

THE MESSENGER

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2021



9212 Taylorsville Road
Jeffersontown, Kentucky 40299

502-267-5082



“All who heard it were amazed at what the Shepherds had told them. But Mary treasured all the words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for what they have heard and seen.... And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.” (Luke 2:18-20, Matthew 2:12)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all,

In spite of our unusual Christmas celebration this year, I hope it didn't take away the significance of what the Christmas is all about, but rather re-enforce its real meaning where the Light has come into the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it. Jesus who is the Light of the world comes into the world to bring light and life. Though by now most of you have already opened your Christmas gifts and taken your Christmas tree and decorations down for next year; the Christmas season is not over yet, in fact, it's just a beginning. Traditionally we observe 12 days of Christmas starting on December 25 to Epiphany on January 5. But the truth is Christmas is not just an annual celebration, in fact it is an everyday event where we celebrate the Immanuel, God is with us, every day throughout the year and where we will continue to unwrap God's unexpected and surprise gifts.

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CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.christlutheranlouisville.com

More importantly Christmas is not so much about all the wonderful worship celebrations and the exchanging gifts that we have, but the embodiment of this incarnated Jesus, the Word becomes flesh who dwells among us each and every day throughout the year.

Indeed Jesus' climactic mission is not in his birth, it is just a beginning, but it is being revealed in his saving ministry in the world as Luke writes in his gospel; "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*" (Luke 4:18) and concludes it in his death on the cross and joyous resurrection though Luke seems to impatiently proclaim in his gospel Jesus' ultimate mission as the Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord at the beginning of his gospel when he tells the story of Jesus' birth to the shepherds, "*To you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.*" (Luke 2:11).

That is to say, Christmas didn't stop at his birth; the good news of his birth was just a beginning. Just as the first witnesses of the birth of Jesus didn't dwell in the moment, but were inspired by what they have heard and seen, they all returned to their homes anew. As for Mary, in spite of the fact that she probably she could not comprehend what she experienced or what was being told about her child; she treasured all the words and pondered them in her heart and with a leap of faith raised this the baby Jesus as any other mother would do. The shepherds and the wise men did likewise; they all returned to their community and continued to go on with their lives except with a sense of new meaning and purpose to share the good news of Jesus through their words and deeds.

As a renowned African American theologian, philosopher, preacher and civil rights movement activist Howard Thurman put it beautifully in his poem "The Work of Christmas" from his book, "The Mood of Christmas and other Celebrations":

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,*

*To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.*

Likewise, for us too, Christmas is not over yet and in fact, the event of Christmas has just begun. We will continue the work of Christmas here at Christ Lutheran church as we look into the year 2121. Like Mary, let's treasure God's words and ponder them in our hearts. In the midst of things we don't understand, we trust God to help and guide us to do what God has called us to do. Like the shepherds, we will return to the community God sends us to glorifying and praising God in our words and deeds as God for what God has done for us. Finally, like the wise men, we listen and obey God's voice and guidance to return to our community who is waiting for us to love and serve with a confidence. As God has led us through a challenging year of 2020, we are confident that God will help and guide us in this New Year and beyond.

Serving Christ with you,



Pr. Bimen Limbong

LIVE NATIVITY THANK YOU

On December 12th, we held our first-ever drive-through live Nativity! It was a joyous event with at least 32 cars driving through! A huge thank you to the following:

- ✝ Joe Pfalzgraf & Sarah Pryor for creating beautiful scenes, signs and decorating;
- ✝ Tammy Kissling for sewing some costumes and accessories;
- ✝ Pastor Bimen & Berliana, along with Mike & Jean Barney, for the sound system/music
- ✝ Phil Hernandez on deck for traffic control.

Thank you also to the following families for standing in the wind for 2 hours as our characters at the various stations: Mertz, Limbong, Kissling, Richardson, Dawson, and Pryor. The Millers handed out the programs and goody bags to cars as they entered. Finally, thank you to everyone who drove through our event. Merry Christmas and Blessings for the New Year.

COUNCIL UPDATE

The Associate Pastor search continues to move forward. We are grateful for everyone who watched service with the candidate and took part by asking or watching the small group sessions to gather more information for your discernment. You can still see replays of these sessions with the links found on this page, <https://bit.ly/CLC-AP-Call>. Watch for additional information to be sent about the Associate Pastor Call Congregational Meeting that will take place at 11:30 on January 10th. Participation in the meeting will be held through Zoom which can be accessed on your computer, or by dialing in to take part on your phone.

Council passed a resolution at the December Council Meeting extending the pause for In-Person Worship until the end of February. This very difficult decision was made due to the high caseload and high positivity rate of Covid in our community, including within some members of our own congregation. We are continuing to monitor these rates, have conversations with other churches in our conference and in the J-Town area, along with the Synod. Decisions on extending or shortening the pause will be revisited at every meeting of the Council.

As part of the pause to In-Person Worship, the Council made a decision to limit all activities within the church to maintain consistency. Any activities inside the church will be limited to single-family activities. At this time, the only activity we have that meets this requirement is Feed Louisville which is an important mission of the church and community to continue. If you and your family wish to participate in the Feed Louisville project contact Tammy Kissling or Josh Dewar.

Other Items:

- ✠ The work of the Capital Campaign is continuing. The electronic sign will begin installation shortly with completion expected by the middle of February. Thank you for the continued support of the campaign.
- ✠ The Annual Meeting will take place on January 31st to elect the 2021 Council, Endowment Committee, and approve the 2021 budget. More information about this meeting will be sent as we approach the 31st.

If there are any items you would like to discuss, feel free to reach out to me or any of the other members of the council. We welcome any thoughts and ideas you have to continue our work in Making Christ Known.

Peace and blessings,
Roger Kissling, CLC Council President

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our Annual Congregational meeting will be held virtually on Sunday, January 31 at 11:30am. Members will be able to join the meeting via Zoom, whether it be on a smart device, computer or by calling in. Annual Reports will be distributed to members electronically by mid January. Reports will also be available for pick up by calling the church office.

A WORD OF CHRISTMAS THANKS

On behalf of the entire congregation we would like to say a huge thank you to all the individuals who worked so hard to make our Christmas Eve worship as beautiful and meaning as we are used, despite Covid-19's other plans. Thank to you Kathleen & Dale Breitenstein who filled our empty sanctuary with beautiful songs. Thank you Ann Colbert Wade for the beautiful organ music. Thank you to the Limbong family for their wonderful prelude to our worship. Thank you to Japanese Christian Fellowship Church for their musical interlude during the offering. We also send an enormous thank you to Dale Breitenstein, Mark Davis and Tony White for taking time to install all the votive candles to the back wall of the Chancel. Seeing those twinkling lights along with the Nativity scene and Christmas tree, made Christmas feel almost normal. Thank you to Jennifer and Robert Kemnitz for stepping in to live stream our service so that Roger Kissling and Liz Walker could enjoy Christmas Eve with family. And last but certainly not least, thank you to Pastor Bimen and Pastor Elisa for presiding over our worship. The service was beautiful and spiritual. They say it takes a village and our Christ Lutheran village pulled together for a beautiful Christmas Eve.

SOCIAL MINISTRY UPDATE

On behalf of JAM, the Social Ministry Committee would like to thank the congregation for at least 35 gift cards that were donated for children's Christmas gifts. Thank each of you for your generosity in "Making Christ Known" in our Jeffersontown community!!

Toilet Paper for JAM

Roger Miller wrote Thrivent for an Action Team grant on behalf of Christ Luther to purchase and donate bathroom tissue to JAM. He delivered over 550 rolls of bathroom tissue to JAM at the beginning of December.



JANUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	
31 10am Worship@ Home w/ Communion 11:30am Annual Meeting - Virtually			
3 No Sunday School 10:00am - Worship@Home w/ Communion	4	5 7pm Property Zoom Mtg	6
10 ^{9am} Sunday School 10:00am -Worship@Home w/ Communion Congregational Mtg.- Virtually	11	12	13
17 9am Sunday School 10:00am -Worship@Home w/ Communion	18	19	20 7pm Christian Cmte Mtg
24 9am Sunday School 10am Worship@Home w/ Communion	25	26	27

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2
7		8 7pm Busy Women's Bible Study - Virtually	9
14		15	16
Education 21 7pm Council Zoom Mtg		22	23
28		29	30

FINANCE

Current Expense and Benevolence Update Through November 2020

Expected Receipts: \$ 415,381.00
Actual Receipts: \$ 376,316.00

Thank you for your gifts to Christ Lutheran during the very difficult year of 2020. While this report has giving through November, in just a few days you will receive the Annual Report containing the year end results through December. Through November Expected Receipts were \$415,381 and Actual Receipts were \$376,316 for a receipt's deficit of (-\$39.065). 70% of this deficit is from less than expected church envelopes.

Due to a decrease in expenses, we have a surplus of \$7,886 at the end of November. In 2021 as people are vaccinated and we are hopefully able to meet together again expenses will rise.

Thanks to all members who have mailed their offerings, had their bank mail a check directly, or used Tithe.ly. We appreciate your continued support for our mission of Making Christ Known.

A reminder, the church's address is 9212 Taylorsville Road, Louisville, KY 40299.

Thank you to January counters: Mike and Jean Barney.

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

Memorials received in the month of December were in memory of Maurice Owen and Bud Spalding.

*****PLEASE SCAN QR CODE OR GO TO
PAGE 11 FOR MORE ONLINE GIVING
INFORMATION*****



SCAN ME

MAKING CHRIST CONNECTIONS: Connected to One Another



— Meet Christ Lutheran member,
Jennifer Kennnitz

Work: A writer at WordsFresh, a writing agency here in Louisville

Play: Plays the drums and writes books for young adults.

CLC Member Since:
2012 with husband, Robert Kennnitz

What brought you to CLC?
We came to CLC because we live nearby. But we stayed for the people!

Favorite Bible Verse: Psalm 23.

I find it's a great comfort — I'm afraid of flying, so I always bring a copy of Psalm 23 with me on flights.

What's a memory at CLC that is particularly special to you?

A few years ago, I was "volunteered" to take part in telling the story of the Passion of the Christ. That started me on a path of learning about Biblical Storytelling, which is a really fun way to study the Bible. But the best part of the experience was getting to know Morgan (Bowman), and later we worked together on Parables for Living.

Time & Talents Shared at Christ:

Jennifer wanted to get more involved at CLC, so she currently serves on Church Council, the Worship Committee, the Communications Committee, and the Celebration Band that provides the music for our Worship & Praise services.

Why do you go to church?

We moved here from out of state, so we have no family nearby. Having a church family at Christ Lutheran makes us feel connected to the community, offers us emotional support, and reminds us that we are loved. For me personally, hearing the stories from the Bible each week helps me consider how I can lead a better Christian life.

CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC: Old Testament</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
January		
3	No Confirmation	Winter Break
10	No Confirmation	Attend Congregation Mtg
24	Wisdom Literature	
February		
7	Voices of the Prophets	
21	God & Science	
28	No Confirmation	Youth Sunday
March		
14	War & Peace	
28	No Confirmation	Spring Break
April		
4	No Confirmation	Easter Sunday
11	War & Peace	
25	Sex & Love	
May		
2	Ten Commandments Overview	
16	The Apostles Creed Overview	
30	No Confirmation	Memorial Day
June		
7	The Bible & My Life	
17	Rite of Confirmation	

LIVE NATIVITY



The Annunciation



The Decree



The Shepherds



Mary & Joseph Arrive in Bethlehem



The Birth of Jesus



The Magi



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.