



Christ Lutheran Church

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January 2020

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that soon another year will have passed. It has been a great and productive year at Christ Lutheran. God has certainly made His presence known and has guided us forward. I am looking forward to the upcoming year working with all of you to reach out even further into our community, showing God's love to those who are in need.

Some of you may know that I am a big fan of the "Anne of the Green Gables" series of books by Maude Montgomery. One of my favorite quotes comes from an incident where Miss Stacy, Anne's school teacher tells Anne, "Tomorrow is always fresh with no mistakes in it.... well with no mistakes in it yet." The same is true for each of us. Yet, we should not be afraid to make mistakes, because we can not move forward without trying new things. As we try new ventures here in the church, we need to keep in mind that some of them will be successful, and a few will not be. The key is not to get discouraged when something does not work the way we thought it would. As we try new things in the upcoming year, let us remember that all that we do fits into God's mission for us somehow, even those things that do not turn out as we planned, for we learn from each of them.

This spring we will be reenergizing the Church's Evangelism Committee under the new name of "Evangelism Team," and no, this does not mean that you will be expected to go door to door spouting Gospel verses to whoever answers the door. Instead, the team will be instrumental in brainstorming new ideas that will reach out to the community around us as well as new opportunities that will provide spiritual growth for our church's members. I hope you will be in prayer regarding serving on this team. Isaiah 40:31 is a good verse to keep in mind as you do your discerning. "But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

My wish for each of you in the upcoming year is that you will grow in your love for the Messiah, Christ our Lord!

Happy New Year,
Pastor Linda



“FIRST WEDNESDAY”

is New Year’s Day. We will not meet that day but do enjoy the day with family, friends and possibly some pork and sauerkraut.



Congregation Council will not meet in January, our next meeting will be February 11, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the Sunday School Room.



“MORNING GLORIES”

The “Morning Glories” will meet on Monday morning, **January 13th** at 9:00 a.m. at the Church.
All are welcome.

BOOKS AND BEYOND – SPRING DATES AND SELECTIONS

January 15 – *It All Comes Back to You* by Beth Duke

February 19 – *Louisa May Alcott, A Personal Biography* by Susan Cheever

March 18 – *Little Women*, by Louisa May Alcott

April 15 – To be selected at January Meeting

May 20 – To be selected at January Meeting



OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE – NEW EVANGELISM TEAM BEING FORMED

I would like to state right up front that NO, this team will not be going door by door spouting Scripture to who ever opens the door. Instead the team will be brainstorming ideas, and researching the needs of our local community to find additional ways we can serve those around us. The team will also work with new ideas that are aimed at providing church members with additional opportunities to grow spiritually. Please be in prayer about serving on this team. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Narthex for you to indicate your interest in learning more about serving on this team, or you can let Pastor Linda know personally that you would like to be involved.



Christ Lutheran's Youth Group, O. M. G. (Obeying My God), has been doing some great things in December. We actually completed two different service projects!

We helped out with the Toys for Perry County concert, serving as ushers and toy collectors for the 2 PM show. Then, we baked Christmas cookies for the truckstop ministry. We donated 47 bags of fresh-baked cookies to their awesome mission!

For January, we are planning to do a movie to celebrate our busy and productive December.

Anyone who is interested in helping with O. M. G. Or who has any suggestions for service projects that we can tackle in 2020, please just get in touch with Erin Eckert.

We would thank the congregation for their fantastic and ongoing support!



Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 2, 2020



Join us **February 2, 2020** for brunch following worship to celebrate our **Souper Bowl of Caring** collections. Let's see if we can top last years donations of \$148. and 189 pounds of food.

Please bring breakfast foods to share that morning and join the fellowship. Drink and place settings will be provided. We will gather in the Parish House following worship.

NEW "GRIEF SHARE" SESSION TO BEGIN IN MARCH

The next "Grief Share" session will begin on Thursday, March 5th. The group will meet from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Sunday School Room. If you know anyone who is grieving the lost of a loved one, please tell them about the program. For further information, they can call 717-386-8762 or contact me via e-mail. Lindashank@centurylink.net.

Winter Word Search



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

Cold	Footprints	Snowman
Gloves	White	Soup
Ice	Jacket	Frost
Skating	Mittens	Scarf
Winter	Socks	Hibernate



Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

December 30 & 31 & January 1, 2020
Church Office closed

January 1, 2020 No "First Wednesday"
this month

January 8 Young Voices in Song, meet
 at Methodist Church

January 12 Perry Village, 2 p.m.

January 13 Morning Glories

January 15 Book Group at the Library
 at 10 a.m.
 Bad Women of the Bible, 1 p.m.

January 14 – 19 Pastor Linda will be
 at Spiritual Counseling Training. Prayer
 for her safe travels and continued
 learning as she participates in this
 continuing education event.

February 2 Super Bowl Sunday

Steward your best year ever!

“Stewardship is not only a matter of faithful giving but of faithful living. In response to the Gospel, we submit our lives to the rule of God, to the lordship of Christ, and to the direction of the Holy Spirit, so that we may be the people God wants us to be and have the lives God wants us to have.” –**Mark Allan Powell**, author of *Giving to God*.

Yikes! It’s January 2, and the bathroom scale shows that, once again, I’ve gained a few pounds in the five-week blitz-feast of Thanksgiving-Christmas-New Year. Clearly, I need to *steward* my health better in 2020. Though it’s not the most common use of the word, *steward* is also a verb, an action word. We *steward* all that God has entrusted to us, making choices that, as Mark Allan Powell says, help us “be the people God wants us to be and have the lives God wants us to have.”

We steward our lives through our decisions and choices – the food we eat, the people we call friends, how we spend our money, the entertainment we select, the hobbies we enjoy, the many ways we spend our time, and so on.

To steward faithfully, we have to live in prayerful awareness and make conscious, thoughtful decisions that will advance us in Godly directions. As 2020 begins, prayerfully consider the most important areas of your life,

such as your physical, mental and spiritual health, as well as your relationships and time, and ask God to help you steward them in ways that will help you be the person God wants you to be and have the life God wants you to have.

As for me, it will not only help me lose those extra holiday pounds, but also give me my best year *ever*.

--*Rob Blezard*

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