

# Christ Lutheran Lamplighter



Christ Lutheran Church and  
Early Learning Center  
400 Barclay Avenue  
Forest Hills, Pennsylvania 15221

December 2017 / January 2018

## Celebrate God's Love

I always marvel at how most people “celebrate” Thanksgiving – a Day of National Thanksgiving to *God* – without even coming into the presence of God in church to offer that thanksgiving. I fear it has gotten to the point where that holiday has lost its essential meaning for most Americans. The exact same thing can happen - is happening - with Christmas. We glide on top of waves created by an ancient festival, but, as the ripples get father and farther away from the initial splash, they are losing their strength. I must admit that I, too, spent more time during Thanksgiving week concentrating on Black Friday deals than I did being thankful or getting myself ready as a pastor for the busy Christmas season!

The Christmas season brings many good things with it: Decorations; Trees; Lights; Gifts; Music; Nativities; TV programs and Movies; Food; Parties; Goodwill; Special Church Services. And at the end, we even start a New Year. All those things can be ends in themselves. However, they take on special meaning and character and enrich our lives when they grow out of the remembrance of that supernatural event and are undertaken in the emotional power of God's love that is Christmas.

Why is it so hard to do that? Lack of time. Lack of energy. Other interests. There are lots of reasons. The solution is the same for all: We remember the Christmas shepherds. They were poorly-paid nobodies. They had sheep to tend. Wolves to beat off. They worked at night (sleepy yawn) out in the wilderness (yikes!). Yet when they received that angelic message that God was changing the world forever, they glorified and praised God for all they had seen and heard.

Remember the angel's message. Remember the shepherds joy. Remember the Savior's love. Then, you'll have the best Christmas ever!

Merry Christmas and a happy new year,

Pastor Ron Bright

### Contact Information

Phone: 412-271-7173

Fax: 412-271-4921

Web: [christlutheranfh.org](http://christlutheranfh.org)

Pastor Reverend Ronald Bright  
[pastor@christlutheranfh.org](mailto:pastor@christlutheranfh.org)

### Administrative Staff

Assistant to Pastor  
Barb Mitchell  
[assistant@christlutheranfh.org](mailto:assistant@christlutheranfh.org)

Office Assistant  
Sally Powell  
[officeassist@christlutheranfh.org](mailto:officeassist@christlutheranfh.org)

### Officers and Committees

Treasurer Steve Stern

Secretary Barb Mitchell

Financial Secretary Dee Law

Elders Cal Eggers, Glenn Filler,  
Al Dick

Trustees Frank Elaschat, John  
Crawford, Howard Lehman, John  
Sourbeer

Education Gloria Stern, Linda  
Bright

Finance Cal Eggers, Jim Law

Outreach Judy Chick, Jonathan  
Bright, Melissa Elaschat

Planning Kathy Sourbeer

## News for the Flock

**NEW !**

**Women's Bible Study**  
**Wednesday mornings at 10am**  
**Starting January 10th**  
**Room 9**  
**Study, Share, Grow!**

**EXTENDED BLACK FRIDAY SALE**

**Deep discounts on school items:**

Used Lenovo laptops (Windows 10) \$125

Used Apple iPad Minis \$100

Children's toys Free to \$5

Professional Grade infant cribs \$100

Other items as marked: Call the church office for more information (412-271-7173)

## News from the Flock

### BIRTH

Vivian and Howard Lehman are proud to announce the birth of a grandson. Grant Eric Kegel was born on November 2, 2017. May he soon be brought to the waters of Holy Baptism.

### DEATH

Wayne Giesey went to be with his Lord on November 7, 2017. He is the husband of Fran. Pastor Breight officiated the service.

### NEWS

Thanks to the Women's Service Guild for coordinating the Reformation Pot Luck on Reformation Sunday, October 29. There were about 45 people in attendance.

Thanks to Joyce Purucker for sharing her Martin Luther/ Germany items for a bulletin board for Reformation.

Lois Frerking, Susan Robatzen, and Kathy Sourbeer all participated in a Virtual Reformation 5 K walk. The participation medal has Martin Luther nailing the 95 Theses on the door of the church.

### IN MEMORY OF THE FAITHFULLY DEPARTED OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

The following saints of our church died this past year and were remembered on All Saints Sunday, November 5, 2017.

Donald Joseph Uram- March 14, 2017

Joan Marie Yazvac- March 23, 2017

Carole Rae Buzard- September 29, 2017

## Women's Service Guild

**ALTAR GUILD** - This time of the year people are hurrying and scurrying around. Our Altar Guild members do that all the time by changing the altar paraments, setting up for Holy Communion, and maintaining, cleaning according to the season.

**QUILTING** - Christ Lutheran was fortunate to give about 19 (60x80 queen size) quilts to 1<sup>st</sup> Trinity for their homeless and low income ministry in October. We at Christ Lutheran are fortunate that people have donated all kinds of material to make these quilts and the people who have sewn and quilted these quilts. Quilting is not hard to do. It is like lacing up a shoe or sewing a button on - in and out and tie two knots. Our next quilting dates will be Tuesday, December 5th and January 9th and 23rd at 9a m.

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** - These devotional books are sent to Muncy Correctional Institute in Muncy, PA. The women read, learn about Jesus, and try to apply the information they read to their personal lives.

# Women's Service Guild cont.

**STAMPS FOR MISSIONS** - Frank Sinatra once sang a song "High Hopes" "about a monkey trying to move a rubber tree plant and that monkey had high hopes. " Well, we give people high hopes to receive a Bible. We do this by collecting canceled stamps and sending them to the Canadian Bible Society. They are able to secure funds and send Bibles to 'third world countries in their native language." There is a container in the library for cut postage stamps or see Karen Hoblak for more information.

**TELEPHONE COMMITTEE** – Just recently the Women Service Guild needed to call congregational members about a member's passing. In order to do this, we need to have an up-to-date church directory. If you or know someone who has moved, no longer have "land line", changed an e-mail address, etc., please contact Barb Mitchell, church secretary or Rosalie Filler, telephone committee.

**SHUT-IN CARD MINISTRY** – I get thank you cards from family members of our church shut-ins thanking me for sending their mother or father cards throughout the year. These shut-ins are grateful for the people who send them cards. It's so important to make someone happy.

**PRAYER SHAWLS** - ("I was sick and you looked after me" *Matthew 25:36b*) Several people who have received prayer shawls/lap robes were tremendously grateful to get them. As they covered themselves with them they not only felt the warmth, but the prayers that were said when they were made. Contact Linda Breight, Karen Hoblak or Jayne Simpson for more information.

**RED STOCKINGS FOR CABOT** - Many of us are excited about giving and receiving Christmas gifts. Unfortunately, there are some people in nursing homes who no longer have living family nearby or no family members at all. Concordia, Cabot was able to give these people Christmas gifts and share the Christmas story. We at Christ Lutheran were able to help do this by people taking a small "red" stocking and filling up the **BIG RED STOCKING**. A special thanks to all who filled the **red stockings**.

**MITE BOXES** – It is often said that "Good things come in small packages." We have little packages also known as "Mite Boxes." These "Mite" boxes are on the shelf next to the big blue MITE box in the narthex. As these Mite boxes are filled, they are sent to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and disbursed to help fulfill the two million dollar goal to fund various mission projects.

**RECYCLING** – Many of us recycle or recycle for various fundraisers. We at Christ Lutheran recycle for the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. The monies received for the recycled items are given to the various mission projects. If you received the latest electronic devices for Christmas, consider donating your old devices. There is a box in the library for used ink cartridges, cell phones, pagers, i-pods, etc. there is a list on the box.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** - The 2018 Altar flower chart is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. The cost is \$30.00. An additional flower vase is \$15.00. People are asked to return the plastic containers that the flowers are put in. The florist uses these cups to put the flowers in the vases.

**DONATIONS** - When giving a donation for a specific mission (example: Sonshine Kitchen, Altar flowers, Mites etc.) please put the money in the envelope from the church pew and mark what it is for. This enables our treasurer to record the money properly, and to make sure that your donation goes to the project that you are supporting.

**SONSHINE KITCHEN** – A special thanks to the people who have supported, prepared and served at the Sonshine Kitchen. Upcoming events will be in the Sunday bulletins.

**ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE** – a **HUGH** thank you to the people who donated baked goods, set up the tables, worked at the bake sale. The Women Service Guild could not do this without your support. \$213.50 was made on the bake sale.

**WINTER BLUES LUNCHEON** – *IT'S COMING*. More information will be in the Sunday bulletins.

**FELLOWSHIP HALL** – An advanced thanks to the women who will decorate the Fellowship Hall for Christmas. Also, check the bulletin board for Women's Service Guild activities, etc. Also, thanks to all the congregational members who supported and helped the Women's Service Guild for their various projects and activities.

# Serving Christ in December

Altar Guild: Ruth Hirko

		Worship Assistant	Acolyte	Lector
December 3	10:00am	Cal Eggers	Allison Stephens	Susan Wagner
December 6 Advent Service	7:30pm	Al Dick		
December 10	10:00am	John Hoblak	Timothy Bright	Kyle Hubbard
December 13 Advent Service	7:30pm	Steve Stern		
December 17	10:00am	Glen Filler	Madison Stephens	Georgi Shirley
December 20 Advent Service	7:30pm	John Hoblak		
December 24	10:00am	Al Dick	Meghan Elaschat	Steve Stern
December 24 Christmas Eve	4:00pm	Cal Eggers	Timothy Bright	Barb Mitchell
December 24 Christmas Eve	7:30pm	Steve Stern	Richard Lander	Vince Mroz
December 25 Christmas	11:00am	Al Dick	Jordan Stephens	Joyce Purucker
December 31	10:00am	Glen Filler	Allison Stephens	Gloria Stern
December 31 New Year's Eve	7:30pm	Paul Simpson	Meghan Elaschat	Paul Simpson

# Serving Christ in January

Altar Guild: Ruth Hirko

		Worship Assistant	Acolyte	Lector
January 7	10:00am	Cal Eggers	Madison Stephens	Joyce Purucker
January 14	10:00am	John Hoblak	Meghan Elaschat	Kyle Hubbard
January 21	10:00am	Steve Stern	Timothy Bright	Vince Mroz
January 28	10:00am	Glen Filler	Allison Stephens	Lois Frerking

# Addresses for our shut-ins

Shut-ins wishing to be added to the pastoral visitation schedule should call the church office at 412-271-7173.

**Paul & Keretta Bruner**  
615 Horizon View Drive  
Penn Hills, PA 15235

**Louise Garofolo**  
Independence Court  
279 Center Road  
Room 204  
Monroeville, PA 15146

**Fran Giesey**  
310 Pennoak Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15235

**Lorraine Giebel**  
400 Barclay Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

**Marty & Cindy Hornak**  
1100 Penn Center  
Apt. 210  
Pittsburgh, PA 15235

**Ruth Hudson**  
214 Orin Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15235

**Charles Koenig**  
Concordia Monroeville  
4363 Northern Pike  
Room 126  
Monroeville, PA 15146

**Allan Lindblom**  
825 East End Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

**Clorinda Mastrocola**  
200 Union Avenue  
North Versailles, PA 15137

**James & Ann Tubbs**  
41 Central Avenue  
N. Versailles, PA 15137-1101

**Pam Viher**  
406 Howard Street  
East Pittsburgh, PA 15112

**Tom Walton**  
LGAR  
800 Elsie Street Room 202-B  
Turtle Creek, PA 15145

**Henry Watkins**  
817 Alpine Blvd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15221



**Bob Yazvac**  
979 Wilkins Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

**Olga Zinn**  
Buckingham South  
5450 Abercorn Street, Ste.405  
Savannah, GA 31405

## Celebrating in December / January

### Anniversaries



12/11 Howard & Vivian Lehman  
1/23 Jim & Dee Law  
1/25 Harold & Susan Wagner



12/01 Donald Corbett, Sr.  
12/03 Cal Eggers  
Karen McMahon  
Kristin McMahon  
12/07 Alice Schoenthal  
12/09 Dianna Corbett  
12/12 Silas Chick  
12/14 Lauren McCune  
12/17 Miguel Bright  
Ronald Bright  
12/18 Holly Johnson  
12/20 Louise Garofolo  
12/21 James Galvin  
12/25 Dean Taylor  
12/31 Timothy Bright  
Travis Planinsek  
1/03 Marjorie Itzel

### Birthdays



1/03 Darlene James  
1/05 John Law  
1/08 Debra Galvin  
Linda Kuenzi  
1/12 Geraldine Hildenbrand  
1/14 Katherine Hanley  
1/16 Barbara Perrier  
1/17 Dawna Woodyear  
1/18 Donald Corbett, Jr.  
Russell Long  
1/19 Judith Chick  
1/20 Samantha Woodyear  
1/21 Pauline Lander  
1/23 Arthur Mozeik  
1/24 Valerie Long  
1/25 Joe Dmochowski  
1/29 Lawrence Viher, Jr.

## Important Dates

Church Decorating & Nativity Set-Up-December 2nd (9:00am)

Quilting-December 5th, January 9th & 23rd (9:00am)

Advent Services-December 6th, 13th, & 20th (7:30pm)

Christmas Eve Services-December 24th (4:00pm & 7:30pm)

Christmas Service-December 25th (11:00am)

New Year's Eve Service-December 31st (11:00am)

Elders Meeting-January 9th (2:30pm)

Council Meeting-January 16th (7:00pm)

Finance Committee Meeting-January 23rd (2:00pm)

### December Prayer Petition

To Thee, then, O Jesus, this  
day of Thy birth. Be glory  
and honor through heaven  
and earth. True Godhead  
incarnate, omnipotent Word!  
Oh, come let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord! (*The Lutheran  
Hymnal, hymn 102, v.4*)



### January Prayer Petition

O Father, give us the priority  
to read, mark, learn and  
inwardly digest Your Word  
of truth. Amen. (*Portal of  
Prayers, December 18, 2017*)

## Church Service Time

Sunday

10:00am Divine Service



## Bible Studies

Saturday

7:45am Men's Bible Study

Sunday

8:45am Sunday School ages 3-14

8:45am Adult Bible Study Groups