

THE MESSENGER

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



DECEMBER 2020

9212 Taylorsville Road
Jeffersontown, Kentucky 40299

502-267-5082



“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” (Isaiah 40:1-5)

Grace and peace to you my brothers and sister in Christ,

In this text from Isaiah God comforted his people who were in exile in Babylon as they were waiting for the coming of the Lord to free them from their captivity and return to their homeland and worship their God in his temple in Zion. God called them to prepare the way for the Lord and make straight in the desert a highway for the Lord; to raise up every mountain, make low every hill, level the rough ground and make plain the rugged places for the coming of the Lord where He will lead his people marching to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

We are now entering the Advent season. The word Advent is derived from the Latin word ‘*adventus*’ which means ‘coming’ or the impending arrival of something important. During this season of Advent we are reminded once again of the joyful expectation of his people Israel, for the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ who would be born in the city of Jacob.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.christlutheranlouisville.com

Pastor - Rev. Bimen Limbong

Interim Associate Pastor - Rev. Elisa Owen

Director of Music - Ann Colbert Wade

He is the Prince of peace, who will lead his people out of darkness into His brilliant light and forgive his people from their sins. As for us, this Advent season reminds us of our joyful and hopeful expectation for the coming of Jesus the second time where He will judge the world in righteousness and truth.

Meanwhile, one particular thing that we are anxiously waiting for now is for the pandemic to pass through us. Indeed, this pandemic has been difficult for all of us. It has held us captive for almost a year now and it seems the road to recovery is still far ahead. Recently we have witnessed the spike in cases and positivity rates in our country including in our state to the point that our church decided to return to our on-line worship again. Just this past week, we have several members of our church test positive for the virus.

However, through this difficult time, God's word through the prophet Isaiah, '*Comfort, comfort my people*' once again echoes in our ears and brings hope and comfort to our weary souls like a loving mother comforts her children and reminds them that help is on the way. God himself is taking his prerogative actions to free his people from things that hold them captive. We are looking forward to that day where we will see this pandemic behind us in our rearview mirror. We hope and pray for a vaccine to arrive and to be available to all as God's instrument to protect people from this deadly virus. We also pray that God will continue to comfort those who have lost their loved ones to this virus. At the same time, we are still facing another type of pandemic; the pandemic of hatred or prejudice and political upheaval. We continue to pray for God's healing and unity in our country and the countries of the world.

For this reason, our Midweek Advent services' themes will focus on Hope, Peace and Joy and consider the true meanings of those words and what they mean for us as we are facing this difficult and challenging time. And at the end to know and believe that indeed our true hope, peace and joy comes from God for He is the source of them all and offers them to us. God offers his hope for our Serving Christ with you, hopelessness, peace for our restlessness and joy for our sadness and despair.

Journeying with you throughout this Advent Season.


Pr. Bimen Limbong



I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1: 3-6)

The time has come for us to say goodbye. I want to assure you that I have not been looking forward to this moment. Mainly because of what a wonderful experience it has been to be your interim associate pastor. I have, in fact, never had such an encouraging and satisfying stay in a congregation. I've spent some time trying to understand why that is, and although some of the reason has to do with me, and the ways I've matured more in the pastoral role at each of the churches where I've been privileged to serve, I think most of it has to do with you.

I have enjoyed your sense of humor. And your willingness to put up with the sense of humor of others in the church who might not laugh at the same things you do. I have enjoyed your enthusiasm for the gifts I brought to your table, and the grace you showed me when I tried to do things for which I did not have adequate gifts! I have enjoyed your stories, and your patience with the stories I told as I carried out the tasks which required teaching or preaching. I have enjoyed the seriousness with which so many of you take your faith in God, and your willingness to share with me how you have experienced the Spirit at work in your lives along your life's journey. This is especially true when it comes to your youth. I leave impressed with the faith foundation so many of them have. But those foundations do not impress me nearly as much as many of their willingness to talk about how that foundation informs and enriches their day to day lives. It is good when young people not only how to talk about God in Christ in a thoughtful way, but also how to be in active and growing relationship with her. And many of yours know this to a degree way beyond their years!

As I move on to the next chapter in my vocational life, I will remember many of you with great fondness, and my overall experience among you as one through which my own faith was challenged, strengthened and deepened in so many wonderful ways. And I will keep Christ Lutheran Church in my heart and prayers. God has been magnificently present to me in my time here, and for that I am very, very grateful. So, this is my continuing prayer for you all *“that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1: 9-11)*

Peace and much love,
Elisa

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

As challenges related to the Covid-19 virus continue to present themselves to us, we continue to learn new ways of doing what needs to be done. One of the items we are forced to do differently is that of Congregational Meetings. In the near future, we will need to hold our Annual Meeting, and possibly a meeting to decide on issuing a call for the Associate Pastor position. While we are all hopeful for the Covid-19 outbreak to subside and allow for all to attend an in-person meeting, we need to prepare for the possibility this cannot happen.

The current model constitution for the ELCA provides a provision for authorizing remote meetings (C10.08), but this was not present when we last revised our constitution. As there is no provision providing for, or excluding remote meetings, we are left to follow the statutes governing the state of Kentucky which allow for the Congregation Council to authorize remote participation by members in a Congregation Meeting. At the most current Council meeting (11/19) we passed a continuing resolution to permit a remote meeting should we still be in an environment where we are limited to the number of people who can attend in person.

Regardless of whether the meeting is in-person or remote, the requirement for each member present at the meeting is to be able to simultaneously hear each other – in other words, the meeting must be live (not recorded or in writing). Any decision-making that does not allow for live deliberation will not be permitted. A quorum will still be required, and voting by proxy will not be permitted. Most importantly, we will make every attempt to provide opportunities for people to be able to attend in-person as well as in the remote setting. The goal is to be as inclusive as possible and get as much participation as possible.

To assist in this process, we are working with other congregations who have utilized this process to learn the lessons of what worked well and what challenges were present. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me and we will work to make sure everyone can be included fully in the decision-making for the future of the church.

In God's Peace,
Roger Kissling
Rogerkissling75@gmail.com
(502) 797-0349

MUSIC NOTES

Rejoice always! You're probably thinking that there's not much to rejoice about these days, but that's exactly what Paul, who was writing from prison, tells us to do in the 2nd Lesson (1 Thessalonians 5:16) on December 13 this year. We find *rejoice* in the title or text of many hymns – familiar ones during Advent, Christmas, and Easter immediately come to mind.

This month's hymn is much simpler to explain than last month's *Beautiful Savior*. Both the tune (*Rejoice, Rejoice*) and the text/title of *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* (ELW 342) were written by Marty Haugen (b. 1950) who is also the composer of our communion setting *Now the Feast* as well as of two settings we use during our midweek evening services - *Holden Evening Prayer* and *Unfailing Light*.

According to Haugen, he wrote it in 1982 as a Christmas gift for his aunt, whose name he had drawn in their family tradition. It was published in 1983 as a Christmas anthem entitled *Rejoice, Rejoice* but in 1986 the opening words were changed to *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* and the third line of the first stanza was changed from “now he is born” to “soon he is born.” We plan to sing this wonderful addition to our Advent hymn repertoire on Sunday, December 20.

All of the above information comes from *Hymnal Companion to Evangelical Lutheran Worship* by Paul Westermeyer and published by Augsburg Fortress.

Because Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year I wish you a very happy, healthy, and hope-filled New Year! And, remember to rejoice always!

Ann Colbert Wade
Director of Music

**Awake! Awake and Greet the
New Morn**

#242 ELW



LIVE NATIVITY

The Christian Education Committee is excited to announce that the youth, with your help, will present a Live Nativity during Advent!

There will be stations around the church property on December 12th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Planning is well underway to establish the station themes, decorations and characters.



We need your help!! We are asking to have family units at the stations due to Covid-19 but still encourage anyone to volunteer, as we have many other important roles to fill. Costumes will be provided and props as needed. There will be no speaking parts to learn.

Please let us know if you or your family are able to pose as a character, caroler, or help with costumes or decorations by contacting Liz Dawson, 502-541-2223, fabuliz10@yahoo.com or church office, 502-267-5082.

SOCIAL MINISTRY UPDATE

Jeffersontown Area Ministries (JAM) will not be asking for purchased Christmas gifts for families this year due to the pandemic. The JAM board decided to ask for donations of \$50.00 gift cards from Target, Walmart or Meijer to give to the parents for each child in need.

If you would like to donate a \$50.00 gift card, please purchase from the suggested retailers and deliver to the church office in an envelope labeled "JAM Christmas".

The deadline is December 18th. The cards will be taken to the JAM office for distribution.



PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

In order to make members aware that the property committee continues to work doing whatever needs doing, here is a list of some of the items that are being worked on:

- † The outdoor lights on our bell tower, message sign, and triangle brick sign are again working.
- † The permit for the new electronic message sign (part of the capital campaign) is being held up because the city of Jeffersontown says we will exceed maximum square footage for signage, which is some newer ordinance. Bud Goss and the sign company are working with J-Town to come to some agreement.
- † The brick repair on the bell tower is complete. Joe Kirschbaum and Dale Breitenstein are looking into how to get the bell working again. The control panel works, so they are looking into the clapper, which may be rusted.
- † The lawn at church has been mowed all season and always looks great, thanks to Rod Hester. The cemetery also looks nice, thanks to Dale Breitenstein for mowing. There are always others that help along the way, keeping weeds away and sticks picked up and weed eating done.
- † Other issues in progress: small sink in kitchen leaks, thermostat in Room 9 & 10 wasn't working, furnace filters replaced, 5 scoops of topsoil added near building by front door area to help keep the water flow away from the building, irrigation system was winterized, and just so you know, the light poles on the back parking lot are rusting. There seems to always be jobs to be done!

So many thanks to the property committee members: Dale Breitenstein, chair, Mark Davis, Joe Kirschbaum, Bud Goss, Mike and Jean Barney, Larry Dison, Jean Eisen, Kirby Rhines, & Marilyn Peak. We also give thanks for the Wednesday Friends for their work keeping our landscaping looking beautiful no matter the season.

FINANCE

Current Expense and Benevolence Update Through October 2020

Expected Receipts: \$ 373,445.00

Actual Receipts: \$ 344,772.00

This deficit in receipts (\$28,673) has increased over the last two months. 62% of the deficit is from less than expected church envelope giving. Much of remaining shortfall is related to Covid-19 and not meeting in person including Loose Offering, Easter Offering, Pre School closing and Activity Room use. The good news is Covid-19 has reduced some expenses. However, we wish we were paying those expenses and able to worship/fellowship in person without Covid-19.

The receipts that we have the most influence on from now till the end of the year is our personal giving to the church.

Thanks to all members who have mailed in their offerings, had their bank mail a check directly, or used Tithely. We appreciate your continued support for our mission of Making Christ Known even during this extraordinary time.

Thank you to December counters: Mike and Kathy Kull

If you have any questions, you may call Mike Kull at 502-802-4485. We will continue to make weekly deposits of all received contributions.

Memorials have been received in the months of October and November in memory of Herb Miller, John Poisel and Elaine Hallum. Memorial giving can be done online via Tithely, just scan QR code. Just make sure to choose Memorial Fund and enter the name of the person in the Note section. Thank you for your generosity.

*****PLEASE SCAN QR CODE*****



SCAN ME

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

In the October update, the Call Committee shared they received three additional candidate recommendations from the Synod. The discerning process continued through initial and additional virtual conversations with candidates and their references.

In November, the Call Committee invited two candidates for in-person conversations with the Call Committee, conducted back-ground checks, and contacted remaining references. Please know our church would be honored to have either of these candidates as Pastors of our church as they are both extraordinary. Through the work of the Holy Spirit and prayerful discernment, the call committee unanimously voted to select one candidate to the Council. It is equally important to note, the candidate agreed to be our primary candidate, which means the candidate must release their name from any other church's call process.

The call committee has passed along the name of the candidate to Roger Kissling to guide the Council through the next phase of the call process. Please know it remains critical for the candidate's name to remain confidential as their home congregation may not know they are seeking a different call. You can expect further updates regarding our church's call process from Roger Kissling, Council President. Please continue your prayers for all churches and candidates who are in a discernment process.

As Chair of this group, I would like to thank this team for their service, publicly appreciate and acknowledge the sacrifices they have made, as well as their family members' sacrifices. There were times when this call committee commitment resulted in multiple meetings in a single week. The Holy Spirit is truly at work and it was amazing to watch her guide and transform conversations. Thank you!

In God's Peace,
Jenny Nixon
Chair, Call Committee



DECEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	
		1 7pm Property Zoom Mtg	2 7pm Advent
6 9am Sunday School 10:00am -- Worship@Home Service w/ Communion 1:15pm Confirmation Class	7 6:30pm Social Ministry Committee	8	9 7pm Advent
13 9am Sunday School 10:00am - Worship@Home Service w/ Communion	14	15	16 7pm Advent
20 10:00am - Worship@Home Service w/ Communion	21	22	23
27 10:00am - Worship@Home Service w/ Communion	28	29	30

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Worship	3	4 7pm Busy Women's Bible Study	5
Worship	10	11	12 3-5pm Live Nativity Drive Thru
Worship	17 7pm Council Zoom Mtg	18	19
	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 7pm Worship 	25  OFFICE CLOSED	26
	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 	Jan 1  OFFICE CLOSED	

CHURCH COUNCIL CALL PROCESS UPDATE

First and foremost, the council would like to thank and show their appreciation for the work of the Call Committee. They have worked tirelessly for over a year and half on both the Pastoral call and now the Associate Pastor call. Their dedication, thoroughness, and dedication to discernment and listening to the direction of the work of the Holy Spirit has been remarkable. Thanks go out to Jenny Nixon for chairing this committee as well as each of the members: Morgan Bowman, Dale Breitenstein, Karen Koch, Dave Pfalzgraf, Liz Walker, as well as the support of Pastor Bimen for the Associate Pastor call.

Here are the next steps in the Associate Pastor Call Process:

- The council will examine the reports and work that the Call Committee has collected from and about the candidate.
- The council will conduct interviews with the candidate.
- A decision to continue in the process will be made by the council and the candidate.
- If the process is to continue, the candidate will be made available for opportunities to meet the congregation.
- A congregational meeting will be called to vote on extending a call and the compensation.
- If the congregation elects to extend a call, the candidate will have thirty days to choose to accept the call.
- An installation service will be planned if the candidate chooses to accept the call.

The Council will provide updates as appropriate. We ask that you continue to pray for the Council, the candidate & their family and the call process. Thank you for your support and during this time of ongoing discernment.



PRESCHOOL YARD SALE

In July the Preschool Committee made the difficult decision to shut Christ Lutheran Preschool's doors for good. With the presence of Covid -19 in our midst, the already declining enrollment numbers just couldn't keep up. Since then all the classrooms were emptied, their contents moved to and sorted in the gym.

On Saturday, November 7 the committee hosted a yard sale for all our former teachers and congregation. By the end of the day a large amount of our inventory had been sold to three academic facilities. Rainbow Preschool here in J'town (Karen Pridemore, one of our teachers now teaches there), Cornerstone Christian Academy in Shelbyville, KY and J'town Academy, Inc. in the heart of downtown J'town now all have a piece or two or three of Christ Lutheran Preschool. The committee was thrilled to see so many items find good homes in our surrounding education community.

Once the sale was over, the committee separated the outdated items from items that could be donated. Outdated items were thrown away. The remaining toys, games, manipulatives, playset pieces were donated to Wayside Christian Mission. All remaining large pieces of furniture were taken to Habitat for Humanities Restore retail shop. Thank you to Ray and Marilyn Peak for helping to get those pieces to Restore.

The committee thanks everyone for their support during this difficult time. Thank you to ALL individuals who helped move, sort, dispose of and donate all of the inventory.

A WORD OF THANKS

"How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?" 1Thess 3:9

On behalf of the congregation, the property committee would like to express their sincere appreciation to the preschool committee, especially Tammy Kissling and Liz Walker.

With the incredible task of closing down the pre-school program, these two extraordinary volunteers led the efforts for relocating all the preschool items. Dozens and dozens (and dozens) of hours were spent emptying each classroom and sorting all the items that have been collected for more than 50 years. These spaces will again bring joy and God's presence as they are repurposed to support our mission and vision. Tammy and Liz - What a tremendous job! Thank you! We appreciate you and thank God for you.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES UPDATE

Over the course of two months, the Worship Committee has given serious thought to mid-week Advent services and Christmas Eve services. After much discussion, the committee has decided as follows:

- † Mid-week advent services will be virtual only. Over the last few years, attendance numbers have dropped. Most people attending have been those who prepared meals, those who came for the meals and choir members.
- † There will be only one Christmas Eve worship service at 7 p.m. Seating will be limited to 50 worshippers and reservations must be made. This service will also be streamed live on our usual platforms. There will be no hand-held candles as there will be no safe way to pass the flame and maintain social distancing; nor is there a safe way to extinguish the individual candles. Poinsettias will adorn the altar only.

We know these decisions are unsettling to some. However, Covid cases are on the rise at this time and we cannot predict where the numbers will be in December. If the numbers continue to increase, the possibility of no in-person church services at all in December exists.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

Advent Devotionals and calendars have arrived. You may call the church office to arrange a time to pick one up or they can be mailed to you upon request.

Peace and Health to all as we approach our Advent Season



WELCA UPDATE

Kathie Armstrong and Shirley Williamson have made four large quilts which have been mailed to Lutheran World Relief. Shirley makes small quilts which some have been given to shut-ins. They are not able to donate to nursing homes at this time. Renate Fish has knitted many hats to be distributed to the homeless.



Quilts for Lutheran World Relief



Hats for the homeless

Bonnie Kroening participated in an I-K WELCA zoom meeting. The program was about mental health for children. It is relevant today during the pandemic. Many women shared how their churches are dealing with the pandemic at this time. Psalm 46 was the Bible verse shared.

A NOTE FROM THE KITCHEN

A set of glass Pyrex bowls are missing from the church kitchen supplies. They are needed for use in the microwave. Also missing are the white Corningware baking dishes. If you have them, please return, or if you have seen them please let Bonnie Kroening know.

At this time we have plenty of coffee pots, please don't donate any more! Also we have an abundance of paper napkins! Thanks in advance.



CONFIRMATION CLASS UPDATE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC: Old Testament</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
December		
6	Moses and the Wondering	
13	Of Tents and Kings	
20	No Confirmation Class	
January		
3	No Confirmation	JCPS Winter Break
10	Psalms	
24	Wisdom Literature	

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP KITS

Since Christmas Eve will look different this year due to Covid-19 the church is providing Christmas Eve Worship@Home kits for our members.

One kit will be provided per household and will include:

- * a candle
- * worship bulletins
- * communion kits
- * an ornament
- * a craft/gift for the youth

The kits are free but you must order one in advance at

<https://na.eventscLOUD.com/clxmas> or by contacting Tammy Kissling at tkissling@gmail.com or (502) 552-1104. The order deadline is December 9th and the kits will be ready for distribution after December 13th.



MAKING CHRIST CONNECTIONS: Connected to One Another



Earl Arnett

Member Since: 2017

Work: Earl is currently retired, but cuts yards to keep busy. Previously, he was a sales manager in retail sales of furniture and appliances. He lived in Florida for years but when his father passed away a few years ago, he came to stay with his mother here in

J-town. Home maintenance and especially the yardwork keeps him busy, but he's glad he can do it to allow his mom stay in her home.

Play: Earl owns a boat, so enjoys boating in the warmer months. He's also a semi-pro pool player and likes to play cards and chess.

What brought you to Christ Lutheran? *"I live within walking distance, so the sound of the church bells drew me to the church."*

Favorite Hymns: Earl comes from a Baptist background, so he especially loves "We're Going to See the King," "How Great Thou Art," and many other of the old traditional hymns.

Time & Talents Shared at Christ Lutheran:

Earl likes to cook, so he has provided chili for youth events and supports our Feed Louisville project with food donations.

Earl has also invited several folks to come to church to see what it's all about, and some eventually became members. How does he do it? Well, according to Earl, he just starts with someone he knows. While he has the gift of gab, he says *"You have 2 ears and 1 mouth, so you've got to listen more than talk."* When he does talk, he just tells folks everyone has troubles, but come to church and ask God to help. If you do, *"you will be amazed at the change you will see in your life in just one week!"* Earl doesn't do email or internet, but welcomes phone calls from anyone who wants to learn more.

Why do you go to church? *"It's really impacted my life and helped me to change things that I was doing wrong."* During the Covid 19 pandemic, it *"gives you a better perspective of life and how precious it really is."*

MIDWEEK SERVICE SERIES
Wednesdays in December at 7pm

Theme: Hope, Peace and Love From Bible Project

www.bibleproject.com

Week 1: Hope (Yakhal)

In the Bible people who have hope are very different from optimists! In this video, we'll explore how biblical hope looks to God's character alone as a basis for trusting that the future will be better than the present.

Text: Psalm 130

Hymn: People, Look East, ELW #248

Week 2: Peace (Shalom)

"Peace" is a very common word in English that means different things to different people. It's also a very important word in the Bible that refers not only to the absence of conflict but also to the presence of something else. In this video, we'll explore the core meaning of biblical peace and how it all leads to Jesus.

Text: Isaiah 9:1-7

Hymn: Come Now, O Prince of Peace, ELW #247

Week 3: Joy (Chara)

In this video, we explore the unique type of joy to which God's people are called. It's more than happy mood, but rather a choice to trust that God will fulfill his promises.

Text: Zachariah 9:9-10

Hymn: Joy to the World ELW# 267



DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

December Birthdays		December Anniversaries	
12/1	Renate Fish	12/18	Debbie & Larry Dison
12/5	Jim Bell	12/27	Rebecca & Glenn Ziebart
12/6	Ed Lederer	12/30	Rhonda & Mike Trautman
12/7	Ed Schuette		
12/8	Heather Ruch Rebecca Ziebart		
12/9	Berliana Limbong		
12/11	Marietta Iococca Kyle Mertz		
12/12	Tyler Murphy		
12/13	Larry Glenn		
12/15	Jean Barney		
12/19	Audrey Albin Stephen Yankey		
12/20	Mattie Armstrong Jacyn Werder		
12/22	Glenn Ziebart		
12/23	Beverly Gilmore		
12/25	Yvonne Gallahue		
12/28	John Schmitt		
12/29	Michael Delain		



Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m.
and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School
pre-k - adult: 9:45 a.m.

Visit the



Christ Lutheran Church, Jeffersontown Kentucky
Facebook page

Worship Times: Saturdays at 5:30pm, Sundays at 8:30am & 11:00am. **Sunday School:** Age 3—adults at 9:45am every Sunday. **Nursery :** Infant to 6 years old in Room 3 during 8:30am & 11am services.