

Christ Lutheran Lamplighter

Christ Lutheran Church
400 Barclay Avenue
Forest Hills, Pennsylvania 15221

DECEMBER 2024
JANUARY 2025

Celebrating 91 years in Forest Hills

It is more blessed to give than to receive. Acts 20:35

One of the most prominent features of an American Christmas is gift-giving. For at least a month I have already been thinking about what to give family members this Christmas. Admittedly, I have also been thinking about what to put on my Christmas list! We can't help it. If we don't give gifts at Christmas we would feel like Ebenezer Scrooge, and no one wants that. This can be a problem. No, this IS a problem. I am sure of it.

We only have so much gray matter and muscle power to finish our holiday checklist. It's easy to spend it all on the customs of Christmas. We are at heart people of overindulgence. The church has realized this since its inception and has built in safeguards. You know the drill: Extra services; prayer; almsgiving; and fasting. The purpose of all those is to snap us out of our materialism and excesses of the flesh so our spirits can be nurtured and refreshed, too. That is the part of us that Jesus says will never die. And we'd like to keep it that way.

The words from Acts 20:35 printed above do lead us into the spirit of giving. However, that just gets us back to where we started. If it truly is more blessed to give than to receive, then who has given the most and is therefore blessed above all others? It's God, of course. Our Father in heaven gave his Son, who then gave his own life as a gift to us bearing eternal life. He is the most blessed, and we bless him all the more when we put down the carving knife, the wrapping paper, the scotch tape, the decorations and lights, and receive the gift from God – a Savior.

In the peace of Christ,

Pastor Ron Breight



Contact Information

Phone: 412-271-7173

Web: www.christlutheranfh.org

Facebook: [ChristLutheranChurchFH](https://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchFH)

Staff

Pastor-The Reverend Ronald Breight
pastor@christlutheranfh.org

Vicar-Vincent Mroz

Assistant to Pastor
Barb Mitchell
assistant@christlutheranfh.org

Office Assistant
Jana Savelkova
officeassist@christlutheranfh.org

Officers and Committees

President: Jim Law

Treasurer: Stephanie Lydon

Secretary: Barb Mitchell

Financial Secretary: Dee Law

Elders: Cal Eggers, Glenn Filler, John Crawford, Richard Mueller

Trustees: Lee Caton, Frank Elaschat, Lynn Fisher, Dave Wible, Megan Elaschat, Michael George

Education: Annette Bowen, Lori Schriver, Gloria Stern

Finance: Cal Eggers, Stephanie Lydon, Barry Schoenthal, Richard Mueller

Outreach: Ruth Hirko, Kathy Kaclik

Endowment Committee: Cal Eggers, Glenn Filler, Kathy Sourbeer

Financial Snapshot through October 31, 2024	Actual	Budgeted
Offerings and other income	\$78,252	\$79,055
Missions	\$500	\$2,000
Staff	\$36,823	\$41,468
Operations	\$49,406	\$38,915
Total Expenses	\$86,729	\$82,383
Net Gain/Loss	\$-8,477	\$-3,328

NEWS FROM THE FLOCK

Robert and Bette Hamill celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on November 5th. We wish the happy couple many more blessed years together!



Jonathan Bright performed as Peter Pan with Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre the last weekend of October.



Ryder Giovanetti was awarded the Best Rider of the Year recognition at the Westmoreland BMX Bike Track Awards Banquet. His team was called The Terminators.



Congratulations to Ryder!



Our Christian sympathy goes to Nancy Johnson and her family on the recent death of her Mom Pat Lenke in Florida.

Women's Service Guild

LWML MITES—If you think pocket change is insignificant, just look what the Women's Service Guild has done! **We have collected \$515.41 in change to support missions.** If you have a heart for missions, you can pick up a Mite Box in the narthex or in the entry area by the office. One hundred percent of the money collected is sent to missions voted on at the district and national level. To drop off your money, put it in the blue box in the narthex. No amount is too small. Together Women in Mission make extraordinary things happen.



ALTAR GUILD – Contact Ruth Hirko about serving on the altar committee. They set up for Holy Communion, change altar parameters, launder the communion napkins, etc. New members are needed.

BOX TOPS EDUCATION – The Box Tops for Education has been phased out and your grocery bill is now being scanned for Box Tops items that you have purchased. There is a bin in the library for the Box Tops for Education. Give Lois Frerking your grocery receipt to scan. Monies collected goes to Redeemer Lutheran Church school. See Lois for more information.



HOTEL TOILETRY ITEMS – The WSG distributes hotel toiletry items to veterans in need. There is a bin in the library for donations or see Dee Law for more information.



PORTALS OF PRAYER – Current and back issues of the Portals of Prayer are available on the table in the library. Feel free to take a copy or two for friends or neighbors you feel could benefit from these.

TELEPHONE & E-MAIL COMMITTEE – If you know a member's new address, phone or e-mail address, please give it to Barb Mitchell or Rosalie Filler. If you move or change information, please remember to notify the office.



SHUT-IN CARD MINISTRY – The new packet is ready. Included is a mailing schedule, names, addresses and birthdates. A book of stamps is being provided by Thrivent Care in Community. Contact Kathy Sourbeer if you wish to participate.



STAMPS – Remember to slit open the bottom of the envelope, cut the envelope in half and give the canceled stamps to Lois Frerking or put them in the box in the library. These stamps enable the Canadian



Bible Society to raise funds to purchase Bibles for prisoners and foreign missions to get Bibles in their native language.

UPDATE TO RECYCLING – The Lutheran Women's Missionary League is still accepting ink cartridges for recycling, but they are no longer accepting electronics. Thank you for all your help in the past.

HELPING HANDS – When there is a funeral luncheon or special occasion, women are needed to set up and prepare things, etc. Contact Rosalie Filler to become part of this very important ministry in our church.



PRAYER SHAWL/LAP ROBE MINISTRY – Even though many of us cannot physically comfort a loved one or friend, we can still do so by giving them a shawl or lap robe. These were lovingly made by women of the congregation. Contact Linda Bright if you know someone who may need one or enjoy getting one.

QUILTING – No experience necessary. It is like sewing on a button - in and out and tie two knots. We are in need of old king and queen size mattress pads (for batting), top and bottom sheets for the back. If twin size sheets are donated, they will be pieced together to make 64x84 back. Regular batting material is also greatly appreciated. Pictured is the latest quilt made for the veterans. Contact Dee Law if you will be able to attend. Watch the Sunday bulletin for times and dates.



2023–2025 Mission Grant #11 Lutheran Women in Mission Finish the Job Ministry in Mission, Haiti—\$85,000

About This Mission Grant

Ministry in Mission has been working in Haiti for 15 years with the leadership of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti to meet the needs of people as they respond to devastating hurricanes and political unrest. An earthquake in 2021 destroyed many churches and work was begun to rebuild the churches. Currently the churches are open for worship as work continues. The necessary materials are in the country to finish floors, repair electrical work, install toilets, and complete furnishings.



This grant will help purchase other needed supplies to finish the restoration work. Ministry in Mission and the Lutheran Church of Haiti also continue to care for the spiritual and physical needs of the people at the Center of Refuge Orphanage and The Jacamel Lutheran Home for the elderly.

**Women of our church made
Christmas crafts for our
shut-ins.**

**Thank you for brightening
the Holidays for our church
members!**



Christmas Cookie Packing

We will be packing cookies for our shut-ins and the Sunshine Kitchen on Tuesday, December 10 at 9:30am. Please send homemade or store bought cookies (no anise or mint, please). 100 dozens cookies or more are needed for this event. You can bring them to church on Sunday, December 8th, or on Tuesday morning. Thanks for all your help! If you have any questions, see Dee Law.



We will be **decorating the Fellowship Hall for Christmas** on Tuesday, December 10th at 9:30am. We would appreciate all the help we can get. Hope to see you!



We will be **taking the Christmas decorations down** on Saturday, January 18th 2025 at 9:30am. Please come and help if you are available. Your help would be appreciated. Thanks!

On January 25 2025, the women of the church will meet to clean the kitchen at 9:30am. We can use all the help we can get. Thank you!

Important Dates in December 2024 and January 2025


Check the online calendar on the church website for up-to-date information

Nov 30—Church Decorating for Christmas
Dec 2—Vocal Choir Rehearsal 7pm
Dec 4—Advent Service and Dinner 5:45pm
Dec 9—Vocal Choir Rehearsal 7pm
Dec 10—Council Meeting 7pm
Dec 11—Advent Service and Dinner 5:45pm
Dec 12—Elders Meeting 4pm
Dec 12—Educational Committee Meeting 6:30pm
Dec 16—Vocal Choir Rehearsal 7pm
Dec 18—Advent Service and Dinner 5:45pm
Dec 23 & Dec 30—No Vocal Choir
Dec 24—Christmas Eve Service 4pm & 7pm
Dec 25—Christmas Day Service 10am
Dec 25-26 Office Closed—Happy Holidays!
Dec 26—Outreach Meeting 7pm



♪ Please note! ♪

The vocal choir rehearsal time moved to 7:00 pm. Come sing with us!



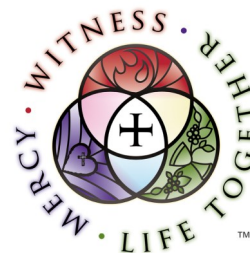
Jan 1—Office Closed—Happy New Year
Jan 6—Vocal Choir Rehearsal 7pm
Jan 9—Finance Meeting 4pm
Jan 9—Educational Committee Meeting 6:30pm
Jan 11—Church Undecorating
Jan 13—Vocal Choir Rehearsal 7pm
Jan 15—Lamplighter Deadline
Jan 20—Vocal Choir Rehearsal 7pm
Jan 21—Council Meeting 7pm
Jan 23—Outreach Meeting 7pm
Jan 27—Vocal Choir Rehearsal 7pm

Church and Bible Class Times

Sunday
10 am Divine Service

Adult Bible Studies
8:45am-9:45am

Sunday School/Confirmation
Sunday-11:30am



Addresses for our Shut-Ins

Lauretta Critchlow
 Concordia of Franklin Park
 Apt. 108 Garden North
 1600 Georgetown Dr.
 Sewickley, PA 15143

June Kolb
 Goodwill Retirement Rm 4106
 891 Dorsey Hotel Rd.
 Grantsville, MD 21536

Russell Long
 606 Filmore Ave.
 Pittsburgh PA 15221

Anyone wishing to be added to the pastoral visitation schedule please call the church office at 412-271-7173.

Catherine Ertman
 3000 Locust Ave. Apt 319
 Braddock Hills, PA 15221

Bob Lindke
 2190 Ipnar Road
 Irwin, PA 15642

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

Robert & Bette Hamill, Jr.
 1413 Maple Ave.
 Turtle Creek, PA 15145

Pat Lehnhardt
 813 Larimer Ave
 North Versailles, PA 15137

Lydia Yates
 Concordia of Monroeville
 4363 Northern Pike
 Room 110
 Monroeville, PA 15146

Robert & Audrey Karpinsky
 203 Stockton Ridge
 Cranberry, PA 16066-2261

Carol Logsdon
 Point Pleasant Asstd.Living
 Room 331
 120 Mosside Blvd.
 North Versailles, PA 15137

Jim and Evelyn Wise
 Sheridan @ Bethel Park
 2000 Cool Spring Drive
 Room 355
 Bethel,Park, PA 15234



December Prayer Petition

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

Isaiah 7:14



January Prayer Petition

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new.”

2 Corinthians 5:17

Celebrating in December 2024 and January 2025

Anniversaries

- 29-Dec Robert & Audrey Karpinsky
- 23-Jan James and Delores Law
- 24-Jan Eugene and Rose Klebingot



Birthdays

- 1-Dec Malachi Lisovic
- 3-Dec Calvin Eggers
- 6-Dec Robert Karpinsky
- 7-Dec Alice Schoenthal
- 12-Dec Kiernan Chick
- 12-Dec Silas Chick
- 17-Dec Miguel Bright
- 17-Dec Ronald Bright
- 21-Dec James Galvin
- 22-Dec Robert Hamill Jr.
- 31-Dec Timothy Bright
- 1-Jan Zerabruk Teklealfa
- 3-Jan Marjorie Itzel
- 3-Jan Darlene James
- 5-Jan John Law
- 7-Jan Zachary Chick
- 8-Jan Colleen Fittz
- 8-Jan Debra Galvin
- 8-Jan Linda Kuenzi
- 9-Jan Melissa Wise
- 11-Jan Julie Donikowski
- 14-Jan Katherine Hanley
- 16-Jan Barbara Perrier
- 18-Jan Russell Long

Advent Service

Join us for Advent Service the first three Wednesdays of December. The evening Advent Services will be preceded by a **light potluck supper. Bring your favorite meal to share and enjoy the food from other church membes.**



All are invited to arrive at 5:45 pm to enjoy a delicious meal and fellowship. The service starts at 7pm.

ALTAR FLOWERS

It is time to find your favorite 2025 dates. The 2025 flower chart has been posted in the Narthex. The cost is \$40 a week for the two vases. Each Sunday can be shared. Place your name on the chart for the week you are wanting and a small memo if there is a reason for your selection - anniversary, birthday, in memory of, etc.

Payments can be placed in the W.S.G. locked mailbox near the far office door in the library or handed to Kathy Sourbeer preferably in a marked envelope if it is cash.

The office will be closed from December 25 to December 26.

Merry Christmas from the staff!



Forest Hills Garden Club meets in our church every first Thursday of the month.



We are collecting the brown pill bottles for the McKeesport Lions Club. Please remove the labels and wash them out. There must be a cap for each bottle and no vitamin bottles will be accepted. Thank you for helping with this ongoing project. Please put them in the box in the library.



The Lions are also collecting the pop tabs that are then given to Ronald McDonald House. They use the tabs because they are more pure aluminum than the cans themselves. There is a box in the library. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.





Serving Christ in December 2024 and January 2025

Altar Guild
December & January: Ruth Hirko

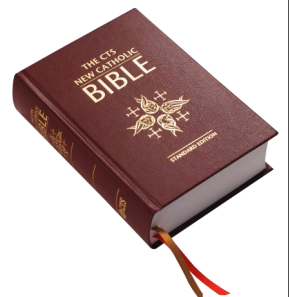


Date	Worship Assistant	Lector	Acolyte
Sun Dec 1	Richard Mueller	TBD	Madeline Stoner
Wed Dec 4	Cal Eggers	Tatia O'Connor	-
Sun Dec 8	Cal Eggers	Tammy Donaldson	Ryder Giovanetti
Wed Dec 11	Richard Mueller	TBD	-
Sun Dec 15	John Crawford	Tatia O'Connor	Madeline Stoner
Wed Dec 18	Barry Schoenthal	TBD	-
Sun Dec 22	Cal Eggers	Tatia O'Connor	Hunter Donikowski
Tue Dec 24 4pm	John Crawford	Barbara Mitchell	TBD
Tue Dec 24 7pm	Vincent Mroz	Vincent Mroz	TBD
Wed Dec 25	John Crawford	TBD	Ryder Giovanetti
Sun Dec 29	John Crawford	TBD	Conner Schriver
Sun Jan 5	Richard Mueller	Tatia O'Connor	Ryder Giovanetti
Sun Jan 12	Barry Schoenthal	Tammy Donaldson	Hunter Donikowski
Sun Jan 19	John Crawford	TBD	Conner Schriver
Sun Jan 26	Cal Eggers	Tatia O'Connor	Madeline Stoner

Please contact the church office by Friday at 10am at 412-271-7173 if you cannot fulfill the duty to which you have been assigned. If you are able to volunteer for any of these services, please let Jana know either by calling the church office or via email at officeassist@christlutheranfh.org. Thank you for your service.

LECTORS NEEDED

We are in need of a few volunteers to be trained as lectors for our services. It is not a difficult task and you won't be called upon that often if there are more volunteers. This is your church! Please contact the church office or see Pastor.





YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR

WINTER

CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW

FREE ADMISSION ~ REFRESHMENTS

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER
30**

**10 AM
—
2 PM**

**ZION EV.
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
237-37th Street
Lawrenceville



JOIN US FOR CONCORDIA'S 11TH ANNUAL LIVE NATIVITY

Sunday, December 8

148 Marwood Rd., Cabot, PA 16023
(Entrance #5, Haven II)

Performances at 4:30, 5:15 and 6 p.m.

- *Featuring Concordia staff and residents*
- *Live animals*
- *Hot beverages and refreshments*
- *Gift for children 12 and under*
- *Live Christmas music*
- *Free admission*



This will be a “walk-through” nativity, so guests are encouraged to dress warmly. Parking at entrances 5 and 6. For more information, call 724-352-8268 or visit www.concordialm.org.

