



## +Christian Symbol+

### ADVENT COLORS

One of the season's symbolic colors is blue, representing hope. During Advent, we wait in hope to celebrate again God's coming in human form. We also look forward in hope to Christ's coming in glory at the end of the age. Purple symbolizes the royalty of Jesus, the coming Prince of Peace, and the penitence with which we receive him. Some congregations also use pink or white candles in Advent wreaths, with pink symbolizing joy and white symbolizing the Christ Child.

# CHAPEL NEWS

Return Service Requested

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
337 Farview Avenue  
Paramus, New Jersey 07652

# CHAPEL NEWS

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

WHEN CHRIST  
ENTERED OUR  
WORLD, HE  
DIDN'T COME TO  
BRIGHTEN OUR  
DECEMBERS BUT  
TO TRANSFORM  
OUR LIVES.

— RICH MILLER



## ADVENT PROGRAM THANKS

Thank you for all those who came to take part in our annual Advent festivities...a week early. We enjoyed a delicious lunch catered by Shortrounds, yummy desserts and live wreath making with berries, ribbons and pinecones galore!



## BIBLE QUIZ

Who was governor of Syria when Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem for a mandated registration, or census?

- A. Theophilus
- B. Herod Antipas
- C. Pontius Pilate
- D. Quirinius



Answer: D (See Luke 2:1-7.)

**CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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# SERMON NOTES FROM PASTOR JONATHAN

*Revelation 21:3-4 The home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.*

All Saints Day is a festival of the church year where we remember all the saints that have gone before us, and especially lift up those that have died in the last year. It is a time of community together, where we together hold this sacred space as we recall fond memories and live in hope of the eternal life promised by Christ. It is a day that we are reminded that together we are the body of Christ, and that those who died live on as members of that body still. There are many images and ways that we mark this, with the reading of names and lighting of candles, some churches also tie ribbons on trees, and many other ways we can remember those who have died, but yet live on with Christ, even ways and things that we use for memory throughout the years as well.

One of the places where we can always be reminded of our connection to the communion of saints throughout the world and throughout time is when we together take communion. One image that is within many churches including ours, is an altar rail. We don't use it for a number of reasons including the difficulty for all to do so without a ramp in place, altar rails in many churches can create too much separation at times, etc. The history of altar rails is interesting too, since there is at least one claim that they were originally put in churches to keep dogs away from the communion bread. However, many people hold the history of this furniture and image within sanctuaries in high regard. One of my good friends was telling me about how her home congregation looked, and she told me about the altar rail there, which was a half-circle where the edges ran right into the back wall. For communion, everyone would kneel or stand at the rail, as many as could fit at a time. She was told at one point that it was a half circle because the saints that have gone before us gather in communion on the other half of the circle we can't see. I think that that is such a powerful image of the communion of saints - that they still live on and truly share in the communion - of the saints. And what a wonderful way to remember those saints on the regular basis, as we share holy communion no matter in what way we do so.

When we remember our baptism, when we celebrate communion, when we think on the communion of saints, we are reminded that we are beloved children of God, each of us. We are reminded that we are forgiven and loved. We are reminded that we inherit eternal life. And especially on this day, we are reminded that these promises hold true for those saints who have gone before us. Each time we read the apostles creed, we say it with so many around the Earth and so many throughout the ages. Each time we recite the Lord's prayer, we say it with so many throughout the ages in different translations, in different languages, even back to Christ's own words. Each time we light a candle, we are reminded of Christ's light in all of us throughout time, in the past, and further into the future. Each time we feel a sprinkle of water, we are reminded that each of us is a beloved child of God, and that together with all the saints here in this place, throughout the ages, and in the days to come - together, we are the body of Christ: forgiven, enlivened, and promised life eternal.



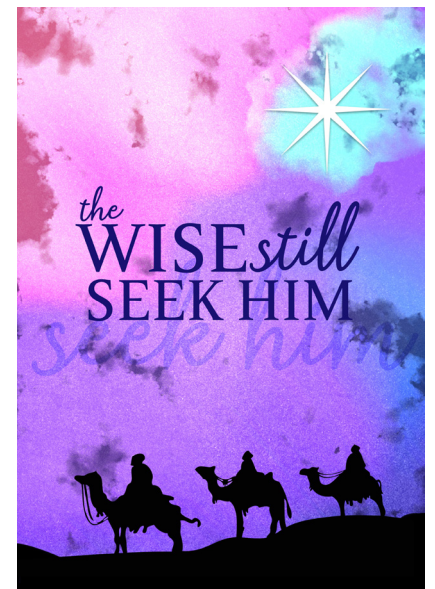
Patrick, Noyes "Bart" Bartholomew, Dolores Brickman, Charlie Brown, Tony Calise, Karin Carlough, Mike Chapman, John Claehsen, John Cutler, Carol Daley, Carol Doyle, Krista Fuchs, Mary Carolyn Harrison, Fred Hesse, Pat Kelly, Dennis & Jennifer Kruk, Anna & Walter Kruk, Kaitlyn Kruk, Hugh Lally, Dolores & Jack Lowack, Marie Lupinski, Linda McFate, Doris Robinson, Cathy & Roger Schramm, Michelle Seals, Tina Smith & Family, Dave Splieth, Marge Tomaselli, Lenny van Dam, the Vega Family, Janice & Dave Wedderman and Peter Zingaro

## Those serving in the military...

Bryant Rodriguez Cyriax, Devin Vega and Rachel Zarnke

## Those who can't be with us...

Carol DeMott, Al & Barbara Frielink and Irma Weishaupt





## THAT'S A (RE)WRAP!

The Reintgen family in North Carolina will always remember Christmas 2023. At 3 a.m. on December 25, their 3-year-old son woke them up, asking for scissors to open his new action-figure toy. "That's when we realized something had gone terribly wrong," said Scott, his dad.

A quick trip downstairs revealed a mess of unwrapped gifts under the family's Christmas tree. "There was not one thing that he left unscathed," Scott said. The boy, in his defense, said he was just trying to help everyone know what they'd received.

With only hours until their other children awoke, the Reintgens were determined to save Christmas. Mom Katie raced to rewrap gifts, even managing to get most nametags back on the correct packages. Instead of being angry, the parents found humor in the ordeal. Afterward, they explained to their son the joy that people experience from receiving — and opening — their own presents.

Morals of the story? Remember this 3-year-old when you get overeager for certain parts of the holidays. Don't rush through anything, and let others enjoy Christmas at their own pace too. When something goes wrong, don't panic. Like the Reintgens, find joy in any unexpected glitches and grins you encounter throughout the season.



## WALKING WITH THOSE WHO GRIEVE

The holiday season can be difficult for people who are grieving a death or deep loss. As Christians, we do well to be aware that not everyone feels wholehearted joy this time of year. How can we support them?

Grief counselor Alan Wolfelt explains that walking alongside — "companioning" — one who grieves "is not about assessing, analyzing, fixing or resolving another's grief. Instead, it is about being totally present to the mourner, even being a temporary guardian of [his or] her soul."

Among Wolfelt's 11 tenets for "companioning the bereaved":

It's about being present to another person's pain, not taking it away.

It's about listening with the heart, not analyzing with the head.

It's about walking alongside, not leading.

More tips are available at [www.centerforloss.com/2019/12/](http://www.centerforloss.com/2019/12/)

May God bless you as you share the love of the Christ Child, his caring parents and his compassionate heavenly Father with people who are hurting.

## DEC

### Lay Assistant | Usher Altar Guild | Counter Schedule

<b>DEC 1</b>	10:00am
Lay Assistant	Pam Sakala
Usher	Terry Calise
Altar Guild	Lore Braun
<b>DEC 8</b>	10:00am
Lay Assistant	Pat Berinato
Usher	Linda Polise
Altar Guild	Marge Tomaselli
<b>DEC 15</b>	10:00am
Lay Assistant	Bob Denicola
Usher	Margarete Denicola
Altar Guild	Linda Polise
<b>DEC 22</b>	10:00am
Lay Assistant	Bill Jaichner
Usher	Terry Calise
Altar Guild	Gina Lally
<b>DEC 24</b>	10:00am
Lay Assistant	Carrie Ralston
Usher	Anne Carman
Altar Guild	All Help
<b>DEC 29</b>	10:00am
Lay Assistant	Chris Nilsen
Usher	Linda Polise
Altar Guild	Marge Tomaselli
Counter	Marge Tomaselli

## BIRTHDAYS

Christine Denicola	12/3
Nicole Young	12/3
Paul Berinato	12/10
Madison Mercer	12/21
Rob Denicola	12/24
Lori Mercer	12/24
Jesus Christ	12/25
Karin Carlough	12/31

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CHRIST...



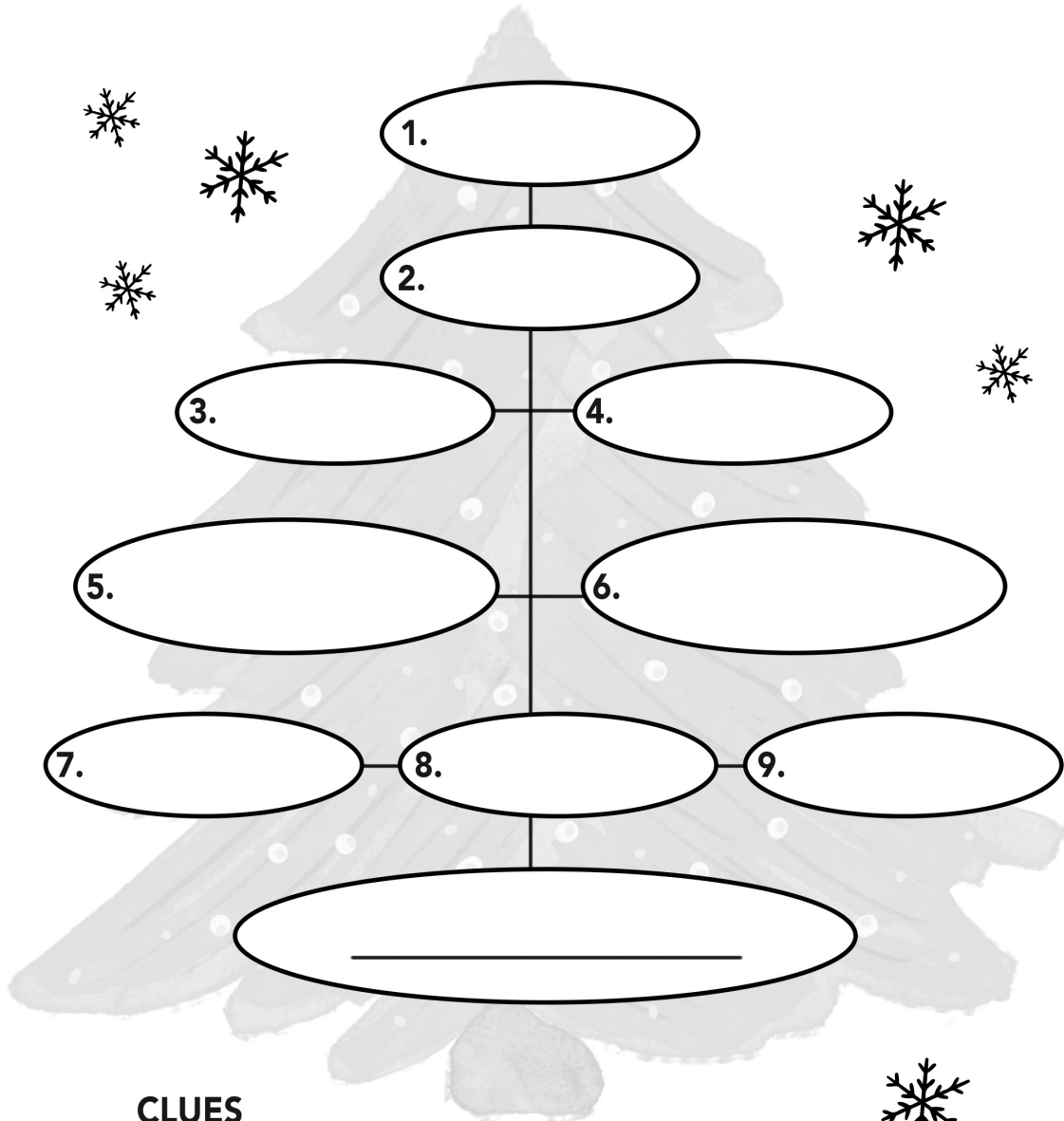
A tremendous thank you to an anonymous church family for donating the purchase of our new doors. A vibrant coat of red paint was applied to welcome our members and the community.

Thank you also to our Property Committee (Bill Jaichner) for overseeing such a demanding but important project.



The solar panels our church was known for were taken down in November in preparation of a new roof to come in the spring.

Write the answer to each clue in the correct circle.  
Then jot down the first letter of each answer  
and unscramble those letters to form a word about this  
season. Write that answer at the bottom of the tree.



### CLUES

1. You trim this at Christmas.
2. One who governs
3. The first word of a popular carol, it means "Listen!"
4. You burn this to make the air sweet.
5. "For unto us is born this day a \_\_\_\_\_ ..."
6. She was betrothed to Joseph.
7. Shepherds heard them sing.
8. A Christmas song
9. 'Tis the \_\_\_\_\_ to be jolly!"



# DECEMBER 2024

Church (CH)  
Fellowship Hall (FH)  
Family Room (FR)  
Office Building (OB)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> First Sunday of Advent Worship Service (CH) 10:00am	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Crafty Ladies (OB) 10:00am
<b>8</b> Second Sunday of Advent Worship Service (CH) 10:00am	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Third Sunday of Advent Worship Service (CH) 10:00am Council Meeting (OB) 11:15am	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Crafty Ladies (OB) 10:00am
<b>22</b> Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service (CH) 10:00am Endowment Meeting (OB) 11:15am	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Worship Service (CH) 8:00pm	<b>25</b> Christmas Day Church office closed	<b>26</b> Church office closed	<b>27</b> Church office closed	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Worship Service (CH) 10:00am	<b>30</b> Church office closed	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve Church office closed	<b>1</b> New Year's Day Church office closed	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	
JANUARY 2025						

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF AND COUNCIL

**Pastor**  
**Office Administrator**  
**Sexton**  
**Director of Music Ministries**  
**President**  
**Vice President**  
**Council Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**Recording Financial Secretary**  
**Financial Secretary**

Rev. Jonathan Westerlund  
Debbie Geerlof  
Bob Sakala  
Michael Wittenburg  
Chris Nilsen  
Bill Jaichner  
Pam Sakala  
Chuck Young  
Pat Berinato  
Marge Tomaselli

**Inward Ministry Team**  
**Christian Education**  
**Shepherd**  
**Worship**

Pam Sakala  
Carrie Ralston  
Marge Tomaselli

**Administrative Team**  
**Financial**  
**Property**

Chuck Young  
Bill Jaichner  
Chris Nilsen

**Outward Ministry Team**  
**Servant**

Anne Carman  
Rosemary Chandra  
Jan Behnke