

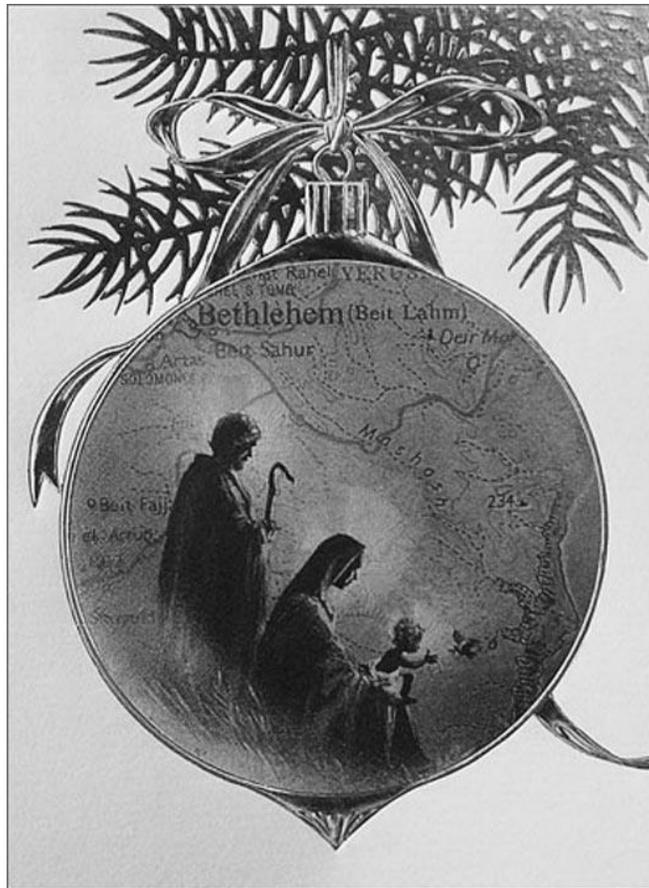
CHRIST CHURCH CRUX

Volume 72 No. 170

CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2015

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



Have a Blessed Christmas and Joyful New Year!

PASTOR'S PAGE
ADVENT

Return: *And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.*

1 Thessalonians 3:13

Prepare: *Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight*

Luke 3:4

Repent: *Bear fruits worthy of repentance*

Luke 3:8

Visit: *In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.*

Luke 1:39-40

Advent: A season of hope, a season of expectation, and a season of repentance. Both the Advent and Lenten seasons commence with the image of return. The first Sunday in Advent begins the Church Year. Emphasizing the return of Christ it invites us to look to the future when Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, who was born in became incarnate Bethlehem, died on the cross, and raised from the dead, will return. His return is a moment we can neither predict nor know when it will arrive. We confess that Jesus will return again to judge both the living and the dead. In Lent the assigned Old Testament reading from the prophet Joel invites us to return to the Lord our God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Returning to God's Word and examining our lives in the mirror of Scripture remains an important dutiful exercise of the Christian life.

Advent involves preparing. It is a call to preparing one's life for Christ's judgement, a returning and re-centering ourselves on the promises of God and our commitment to live faithfully, striving for excellence in our discipleship, stewardship, and witness.

Visit: On the first Christmas night, God in the world in the person of Jesus, a child born to Mary and Joseph. The angels visited the shepherds and the shepherds visited the child. God visits us today in the Word, in the face of a stranger who does a random act of kindness, in the waters of life in baptism, in the one who is hungry, homeless, or wandering, and in the wonderful sacrament of communion that visits forgiveness upon us when we faithfully partake of the Body and Blood of Christ.

With these words of return, prepare, repent, and visit, I invite you into an Advent time of reflection, faith and spiritual focus. While Advent includes many words for our faith journey, these four connect with the themes of the Scripture readings we will hear on Sunday during the coming season of Advent. They are words that renew us. Advent will be busy and full. It will be full of your own visits and busy with your own preparations. There will be times of returning to those traditions of the season which make it so special.

Within the hectic season, we find a God of grace strengthening our faith. Our God calls us to reorient and repent of our sins. The Lord offers words of forgiveness and leads us into renewal. The Lord our God grants us hope to prepare with a spirit of service, a spirit of renewal, and a commitment to God's covenant of love. This Advent God visits us again with words of grace, faith, forgiveness and love. Thanks be to God.

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Stephen Herr

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES



ELCA World Hunger
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



From microloans to health clinics, water wells to animal husbandry, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support innovative solutions that get at the root causes of hunger. And they don't stop there. We engage Lutherans in advocacy and hunger education to act and speak in ways that can make a difference. Through this comprehensive approach, we address hunger from all angles, both locally and around the world.

*"In the bleak midwinter
A stable place sufficed
The Lord, God almighty,
Jesus Christ."*

*Our Christmas offering
The ELCA Hunger Appeal
Gives us the chance to help,
To show mercy and to heal.*

*In this bleak winter
Will a place be made
For the refugees now fleeing
Cold, hungry and afraid?*

*Pick up your envelope
On the bridge or in the pew,
And may our God of Love
Bless you and all you do."*

SHEEP SHARES FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Deadline – December 13

Livestock provide nutrition and income to farming families. But when feeding the family is tough, it makes keeping livestock tougher. Give a farming family in Burkina Faso the gift of a Sheep, along with feed and basic veterinary care, providing a source of milk and money. If you would like to give a sheep share or an entire sheep in honor or memory of someone, please complete the form below and return to the church office with your check made payable to Christ Lutheran Church.

_____ Share(s) of a sheep at \$10 _____ Entire sheep at \$100

_____ To the Glory of God

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Given by _____



ADVENT and CHRISTMAS

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS

The Kettle Campaign begins on Friday, November 27th and continues until Christmas Eve. If you would like to “ring”, please call NANCY HILL - 717- 752-5186



COOKIE EXTRAVAGANZA...Again this year our Fellowship Committee will hold a Christmas Cookie Extravaganza during the Fellowship Hour on December 20th. Come and enjoy homemade cookies baked by members of our Fellowship Committee and congregation.

EVER WISH YOU COULD SING IN THE CHANCEL CHOIR CHRISTMAS EVE? Can't commit to being in the choir all year? Returning from college or visiting family in Gettysburg this Christmas? ALL ARE WELCOME to sing in the choir for the late service Christmas Eve. There will be 3 required rehearsals: Thursday, Dec.17, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, Sunday, Dec. 20, 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM, and, Wednesday, Dec. 23, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. ALL AGES from 8th grade through adult welcome! Please contact Dr. Folkemer in person, at folkemer@ltsj.edu or call the church office if you are interested in order that enough copies of music can be prepared.

THE HARRISBURG CHORAL SOCIETY will present two Christmas concerts this year, a “Messiah Sing-Along” of selections from Handel’s famous oratorio, and a Christmas concert with brass. HCS will perform all the Christmas-related Messiah choruses plus “Hallelujah” on Sunday, November 29th, at 3 p.m. at in **Market Square Presbyterian Church** Harrisburg. Audience participation is welcome; parking is available next to the church. “Christmas with Brass” will be presented Sunday, December 20th, at 3 p.m. at Colonial Park UCC Church, 5000 Devonshire Road, Harrisburg. See Jeff Zimmerman for tickets and information. Tickets may also be purchased at the concerts.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Various worship leaders are needed for both Christmas Eve services (7:00 and 10:30 p.m.) If you are interested in using your time and talent at one of these services, please sign-up on the bridge or contact the church office.

7:00 p.m. – Candlelight Service with carols, children’s message, music from our Youth Choir and Holy Communion

10:30 p.m. –Festival service of Word and Sacrament with candlelight and carols, sermon, Holy Communion, music provided by our Bell and Chancel Choirs and musicians.



CHRISTMAS MORNING WORSHIP...There will be a Communion service at the Seminary Chapel on Christmas morning at 9:30 a.m.

BREAKFAST WITH MRS. CLAUS ~ DECEMBER 5

9:00 – 11:00 am



Mrs. Claus is coming to Gettysburg Seminary Refectory to meet the children!
\$18/child \$12/adult (Children must be accompanied by an adult)

A surprise guest will be skyped from the North Pole!

Singing - Dancing with Elves -Story Telling-Christmas Cookie Decorating
Cameras are welcome!

Breakfast prepared by Biggerstaff's Catering To order tickets please call
717-399-1300 or visit www.seminaryridgemuseum.org

(Click on "Tickets" and then "Special Events")

For questions call 717-338-3004

FRUITBELT FARMWORKERS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY... Fruitbelt Farmworker Christian Ministry is an Interdenominational outreach to thousands of seasonal and migrant farmworkers in Adams, Cumberland and Franklin Counties. They provide spiritual nurture, pastoral care, recreation and opportunities for cross-cultural understanding by networking with churches, and community agencies to improve their quality of life. Farmworkers are appreciative of the ministry provided through funds realized primarily from the sale of Holiday Fruitboxes. Additional donations are also appreciated. Fruitboxes include:



10 golden delicious apples	10 red delicious apples	28 oz. can peaches
1 honey bear	21 oz. can cherry jubilee	7 single-serving apple juice
21 oz. can cherry pie filling	6 individual serving applesauce	17 oz. jar apple butter

If you would like to order a Holiday Fruitbox, order forms are available on the bridge or call 717-701-8633 or email farmworker@comcast.net.



Holiday Family

OUTREACH, INC.

P.O. Box 4013

Gettysburg, PA. 17325

(717) 334-5809

Holiday Family Outreach Volunteer Opportunities

Be a part of HOLIDAY FAMILY OUTREACH 2015~

Volunteers are welcomed, needed and appreciated for Toy Distribution Day, Saturday, December 12th 7am-12pm. It is a truly humbling morning while we help parents find just gifts for their children, provide meal certificates, warm hats and mittens, helping to make the Christmas holiday a little easier for our neighbors in need. To be a part of this outreach, please contact HFO board member and volunteer coordinator, Jill Herr at christianed@christgettysburg.org or 717-253-7116

Since 1953, Holiday Family Outreach, an all-volunteer nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, has provided Christmas toys and food to low-income families in Adams County, Pennsylvania.

Our 2015 goal is to raise \$30,000 for food certificates allowing us to provide \$25 food certificates for 1,300 referrals. Food certificates are offered to low-income families and elderly residents through the Office of Aging. We also accept toy donations! Toy donations can be dropped off at United Way or you can make your donation payable to: Holiday Family Outreach, Inc and mail to : PO Box 4013, Gettysburg, PA 17325. Please see Jill with any questions.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

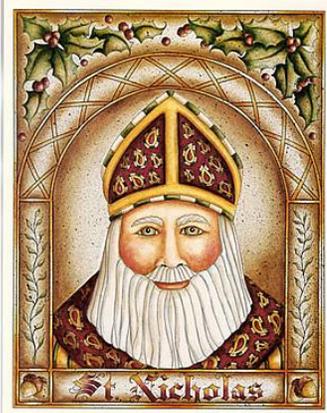
A REMINDER THAT THERE WILL NO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH.
We come together again on Sunday, December 6th to begin preparing for our Christmas Pageant that we will offer at the 7 pm Service on Christmas Eve. Students ages preschool-through Grade 6 should meet in their classrooms on December 6th and then we will come together in the Nave to begin rehearsal. Everyone is welcome to participate. Please RSVP to Jill at christianed@christgettysburg.org to let us know if you we will be able to be a part of the pageant on 12/24.

SUNDAY SCHOOL-DECEMBER 2015

PRESCHOOL-GRADE 6: PAGEANT REHEARSALS

CONFIRMATION: JOIN US FOR REGULAR CLASSES IN DECEMBER

ADULT FORUM: SEE DETAILS ELSEWHERE IN THIS CRUX



SAINT NICHOLAS DAY-DECEMBER 6

Hey kids join us for a **St. Nicholas** celebration on **December 6** during worship. Saint Nicholas was the Bishop of Myra (in modern Turkey). He was known for his generosity towards those in need, his love for children and his concern for sailors and their ships.

We'll have a visit from St. Nicolas and learn more about the good Bishop, his life, and the traditions associated with him.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR HERR... During Advent the congregation will explore the Advent themes of Return, Prepare, Repent, and Visit. As part of this emphasis you are invited to join Pastor Herr for a Biblical and theological study of these themes. Each session will stand alone and last approximately 45 minutes. Studies are scheduled on different days and different times with the hope that people can get to at least one

Wednesday, December 2: Return

Location: Lincoln Diner at **8:00 a.m.** Join us for breakfast in downtown Gettysburg

Monday, December 7 : Prepare

Location: La Bella Italia at **12:00 noon**

Tuesday, December 15: Repent

Location: The Bullet Hole in the College Union Building at Gettysburg College at **5:30 pm**

Monday, December 21: Visit

Location: The Outlet Shoppes at Gettysburg at **12:00 noon** at the food court

Join Pastor Herr for ADVENT MORNING PRAYER in the Donley Chapel at 10:00 a.m. on Thursdays, December 3, 10 and 17th!

PLEASE NOTE: The Women of the ELCA at CELC will not meet in December. A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

STEWARDSHIP

Financial Peace University – Update from Stewardship Committee

We all need a plan for our money. *Financial Peace University* (FPU) is that plan! It teaches God's ways of handling money. Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small group activities, FPU presents practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. This plan will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more!

We had five families (and two individuals) enrolled in FPU. We completed nine lessons. The topics of the lessons are listed below:

1. Super Saving: Common Sense for Your Dollars and Cents
2. Relating With Money: Nerds and Free Spirits Unite!
3. Cash Flow Planning: The Nuts and Bolts of Budgeting
4. Dumping Debt: Breaking the Chains of Debt
5. Buyer Beware: The Power of Marketing on Your Buying Decision
6. The Role of Insurance: Protecting Your Health, Family and Finance
7. Retirement and College Planning: Mastering the Alphabet Soup of Investing
8. Real Estate and Mortgages: Keeping the American Dream From Becoming a Nightmare
9. The Great Misunderstanding: Unleashing the Power of Generous Giving

Results for Our Enrollees

Enrollees were asked to take a note of their total non-mortgage debt at the start of the class and the amount of non-mortgage debt they paid off by the end of the sessions. In our class, there was a combined non-mortgage debt of \$17,557 paid off in this 8-week time period. Additional contributions to savings during this same period were reported to be \$10,725. This program works! You learn that every dollar you own has a name and a place to be spent.

Planning is underway for fall of 2016 FPU class.

PLANNED GIVING TIP

As another Advent dawns upon us, our eyes, ears and hearts turn to consideration of the end of this time. With that consideration are practical considerations of the end of this calendar year. **If you are considering a special gift to change the world, consider gifting your congregation or ELCA ministry.**

The ELCA Foundation offers a host of special giving opportunities. **Transfer of stock, donations of life insurance, and Charitable Gift Annuities are among some of the many offerings you may make this tax year through the ELCA Foundation.** These gifts can benefit you, the giver, and the proclamation of Christ in the world. **Call Pastor Liz Polanzke, Gift Planner for Central PA, 717-654-2334 to get started in time for those gifts to count in 2015!**

The services of the ELCA Foundation Gift Planner are complementary to all congregations and donors through the generous partnership of **your Synod, and the following:** Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministry, Camp Mt. Luther, Diakon, Gettysburg College, Lutheran Camping Corporation, Lutheran Campus Ministry at Penn State, Lutheran Theological Seminary-Gettysburg, Luthercare, Sequanota Camp and Conference Center, SpiriTrust Lutheran, and Susquehanna University.

Pastor Liz Polanzke, Gift Planner, Central PA ELCA Foundation

Council Concisely

Highlights from the Nov. 17, 2015 Congregation Council Meeting

At the November meeting, Council:

- discussed and approved a proposed budget for distribution to the congregation;
- prepared for the November 22 Congregational Budget Meeting;
- received an update from the Mission Planning Task Force;
- reviewed the guidelines for the Plischke Memorial Fund and made necessary changes to CELC's administration of the fund;
- approved a motion to record audio of sermons and portions of worship services for publication on social media and the church's website.

ADULT FORUM

Join us in adult education @ 9:15 for informative discussions!

December 6- *Theology, Cancer and Care* - Presented by: Gettysburg Seminary Students

December 13 - Christmas Poetry - Presented by Dr. Eric Crump

December 20 - *Christmas around the world!*

Starting January 3, 2016...The BUZZ is BACK! The Reverend, Dr. Buzz Myers will present a 6-week session on an introduction to the New Testament

GETTYSBURG CARES

January 25 –February 7: Through Gettysburg Cares (GC), our church has joined other churches in the community to provide emergency shelter for the homeless. We have been assigned the two-week period, Monday, 25 January, through Sunday, 7 February. We need volunteers to serve as guest hosts for each night of our two-week period. A guest host arrives at CELC about 8PM, prepares coffee and tea, sets up the registration table, and welcomes the overnight volunteers. When shelter guests arrive (with a GC staff person) around 8:45PM, the guest host, along with the overnight volunteers, welcomes the guests and shows them where to find their sleeping area, mattresses, blankets, etc. Guest hosts are encouraged to offer a brief devotional time with the guests, usually around 9:15-9:30PM, before locking and leaving the building (no later than 10:00PM).

Each new guest host is required to attend one training session (about 90 minutes) offered by Gettysburg Cares. Hosts who attended training session in previous years do not need to attend this year. The next training session is scheduled for:

Monday, 30 November, St. James Lutheran, 7:00PM (109 York St)

At the training session, you will receive some forms that must be completed and returned to the GC office prior to your volunteer service. If you plan to attend the Monday, 30 November, training session, please notify Martha Nelson (see below).

We are hopeful there will be a training session in January, but it has not yet been scheduled.

Sign-up sheet available on bridge: If you are interested in serving as a guest host during the two-week period, 25 January -7 February, please sign up for the night you would like to host. There is also a sign-up sheet for those who can help with this effort in other ways (see below). **Include your phone number and/or email address** to allow for future communications.

Other ways to help with Gettysburg Cares are:

- (1) serve as an overnight volunteer (there is a great need); training session provided
- (2) serve breakfast in the Gettysburg Soup Kitchen; training session provided
- (3) 25 January, morning: clear the social room of tables/chairs; unload mattresses
- (4) 8 February, morning: load mattresses; set up social room tables/chairs
- (5) 8 February, morning: wash blankets at laundromat to ready for next GC site
- (6) donate items needed for GC operations; list will be available in January

Please contact Martha Nelson if you have any questions or need additional information, 717-283-9472 (cell) or marthamkn@aol.com.

PRAYER CONCERNS

The following persons are dealing with health concerns and are in need of your prayers... Phyllis Hale, Carol Sieck, Charles Aurand, Nancy Forgang, Luke Shockey, Dennis Kendra, Christian Paul, John Sweeney, Connor Sullivan, David, Alexis Murry, Natalie Rimmer, Denise Krepley, Nancy Hardman, Jimmy Gibson, Ed Springer, Scott Bodner, Jerry Price, John Bohannon, Onalee Hall, Sherri Townsend, Blair Cruickshank, Jane Mountain, Keith Dorsey, Jerry Henderson, Tom Kellam, Bill Hartman, Paul Howe, Tom Howe, Matt Crawford, Bob Nester, Terry Slattery, Ronald Good, Robert Cummins, Scott Badger, John Sweeney, Christy Hemler, Mary Vogelsong, Abby McGaha, Hannah Greene and friends and families at the deaths of John Beegle and Frank Hoot

Please keep the following persons who reside in nursing homes and those are homebound in your prayers... Helen Bream, Melverda Hook, Jane Jones, Gladys Zech

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Given in memory of John Beegle by
Paul and Ann Eicholtz
Dolores Jordan
Suzanne Shealer
Jack and Carol Bream (Youth Group)

PASTORAL ACTS

Funerals: John D.L. Beegle died on October 28 with a funeral at Christ Lutheran Church on November 3, 2015 and interment at Evergreen Cemetery (Monahan Funeral Home).

Affirmation of Baptism and Reception of New Members: Clayton and Brenda Black, Lori Smyth (Whitney and Seth), and Jim Wright affirmed their baptism and were received as new members on All Saints Day, Nov 1.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/2 - Nate Bennett	12/12 - Emily Faust, Connor Wilson,	12/23 - Bill Creek, Ann Caulum
12/3 - Amelia Jarvinen	Tim Smith	12/24 - Peter Wolfe
12/5 - Leighton Rice, Paul Zeigler	12/14 - Mike Bennett	12/25 - Kim Do, Jacob Nelson
12/6 - Virgil Gibson	12/15 - Carol Sieck, Charles and	12/26 - Emma Blacksmith
12/8 - Erin Bennett	William Schroeder	12/28 - Jean Ropka
12/9 - Joseph Blaney,	12/18 - Abby Cogliano,	12/29 - Peggy Gibson,
Erik Schwartz	Linden Carbaugh	Renea Schroeder
12/10 - David Sayre, Tonia O'Donnell	12/19 - Matthew Schroeder	12/31 - Zachary Koontz,
12/11 - Michael Cogliano, Jan Mansir	12/20 - Cheri Stultz, Lily Folkemer	Adam Myers II
	12/21 - Brody Granger	

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Virgil and Peggy Gibson - December 16, 1967 Sean and Jill Titus - December 28, 2008

THANK YOU

Dear Christ Lutheran Church,

In the spirit of Thanksgiving and Christmas, we just wanted to express our sincere appreciation for all of the prayers and support during my Dad's lengthy hospitalization last year and following his death in June. We especially wanted to thank Pastor Herr for driving up to Hershey to attend my Dad's memorial service. We were immensely grateful for his thoughtfulness, time, and energy. My Dad was a wonderful man whom we miss terribly, and we were fortunate to have so many people praying for him and for us. Once again, thank you.

The Blaney Family (Jen, Joe, Abby, and Luke)

Dear Friends at Christ Church,

Thank you so very much for your prayers for healing for me. In July, 2008, I hosted a tick for a few days with the result that I got Lyme disease and some co-infections. I now know that I should have been more persistent about being cured. I did not understand how difficult it is to be rid of chronic Lyme and co-infections. As we — doctors and patients — learn more this current Lyme plague, I believe more patients will be cured of chronic Lyme, especially with the help of friends who pray for healing for others in need.

Sincerely, Pearl Hoffman