

NOVEMBER 29, 2020
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
467 MAIN ST., P. O. BOX 494
CONYNGHAM, PA 18219



REV. DEBORAH TAYLOR - PASTOR

Patterson Derr - Minister of Music

Cynthia Derr – Church Secretary/Congregation Council Secretary

Sexton – Margie Yost

Congregation Council – Helen Badamo, Elizabeth Bernstein (president), Sue Boyer, Donna Broadt, Louis DeAngelo, Tom DeRemer, Jean Frye (treasurer), Dave Getz, Jim Schneider, Jessica Thorne, Ken Welsh (vice-president), Mike Ziegler

Church Office - 788-1572

Fax – 570-788-2686 email - clcony@ptd.net

web site - clconyngham.org

Facebook - Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church Conyngham

NEPA Synod web page - nepasynod.org

Weekly Worship: Sunday @ 9:30am

Sunday School: 10:45am on Zoom

Welcome in the name of Christ, whose church this is! If you are seeking a church home, please notify the church office. Contact information is on the front of the bulletin.

To contact Pastor Deb, please call or text her cell @ 570-350-5115.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE: Hearing Assistive Devices are located on the table at the entrance to the worship space. An ADA Compliant restroom and changing station are located in the entrance hallway. A first aid kit, water, juice and snacks are in the kitchenette adjacent to the Parlor (main entrance room).

ABOUT COMMUNION: We are observing pew communion. Please pick-up a pre-filled communion set when you enter church. During worship you will be instructed when to partake of the elements.

FOR SECURITY: During worship, only the upper level main entrance doors are open- all other doors are locked.

Have any questions? An usher will be glad to help you!

In accordance to the Executive Order of the Commonwealth of PA, CDC and ELCA guidelines, indoor capacity of 40 people will be seated in the sanctuary, 40 people seated in Roth Hall and 20 people in the parlor where you can see and hear the service. Masks must be worn and social distancing observed.

CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
November 29, 2020
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9:30am Worship Service

PRELUDE

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

Paul Manz

GREETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

PLEASE STAND

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be God, Father, **+** Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose forgiveness is sure
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

PLEASE KNEEL OR BE SEATED

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Loving and forgiving God,

C **we confess that we are held captive by sin.
In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.
We have not welcomed the stranger;
we have not loved our neighbor;
we have not been Christ to one another.
Restore us, O God.
Wake us up and turn us from our sin.
Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

P People of God, hear this glad news:
by God's endless grace
your sins are forgiven, and you are free—
free from all that holds you back
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.
May you be strengthened in God's love,
✠ comforted by Christ's peace,
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

PLEASE STAND

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- A* Let us pray.
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

- P* We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
- C** Amen.

WORD

A READING FROM 1ST CORINTHIANS

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

L Please join in reading the Psalm - Congregation responses are in **bold** type

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

℟ Alleluia.

℣ **Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK THE 13th CHAPTER

℣ **Glory to you, O Lord**

Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

Jesus said: ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory.

²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

℟ The Gospel of the Lord.

℣ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

PLEASE BE SEATED

SERMON**Pastor Taylor****MUSICAL INTERLUDE****“All Earth Is Hopeful”****Oliver****HOLY BAPTISM**

P God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Lucas baptized into Christ?

Parents respond: I do.

P As you bring Lucas to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that Lucas may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Lucas grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents respond: I do.

P Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Lucas in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors respond: I do.

P People of God, do you promise to support Lucas and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

C We do.

PLEASE STAND

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C **I renounce them.**

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C **I renounce them.**

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C **I renounce them.**

P Do you believe in God the Father?

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C **I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

BAPTISM

P Lucas Tyler Frye , I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

**Blessed be God, the source of all life,
the word of salvation,
the spirit of mercy.**

P Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Lucas with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C Amen.

P Lucas , child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C Amen.

P Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

P Let us welcome the newly baptized.

C We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

PLEASE STAND

THE PRAYERS

A God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

A We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses. Especially we pray for Betty Lou, Jack, Shirley, Jean, Wilma, Lavina, Emily, Dawn, Mark, Ava, Bob, Theresa, Betsy, George, Melinda, Barbara, Anthony, Dina, Frank, Joanne, Elizabeth, Kay, Rich, Jack, Karen, Deanna, Clyde, Carol, Wayne, Rodney, Bonnie, Dottie, Amanda, Giovanni, Pauline, Jean, Carl, Neal, the Gonzales family and Larry. Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Please wave to each other or share the peace sign

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us take a moment to thank God and thank you for your offering that you place in the plates when you enter or leave the sanctuary.

A Generous God,
 you have created all that is,
 and you provide for us in every season.
 Bless all that we offer,
 that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.
 In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

C Amen

MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy God, the Beginning and the End,
our Salvation and our Hope,
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.
When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.
At this end of the ages
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love
and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
 his life, death, and resurrection,
 we await his coming again
 in righteousness and peace.
 Send your Spirit on us
 and on this bread and wine we share:
 strengthen our faith,
 increase our hope,
 and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.
 Through him all glory and honor is yours,
 Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
 in your holy Church,
 both now and forever.

C **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C **Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.**

COMMUNION

- P* Lamb of God,
C you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
P Lamb of God,
C you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION BLESSING

- P* The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in His grace.
C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A* Gracious and abundant God,
 you have done great things for us, and we rejoice.
 In this bread and cup you give us life forever.
 In your boundless mercy, strengthen us
 and open our hearts to the world's needs,
 for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

- P* The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
 the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
 the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,
 ✝ now and forever.
C Amen.

DISMISSAL

- P* Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE**“Finale”****Handel/arr. Wolff**

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Worship Helpers

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Asst. Minister | Jean Frye |
| Acolyte | |
| Reader | Cindy Derr |
| Greeters | |
| Ushers | |

The flowers are offered to the glory of God by Alan & Jane Houseknecht in memory of loved ones.

The bulletins are offered to the glory of God by Alan & Jane Houseknecht in memory of loved ones.

Next Weekend**December 6, 2020****THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT****9:30am Worship Service****10:45am Sunday School on Zoom****CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COORDINATOR NEEDED**

We are in need of someone (or 2 people) to oversee our Faith Formation program that includes Sunday School and VBS. This is a paid 10 hour per week position. A job description is available for anyone to see. Please contact Pastor Deb or the church office if you are interested.

CHRISTMAS PICTURES NEEDED

We are preparing a pre-recorded Christmas Eve service and are looking for pictures of your recent Christmas trees, decorations, family, home, etc. to use as a background as music is being played. We need these photos by **December 14th** and you can either e-mail them or drop them off at the church office. Mark your name on the back to have them returned.

CHRISTMAS BASKET ITEMS NEEDED FOR VALLEY FOOD PANTRY

Donations of all kinds of baking products are requested for the Christmas boxes i.e. white, brown and powdered sugars, flour, vanilla, baking powder, baking soda, etc. Please place your donations in the shopping cart inside the front door of the church by **Sunday December 13th**. Thanks!

ANGEL GIFTS

We have received Angel Gift cards through United Charities to help families fulfill their children's Christmas wishes. You may pick up a card(s) on the table in the front of the church weekdays from 8am-Noon, or call Cindy in the office to make arrangements to get one. The gifts must be returned to the church by **December 13th**. **The tag MUST be attached to the wrap gift. Please sign your name on the sheet provided so we know who has the gift tags.**

POINSETTIAS AND HUNGER RELIEF DONATIONS SOUGHT FOR CHRISTMAS

Orders for poinsettias are now being taken, There will NOT be a sign-up sheet. Please use the envelopes from the basket on the table in the narthex. And, make sure the information on the envelope is complete and clear. Place it in the offering plate or return to the church office. Fifty poinsettias will be purchased and the balance of money received will go to the Hunger Appeal. All gifts will be listed in the bulletin on Christmas Eve. The cost of a poinsettia is \$10.00, but any amount of your donation is appreciated. All donations must be in the church office by **Sunday December 13th**.

PLEASE NOTE:

New Sunday School material, for the new term that starts Sunday November 29th, is available for pick-up weekday mornings from 8am-Noon. Look for the material on the brown table, to the left, in the parlor.

Advent calendars are available to use during the season. They are on a table inside the front door of the parlor and may be picked up during office hours. Advent starts Sunday November 29th.

Individual communion cups are ready for pick up for you to use at home. They are inside the front door of the parlor and may be picked up during office hours. Please help yourself.

If you pre-ordered a book for the Advent Bible Study you may pick up the book during office hours. They are in the parlor.

If you cannot come to the church during the hours posted, please call the church office (570-788-1572) to make other arrangements.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HAS BEEN
RESCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY DECEMBER 6th. A
MAILING WILL COME WITH MORE INFORMATION.**

**YOU MAY COME AND WORSHIP FROM THE PARKING
LOT IN YOUR CAR**

If listening in the parking lot, please tune radio to 90.1FM

WE ARE LIVE!

FaceBook Live that is. Our Sunday morning 9:30am service is on our FaceBook page “Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church Congregation’ or catch the service on the website video tab using ‘clconyngham.org’. The bulletin is on the web site using the bulletin tab.