

*We are called to be the Body of  
Christ for West Cobb*

EST 1984

beginning a new year  
with a good guide on our side  
the star of Jesus  
which shows us safe roads  
fills our hearts with his grace  
best wishes for the new year

[www.christmas-new-year-wishes.com](http://www.christmas-new-year-wishes.com)



# Christ Lutheran Church - January 2018

## Happy New Year!

January 1<sup>st</sup> is a magical time of year. Even though it's just a new day it can feel like a new beginning, a new start. In our baptismal theology, we have this understanding also; in baptism, we become a new creation in Christ. The old creation is put to death, and we are given the gift of eternal life through Christ. This is good news especially on January 2<sup>nd</sup>: when we begin the New Year, it seems like we have good efforts to start out so well. Gym memberships go up, all the latest diet plans come out, and if you look around the stores they're full of ways to organize all the stuff you just got from Christmas, which is going to make your life better. Ultimately the hopes and dreams will fade over time as life continues to be busy. This is when it's important to be able to remember your baptismal promises.

In our baptism, we are made into this new creation, and it has a fail-safe measure built in. Unlike January 1<sup>st</sup> which only comes around once a year, baptismal renewal can happen *daily*. Daily we get a refresher of God's love mercy and grace, which can help us especially in those times when we're confronted with our feeble humanity.

It can be helpful to find ways to remind yourself of these daily promises. One way to remember is to find something in your daily routine and add a reminder in. When you are brushing your teeth, sing Jesus loves me quietly or in your head (your dentist will also thank you for brushing longer if you sing all three verses!). Or maybe around bedtime or meal time, as you prepare to sleep or eat, find a quick way to pay

attention to God's grace from these gifts that are given to you. We all seem to charge the battery of some technology or other during the day; try taking a piece of tape to the end of the charger that says, "love," "power" or "grace." These will remind you of God's love that gives you the power to overcome obstacles with grace.

Even if you forget to do this throughout the year, the best part is that every day you get a new start, a renewed chance, another go of it. This is not a task to add to your to-do list; it's a moment of celebration and life in a world that can so often seem dark. Our Lutheran understanding believes that God gives us his grace every day even if we don't ask for it, or sometimes think we deserve it.

As we set out for 2018 as a church, we have some exciting moments of celebration and life up ahead for this consistently changing creation at CLC. We have plans to send servant learning trips to Kenya and New Orleans; we are expanding our staff to encourage the faith growth of our children. Together we are setting our sights on ways in which God will continue to use us to accomplish mission and ministry.

Happy New Year! May you feel the rich love of the baptismal waters each and every day in 2018.

God's Peace - Pastor Tim

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## **Greetings Church Family-**

As we end 2017 and enter into 2018, it is natural to reflect on the past year. It has been a year of significant change in the world, in our community, in our congregation, writhing our families, and for all of us personally. While the pace of change seems dizzying and at times difficult to make sense of, I'm comforted by the reflection that God has a plan for us. His plan is one that surpasses all understanding, but that certainly doesn't stop us from trying! And His plan has brought us all together, something certainly worthy of celebration! Thanks be to God!

Happy New Year!

Mike Mahler

## **Budget & Finance**

### **Financial Summary (as of November 30, 2017)**

Year to date income:	\$249,246
Year to date expenses:	<u>\$237,592</u>
Year to date net income:	<b>\$11,655</b>

Year to date expenses as a percent of annual budget: **92%**

Checking/Money Market Balance:	\$94,462
Mission Investment Fund:	<u>\$20,119</u>
Total Cash Balance	<b>\$114,581</b>

Mortgage balance:	<b>\$151,102</b>
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## **Stewardship Ministry**

I am struggling with how quickly 2017 came and went. Maybe a few of you are thinking the same thing. As we start off 2018, let's take a moment to look back and review the past year. See what we need to do to improve the year ahead. I know for me this task can be a challenge and not a whole lot of fun.

It is a new year, and most of us will start by making resolutions. We often make these resolutions to change something in our lives, to get a new start. It might be going to the gym, spend more time with family or maybe to lose those few extra pounds. These resolutions generally focus on changes that involve a negative point or activity in our lives.

Maybe we can reduce the level of stress and the negative focus if we take a moment to think about how resolutions are a part of stewardship. I mentioned last month about being a good steward of our time was important. At this time of resolutions, stewardship is much more of how we manage all aspects of our lives. Resolutions can give us the opportunity to hit the reset button. Understanding where to focus those resolutions will help.

Stewardship resolutions are going to focus on church, society, and family. It is important to understand that stewardship covers these areas of our life. If we sit down and ask ourselves a few difficult questions about how we give to society and family, we might stumble a little but not struggle. We seem to manage and understand these areas well. The struggle or more challenging comes with the church.

As Christians, God calls us to serve Him by serving our neighbor. The making of disciples is the work of the Holy Spirit through the Grace of God. In stewardship, God provides us the opportunities to participate in His work. Make a stewardship resolution this year to at least once find something that moves you. Allow the Holy Spirit to work through you and feel God's Grace at work. Consider one of the many opportunities going on within our own church family. Open your heart to hear God's word.

2 Corinthians 9:7 – Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Watching God Work,

Artie Kappel

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### **Fellowship Committee:**

Greetings,

Our 2nd annual Christmas Bash was a great success. I was sorry to have missed it but am told that everyone in attendance had a great time. I hope everyone had a very blessed Christmas and enjoyed their New Year's Eve celebration.

As we embark on a new year I look forward to having another wonderful year of events. I want to thank Lisa Fallin, my co-chair, for all her help this year and for stepping in when I was not able. I also want to thank everyone who helped with setting up, cleaning and contributing to all the events last year. You are so very much appreciated.

Lois and Lisa 😊

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### **Witness/Evangelism Committee:**

A smile, a hello, and a cookie treat,  
Offer our visitors more than something good to eat!!

They don't come back because we are the best,  
They want to know why we are unlike all the rest!!

The difference is Christ Lutheran is all heart,  
That is what truly sets our church apart!!

By twenty-seven we grew last year,  
Because you can't help but want to worship here!!

So keep welcoming with a grin,  
And we will see what 2018 brings in!!

Happy New Year!!

Unleashing Salt and Light,  
Tiffany (with Joe, Braden, and Evan's help!) Sorrentino

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**Social Ministry:**

New Years' Greetings from your Social Ministry Committee. First of all thank you so much to all of you who volunteered/participated in any of our 2017 programs. You all have been AWESOME! We will be starting 2018 with our first meeting on Tuesday, January 9th at 7 PM. Come out and join us! For more info, contact me at 7702863070.

Betsey Ellingsen

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**Mutual Ministry Committee:**

2017 was an incredibly blessed year for Christ Lutheran! It has been an honor to serve on council this past year, and I'm looking forward to what 2018 will bring. We currently have 2 openings on Mutual Ministry Committee and would welcome others to join us as we guide our ministry for CLC.

Peace,

Tom Mabry

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### **2018 Hunger Walk**

This year's Hunger Walk is scheduled for Sunday, February 25th at the Georgia World Congress Center at 2:00 PM. We will meet after the 11:00 service in the church parking lot, and car pool to the event. The Hunger Walk/Run benefits six local hunger relief organizations that operate and support hundreds of food pantries, shelters, community kitchens, senior centers and child care centers across metro Atlanta and north Georgia. We are designating our proceeds to Lutheran Services of Georgia.

This year we are forming a single team to represent CLC ("Christ Lutheran Church West Cobb"). Please register to join our team (or donate online) at [HungerWalkRun.org](http://HungerWalkRun.org).

We appreciate all the support from the CLC congregation to help give back to our community, in both West Cobb and greater Atlanta!

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Reserve your spot now for **Christ Lutheran's Women's Retreat** here are the details:

Where: Wild Women's Weekend at Lutheridge, Arden, NC (just outside of Asheville, NC)

When: Friday, March 16-18, 2018

Cost: \$220

Study: Superwomen in the Bible - explore expectation (others and our own), guilt, and the call/power of God to find/be ourselves

Go to Lutheridge.com to register, make sure you register with Jenni VanRensselaer listed as group leader

You don't want to miss this beautiful weekend in the mountains of Asheville, NC, welcome in Spring 2018 by blooming spiritually and growing with God.

Questions?? Please do not hesitate to ask Jenni VanRensselaer 678-834-3877/[javanr929@gmail.com](mailto:javanr929@gmail.com) or Lisa Fallin 404-290-3775

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**Quilt Group:**

Quilt Group will **NOT** be meeting this Monday, January 1st. Our next Quilt Group meeting is on Monday, February 5th at 10:00 a.m.

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**Undecorate from Advent Season:**

Please plan on coming to the church on Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 to undecorate from Advent. Coffee, juice, and doughnuts will be provided.



Our 2018 flower chart is up on the Worship Committee board in the hallway. Please sign up if you wish to honor or remember loved ones.

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**Our mailing address is:**

Christ Lutheran Church  
176 W. Sandtown Road SW

Marietta, GA 30064      770-424-2850

**<http://www.clcwestcobb.org>** Find us on Facebook @CLCMarietta

