

THE MESSENGER

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2024



9212 Taylorsville Road
Jeffersontown, Kentucky 40299

502-267-5082



“The Shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for what they had heard and seen as it had been told them.” (Luke 2:20)

Merry Christmas to you all!

I hope this Christmas season brought you and your family joy and happiness. But for those of you who found this Christmas to be difficult and brought you sadness, may God give you comfort and strength. May this Christmas, be good news to all people as the angel told the shepherds in the Christmas story in spite of their circumstance.

First of all, I would like to thank those who helped make our Christmas Eve services joyful for all. I know many people who worked behind the scene to make those things happened; those who helped decorated our sanctuary, putting the candles on the wall, helped with the bulletins in the office when our church administrator was sick, the wonderful musicians, the choir and all worship assistants. As the saying goes ‘teamwork makes the dream work’. I would also like to thank you for the gifts you gifted me and my family. Most of all, your love and care towards me and my family. I thank God for all of you. *con’t pg. 2*

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.christlutheranlouisville.com

Lead Pastor - Rev. Bimen Limbong

Director of Music - Ann Colbert Wade

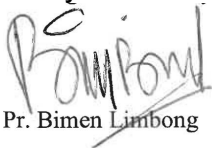
Now as we descend from our Christmas holiday and merge back to our 'normal' routine, we may ask ourselves, 'where do we go from here?' Our Christmas Eve's gospel from Luke ends with, "*The Shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for what they had heard and seen as it had been told them.*" Apparently they didn't stay in Bethlehem with the baby nor did they sit idly reminiscing their great memories. But instead they all returned home glorifying and praising God for what they had heard and seen. They still returned to their homes and returned to their everyday work the next day, but their life will never be the same again. Their encounter with the angel, the heavenly host and most of all, with the newborn Jesus changed their life forever. May this also be the same with us.

As Christians we believe that Christmas doesn't end on Christmas day. Christmas has just begun. We celebrate Christ each and everyday. We continue to unwrap Christ's gifts to us each and everyday throughout the year. I really love Howard Thurman's poem 'The Work of Christmas' that says it all. I shared this before but I like to share this again as a reminder:

*When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and 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 others,
To make music in the heart.*

Merry Christmas!



Pr. Bimen Limbong

*Now the work of
Christmas begins...*
Howard Thurman

COUNCIL UPDATE

from Council President, Sarah Pryor

At the end of a very busy 2023, our December council meeting did not have many major updates to report.

I hope everyone was able to attend some of our special worship services held last month. Thank you to all the behind-the-scenes helpers who served before, during, and after the mid-week Advent services, the Blue Christmas service, Sunday morning worship, and Christmas Eve services. Providing meaningful worship opportunities is central to our mission, and I am so grateful to those who dedicate their time and talents to make it possible for everyone to feed their souls by joining others in worship and praise of our Lord. I hope our Pastors, Ann, and members of our Worship and Property committees especially have all enjoyed some rest after all those services!

Looking ahead, we set the date for our annual congregational meeting for Sunday, January 28. We will only have 1 service at 11am, then enjoy a potluck lunch afterwards. Help us plan by RSVP'ing with the church office or dropping a note in the offering plate to indicate the number of family members attending plus whether you will bring a main dish, salad, side, or dessert. Please plan to join us for this important day to approve our budget for 2024 and elect new council members. Karen Koch will be cycling off council at the end of this year, and we are very grateful for her years of dedicated service. If you have any interest in serving on council, feel free to contact the Nominating Committee—Pastor Bimen, Dave Williamson, or myself.

The Social Ministry committee is staying busy as usual! Now that they've wrapped up their Operation Christmas Shoebox and JAM gift card projects, they're turning to collecting winter hats and gloves for the Healing Place and will soon be collecting for Tackling Hunger Souper Bowl through February.

The Memorial Committee continues to welcome feedback and explore ways to use funds for meaningful additions to the church building in memory of loved ones.

Finally, I again ask for your input on the future of CLC. For the last month, we've had a display in the Narthex as well as an online form available for you to anonymously share your vision for what we should **STOP-KEEP-START** doing at CLC. You can submit as many ideas as you want through Monday, January 8. We'll compile the written and electronic submissions together and use them to set goals for the future.

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Continued from page 3

I hope to see you on January 28 for the annual congregational meeting. There are few things better than a Lutheran potluck lunch!

"You crown the year with your goodness; your paths overflow with rich food." Psalm 65:11

As always, I and my fellow council members ask for your feedback, suggestions, support, and most of all prayers, that we lead with wisdom and compassion, in all we do for Christ and Christ Lutheran Church.

Please take a moment and scan the QR code. Tell us what you want us to know.



DRIVING TO OUR FUTURE!

Share your vision for Christ Lutheran Church



What does CLC need to **STOP** doing?

Things you think don't work anymore & need to be re-evaluated.

- What should we stop doing?



What does CLC need to **KEEP** doing?

Things that we want to keep doing because it works and provides value.

- What's "working"?
- This is great and needs to continue!



What does CLC need to **START** doing?

If we could do anything, **with unlimited time and resources**, what would you like to see us do or have as a congregation? **Really, no limits!**

- What would make us "better"?
- Wouldn't it be great if...

Use the QR code to share your ideas via the online form or write ideas on the paper provided.

FINANCE

General Fund Giving through November 2023

Online
Giving

Expected Receipts: \$356,970.00

Actual Receipts: \$348,741.00



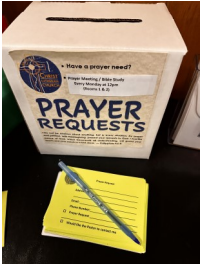
SCAN ME

Thanks to December counters Ron & Sharon Coombs and Mike & Kathy Kull.

Memorials were received in memory of Helen & Herb Buehl, Todd DeNardo, Martha Flynn, and Mary C. Metzner.

ON-GOING CLC MINISTRIES

PRAYER REQUESTS



Please let us know how we can pray for you. Just call the church office, 267-5082, or email us at church_office@christlutheranlouisville.com and we will send out a prayer request. **We also have a Prayer Box in the Narthex...just fill out a prayer card and drop it in the box.** Christ Lutheran has some fierce prayer warriors always ready and willing to lift you up in prayer every Monday at our Weekly Prayer Meeting.

WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING

Our weekly prayer meetings will continue on Mondays at noon in Rooms 1 & 2. Individuals are invited to attend in person or online. Pastor Bimen leads this weekly worship opportunity. All are welcome.



Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88673354124?pwd=emlVSUdLeXVPNVVXYUhhJd3dDNlRkdz09>

Meeting ID: 886 7335 4124

Passcode: 900074

ONGOING SOCIAL MINISTRY WORK

Please remember to place your gently used shoes in the WaterStep bin in the Narthex. This is an ongoing project to help Third World countries obtain water filtering equipment. Thank you for your donations that made this happen.



JAM Donations January

This month JAM is accepting donations of laundry supplies: laundry detergent, fabric softener, stain remover, dryer sheets, etc.

Please consider dropping off these items at our church for families in the Jeffersontown area. You may also drop off at JAM directly, but please call first to make sure they are open. Their number is 267-1055.

A FAITH STORY

by Petra Limbong

I will do it later, a phrase I say way too often. Raise your hand if you ever said that phrase before? Everyone should be raising their hand cause if you aren't, you're lying. This phrase really dives deep into my journey in faith. It shaped my ideas, my mindset, and my overall relationship with God. It definitely wasn't smooth sailing, and there were a lot of ups and downs. There were occasions where I resented God's decisions. But God was always supporting me, but not in the way I thought .

Picture this: a short statured lady, who is the sweetest, most humble lady you'd ever meet.

That's my grandma. She lived in Indonesia, thousands of miles away from where we are; only being able to speak Indonesian, communicating with her was complicated. Regardless of these boundaries, she would always want to talk with me and my siblings. Every year we would have this facetime call on her birthday, and every year when we asked her what she wanted for her birthday, her response was always the same. She didn't want money, new cars, new clothes, all she wanted was a relationship with all her grandchildren.

I took for granted this wish, her hopes to connect with me and my siblings in America. Not being able to understand Indonesia, I would occasionally be absent from these calls or shy away from engaging in conversation. My parents would always urge me to try and connect with my grandma. "Petra, please try to learn Indonesian" "Petra, please join this call with your grandma", My response was always the same: *I will do it later*. I thought that when I'm older, I can invest all the time I want into having a relationship with my grandma. I believed that I didn't have to worry about not having the opportunities to be with her. I believed that I had time to do it later. But there was no later.

In 2020, the world was struck by Covid-19. Everything was shut down, people were stuck in their houses, everyone was on their phones, you know the gist. While the world became silent, my world became hectic. My grandma passed away due to Covid. In her hospital bed. Alone. My family was devastated. Tears were rolling down everyone's faces, but not mine.

I was so stunned that I couldn't grasp the magnitude of the situation, the long term consequences that just erupted from my mistakes as a grandchild. I soon started to Question God, asking him why. Why did you just take away the only grandma I had left, Why did you strip away any chance of me ever having a strong relationship with me grandma. But then it hit me, God gave me a chance to have a relationship with my grandma, I just didn't listen.

"Petra, learn Indonesian" "Petra, join this call" *Petra, have a relationship with your grandma.* God called me through my parents to be with my grandma, but instead of listening I told God that I would do it later. Now you see why I brought up that phrase. The idea of doing it later is destructive. All it does is take and take and take till there is nothing left to give. It took away grandma, my stability, my relationship. It took away My hopes, My dreams, my happiness. And most of all, it took away my faith in God.

I thought that God wasn't on my side. I thought that God didn't want to give me time to do anything. But as I sat down to reflect, that was the complete opposite of what God had in store for me. God reminded me that I should focus on the now more than the later. God reminded me that I have time to do the things I need to do, I just have to accept his call.

God is with us all the time. Do you know that little nudge that you get when you want to do something? That's God. When you get this feeling, don't ignore it, don't hold it back. Don't push it aside thinking that you'll just do it later, because time keeps going, and you might never get the opportunity to do it again. God calls you even if you're scared, even if you're unconfident, even if you don't believe that you yourself are able to accept the call. Sometimes I didn't believe that I could accept God's call, but you know who did believe in me? **God did.** And that promise goes a long way. So the next time when God tells you to do something, don't "do it later", do it now.

Do it now.

- God

THIRSTY THIRD THURSDAYS

Thirsty for theology? Thirsty for connection and fellowship?...or just thirsty?

Whatever you thirst for, join us for one of our monthly gatherings, held **every 3rd Thursday of the month, starting around 6pm** (or whatever time you can make it). No sign up, just show up—the aim is to have an easy, fun way to connect with each other—men & women, young & old, married & single. While this is an adult fellowship group, we'll check out venues around town that are kid-friendly, so you don't have to get a babysitter. Stop in for a quick visit or stay for dinner. Pay on your own.

**Join us on January 18th for our next
THIRSTY THIRD
THURSDAY!**

BOOMBOZZ
PIZZA • WATCH BAR



in Westport Village

1315 Herr Ln, Louisville, KY 40222
boombozz.com/westport-village/

Pizza & brew pub outfit offering a selection of pies, bites & craft ales in a relaxed atmosphere.

Questions or suggestions?
Contact Sarah Pryor
758-5108 or spryor@bellsouth.net



Thank You!

THANK YOU!

Dear Christ Lutheran Members,

Thank you so much for all the cards, messages & prayers that I received while recovering from hip surgery. I was very touched and really appreciated everyone's thoughtfulness. I feel very lucky to be a part of such a wonderful church family.

With Appreciation,
Earl Arnett

Dear Christ Lutheran Family,

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who have been so thoughtful in sending cards, well wishes and prayers my way during my illness. I am currently undergoing 4 weeks of treatment. My doctors and I are very optimistic. Again, thank you for keeping me in your prayers.

With Appreciation,
Ed Greaves

MUSIC NOTES

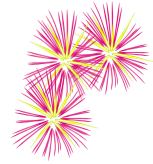
A very belated Happy New (Liturgical) Year to all of you - I hope you are having a blessed and joyful Christmas season.

Some bravos are in order... First to Samuel Limbong who demonstrated our beautiful new Kawai piano when we dedicated it on Consecration Sunday! Also we thank our mid-week service Annunciation singers – Shirley Williamson, Yvonne Gallahue and Dale Breitenstein. Special mention should also be made of **all those** who participate in the 8:30 Kyrie choir, the Senior Choir, and the Celebration services. We thank our Creator for the musical gifts of these folks, and for their willingness to use them to God's glory!



Ann Colbert Wade
Director of Music

January 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	
	1  NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED	2 9:30am Tuesday Friends 7pm Property Cmte Mtg	3 7pm Cho
7 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School Classes - All Ages 11am Worship & Worship@Home 12:15pm Fellowship Hour	8 12pm Prayer Mtg	9 9:30am Tuesday Friends 10am Memorial Cmte Mtg 12pm WELCA Circle 7pm Worship Cmte Mtg 7pm Christian Ed Mtg	10 7pm Cho
14 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School Classes - All Ages 11am Worship & Worship@Home 12:15pm Fellowship Hour 2:00pm Forest Hills Worship	15 12pm Prayer Mtg MESSENGER Articles to Liz Walker Deadline	16 9:30am Tuesday 7pm Council Meeting	17 7pm Cho
21 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School Classes - All Ages 9:45am Family Sunday School -NEW CLASS 11am Worship & Worship@Home 12:15pm Fellowship Hour	22 12pm Prayer Mtg	23 9:30am Tuesday Friends	24 7pm Cho
28 9:45am Sunday School Classes - All Ages 11am Worship & Worship@Home 12:15pm Fellowship Hour 12:15pm Annual Meeting & Lunch	29 12pm Prayer Mtg	30 9:30am Tuesday Friends	

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ir Rehearsal	4	5	6
ir Rehearsal	11	12	13
ir Rehearsal	18 6pm Thirsty Third Thursday - BoomBozz Craft Pizza & Tap House	19	20
ir Rehearsal	25	26	27



VISITS ANNETTE BISHOF



It was joyful to see our church's youth group, CREW, go and visit one of our beloved members, Annette Bishoff. Annette recently moved into an assisted living facility. So in addition to worshipping with Annette, our youth shared the Word with over 30 other residents of the nursing home.

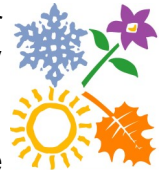
UPCOMING *Events*



Sunday, January 21 during the Sunday School hour FAMILIES are invited to attend a brand new Sunday School Class. See page 19 for details.

The 2023 Annual Meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, January 28. On this Sunday, there will only be an 11am worship service.

Immediately following worship we will gather in the gym for one of our famous Lutheran potluck lunches!! After great food and fellowship our Annual Meeting will begin.



**ANNUAL
MEETING**

Please RSVP by calling the church office, 502-267-5082 or emailing Heather at church_office@christlutheranlouisville.com.

We hope all of our members will attend this important Sunday. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there.

UPCOMING *Events*



The Social Ministry Committee is asking for donations of hats, scarves & gloves. These items will be donated to The Healing Place right here in Louisville.

A CLC member has also received a Thrivent grant to help with this mission initiative.



There will be collections bins in the Solarium & Narthex to collect items. Collection will be held the first two weeks in January.

The NFL will again sponsor "Tackling Hunger" in conjunction with Super Bowl on February 11.



The Social Ministry Committee is requesting food items or cash donations the last Sunday of January and the first two Sundays in February to support this project. All food and cash will be donated to JAM.



In December, WELCA Circle met at Shirley Williamson's home for a wonderful lunch and Bible study. The group also discussed the use of our proceeds from our Craft Fair. One member who was in need was given a monetary donation. We will determine where the other funds will be given when we meet again in January. Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 9 at noon in Rooms 1 & 2. All women of CLC are invited and welcome!

The Youth Were Elfin' Around in December

Well, our December youth event was quite an adventure! We braved a dark and stormy night to venture into unfamiliar territories, on a quest to find Christmas Spirit.

Ok, it was dark, but maybe just a bit drizzly, and we were thankful for GPS as we drove around Louisville for a 3-stop scavenger hunt. Our first destination was Culvers, where the kids were treated to frozen custard. Next we visited a live Nativity at Hillview Community Christian Church that included live animals. Among the actors and other critters, we spotted a donkey, a camel, and sheep.



Oh my! Finally, we made our way through the candy cane forest, to arrive at our final destination, where we met Buddy the Elf, Santa and Mrs. Claus, and enjoyed a hot chocolate bar and a showing of the movie Elf.



The scavenger hunt was the 2nd annual event for the Roll Call Foundation, and we were happy to have fun and support their fundraising efforts. This non-profit organization serves military veterans and the disabled, and you may remember them when they came and spoke at one of our Sunday School Speakers Series

this past year. All proceeds from this year's Elfin' Around Event will go towards the TwinSpires Ambucs, a noble cause that provides adaptive bikes for disabled children and veterans.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Our committee was disappointed to have to cancel the Live Nativity due to lack of volunteers. After reflecting on why the first was such a huge success, we must remember we were coming out of COVID. Many people were ready to be out of their house and have something to go do or see. We are proud that we were able to provide that to our members and community. We even gained some new members because of the event! Even though we had to cancel this year, the event is not canceled indefinitely. We are taking this year to plan a more interactive version to offer to the community. We want it to be an experience to remember, reflect on, or provide a glimpse of what life was like for those mentioned in the Christmas scriptures. Also, keeping in mind what we are describing in our new mission statement, to love and serve our friends and neighbors. We are excited to make this happen, and hope others will want to invest their time to make it a success.

The new year brings a new Family Sunday school class. We know times have changed and Sunday school as we remember is becoming a thing of the past (and not just at our church). As families become more involved in activities occurring on Sunday, and work schedules now include Sunday shifts due to businesses being open, we will offer different formats that may work better for families' schedules. On Sunday, January 21, we will introduce our Family Sunday school hour. We invite parents, grandparents, and their children/grandchildren to attend. We can all learn and grow together. **The class will be held during the regular Sunday school hour 9:45-10:45 in room 7. This class will be offered monthly on the 3rd Sunday of each month.** This will include storytelling, skits, crafts, and lots of fun! We hope to see you there.



FOREST HILLS CAROLING

December was full of festivities and merriment . Our caroling service held at Forrest Hills Commons, organized by the Christian Education Committee, was enjoyed by many. Forest Hills Commons residents & Christ Lutheran members enjoyed caroling, jingling an instrument, and sharing Christmas memories during the sermon.

A special thank you to those who made gifts to hand out to the residents of Forest Hills Commons and especially to those who shared their musical talents. We had a wonderful menagerie of musicians filling the halls with Christmas music! The love and joy that was shared and expressed was wonderful to see and spread.



Walking with Christ, we love and serve
our church & neighbors

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

January Birthdays		January Anniversaries	
1/1	Silvia Schuette	1/3	Charlise & Mark Fullmore
1/4	Logan Rush	1/4	Berliana & Pr. Bimen Limbong
1/5	Terri Kenitzer	1/5	Malissia & Jim Bell
1/6	Becky Miller	1/7	Kathy & Mike Kull
1/7	Phil Hernandez	1/14	Laura & Chris Kull
1/8	Ron Morgan	1/22	Amy & Ken Schneider
1/9	Kim Hajnik	1/23	Janet & Doug Kul
1/10	MaryLou Miller Sara Ridgeway		
1/11	Ed Greaves		
1/12	Roger Miller		
1/14	Susan Yankey		
1/18	Marilyn Peak		
1/19	Aurora Martinez		
1/20	Kathleen Breitenstein Barbara Hester		
1/22	Dave Bremner Jennifer Kenitzer		
1/23	Ashby Hallum		
1/26	Mike Hajnik Rose Straub		
1/27	Holly Ellenberger		
1/28	Earl Breitenstein Kara Funk		

**Don't forget to share your
 special dates with us!
 We would love to celebrate you!**

MONTHLY MINISTRY ATTENDANCE

Sunday Worship Service

DATE	EARLY	LATE SERVICE	ONLINE	TOTAL
12/3/23	28	70	15	113
12/6/23 Mid-Week	/	No Count	4	4
12/10/23	38	64	12	114
12/13/23 Mid-Week	/	32	0	32
12/17/23	28	68	19	115
12/20/23 Mid-Week	/	28	0	28
12/21/23 Blue Christmas	/	12	3	15
12/24/23 11am	/	57	17	74
12/24/23 5pm Service	/	147	0	147
12/24/23 9pm Service	/	111	0	111
12/31/23				

Forest Hills Worship

DATE	RESIDENTS	CLC	TOTAL
12/10/23	Not Recorded	Not Recorded	45

Monday Weekly Prayer Gathering

DATE	IN PERSON	ONLINE
12/4/23	6	Not Recorded
12/11/23	10	Not Recorded
12/18/23	3	Not Recorded
12/25/23	No Meeting	No Meeting



ATTENDANCE

2023 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pastor Bimen Limbong, 502-553-6025,

pastor_bimen@christlutheranlouisville.com

Pastor George Mercer, 502-507-5410 cell, 502-349-1835 home

Sarah Pryor, President, 502-758-5108, spryor@bellsouth.net

Steve Sarson, Vice Pres., 502-295-9418, ssarson@gmail.com

Roger Miller, Secretary, 502-415-4243, rrmlcm@yahoo.com

Dale Breitenstein, 502-262-6168, dbreitenstein@allstate.com

Karen Koch, 502-552-9766, karen.koch@cpa.com

Alex Casey, 502-356-8566, alexandrabarmore@yahoo.com

Randy Hesler, 502-939-2172, rlhesler@gmail.com

Mike Kull, 502-802-4485, mjk111048@aol.com

Nancy Walsh, 502-550-2306, nbwalsh1@bellsouth.net

CLC JOB OPENING

Job Title: Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Supervisor: Lead Pastor

FLSA Status: non-exempt, part-time, 30 hours per week

Christ Lutheran Church is seeking an enthusiastic servant leader to join our staff as the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. This part-time position will play a pivotal role, both as a leader and an example, in nurturing the faith development and spiritual growth of our youth and young adults, fostering a strong sense of community, and working collaboratively with other church leaders to support the overall mission and vision of the church.

Click here to view the detailed job description on church website.

To Apply: Interested candidates should submit a resume to church_office@christlutheranlouisville.com.




**CHRIST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

9212 Taylorsville Road
Louisville, KY 40299

Sunday Worship
8:30am & 11am

Sunday School
preK—Adult 9:45am

20 Find us on  @

Christ Lutheran
Church
@CLCLouisville

Worship Times: 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.