

**DECEMBER 31, 2023**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**  
**10:30am**  
**CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**467 MAIN ST., P. O. BOX 494**  
**CONYNGHAM, PA 18219**



**Church Office - 788-1572**  
**Fax – 570-788-2686      email - clccony@ptd.net**  
**clcpicstogo@gmail.com**  
**web site - clcconyngham.org**  
**Facebook - Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church Conyngham**  
**NEPA Synod web page -nepasynod.org**

**Weekly Worship:    Saturday @ 5:00pm**  
**Sunday @ 10:30am**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

**Christ Evangelical 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.**

**Patterson Derr - Minister of Music/Treasurer**

**Cynthia Derr – Church Secretary/Congregation Council Secretary**

**Sexton – Margie Yost**

**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)**

**Designated Pastor – Rev. Wayne Lupole**

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.

**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).

**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!

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. You may also commune with what you have handy at home; bread, crackers, juice, wine, etc.

Our Sunday morning 10:30am service is on our FaceBook page “Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church Congregation’ or catch the service on the website video tab using ‘clcconyngham.org’. The bulletin is on the web site using the bulletin tab.

**CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2023**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**  
**10:30am Worship Service**

**PRELUDE**

**“Hard! The Herald Angels Sing”**

**Mendelssohn – arr. Joel Rainey**

*4 Hands – 1 piano*

*Amanda Derr and Patterson Derr*

**GREETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE**

**GATHERING**

**DIALOG**

- P* The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light
- C** **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- P* Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.
- C** **We have beheld Christ’s glory, glory as of the only Son of the Father.**
- P* To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
- C** **In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

- P* The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- A* Let us pray.
- Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

PLEASE BE SEATED

## WORD

### LESSONS AND CAROLS – JOIN IN SINGING

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

**ELW #272** “Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming” (verses 1 & 2)

Lo, how a rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse’s lineage coming as seers of old have sung,  
It came, a flow’r so bright, amid the cold of winter,  
when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind:  
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God’s love aright, she bore to us a Savior,  
when half-spent was the night.

Second Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

**ELW #279** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (verses 1 & 4)

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray:  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell:  
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Third Reading: Luke 1:26-38

**ELW #296      “What Child Is This” (verses 1 & 3)**

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
 Whom angels great with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
 This, this, is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
 Haste, haste, to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.  
 The King of Kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;  
 Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

Fourth Reading: Luke 2:1-7

**ELW #278      “Away in a Manger” (all verses)**

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
 the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
 The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
 the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,  
 but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
 I love you, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
 and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
 Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
 Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
 and fit us for heaven to live with you there.

Fifth Reading: Luke 2:8-20

**ELW #290      “Go Tell It on the Mountain” (all verses)**

*Refrain:* Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

The shepherds feared and trembles when lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth. *Refrain*

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Sixth Reading: Luke 2:21-36

**ELW #417      “In His Temple Now Behold Him” (verses 1 & 3)**

In his temple now behold him,  
see the long-expected Lord;  
ancient prophets had foretold him,  
God has sent the promised Word.  
Now to praise him, his redeemed shall break forth with one accord.

Jesus, by your presentation,  
when they blessed you weak and poor,  
make us see your great salvation,  
seal us with your promise sure;  
and present us, in your glory, to the Father, cleansed and pure.

Seventh Reading: Matthew 2:1-11

**ELW #300      “The First Noel” (all verses)**

*Refrain:* Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!

Born is the King of Israel.

The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep. *Refrain*

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the East beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

And by the light of that same star  
three wisemen came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

This star drew near to the northwest,  
o’er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

Then entered in those wise men three,  
full rev’rently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

Eighth Reading: Mathew 2:13-18

**WOV #639      “Oh, Sleep Now, Holy Baby” (all verses)**

*Refrain:* A la ru, a la me, a la ru. a la me,  
a la ru, a la me, a la ru, al a ru, a la me.

Oh, sleep now, holy baby,  
with your head against my breast,  
meanwhile the pangs of my sorrow  
are soothed and put to rest. *Refrain*

You need not fear King Herod,  
he will bring no harm to you;  
rest in the arms of your mother  
who sings you a la ru. *Refrain*

Ninth Reading: John 1:1-14

**ELW #267      “Joy to the World” (verses 1 & 4)**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love.

**OFFERING**

**MUSIC AT THE OFFERING**

**“Silent Night’**

**setting by Joel Rainer**

*4 Hands – 1 piano*

*Amanda Derr and Patterson Derr*

**PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE**



## RESPONSIVE PRAYER

*A* Glory to God in the Highest.

**C And peace to God's people on earth.**

*A* Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

**C Send your gift of peace to all the nations of the world.**

*A* Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

**C Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.**

*A* Blessed are you Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

**C Reveal yourself to us in this word that we may bear your light to all the world.**  
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**

## SENDING

## BENEDICTION

*P* God bless you and keep you,  
✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth,  
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,  
now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN****“Good Christians Friends, Rejoice”****ELW(red) #288****DISMISSAL**

**P** Christ the Savior is born!  
 Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE****“Improvisation on ‘In Dulci Jubilo’”****arr. Michael Barker**

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The flowers are offered to the glory of God by Rebecca Shuman and family in memory of Dale.

The bulletins are offered to the glory of God by Sue & Steven Boyer in memory of Don Boyer.

Acolyte	Addison Bobrowski
Asst. Minister	Tom Toth
Readers	Tom Toth, Cindy Derr
Ushers	Fred & Marian Jaxheimer

**Calendar of Events for the Week of December 31, 2023**

Monday-		New Years' Day
Tuesday -	9:00am	Stephen Ministry Supervision
Wednesday-	11:00am	Bible Study
	7:00pm	Bible Study
Thursday –	5:00pm	Karate
	6:30pm	AA Meeting
Friday		
Saturday-		

**Next Weekend:****January 6 & 7, 2024****EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD****Saturday 5pm Service****Sunday at 10:30am****Sunday School at 9:15am**

### **PASTORAL CARE**

If you are in need of pastoral care or wish a visit, please contact the church office at 570-788-1572, email [clccony@ptd.net](mailto:clccony@ptd.net). In case of emergencies, you can also reach Cindy at 570-788-3708 or 570-579-7732 or Pastor Lupole at 570-708-1690.

### **OUR PRAYER LIST**

Betty Lou, Shirley, Jean, Wilma, Dawn, Bob, Betsy, George, Barbara, Frank, Patt, Dennis, Viola, Sandy, Kim, Maryanne, Rich, Eileen, Justin, Samantha, Emily, Jarrod, Amanda, Dawn, Nancy, Rob, Violet, Scarlet. Robbie, Seth, Josh, Dick, Tom, Judi, Rodney, Pauline, Tom, Anita, Jorge, Alex, Todd, Sue, Alma, Chuck, Bridger, Madison, Brandon & family, John, Emma, Glen, Patti, Bob, Courtney, Jean, Michelle, Mikos, Marian, Ralph, Mike, Doug, Dolores, Gene, and Ellen. A copy of the prayer list is on the bulletin board in the parlor for you to take home.

**2024 GIVING ENVELOPES ARE IN THE PARLOR.  
PLEASE PICK UP YOUR PACKET.**

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED**

Dates are open for volunteers to teach Sunday School in 2024. Open dates are: **March 17, April 14, 21 & 28 and May 12, 19, & 26 for the Pre-K-4<sup>th</sup> grade class and January 14 & 21, February 11 & 18, March 10 & 17 and May 12 for the 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade class..** Please consider helping by picking one of the dates. All material is provided. See the sign-up sheet on the table in the parlor.

### **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.*

### **DEVOTIONS ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE**

Have you seen and read the devotional prayers that are posted periodically on our congregation's Facebook page? Hopefully, when you read them, you will find encouragement and a sense of God's peace as you go about your daily life,

### **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.

### **LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE**

LDR is asking for gifts to help with the recent disasters and wars. The survivors need our support. Checks may be sent to:

Lutheran Disaster Response

P. O. Box 1809

Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

*If you send a check to our church, please make sure it is marked for LDR.*

### **STEPHEN MINISTRY**

Christ caring for people through people. This is the motto of Stephen Ministry. The Stephen Minister's role is to bring God's love into the lives of people who are going through a difficult time or experiencing a crisis. What do Stephen Ministers do? They listen, care, support, encourage, and pray with and for a person who is hurting. And in the midst of this confidential, one-to-one, caring relationship, God's healing love comes pouring through. If the Spirit is moving you to learn more about this ministry, please talk with Deb Jones or any of our Stephen Ministers.

### **CASTING OUR NETS**

The next gathering of Casting Our Nets ministry group will be on **Sunday January 14<sup>th</sup>** immediately following the worship service. Please feel free to join in on the 14<sup>th</sup>!

### **WILLING WORKERS**

The Willing Workers will meet on **Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm**. We will be discussing and planning for events in the upcoming year. Yearly membership dues of \$5.00 will be collected. All women of the church are invited to attend. For more information, contact Deb Jones at 570-233-7675 or msjonesncc@gmail.com

## **EPIPHANY CELEBRATION PLANNED**

Do you have a Nativity set(s) that you would like to be on display at our Epiphany Celebration on **January 7<sup>th</sup>**? Would you like to share some good food and fellowship at a light lunch that day after church? If the answer is yes, look in the church parlor for the sign-up sheet.

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING ON JANUARY 7<sup>th</sup>**

This year we are not going to let Epiphany come and go without a celebration! Plan to be a part of the festivities. Humphrey the camel will be here during Sunday School, there will be a display of church members' Nativity sets, there will be a children's sermon during worship and then lunch and fellowship time. Invite someone to come with you! Everyone is welcome! Don't let the "post-Christmas blahs" set in and help get 2024 off to a great start by being in Sunday School and church on **January 7<sup>th</sup>**!

## **HERE IS HOW TO GET YOUR NATIVITY SET (SETS) DISPLAYED**

Please bring your Nativity set(s) to Roth Hall on **Saturday January 6<sup>th</sup> between 10am-Noon**. Volunteers will be there to help with setting things up for the display.

After lunch on **Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup>** anyone who brought a Nativity set will be responsible for dismantling and packing up whatever they brought to display and will take it home with them that day. The goal is to have everyone's Nativity set kept safe and with its owner. Don't miss this special day here at our church! Help spread the good news that Jesus is the Light of the World.

## **FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**

Please note the deadline for all articles, information, etc. for the February newsletter is **January 21<sup>st</sup>!!**

### **SOUP SALE**

Our annual soup sale is taking place **Saturday January 27<sup>th</sup> with pick-up from Noon-2pm**. Call the church office mornings at 570-788-1572, Joyce Bradbury at 570-788-5372 or use the order form on the table in the back of the church. **Order deadline will be Saturday January 20<sup>th</sup> or until sellout (some restaurants donate a certain number of quarts)**. Soup is \$9.00 per quart and Chili is \$12.00 per quart. **A list of the kinds of soup will be available very soon.** There will be Apple Dumplings for sale at \$5.00 each.

### **THE ANNUAL PORK AND SAUERKRAUT DINNER**

will be held **Saturday February 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3:00pm-7:00pm**. The dinner will **be served both in-house and take-out**. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and younger. You may call Mary Lou Keck at 453-5969 or the church office at 788-1572 weekdays between 9am-Noon to make reservations. Sales at the door are limited as to prior sales. You may also purchase tickets at the church office. *Cakes are needed for desserts. Please see the sign-up sheet.*

### **2024 FLOWERS AND BULLETIN SPONSOR CHARTS ARE AVAILABLE**

Look for the sign-up charts on the bulletin board in the parlor to choose your dates to sponsor. Special flower pieces need to be ordered through the office (i.e. altar piece).

**A BLESSED, HAPPY AND  
HEALTHY NEW YEAR  
TO ALL!**



## CHRISTMAS

## Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

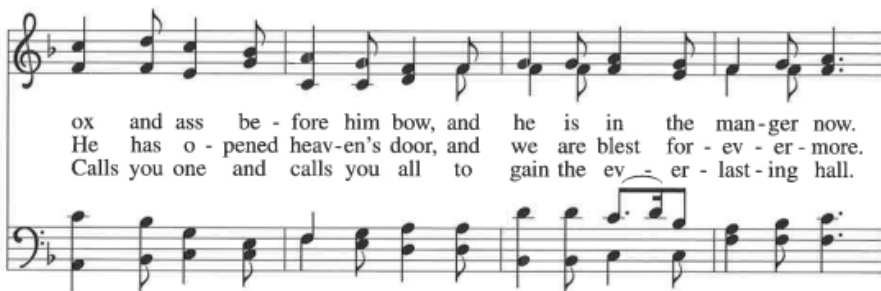
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1 Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je-sus Christ is born to-day;  
 now ye hear of end-less bliss: Je-sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je-sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be-fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.  
 He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for-ev-er-more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev-er-last-ing hall.



Christ is born to-day! Christ is born to-day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!