



The CHIMES



4250 Page Ave
Michigan Center, MI
49254

January 2018

PASTOR'S PIECE

Finding Your “Manger Moment”

I know that by the time you receive this newsletter, Christmas Day will be over. But Christmas is a 12 day season, I still want to talk to you about Christmas, and I imagine that you will receive this newsletter before those 12 days are up.

So now that the dust has settled, the wrapping paper has been thrown out, the dishes have been done, friends and family (or you) have made your way back home, and life is back to a semi-normal routine, did you see Christ come? Or did all the paper, presents, sparkles, and lights keep you from seeing your guiding star in the night sky?

This Christmas season, have you found yourself living, breathing, and seeing the Christmas story take new life this year? If you don't think you can say “yes” to this last question in any way, I invite you to stop reading this sentence, take a deep breath, exhale, and say “come Lord Jesus.” Go ahead, breath and say it, I'll wait...good.

Now let me share with you how I have seen the Christmas story come to life this year, and then invite you to consider how Jesus Christ might have unexpectedly come to you this year, but like at his birth, there was no room for him front and center, and so he snuck in through the back door into a manger.

My “manger” this year, where Jesus has come to me this Christmas, is through the life of 12 boys who come from different countries, and like Jesus at his birth, are fleeing persecution and death. These boys have left a place they know to come to a foreign land to find new birth, a new beginning. And just as Mary and Joseph had been staying in Bethlehem waiting for new life only to find out while they were staying there that there was no longer room at the inn for them, these boys found themselves in a very similar situation.

As I, along with many other people, scrambled to find a place for these boys to stay, it felt like all we were going to be able to offer them was a “manger”. There were no “Holiday Inn solutions”. But just like in the Christmas story with each new piece, each new “band of cloth” that kept getting added to a solution for these boys, I found that we were piecing together a home for these boys. As this “manger” is being built as I write this article, I am watching the body of Christ swaddle these boys in Jesus love, and I am watching Christ come.

Jesus Christ and the Christmas story has come to me this year, along with at least 12 other boys. How has Jesus Christ and the Christmas story come to you? I never expected to find Jesus Christ in this way, with these boys, but I did. What are some events that happened to you this Christmas season that might have been Jesus Christ coming, if only you take a second look?

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Email: clcmc@clcmc.org

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I invite you all to take a look back at the (possibly) hectic weeks that lead up to the reading of this news letter and ask yourself: "Was there a moment I felt a sense of hope? Or joy? Or peace? Or love? That I wasn't expecting?" "Could one of these moments have been Jesus Christ coming to me anew this Christmas season? Take some time the rest of this Christmas season to ponder on these things and know that Jesus Christ continues to be "born" anew in our lives all the time, and for that I say one more time with joy, Merry Christmas!

God bless,
Pastor Ryan



THANK YOU NOTES

HAPPY NEW YEAR to Pastor Ryan & everyone at Christ Lutheran Church,
our families & friends also.

Like to take this opportunity to thank Joe Mount for being my spokesperson & Coralie for taking over with the Immanuel pantry these last 6 months. I have heard the 2 of you have done a wonderful job, and I surely do appreciate all you have done. Oh no I haven't forgotten about all those who have taken time to come to the pantry to help out, even the ones who had not done this pantry ministry before but stepped up to help while I have not been able to due to Jim & my heath issues at this time. We are on our way to better health, thanks to all your help and prayers.

God Bless All of You,
Rosemary Karnaz

CHRISTMAS AT THE FOOD PANTRY

It's always amazing at how many Christmas gifts of hats, scarves, gloves, socks and stuffed animals that we collect from our CLC family for our friends at the Food Pantry. Well over 700 for a little over 280 guests this year. Happy and grateful were those who received them. We brought back many, many thank yous to all of you from all of them. Over and over we gathered up all their gratitude and now extend them to you.

May God bless you for your giving hearts. I know that we made God smile as we gave to so many people who were in need.

Linda Smith

Following Christ
Christians

COUNCIL

MINI-MINUTES: December 10, 2017

- The Gathering will be with 5 youth on Dec. 27-30th.
- Synod Support form has been reviewed and has been signed
- Pastor will work one day a at the local coffee shop at Page and Sutton Rd.
- annual reports are needed for our semi-annual meeting by January 14.
- For the month of November we are \$1400 more expense than income due to a few one time expenses.
- Thank you to Dave Urbaniak's employees for helping with scaffolding to finish lighting repair in the community center.
- Thank you again to Dave Urbaniak for getting our stove fixed.
- First aid kits are installed 1 is in Community Center and 1 by sanctuary doors.
- a job position for church member to open and close church when rented out is being worked on.
- New motherboard will be ordered and replaced.
- Suggestion for council to put on a Community Dinner.
- Cleaning person recognition.



CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

"The Synod has published a model constitution for congregations. The council has reviewed these recommendations and will present them at our **January 28th** semiannual meeting. The changes are primarily wording changes and not material changes in the essence of our constitution. For example, the term pastor has been replaced by "Minister of Word and Sacrament" in many areas. As our Bylaws require, we are providing the congregation a 30 day notice of these proposing changes to our Constitution. We will distribute the new Constitution with changes indicated at the January 28th meeting. Any desiring to review the changes prior to the meeting may request a copy from the office. They can either email a copy of the changes or mail you a copy."

Thank you

John Kolewski

OUR COUNCIL:

Ryan Prondzinski
Pastor

Jim Woody
President

Gary Soltis
Vice President

John Kolewski
Treasurer

Cathy Filter
Secretary

Anne Lee
Sharing the Journey

Kerry Pickett
Following Christ

Barb Merkel
Serving In Love

Terry Wineland
Support

Judy Lovejoy
Financial Secretary

Mike Crouch
Youth Coordinator

STAFF:

Ruth Guynn
Church Secretary
ruthguynn@clcmc.org

Tracey Pierce
Church Secretary
traceypierce@clcmc.org

Shirley Ottmer
Bookkeeper
shirleyottmer@clcmc.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOOD PANTRY INFO

Christ Lutheran is responsible to supply at least 15 volunteers for the third Saturday of each month at Immanuel Lutheran's Food Pantry.

Thanks to everyone who has taken time out of their day to help others who are in need. Look to the bulletin board for each month's sign up.



January 20th



is our next day to man the pantry! Hope you are able to help. There is a white container in the Community Center for any donations you would like to make.

THANKYOU

Dear Christ Lutheran Members,
Thank you very much for the delicious luncheon you prepared for us after Bondy's Funeral.

The Dean Family

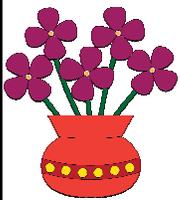
BAPTISM

Natalie Catherine Olson, daughter of Brian and Andrea Olson, became a child of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, December 3, 2017.

Natalie's sponsors are Beth and James Kilburn.



ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR FOR 2018



The calendar for altar flowers has now been posted in the narthex. The cost remains the same at last year (\$35.00). If you wish to provide flowers for a special occasion, in memory of a loved one, in honor or someone, etc. please sign up on the day you wish to have them to enhance the Chancel area.

May your troubles be less,
your blessings be more,
and nothing but happiness
COME THROUGH YOUR DOOR!



Serving in Love

January 2018

| Potluck | January 7 | January 14 | January 21 | January 28 Semi-Annual Mtg. | February 4 |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|
| Greeter 9:45 | David & Coralie Dirlam | Sue Wolcott & Linda Smith | John & Beth McCune | Judy Miller | |
| Acolyte 9:45 | | | | | |
| Assisting Ministers | Dan Burmeister Mary Wilkie 6 | Terry Wineland Barb Merkel 1 | Don Day Diana Day 2 | Coralie Dirlam Judy Miller 3 | Audrey Varland Mimi Elliott 4 |
| Kids For Christ Leaders | Jane Schultz Linda Wineland Katie Merkel | Jane Schultz Linda Wineland Katie Merkel | Jane Schultz Linda Wineland Katie Merkel | Jane Schultz Linda Wineland Katie Merkel | Jane Schultz Linda Wineland Katie Merkel |
| Ushers | Terry Wineland Mark Lee Team #3 | Richard Mikkelsen Gary Soltis Collin Soltis Ethan Soltis Team #4 | Soren Anderson Nancy Spink Phil Elliott Mimi Elliott Team #5 | Joe Mount Bob Schlundt Dan Burmeister Rodney Simons Team #6 | Jim Woody Carol Woody Chris McDermott Dawn Davis Team #7 |
| Counting Teams | Don Day Terry Wineland | Bob Schlundt Bill Anderson Soren Anderson | Frank Lovejoy Judy Lovejoy Phil Elliott | Doug Prather Chris McDermott | Dan Burmeister Dawn Burmeister Joe Mount |
| Altar Guild | Jenny Soltis Tracey Pierce | Jenny Soltis Tracey Pierce | Jenny Soltis Tracey Pierce | Jenny Soltis Tracey Pierce | Nancy Spink Judy Wollet |

YOUTH BREAKFAST

Are you hungry? Well how about staying after service on the 1st Sunday of each month to enjoy a free will offering breakfast. **The proceeds will go to helping the youth** with future events like "The Gathering". Money well spent for enriching the minds of our very own youth here at CLC. So stay after church enjoy something to eat, and share in some fellowship all while donating to a great cause.



January 2018

Christ Lutheran
Church
Phone: 517-764-3101
Fax: 517-764-7151
Email: clcmc@clcmc.org

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|------------------------------------|--|---|------------------------|---|
| | 1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed | 2 | 3 4:30p Cardio | 4 | 5 10:00a W. W. | 6 Epiphany |
| 7 9:45a Worship 11:00a Yth. Bkft. 3:30p Conf. @ Imm. | 8 1:00p W. B. S. | 9 5:00p Community Dinner | 10 4:30p Cardio 6:00p L.D.F.A. | 11 | 12 10:00a W. W. | 13 |
| 14 9:45a Worship 11:15a Church Council | 15 Martin Luther King Day 1:00p W. B. S. Church Office Closed | 16 6:30p Bible Stdy | 17 12:45p Greenleaf 4:30p Cardio | 18 | 19 10:00a W. W. | 20 8:45a CLC @ Immanuel's Pantry |
| 21 Chimes Deadline 9:45a Worship 3:30p Conf. @ Imm. | 22 1:00p W. B. S. | 23 6:30p Bible Stdy | 24 4:30p Cardio | 25 | 26 10:00a W. W. | 27 C.C. in use |
| 28 Noisy Offering Semi-Annual Meeting 9:45a Worship 11:00a Semi-Ann. Meeting 11:30a Potluck | 29 1:00p W. B. S. | 30 6:30p Bible Stdy | 31 4:30p Cardio 6:00p L.D.F.A. | Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C.C. = Community Center • W.W. = Weight Watchers • L.D.A.F. = Little Dresses for Africa • W.B.S. = Women's Bible Study | | |

CELEBRATIONS



Happy Birthday to:



- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2 Joan Budd Dawn Richey | 18 Dawn Davis Barb Merkel |
| 5 Sandy Pierce Sonja Wright | Orrin Wright |
| 8 David Dirlam | 24 Linda Wineland |
| 10 Melanie Humphrey | Keitha Russell |
| 12 Bob Schlundt Steve Oerther | 26 Katie Merkel |
| 13 Ruth Guynn Gary Filter | 28 Pierson Gable |
| 14 Daniel Wright | 29 Joene Chenery Stephanie Warblow |
| 15 Shirley Ottmer | Samantha York |

Happy Anniversary



This January



- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|--------|
| 9 th | Don & Diana Day | 53yrs |
| 20 th | Mark & Anne Lee | 50 yrs |

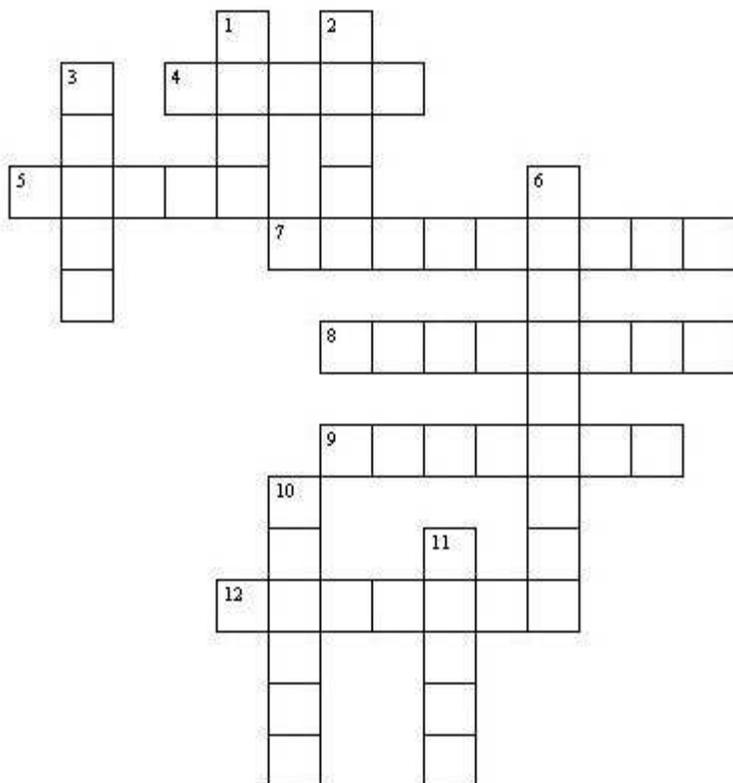
Semi-Annual Meeting

January 28th

Potluck to follow

KIDS CORNER

New Year's Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

4. It's nice to sit at a ---- with your friends at the party.
5. Sometimes there is a big ---- at the New Year's eve celebrations.
7. These are exchanged when celebrating the new year.
8. This is thrown around when ringing in the new year.
9. Sometimes bright ---- are used for decoration.
12. ---- select and play music for the dances.

DOWN

1. A ---- plays music for the New Year's eve dance.
2. Sometimes the dance ---- is crowded.
3. People are usually ---- when ringing in the new year.
6. Sometimes there are ---- to ring in the new year.
10. ---- are usually plentiful on New Year's eve and day.
11. Starting a new year is usually a ---- time.



Christ Lutheran Church
4250 Page Ave. Michigan Center, Michigan 49254

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PERMIT 19

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



THE CHIMES



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:45 am—Sunday Worship Service
9:45 am—Kids for Christ (Sunday School)

Holy Communion Celebrated each Sunday

Pastor Ryan Prondzinski