

DECEMBER
2017

CLC CHURCH CHATTER

Notes & News from

Christ Lutheran Church

Shrewsbury, PA



From Pastor Brian's Pen...

One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, "When will the Kingdom of God come?" Jesus replied, "The Kingdom of God can't be detected by visible signs. You won't be able to say, 'Here it is!' or 'It's over there!' For the Kingdom of God is already among you." (Luke 17:20-21)

It's that time of year again- the time when we talk about waiting for Jesus. But sometimes I think we aren't sure what we're really waiting for. During our celebration of Christ the King, we seem to be waiting for Christ to come again and rule over heaven and earth for all time. During Advent, it seems like we we're waiting for the baby Jesus, who of course has already been born, grew up, died, and rose from the dead. But we're also waiting for Christ to come again during this same season. So let's be honest- it can get a little confusing.

We also talk a lot during this time about the coming of the kingdom of God. Often, we say that the kingdom of God *will come* when Christ returns. But Jesus is very clear in his teaching to his disciples, "The kingdom of God is already among you." The kingdom of God was ushered in when Christ came into this world, born of a virgin mother and laid in the lowly estate of a manger- a feeding trough for barnyard animals. And that kingdom was not taken out of this world when Jesus ascended into heaven. It remains here on earth in the midst of God's people. In fact, the phrase "the kingdom of God *is already among you*" could be translated, "the kingdom of God *is within your grasp*," or "the kingdom of God *is within you*."

Whether it is among us or within us, clearly the kingdom of God is here on earth, in this very time, all over the world. For just as Christ brought the kingdom of God into the world with his birth, and will bring it with him when he comes again, the kingdom exists here and now in Christ's earthly body, which is the Church- that is to say, *us*.

I wonder, however, if we spend so much time celebrating Christ's first coming, and waiting for his second, that we ignore the fact that he is alive and at work in the world right now through those who have faith in him. I also wonder how different our community, our country, and our world would be if all Christians behaved as if we were living in the kingdom of God at this very moment. And what would happen if we saw ourselves not just as people who *believe* in Jesus Christ, but who *are* Christ's visible presence in the world?

It is my hope and prayer that as we celebrate Christ's coming and his bringing of the kingdom of God, we will remember that Christ is continually present in this world through his disciples, and the kingdom of God is here in our midst through the grace of God and the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit. And I also hope that we will take more time to think and pray about the ways we can be the presence of Christ for others and enact the kingdom of God, both in our individual lives and in the life of our congregation. For Christ has brought the kingdom of God among us, and he will come again, but he has not taken the kingdom away. His kingdom is here and now, alive and well through the lives of his faithful disciples- alive and well in us.

In Christ,

Pastor Brian

WELCOMING, WORSHIPING, WORKING FOR CHRIST...TOGETHER!



DWELLING IN THE WORD

Suggested readings for the Fall are:

December 3	✦	Mark 13:24-37
December 10	✦	Mark 1:1-8
December 17	✦	John 1:6-8,19-28
December 24	✦	Luke 1:26-38
December 31	✦	Luke 2:22-40
January 7	✦	Mark 1:4-11

FAITH5™ (Faith Acts In The Home) is a simple, easy-to-implement faith practice, perfect for incorporating into your bedtime routine for five to fifteen minutes a night. When done over time, the FAITH5™ carries the power to enrich communication, deepen understanding, aid sleep, and promote mental, physical and spiritual health. The five steps are:

- **SHARE** your highs and lows
- **READ** a Bible verse or story
- **TALK** about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows
- **PRAY** for one another's highs and lows
- **BLESS** one another "God loves you and you are blessed!" Have the children bless the adults and vice versa.



Emily Lunceford, Robert Wagner, Dennis Cooley, Dave Frey, Christine Rago, Bruce Naylor, Clair Nace, Don Dinsmore, Lester Hain, Steven Wirz, Rheanna Rehmyer, Nancy Bosley, Craig Johnson, family & friends of Adam Trout, family & friends of Ambre Rheinhardt, victims of the shooting in Las Vegas, Todd Gracey, Dave Jones, Dagmar Wirz, those affected by hurricanes, Pam Vasilow, Stella Walmer, Megan Keller, Ken Cronise, Ron Hammond, family & friends of JJ Harvilicz, Doris Wilhelm, Darla Evans, Ava Daniels, Lois Meli, Jerry Adey, *and* the men and women who are serving our country overseas and for their safe return home.

For prayer requests call or email Kelly in the church office at 717-235-2053 or admin@clcshrewsbury.org.

What's Happening

Sundays

Worship - 9 am, Sanctuary
 Sunday School for all ages - 10:15
 Wiggle Worship - 11 am, Sanctuary

December 3 - Choir Sunday

-Town Tree Lighting, 6 pm

December 10 - Band Sunday

-Congregational Meeting, 10:15 am

December 17 - Choir Sunday

-Children's Pageant, 6 pm

December 24 - Christmas Eve Services

-NO AM SERVICES THIS DAY

-4 pm (Wiggle), 7 pm (Candlelight)

December 31 - Intergenerational Sunday School

Mondays

Office Closed

December 11 - Council Meeting, 6 pm

Tuesdays

Choir Practice - 7 pm, Sanctuary
 AA - 7:30 pm, PH

Wednesdays

No Yoga until after Jan. 1

Thursdays

Praise Band practice - 7 pm, Sanctuary

Fridays

Office Closed

December 8 - Church Christmas Dinner, 5:30 pm

December 15 - Preschool Christmas Party

December 22 - Scouts, 6:30 pm, Parish Hall

Saturdays

Office Closed

December 2 - Parish Hall Rental (noon - 6 pm)

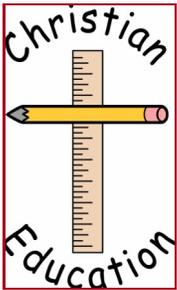
December 9 - Parish Hall Rental (noon - 6 pm)

December 16 - Parish Hall Rental (All day)

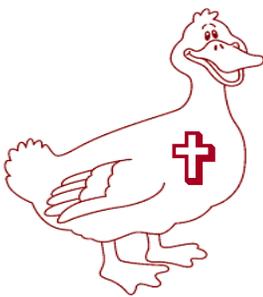
December 23 - Parish Hall Rental (5-10 pm)



The Bulletin Board



Sunday school for all ages began on September 10 and will continue through May. Sunday School is held from 10:15-11 am. Children meet upstairs. Adults will meet either in the Parish Hall or Pastor's office, depending on the turnout. The last Sunday of each month will be our Inter-generational Sunday School (a.k.a. "Messy Church") class at 10:30 am. This class will bring all ages together in a VBS style setting. We have been so blessed with all the smiling children's faces that have been joining us each Sunday. Come join us!



Do you enjoy making kids smile? Do you enjoy helping to bring the message of God's love to little ones in our congregation? Then we have the job for you! Volunteers are needed to play "Disciple Duck" during our 11 am Wiggle Worship

service. The ability to put on a costume, quack enthusiastically, and have a big heart are the only requirements. Participants will be assigned on a rotating basis. If interested in being on this schedule, please email or call Kelly in the church office.



Christ Lutheran Church will be participating in the town Tree Lighting festivities on 12/3. In memory of J.J., we plan to serve free hot dogs and bottled water at our "J.J.'s Hot Dog Stand". This is an excellent

chance to reach out to the community and add to their Christmas spirit! We are looking for volunteers to help with this event, as well as donations of hot dogs (130 needed) rolls (250) and small bottles of water (250). Please see John Harvilcz if you would like to participate.

This year's annual Yard Sale was held Oct 6th and 7th and realized a profit of \$4,330.50.



Thank you to all who helped with both setting up and tearing down.

Thank you to all who donated items to sell. Without those no longer needed items, we could not carry on this project. A lot of work goes into the yard sale, but with your participation, we were able to accomplish this event and realize a profit, making it all worthwhile. The unsold items are donated to other organizations for their use: the clothing and toys were given to the Clothes Closet, coats and blankets were given to Friendship Elementary School coat collection for the homeless in York, the knickknacks and books were given to Goodwill. The money will be used as follows:

- \$400.00 donated to Lutheran World Relief
- 2017 annual Christmas Dinner - Dec 8th
- 2018 annual Mother's Day Brunch - May 13th
- Balance for ongoing repairs or upgrades for our church.

Thanks again for all your help in making this year's Yard Sale a great success. Someone has already put items in the garage for NEXT YEAR'S YARD SALE, to be held OCT 5th and 6th.

~ Yard Sale Committee

Trunk-Or-Treat Update...

Thanks to all who contributed to another successful Halloween event! Whether you decorated a Trunk or helped with the haunted house, your time was greatly appreciated. The Youth Group made **\$225.00!** Most



importantly, we welcomed **125 kids** from our community for a day of fun at our church. Way to go everyone! (P.S...we also learned that some of our congregation members look better at Halloween!)



Message From Our Council President...

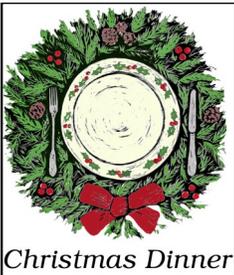
Holiday Bazaar News! Once again the bazaar was a great success and this would not have been possible without everyone's help. The bazaar committee would like to express our thanks to everyone who worked so hard in the kitchen preparing and serving the delicious food, everyone who helped with setting up, decorating, publicity, putting up and taking down signs, and cleaning up after the bazaar. We also want to thank those who donated the wonderful baked goods, homemade crafts, elegant table centerpieces, and the beautiful gift baskets. Everyone's hard work helped to create a festive and fun holiday bazaar. The net profit from the bazaar is **\$3,216.40**.

Season's greetings! Christmas is always an exciting and busy time of the year. You only need to glance over this newsletter to see the many activities and events that will be happening at our church this Christmas Season. As 2017 comes to a conclusion, we anticipate a blessed upcoming 2018. Now that our Congregation has called Brian Biery to be our Pastor, we can all look forward to our next chapter. I believe that with God's help, together we can accomplish many great things.

God's Peace, *Dan Stevenson*



Christmas wouldn't be complete without a Christmas Pageant! The children from our church and Preschool are excited to share their pageant which will be held on **December 17 at 6 pm**. Everyone is invited. Light refreshments will follow in the Parish Hall. Anyone interested in participating who did not get a sign-up form should see Bev Cronise.



It's time for the annual Christ Lutheran Christmas Dinner!! This year's dinner will be held on **Friday, December 8**. Appetizers will begin at 5:30 pm, followed by dinner at 6. Please join your church family **(ALL ARE WELCOME)** for

good food, fellowship and Christmas music. If you plan to attend, **please sign up on the bulletin board, or email/call the church office**, so we know how many to plan for. Also, **Charlotte is looking for anyone interested in helping with the dinner to join her team!** Please see Charlotte if you would like to lend a hand in making our Christmas dinner special. Thank you!



Christmas is coming...need gift ideas? Each year, Americans spend over \$300 billion on Christmas shopping. Imagine what would happen if we could redirect that spending toward the things that really matter, like putting an end to

hunger. With ELCA Good Gifts, you can do just that. Choose from more than 50 charitable gifts to give in honor of loved ones- from goats to water wells, school uniforms to food for refugees. All of these gifts can be given in honor of friends or loved ones and make great alternatives to traditional Christmas gifts. **Shop now by visiting ELCA.org/goodgifts or pick up an ELCA Good Gifts catalog in the gathering area.**



**- 4 pm -
Family Friendly Wiggle Worship
- 7 pm -
Traditional Candlelight Worship**

(NO MORNING SERVICES THIS DAY)



	December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24	December 31
Acolyte	Michael Fisher	Olivia Folfas	Caroline Folfas	(2) Needed	Ben Gillispie
Announcer	Judy Wertz	Judy Wertz	Judy Wertz	Judy Wertz	Judy Wertz
Chancel	Stephanie Mayoryk	Chris Watts	Robyn Banchiere	Robyn Banchiere	Jill Steines
Communion	Ron & Kathy Rohrbaugh	Dagmar Ream & Kathy Shifflett	Denny & Judy Wertz	Evelyn Rehmeyer Gail Stevens	Andy & Kathy Suchko
Counters	Dan S., Kelly G., Help Needed	Dee B., Charlotte D., Bev C.	Dagmar R., Mike S., Evelyn R.	None	Burnetha R., Todd O., Ken C.
Greeters/ Ushers	Scott & Karen Folfas	Dan & Becky Stevenson	Scott & Chris Watts	Bob & Kim Martin	Gregg & Donna Shedly
Hospitality	Kathy & Andy Suchko	Kathy R. & Judy W.	Kim Martin	None needed	Kelly Gillispie Karen Folfas
Open/Close	Evelyn Rehmeyer	Ron Rohrbaugh	Kathy Shifflett	Dan Stevenson	Phil Attig
Reader	Bev Cronise	Pastor	Walt Bird	Rich Steines	Connie Wood
Prayer	Bev Cronise	Pastor	Scott Watts	Rich Steines	Connie Wood
AV System	Denny W. & Kelly G.	Andy S. & Ron R.	Scott W., Kelly G., Ben G.	Mark W., Becky S., Eric S.	Andy S. & Ron R.
Wiggle Treats	Dennis & Jill Cooley	open	open	open	open

Christ Lutheran Church † 105 South Main Street † Shrewsbury, PA 17361

Church Office: (Ph) 717-235-2053 (Fax) 717-235-8875 **Email:** admin@clcshrewsbury.org

Web: www.clcshrewsbury.org **Facebook:** christevangelicallutheranchurch-shrewsbury

Church Office Hours:

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
Noon - 4 pm**

For prayer requests, call or email Kelly in the church office.

Church Leaders & Staff



Evangelical
Lutheran
Church in America

Pastor: Brian Biery (cell) 717-579-4031
Email: pastor.biery@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: Kelly Gillispie
Preschool Director: Becky Stevenson
Sexton: Robyn Banchiere

Council President: Dan Stevenson
Youth Group Leader: Dan Stevenson

Music Director: Laurie Kotter
Praise Band Coach: Jon Frey
Pianist: Phil Attig

Treasurer: Mike Wirz