifts" such as chicken, sheep, and bees for families overseas. "Good Gifts" is aimed at providing people with what they need to be self-sufficient.

The Christmas tree downstairs in the Sunday School Room also has ornaments that you can purchase to give to someone. All the money from these purchases will also go to "Good Gifts."





# Collection

## “TOYS FOR PERRY COUNTY”

It’s not too soon to begin shopping for toys for this worthwhile project. Last year the toys were distributed to over 600 children in Perry County who would have had little for Christmas without the help they received from Join Hands.

As always, we can look forward to a wonderful concert of music that will inspire and surely enhance your Christmas Spirit. The concert is scheduled for Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> with performances at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

You may bring your toy donations to the concert when you attend, or you may drop them off early in the designated place in the Sunday School Room.



Bakers we are in need of cookies, cookies cookies!

We are in need of cookies for the receptions following the concerts and the left overs will be taken to the Truck Stop Ministry.



## Mark Your Calendar

»» UPCOMING EVENTS

**December 1** Hanging of the Greens, “Ugly Christmas Sweater” Sunday  
Congregational Meeting,  
after Sunday Service  
Perry Village, 2 p.m.

**December 4** Advent Bible Study  
1 p.m. in the Sunday School room

**December 5** Grief Share, 3 to 5 p.m.  
in Sunday School Room

**December 8** “Toys for Perry  
County,” 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

**December 9** Morning Glories, 9 a.m.

**December 10** Church Council, 7 p.m.

**December 11** Advent Bible Study,  
1 p.m. in Sunday School Room  
Young Voices in Song,  
3:30 in Parish House

**December 14** Trip to Christmas Play  
at Christian Life Assembly Church

**December 18** Advent Bible Study,  
1 p.m. in Sunday School Room  
Young Voices in Song,  
3:30 in Parish House

**December 24** Christmas Eve  
Service, 7 p.m.

**December 29** Lessons and Carols  
Worship at 9 a.m.

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

H	V	I	S	H	M	Y	I	D	S	S	B	U	Z	P		
F	J	Q	G	T	K	R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R	I		
P	G	U	L	X	L	T	T	S	Q	H	Q	M	C	K		
C	S	W	D	Z	Y	O	W	N	F	A	G	U	H	L		
K	T	M	H	O	O	Y	N	O	Z	S	Y	H	R	F		
Z	O	Z	Y	N	F	S	O	W	M	A	E	P	I	M		
G	C	W	Z	N	B	S	A	M	C	N	L	G	S	R		
X	K	A	O	A	V	S	O	A	A	T	F	Y	T	R		
I	I	N	U	B	O	L	M	N	N	A	R	J	M	F		
I	N	G	W	O	K	K	W	L	D	P	R	J	A	P		
S	G	E	E	W	G	S	T	H	L	F	C	H	S	H		
R	G	L	Y	N	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	S	T	E		
W	R	E	A	T	H	N	T	U	J	G	B	D	R	J		
Y	A	W	R	N	C	A	N	D	Y	C	A	N	E	V		
B	L	A	N	T	M	O	N	B	E	L	L	E	N	U	E	O



SANTA  
REINDEER  
PRESENTS  
CHRISTMAS TREE  
TOYS  
STOCKING  
SNOWMAN  
CANDY CANE  
ELF  
WREATH  
BOW  
BELL  
CANDLE  
ANGEL



A year in review.... continuing to renew our congregation and our outreach to our community.

How?

First Wednesdays; Second Sunday Sweets; Morning Glories; various Bible studies; Young Voice in song – a collaborative adventure for Children of the community; greeting Card Ministry; worship at Perry

Village; Book discussions; Prayer Shawl Ministry; collections for community agencies including the Food Bank, Women & Children's Shelter, the Senior Center and Join Hands; Grief Share; stand at the Street Fair; trips together for plays and to hear speakers; Socials at the church; and.....the list goes on.

Hopefully you have been able to find an area of interest to join us in this journey and to continue with us into the new year.

**God bless you and your participation in our journey!**



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Don't miss the wonderful Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve at 7 p.m. Bring your family, friends and neighbors to experience the joy of celebrating the long-awaited birth of our King and Savior!

