

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

467 Main Street

P. O. Box 494

CONYNGHAM, PA 18219

Church Office—570-788-1572

Fax - 570-788-2686

E-Mail - clccony@ptd.net

web site - clcconyngam.org

Facebook - Christ Lutheran Church Conyngham

NEPA Synod - nepasynod.org



THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

DECEMBER 2023

VOLUME 8

ISSUE 12

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

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Worship Schedule

10:30am Sunday Worship/Sunday School 9:15am

(9:30am Sunday Worship June-Labor Day-No Sunday school)

5:00pm Saturday Worship

We are:

The People of Christ Church - Ministers in the World

Our Staff:

Patterson Derr - Minister of Music/Treasurer

Cynthia Derr-Church Secretary/Cong. Council Secretary

Margie Yost - Sexton

Rev. Wayne Lupole—Designated Pastor

Congregation Council – Betty Anne Bernstein, Julia Bobrowski, Joyce Bradbury, Beth Brown, Barbara DeLong, Jean Frye, Deb Jones, Marty Kellow, Dave Kisenwether, Scott Steiner, Jessica Thorne(vice-president) and Ken Welsh (president)

MISSION STATEMENT

Christ Lutheran Church is a redeemed family of God's people empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the love of God in Jesus Christ in this community and in the world. As an active and growing congregation, we share ourselves, our time, and our possessions to serve the Lord by serving others. Inspired in worship, nurtured through teaching, supported with fellowship, and strengthened by prayer, we reach out to others with the Gospel, now and in future generations.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

We will have ONLY ONE Christmas Eve Service of communion and candle lighting at 7PM !!

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Please note the deadline for all articles, information, etc. for the January newsletter is **December 17th!!**

!!

WILLING WORKERS

Our annual Christmas party will be held **Tuesday, December 12th at 12:00pm** at Sally Purcell's Country Inn. If you have not paid for your dinner, please see Jean Frye with your \$30 payment. We are also collecting \$5.00 if you wish to contribute. The money collected will be donated to a family/someone in need. All women of the church are invited to join us for the luncheon. For more information, contact Deb Jones at 570-233-7675 or msjonesncc@gmail.com

Elections were held at our last meeting. The Willing Workers officers for 2024 are Deb Jones-President, Sue Oliver-Vice President, Cindy Derr-Secretary, and Jean Frye-Treasurer.

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VALLEY FOOD PANTRY CHRISTMAS BOXES

Our church has been asked to provide *canned sweet potatoes* this year. Please place your donation in the designated box in the foyer (not the grocery cart) by **December 10th**.

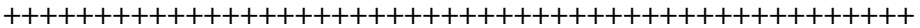
**POINSETTIAS AND HUNGER RELIEF DONATIONS
SOUGHT FOR CHRISTMAS**

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 parlor. 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 17th**.



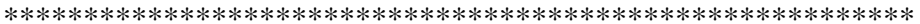
**HAVE THAT 'HARD TO BUY FOR' PERSON ON YOUR
CHRISTMAS LIST?**

Consider a gift to **ELCA GOOD GIFTS**. This includes *God's Global Barnyard* and many other areas for donations for health care, food, plants, bibles, books, etc. An order form with all the information is on the table in the narthex on how to order, who to make your check out to and where to send your order. Also, cards are on the table to allow you to tell the recipient of your gift. Any questions, see Cindy.



YEAR-END FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Please note – all donations for **2023 MUST** be in the church office by **Sunday December 30th** to appear on your **2023** statement. Thanks.

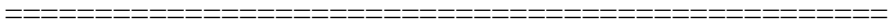


2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PICK UP YOUR **2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES**. THEY ARE ON THE TABLE IN THE PARLOR. Look for your name and number on the list provided.

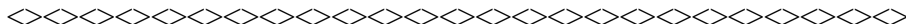
FAMILY FUN AND GAME NIGHT

All are invited to attend a Family Fun & Game Night on **Sunday December 10th from 5pm-??** in Roth Hall. We have a really great time. Feel free to bring your favorite game, a friend, and a snack to share. All ages are welcome-we hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please contact the Fryes (Chuck & Jean) at 570-788-5700 or Deb Jones at 570-233-7675



PRAYER LIST UPDATE

Our list for folks needing prayers is very long. That is okay as we will ALWAYS pray for those in need. But, sometimes through the blessing of healing, or a situation change, the individual's name can be removed from the list. *We will be updating our prayer list for the new year.* If you wish to have your name, or the name you have submitted for prayer, kept on the list please let the church office know by the end of December. The names of our homebound members will stay on the list.



“CASTING OUR NETS”

The next gathering of the “Casting Our Nets” ministry group will be on **December 3rd immediately after the 10:30am worship**. Feel free to see what this group is doing by joining in on the 3rd. The gathering usually lasts about 1 hour, but if you have to leave earlier that's OK! All are welcome.

NEED A RIDE?

Would you like to come to church or go to a church event but are unable to get there on your own, especially at night?

Currently, this need is being assessed. Please call Dawn Whitfield (570-788-3256) or Betsy Fisher (570-788-6611) if you would be interested in getting a ride,

Also, if you are willing to possibly help provide transportation, let Dawn or Betsy know.

.....

GOT A NATIVITY SET?

To help celebrate the Festival of Epiphany on January 7, 2024 special plans are being made. One part of our celebration, which commemorates the coming of the Magi, would be to have a display of Nativity sets/scenes from our members. Any Nativity set would be part of the display, but those including the Wise Men would especially add to our celebration! Do you have one (or 2 or 3 or 4) that you would like to be a part of the display? Look for more details in the weeks ahead!

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

December 2nd – Christkindlfest at Christ Lutheran Church, Hazleton. 11am-3pm. Concert by the Hazleton Philharmonic at 4pm.

December 3rd – CVHS A Vintage Christmas House Tour. 1pm-4pm
Tickets are \$10. See poster on bulletin board for places to purchase tickets. Refreshments at Boro Building.

December 3rd – Hazleton Liberty Band Christmas Concert at Historic Eckley Village. 2PM.

NEW THIS YEAR
LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR ADVENT

Prepare the way! Advent is a time to reflect on prophesies and events that foreshadow the coming of Christ.

On Wednesday, December 6th, there will be a time of fellowship and preparation featuring a Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent. The evening begins at 6:00 PM with a ‘potluck’ dinner in Roth Hall. Lessons and Carols begin at 7:00 PM. Everyone, of all ages, is invited. Please feel free to attend the service even if you can’t make the dinner.

The Good News Translation of the Bible is the source for our readings. We begin with the Lord’s Prayer and continue with the prophesies of Isaiah. We will move to Luke and the angel Gabriel’s message to Mary, then to Matthew for the announcement of the birth of Jesus. Advent would not be complete without the story, from Mark, of John the Baptist. We will close with words of assurance, from Romans, of the love of God through Christ.

Take some time away from the busyness and business of this season to be calmed and refreshed with the words and music of Advent.

Jesus is coming and soon will be here!

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER

Holden Evening Prayer can best be described as a service of light and warmth.

For the third year in a row, we will experience it during the short days and cold nights of Advent, this year on Wednesday, December 13th at 7:00 PM, preceded by a ‘potluck’ dinner at 6:00 PM. Everyone, of all ages, is invited. Feel free to attend the service even if you can’t make the dinner.

Holden Evening Prayer was written by composer Marty Haugen during the winter of 1986 while he was at Holden Village, a remote wilderness community, rooted in the Lutheran tradition, in the North Cascade mountains of Washington state.

Please plan to attend and enjoy a calming evening with words and music reminiscent of a winter stay in a remote mountain community.

THE DATES ARE SET AND HELP IS NEEDED

Our annual Living Nativity will be held Saturday December 2nd & Sunday December 3rd from 5pm-7pm each evening.

Sign-up sheets are on the table in the parlor for the many areas where help is needed, such as outside set-up, supplies needed and cookies and snacks for the nights of the Nativity along with the poster boards for the scenes on the bulletin board in the back of the church.

MARK THESE DATES!

SET-UP:

Saturday December 2nd at 9am
Sunday December 3rd at 2pm

CLEAN-UP:

Saturday December 2nd at 7pm
Sunday December 3rd at 7pm

FINAL CLEAN-UP:

Saturday December 9th at 9am

COSTUMES AND OTHER JOBS:

Thursday November 30th at 9am

Please mark your calendars and see where you can help before, during and after the Living Nativity

PARTICIPANTS: PLEASE ARRIVE 1/2 HOUR BEFORE YOUR SHIFT TO GET INTO COSTUME

PARK AT THE UCC CHURCH LOT ACROSS THE STREET!

Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, “What exactly is a Stephen Minister?”

One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the After People.

Stephen Ministers are there:

- * after the phone call you hoped you’d never get.
- * after the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you’ve held at bay come crashing in on you.
- * after the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life.
- * after the doctor says, “I’m sorry, but there’s nothing more we can do.”
- * after the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, “Welcome to your new home.”
- * after the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.
- * after the gavel comes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- * after the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- * after you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- * after your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the After People. They are ready to come alongside you to provide comfort and support for as long after as needed.

James tells us that the prayers of righteous people are powerful and effective (James 5:16). During the coming month, we invite you to pray for our congregation’s Stephen Ministry, especially for God to touch the hearts of those called to serve as Stephen Ministers. For more information please contact Deb Jones at 570-233-7675 or msjonesncc@gmail.com

WORSHIP HELPERS – DECEMBER 2023 – 10:30AM

December 3

Asst. Minister	Cindy Thorne
Acolyte	Hadley brutosky
Reader	Sandy Fairchild
Comm. Asst.	Marty Kellow
Ushers	Ken & Mabel Welsh

December 10

Asst. Minister	Russ Nyblade
Acolyte	Addison Bobrowski
Reader	Barry Simmons
Comm. Asst.	Margie Yost
Ushers	Craig Dillman & Rick Walck

December 17

Asst. Minister	Nancy Centrella
Acolyte	Elizabeth Davis
Reader	Marian Jaxheimer
Comm. Asst.	Cindy Thorne
Ushers	Ken Ikeda & Sue Oliver

December 24

Asst. Minister	Fred Jaxheimer
Acolyte	Eden James
Reader	Bonnie Floryshak
Comm. Asst.	Shirley Ikeda
Ushers	Cindy & Tom Thorne

December 24 – Christmas Eve

7:00pm Service

Asst. Minister	Ashley Marsicano
Acolyte	Julia Bobrowski
Reader	Ashley Marsicano
Communion Asst.	Dave Getz & Tom Toth
Ushers	Joanne & Dave Getz

December 31

Asst. Minister	Tom Toth
Acolyte	Addison Bobrowski
Reader	Tom Toth
Ushers	Fred & Marian Jaxheimer

WORSHIP HELPERS SATURDAY 5:00PM

December 2 – no service-Living Nativity

December 9

Reader	Deb Jones
Acolyte	Dennis Mallams
Ushers	Deb Jones & Dennis Mallams
Comm. Asst.	Deb Jones

December 16

Reader	Deb Jones
Acolyte	Dennis Mallams
Ushers	Deb Jones & Dennis Mallams
Comm. Asst.	Deb Jones

December 23

Reader	Karen Kuba
Acolyte	Tom Chegwidden
Ushers	Carol & Will Samler
Comm. Asst.	Tom Chegwidden

December 30

Reader	Nancy Lockwood
Acolyte	Scott Steiner
Ushers	Scott & Lori Steiner

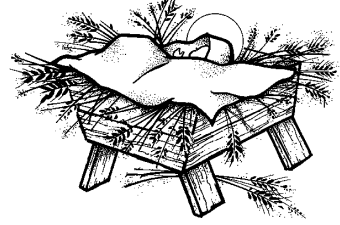
DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12/17 Ed & Penny Boyer
Frank & Barb Gaval

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 12/1 Ed Boyer
12/2 Dylan Keck
12/3 Chris Krystopa
12/4 Stephen Belusko
Robert Broadt
Lisa Budgeon
Llewellyn Dryfoos IV
Robert Hall
Kaitlyn Hyduke
12/6 Gracie Rockovich
12/7 Michelle Shuman
12/8 Grace Boyer
Dawn Whitfield
12/10 Brooke Boretski
12/12 Carin Daugherty
12/13 Don Stefanick
12/14 Rick Centrella
12/15 Jeff Marincin
Jeanne Sacco
Jarrod Smith
12/16 Zachary DeRemer
Justin Whitebread
12/21 Chip Fairchild
12/22 Ann Carsia
12/23 Lydia Topolski
12/24 Madison Buchert
Thomas Pecora
12/26 Jane Houseknecht
12/28 Pauline Baymor
Danielle Mariano
Tim Russell
12/30 Grete Floryshak
Kristy Hall
Jerilyn Schade
Susan Sheer
12/31 Tom Chegwidden

THE
LITTLE LORD JESUS
ASLEEP ON THE HAY



Who will carry the baby Jesus to the manger on Christmas Eve?

A children's procession with the Christ child to our manger scene in the front of the church will be held at the 7:00pm service on Christmas Eve. Leading the procession will be one of the children of the parish who carries the Christ child in his or her arms. The name of the child who will be this year's bearer of the Christ child will be drawn during the worship service on Sunday morning, December 18th. In order to have your child considered for this special honor, please fill out the little form below, cut it off and place it in the box on the narthex table before the 10:30am service on the 18th. *Your child must be in 4th grade or younger to be eligible and you should know for sure that you will be attending the 7:00pm service on Christmas Eve.*

Here is my entry to be placed in the box from which will be chosen the names of the first choice and alternate to carry the baby Jesus to the manger on Christmas Eve during the 7:00pm service.

NAME _____ **AGE** _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

THE
LITTLE LORD JESUS
ASLEEP ON THE HAY



12/1 Ed Hoyer
12/2 Dylan Keck
12/3 Chris K...
12/4 Stephen...



November 6th, 2023

Dear Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous donation to the Heartwood Center Donors like you are vital to the continued success of our mission to provide resources for those experiencing homelessness, housing, and food insecurity. We are grateful for your support.

On November 6th, 2023, you contributed a check made to the Willow Foundation for 750.00 dollars.

As a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (EIN #86-1955418), every donation makes an impact, and we are so thankful for your support.

No goods or services were exchanged for your contribution, and your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent permitted by law. Please retain this letter for your tax records.

Thank you again for your dedication to The Heartwood Center and for helping us continue to help those in need. We're excited to continue partnering with you!

Sincerely,

Your Friends at The Heartwood Center

Tamea Heneghan ;)



United Charities, Inc.
UNITED CHILDREN'S HOME

107 West Madison Ave. West Hazleton, PA 18201
Phone: (570)455-1529 Fax: (570)455-0772

November 7, 2023

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 494
Conyngham, PA 18219

Dear Pastor and Parishioners:

Thank you so much for your very generous monetary donation to United Charities, Inc. Your generosity is so deeply appreciated and truly demonstrates your commitment to the community and the agency.

Your kindness is greatly appreciated. Thanks again for thinking of us!

Sincerely,

Jill Zapotocky, BS
Executive Director

*With ever grateful
many blessings*

JZ/jc

Donation: \$1,500.00

We have not provided you with any goods or services in exchange for this contribution. Please retain this document for your records. It is an important document necessary for any available federal income tax deduction for this contribution.



VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Medical Center
1111 East End Boulevard
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711

In Reply Refer To: 693/002/135

November 8, 2023

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
PO Box 494
Conyngham, PA 18219

Dear Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church:

On behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, please accept our heartfelt thanks for the donation of \$500.00, check #0000975474. Enclosed you will find the receipt for your donation.

Per your request, your donation has been deposited into the Community Living Center account. This fund is used in a variety of ways that support our Veteran patients including bingos and holiday celebrations. We are so thankful to our donors who provide these niceties to our Veterans. Again, thank you for your continued support of America's heroes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amie O'Malia".

Amie O'Malia
Chief, Center for Development and
Civic Engagement

Enclosure

In accordance with VHA Directive 4721, we are required to state "The Department of Veterans Affairs did not provide you, the donor, any goods or services in consideration in whole or part for your contribution."



**PENNSYLVANIA
WOUNDED WARRIORS, INC.**

1013 Mumma Road, Suite 203, Wormleysburg, PA 17043

Ph: (717) 761-4017

Ph: 855-729-9435 Fax: (717) 260-3622

Email info@pawoundedwarriors.org

www.pawoundedwarriors.org



November 10, 2023

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
P O Box 494
467 Main Street
Conyngham, PA 18219

Dear Members of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church ,

Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors, Inc is honored that our organization has been chosen to receive your very generous donation for veteran assistance. This donation was received with your check #975472 in the amount of \$1,000.00. Thank you for your generous support of our Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors.

We are an all-volunteer, 501-C-3, non-profit, statewide organization with a very small percentage of our budget going to administration costs. Your donation will go directly to help our Wounded Warriors in Pennsylvania, their families and Veterans in emergency need situations. When we receive a call for help from VA hospital case workers, chaplains, Veteran social workers/organizations we strive to respond within 48 hours.

**"Those who risk their lives in combat in the defense of our nation,
deserve a place of honor above all others in our society.
For you see, their courage has made everything else possible for us."**

Major General Gerald T. Sajer

Dear Member,

Thank you for honoring our brave soldiers. *Your Veterans Day gift means so much to them!*

Blessings to all of you.

Most Sincerely,

Helen Sajer

Helen Sajer, President

President
Helen Sajer
helensajer@icloud.com

Vice President
Gordon Weith

Secretary
Dan Ocho

Treasurer
MG (Ret) Randall Marchi, CPA, CFE

Assistant Treasurer
Tom Wolfe

*If your donation check was not written to
Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors, Inc., explicitly,
and our organization was not your intent,
please notify us in writing immediately*

No Goods or Services Were Provided in Exchange for Your Contribution

LTG (Dec) David Grange
MG (Dec) William Burns
MG (Ret) John C. Faith
MG (Dec) Gerald T. Sajer,
MG (Ret) Tom Jones, U
BG (Dec) Joseph McCarthy, U
COL (Ret) Ray Angelli,
COL (Ret) John A. Hugya, U



CHRISTMAS

Address Changes

Has your address changed or will it be changing? If so please take a moment to fill out this form and return it to the church. You may mail it, put it in the collection plate or place it in the secretary's mailbox outside the office door.

Thank you for helping keep our mailing list up to date.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Birthday/Anniversary Date Information

Name _____

Birth _____/_____/_____

Wedding Anniversary Date _____/_____/_____

Please help us keep our birthday and anniversary dates up to date. If you do not see your special date noted on the birthday/anniversary page, please use this form to let us know. Return the form to the office or drop it in the collection plate. We want to be sure to include everyone's birthday and/or anniversary in the newsletter and we apologize if yours may have been missed.

December 2023

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
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