



The Magi's Story — and Ours

The story of the Magi is our story. God has used his supernatural means to draw us unto himself. ... On one glorious day, when we were exhausted and wearied in our sin, God led us to gaze upon Jesus just as the Magi did. We see the glory of God manifested through Jesus Christ in the internal work of the Holy Spirit. We see our utter sinfulness and God's abounding grace offered in the Messiah. We are filled with joy as this grace sinks into our hearts.

We fall down on our knees and confess our need of this Messiah. We worship him and offer up our lives as our greatest offering to him. Then we continue on in our lives, carrying the truth about the Messiah.

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Chapel News

Return Service Requested

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
337 Farview Avenue
Paramus, New Jersey 07652

Chapel News

CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Our Staff and Council

Pastor	Rev. Hayley Bang
Secretary	Debbie Geerlof
Sexton	Bob Sakala
Director of Music Ministries	Michael Wittenburg
President	Chris Nilsen
Vice President	Chuck Young
Secretary	Pam Sakala
Treasurer	Paul Berinato
Recording Financial Secty	Pat Berinato
Financial Secty	Marge Tomaselli
Worship Team	Marge Tomaselli
Shepherd Team	Carrie Ralston
Financial Resource Team	Chuck Young
Servant Team	Anne Carman
Property Team	Chris Nilsen
Christian Education Team	Pam Sakala
Stewardship Team	Barbara Frielink
Newspaper Liason	Linda Polise

Annual Meeting

We'll be holding our annual meeting virtually this year, on January 31st at 11:00am, following a shortened 10:30am Worship. A Zoom link will be sent.

All confirmed members are encouraged to attend. Your vote counts!



The Wise Men

Oh, we have learnt to peer and pore
On tortured puzzles from our youth,
We know all labyrinthine lore,
We are the three wise men of yore,
And we know all things but the truth. ...

Go humbly, humble are the skies,
And low and large and fierce the star;
So very near the manger lies
That we may travel far.

Hark! Laughter like a lion wakes
To roar to the resounding plain.
And the whole heaven shouts and shakes,
For God himself is born again. ...



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FROM THE PASTOR

Letter from Pastor Hayley

When the night falls...when the darkness devours so much that you wonder if the light will ever come back.....do not be afraid. The sun will rise again.

A new year is upon us, despite the fact that our lives have been on hold since last Spring. Looking back on 2020, all our hopes and dreams took a back seat to a pandemic nobody expected. Whether we liked it or not, time went on, and now we find ourselves in a new year. Reflecting on what I wrote this time last year, my article was full of excitement for both old and new things for 2020. We were anxiously anticipating the celebration of our 70th anniversary, which of course never happened.

Yet now we hope for a new day, for the sun to rise and shine again. So even though it may be hard to imagine at this time, I ask you - what is your dream for this new year? What is your vision for the future of our community of faith?

Will we finally be able to celebrate our 70th anniversary (now 71st)? Will we be able to gather inside our sanctuary for worship? Will we finally be able to go places where we can see people who are dear to us?

Perhaps at this moment in time we cannot dream that our old ordinary lives will come back soon, but in this dark new normal we must trust in God and the wisdom he has gifted to humanity. One by one we will walk towards a newer normal, one that helps us find a way to live with Covid 19, when it finally becomes a non-threatening disease. But until then we will continue to wear our masks and follow the guidelines put into place to protect us and those who are dear to us.

Of course this cannot be done without the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit. So at the beginning of this new year, I pray as I did last year. "May God's abundant mercy and hope continue to guide us this year so that we can bear new fruit for the kingdom of God, for the goodness of God, because God is good all the time, and all the time, God is good. Amen."

In Christ, Pastor Hayley

Staff Gift

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
For many of us, the Christmas season is a time to thank those who have been so generous and caring to us during the year. Our Church Staff certainly deserves to be honored in this way. You can do this by making a contribution to the "Staff Gift" collection. The funds will be distributed to our staff (Pastor, Organist, Secretary and Sexton) at the

Council's discretion later in January.

If you wish to participate in this gift, please put your donation in an envelope marked "Staff Gift" and mail it directly to the church office.

Yours in Christ,

Chris Nilsen
President
Congregation Council

God is Love

-1 John 4:16

Please Pray for These Loved Ones

Donna Archer, Karen Bartholomew, Kathleen Bhargava, Chris Brooks, Maggie Brower, Young Hee Choi, Lillian Cooper, Ken Cutler, Ron DePue, Rich Dugan, the Fernandez Family, Al Frielink, Krista Fuchs, Robyn Garfield, Mark Hallwell, Mary Carolyn Harrison, Diane Hesse, Jae Hee Kim, Terry Klotz, Nadine Kohn, Soon Hoi Koo, Dennis and Jennifer Kruk, Anna and Walter Kruk, Bill Kyritz, Rich Lindeberg, Renee Lomelino, Kaethe Lorch, Marie Lupinski, Dennis Marinkovich, Dorothy Mulroe, Emma and Richard Murphy, Amy Nywening, Lionel Ortega, Shepard Palance, Sam Ralston Sr., Karen Richardson, Doris Robinson, Cathy and Roger Schramm, Evelyn Schramm, Yorg Schultheis, Michael Siekmann, Nancy Sweet, Dorothy Syme, Marge Tomaselli, Jaime Battaglia van Dam, Jennifer van Dam, Lenny van Dam, Jennifer Viehmeyer, June Ward, Irma Weishaupt, Louis Wernick, Robert Wiederschall, Elenor Witte, Paul Witte and Claire Zimmerman

And those serving in the military...

Bryant Rodriguez Cyriax, Greg Flintall, Daniel Jaichner, Devin Vega and Rachel Zarnke

And those who can't always be with us...

Al Frielink, Grete Potts and Irma Weishaupt

If you would like someone to be added to or removed from the prayer lists, please contact the Church Office at 201-262-0138.

CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
(CH) Church (FH) Fellowship Hall (FR) Family Room (OB) Office Building (PA) Parsonage					1 Happy New Year! Church Office closed 	2
3 Virtual Worship Service 10:30am	4	5	6  Epiphany	7	8	9
10 Baptism of Our Lord Virtual Worship Service 10:30am	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Virtual Worship Service 10:30am	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	19	20	21	22	23
24 Virtual Worship Service 10:30am 	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Virtual Worship Service 10:30am Virtual Annual Meeting 11:00am						