



Christ Lutheran Lamplighter

Christ Lutheran Church
400 Barclay Avenue
Forest Hills, Pennsylvania 15221

FEBRUARY 2025

Celebrating 91 years in Forest Hills

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the peace offering for our sins. 1 John 4:10

February is usually the month when Lent begins, so in articles like this the topic normally focuses on an important part of that season. Ash Wednesday is like the starting gun for Lent, and this year it falls on March 5. That means this time around, February can take up another popular late-winter theme: St. Valentine's Day. The topic, of course, is love.

As the saying goes, if I had a dollar for every time I have read a church's mission statement that states that particular church is all about loving God and loving neighbor, I'd be rich. It also identifies that church as a bunch of liars. I've been to those churches. I've worked with staff from those churches. They are the same or worse as everybody else, mission statement notwithstanding. St. Valentine IS about love, and in the passage from 1 John listed above, we are reminded as to what "true love" really is. It has nothing to do with what we do and everything to do with what God does.

As the story goes, Valentine, who was an older Christian man who had lived a good life, traded places with a young Christian girl who was slated for the lion's den. He would go to his bloody end. She would get married and live the full life that lay ahead of her. What a great love story! There are a few Valentines around, but not many. Would you trade safety for the den? What matters is that Jesus did. We were headed not for the lion's den, but for the lake of fire because of our sin. Jesus took our place under the cross and paid every last penny we owe to God. Now we are forever free to live in the love and life of God. As 1 John 4:10 says, THAT is love!

In the love of Christ,

Pastor Ron Breight



Thank you from Pastor Breight
and family for all the cards and
gifts this Christmas season.
God bless.

*Thank
you*

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 Dec 31 2024	Actual	Budgeted
Offerings and other income	\$123,692	\$123,243
Missions	\$2,500	\$2,500
Staff	\$55,965	\$62,266
Operations	\$63,374	\$59,101
Total expenses	\$121,839	\$124,867
Net Gain/Loss	+1,853	-1,624

NEWS FROM THE FLOCK

Tammy Donaldson is proud to announce that she is a grandmother. Samuel was born on December 13. Congratulations to the entire family. May he soon be brought to the waters of Holy Baptism.



Jonathan Bright received a Pointe Magazine reader's choice shoutout for his performance as Peter Pan in Pittsburgh Ballet Theater's season opener. Pointe reader Marco wrote: "Jonathan was absolutely incredible, both from a technical and an artistic perspective. I can't imagine how difficult it must have been to master not only the delicate steps but also the dizzying pirouettes while 'flying' in a harness. His artistic expression was also on full display, bringing to life the child that never grows old."



Lydia Yates Obituary

Lydia M. (Matej) Yates, age 80, of Liberty Borough, passed away on Thursday, January 2, 2025, at Concordia of Monroeville. She was a former member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Braddock. Born April 21, 1944 in Braddock, she was a daughter of the late Gary and Gizella (Polahar) Matej and wife of the late Edwin F. Yates. She is survived by her son, Neil R. Yates of Liberty Borough; granddaughter, Jillian Yates of Elizabeth Twp., and nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by her brother, Gary Matej.



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.

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.



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.



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.



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.



ALTAR FLOWERS—The flower chart is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex of the church. Please check the chart for available dates. The cost of the flowers is \$40. Make checks payable to WSG and put check in locked mailbox by the far office door.

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.



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.



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.

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.



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 #12

Sharing Christ Crucified with High School Youth

Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans, LA — \$35,000

About This Mission Grant

Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans, the only high school in the LCMS Southern District, has been serving youth for over 50 years. It provides students with the opportunity to academically succeed in a safe environment, while educating them about their Lord and Savior through the teachings of the LCMS. Many of the students being served by the school are disadvantaged, culturally diverse, and unchurched.



Because the school was devastated by Hurricane Ida, funds which would have been used for computers, school supplies, Christian materials, and scholarship aid are now being used for construction costs to rebuild one of the buildings.

This grant will be matched by five generous donors and will be used to pay the tuition costs of ten students.

Our children prepared a beautiful Christmas program for the congregation in December.



Important Dates in February 2025

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

Feb 2—Groundhog Day
Feb 3—Vocal Choir Rehearsal 7pm
Feb 10—Vocal Choir Rehearsal 7pm
Feb 12—Educational Committee 4:30pm
Feb 14—Valentine's Day
Feb 15—Lamplighter Deadline
Feb 16—Friendship Sunday Potluck Luncheon
Feb 17—President's Day
Feb 17—Vocal Choir Rehearsal 7pm
Feb 18—Council Meeting 7pm
Feb 20—Elders Meeting 4pm
Feb 24—Vocal Choir Rehearsal 7pm
Feb 27—Outreach Meeting 7pm
Mar 5—Ash Wednesday

Please note:

Educational Committee
now meets every second
Wednesday at 4:30pm.

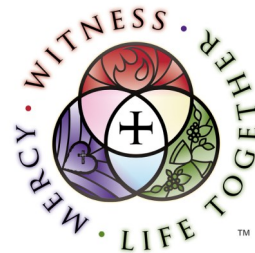


Church and Bible Class Times

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

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

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

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

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

Bob Lindke
2190 Ipnar Road
Irwin, PA 15642

Pat Lehnhardt
813 Larimer Ave
North Versailles, PA 15137

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

Russell Long
606 Filmore Ave.
Pittsburgh PA 15221

Audrey Marvenko
846 Joan Drive
North Versailles PA 15137

Katherine Mastrocola
200 Union Avenue
North Versailles PA 15137

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

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



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

February Prayer Petition

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

Matthew 11:28

Celebrating in February 2025

Anniversaries

2/14 Kevin & Tammy Donaldson
2/17 Michael & Barbara Lis



Birthdays

2/1 Kathleen Kaclik
2/1 Tatia fe' O'Connor
2/5 Mohanchand
2/5 Nancy Stephens
2/6 Parker Hanley
2/7 Margie Arelt
2/7 Barbara Simmons
2/8 Ryder Giovanetti
2/9 Conner Schriver
2/12 Audrey Marvenko
2/13 Tristen Slaczka
2/21 Sonny Breeger
2/21 Barbara Lis
2/24 Robin Schoenthal
2/24 David Wible
2/27 Suzie Lydon-George

Thank You

We thank the following people who bought Poinsettias to beautify our altar for Christmas:

Annette Bowen	Ruth Hirko
Bob Brecht	Bill & Linda Hite
Bright Family	Dee & Jim Law
Lee Caton	Barbara & Mike Lis
Betty Cottom	Donna Madaras
Alma Eggers	Rich Mueller
Rosalie & Glenn Filler	Tatia O'Connor
David Giovanetti	Doug Skalka
Georgia Hanley	Kathy & John Sourbeer
Hunter & Julie Donikowski	& Makayla & Conner Schriver
Gloria Stern	



♥ happy ♥
Valentine's
♥ day ♥

We welcome our new members: **Carolyn Louise Burr** on the left and **Patti Louise Berkoben** on the right. **Welcome to Christ Lutheran family!**



A few weeks ago, Doug Skalka broke his left hand, so he now plays one-handed. If you didn't notice, that's because he replaced his hand with his feet when playing the organ! **We appreciate his amazing music and dedication and wish Doug a speedy recovery.**



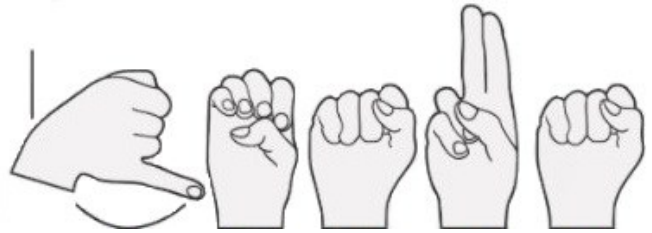
Message from Vicar Vincent Mroz

Greetings my brothers and sisters in Christ,

We have been doing quite a few things recently to outreach the Deaf community of Pittsburgh. Sunday November 17 we had a Thanksgiving lunch at Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf. We had twenty Deaf people join our event and experience the Gospel of Jesus Christ at our worship service which started at 11 A.M. and then after worship we had a great time of fellowship and food. One of the people who showed up for our Thanksgiving event which we called "Deaf Friendsgiving", was Jeff Thomas, the president of P.A.D. (Pittsburgh Association of Deaf) or you could just call it the Pittsburgh Deaf Club which is located in Pittsburgh's Hill District on Forbes Ave about a block or two from Mercy Hospital. I had the opportunity to talk to him and he asked if I could come to a dinner event at P.A.D on Saturday December 14. He invited me to the event and asked if I could say a prayer before the meal. I went and they had 55 Deaf people show up at their event. Some I have met before at other Deaf events I have gone to and some new faces who I got to know, and they got to know me. On December 21 we were also having our annual Deaf Christmas event, we expected around 20 to 25 Deaf people to show up to our Christmas event. Another outreach opportunity I am working with is Deaf Bible classes through the Deaf outreach organization called Mark732 which was set up by Rev. Dr. John Reinke. We have been teaching the Bible to Deaf in many different states using Zoom and V.P (stand for Video Phone; it's the modern version of TTY or Deaf Telephone). Recently North Dakota and Minnesota have reached out hoping to set up Deaf ministry in those states. So, we have added some new people from those states to our zoom classes as well.

I pray that the Lord blesses you in this New Year.

From your brother in Christ Vicar Vincent Mroz and the entire congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf.



Christmas Card List

Margie Arelt and Patti Berkoben

Lee Caton and Stephanie Lydon

Betty Cottom

Lois Frerking

The Hanley's

Bill and Linda Hite

Jim and Dee Law

Donna Madaras

Rev. and Mrs. McCants

Barb Mitchell

Janice and Jim Polidora

Kyle, Becca and Kaydence O'Connor

Tatia and Joe O'Connor

John and Kathy Sourbeer

Barry and Barbara Schoenthal

Gloria Stern



As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish...
so is my word that goes
out from my mouth
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish
what I desire
and achieve the purpose
for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:10-11



**A Friendship Sunday potluck luncheon
will be held on February 16
following the worship
service.**



The theme is "God is love".

This winter is tough on everyone. Baby Jesus in our Nativity got completely snowed in...





Serving Christ in February 2025

Altar Guild
February: Karen Dadey

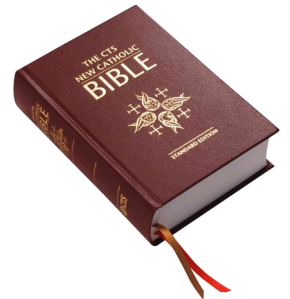


Date	Worship Assistant	Lector	Acolyte
2-Feb	Richard Mueller	Gloria Stern	Conner Schriver
9-Feb	Barry Schoenthal	Tammy Donaldson	Madeline Stoner
16-Feb	John Crawford	Lois Frerking	Ryder Giovanetti
23-Feb	Cal Eggers	Tatia O'Connor	Julia Stoner

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

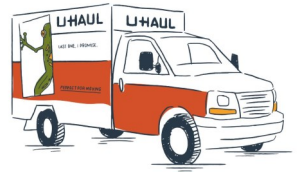
We are **in need of a few volunteers to be trained as lectors** for our services. It is not a difficult task and you won't be called upon that often if there are more volunteers. This is your church! Please contact the church office or see Pastor.



Offering envelopes for 2025 are available for pick up in the church library. Please remember to get them when you come to church.



Please remember to **update your address and/or email address if you move**. If you have an email address you can share with us, it makes it easier to communicate with members.



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 have more pure aluminium than the cans themselves. There is a box in the library. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

