

# *The Messenger*

*December 2014*

The Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church  
Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey



**The Church: Proudly Proclaiming Christ since A.D. 33**



## Born king of the Jews

Matthew 2:1-2 says that after Jesus was born, wise men came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?" Complete the puzzle to discover what they found in Bethlehem.

**Directions:** In the grid below, draw lines by starting at the first number in each list and stopping at the last.



☆ ☆

16-17	28-17-6	61-50-39	8-7-18	106-96-85-97-107-106	42-41-52-63-64-53
3-14-25	36-47-58	104-105-106	38-49-60	89-100-111-123	107-108-109-120-130
2-3-4	5-16-27	19-18-29-30	69-79-89	80-92-103-104	125-135-134-124-123-133-134
40-51-62-39	37-47-59	105-95-84-96		124-125-126-127-128	69-80-91-102-103
				129-130-142-141-129	141-140-128-129

• 1	• 2	• 3	• 4	• 5	• 6	• 7	• 8	• 9	• 10	• 11
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• 34	• 35	• 36	• 37	• 38	• 39	• 40	• 41	• 42	• 43	• 44
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• 111	• 112	• 113	• 114	• 115	• 116	• 117	• 118	• 119	• 120	• 121
• 122	• 123	• 124	• 125	• 126	• 127	• 128	• 129	• 130	• 131	• 132
• 133	• 134	• 135	• 136	• 137	• 138	• 139	• 140	• 141	• 142	• 143

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**Dated Material – Please Deliver Promptly**



Pastor: The Rev. Marc Stutzel  
Director of Music: Argine Safari  
Director of Youth Choirs: David Scance  
Musician: Fred Messner  
Administrative Assistant: Doris Crouse



## ***Breathing Faith***

When fall hits, I always keep an eye out for when I first see my breath. Just a few weeks ago, while walking my dog Twinkie, I first saw it. My breath shimmered a bit in the moonlight. It was the sign I needed to see, to take a phrase from "Game of Thrones," that winter is coming.

For us here in Northern New Jersey the coming of winter means the coming of Christmas. The stores are busy selling us gifts to give and giant inflatable ducks with scarves and hats to put on our front lawn. Christmas vacations, Christmas trees, Christmas parties and dinners - even before Halloween, we are all Christmas all the time.

But before there is Christmas, the church starts with Advent. The season of Advent is four Sundays long, starting on November 30. The church will be decorated in purple, an Advent wreath will be by the altar, and we'll have many events that you are invited to come to. My Installation on November 30, the Advent Dinner on December 7th, and the Youth Christmas Party are just a few of the events that feed our life together. These wonderful events, along with worship and meeting Christ in scripture and in bread and drink, are one way we breathe in faith. As these services and events enter into us, we're nourished, loved and grow in our relationship with God.

Yet each breath in must have a breath out. When we are nourished by faith, we are called to share that faith out. Our Christmas Caroling at train stations on December 15, our Christmas Toy Drive and our luncheon and gift giving with the Waterfront Home are just a few of the ways we exhale our of faith. This movement continues through Christmas Eve itself with two wonderful services: a 5 pm Family service (please note the new time!) and 11 pm Candlelight service. On the eve when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we shout with joy, thanksgiving and wonder that God took the chance to live as one of us.

The life of faith is a continual cycle. We breathe in and are nourished by worship, our friends and our communal life together. We breathe out by making a difference in the lives of people we do not know, inviting them into a relationship with us, and spreading Christ's love with everyone around us. This December come and breathe faith with us. You might be surprised what you find.

See ya in church! Pastor Marc

## *President's Message*



As you receive this, we are finishing our second month under the leadership of Pastor Marc Stutzel. I am encouraged by all the positive feedback we are receiving. I know he is working hard to meet as many folks as he can and to visit those who can't make it to our building. Confirmation class has begun, and the Advent season is beginning. Have you seen the postings, pictures and thought starters on Facebook? If not,

please consider "friending" our church page . . . you will be glad you did!

There is much happening here in December. Please read through this entire edition to catch all the events. Many people are working hard to make this a wonderful time for all of us. I'd like to take this space to remind you about two very important occasions happening soon.

### **Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>—Bishop Tracie Bartholomew visits and presides at the 10:30 am service**

We will have ONE service only on that day. Come and meet your NJ Synod Bishop! It has been about five years since our last visit (with Bishop Riley).

### **Installation Service for Pastor Marc Stutzel on November 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am.**

### **Luncheon reception to follow in Opsal Room.**

Come and celebrate the installation of our new Pastor!! Yes, it IS the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend. Please consider coming home on Saturday so you can come to this really special service on Sunday morning . . . plus, we will have a beautiful luncheon reception welcoming him, his family and the Bishop. It will be a Joyous day for our congregation . . . and new beginning for us all. Please come!!

Looking forward to November 30<sup>th</sup> and the Advent season!

Yours In Christ,  
Carla Hoenigmann  
[carlah716@cs.com](mailto:carlah716@cs.com);  
201-391-7843



**Thank You for the Christmas presents**—A special ***Thank you*** to those who have picked a name of one of the needy kids from DYFS or the Mentoring Moms program. By now they have all been selected and you are finishing up your shopping. Once again, we have brought the names of 50 kids from the Bergen Volunteer Center to the congregation, and you have responded generously. For the kids from DYFS, you may be providing their only gifts.

The Mentoring Moms list (\$25 max value gift) is due back by November 23<sup>rd</sup>. The gifts for the kids of DYFS (\$50-60 value) are due no later than November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Please remember to wrap your gifts, tag them with the recipient's name and Family # and bring them back to the Narthex. If you still want to donate cash or Target gift cards, please see Christine Badame (201-505-1909). It is NOT TOO LATE for those donations. I can bring those to them through mid December. The Volunteer center uses them to buy gifts for people who were not matched with donors. A final report will be available in the January Messenger.



**The CLCW Annual meeting will be on Sunday, January 18th, 2015** starting right after the second service. We invite all confirmed female members of the church to come and enjoy lunch and fellowship. Once again, a delicious buffet of soups and desserts will be our lunch. Come join us as we review Trash & Treasure 2014, the recipients of our donations and discuss plans for 2015!

Christine Badame

## *The Care Committee*

**Have you heard?** The Polar Vortex is coming. Are you prepared?

**Have you heard?** Another more important event is coming to Christ Lutheran on Sunday, November 30, 2014 -- **Advent** – a day of expectation, waiting and preparing for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Are you prepared?



On Advent Sunday, November 30, 2014 the **Love Tree** will appear in the narthex, as it does every year, to accept your Christmas greeting to our congregation. Look for the red cut-out hearts waiting for your greeting and place your heart on the **Love Tree**. Any donations received at that time will enable the Care Committee to continue its mission to help needy families in our congregation and the surrounding communities.

In cooperation with Church World Services we will again be accepting your gifts toward the **Blanket Fund**. Please look for the red/green Christmas cards you will find on the narthex table for \$5.00 each. The purchase of a card will help not only provide body warmth to a total stranger, but you will also be sharing the true spirit of Christmas with that same stranger. Your checks should be made payable to Church World Services designated for the **Blanket Fund**.

On Sunday, December 7, The **Knit 1 – Purl 2 Ladies** will be setting up a table in the narthex with their beautiful crocheted and knitted items, giving you the opportunity to purchase a unique, homemade gift for a special person, and the opportunity to fight hunger. Please remember to visit this table before leaving church. All the funds received at this time from the sale of these items will be forwarded to The Center For Food Action, Englewood.

It is a very busy season. Take time to remember the real message of Christmas. The Committee sends its wishes to one and all for a Blessed and Happy Holiday.

Mae Hulburt





The Special Gifts Disbursement Committee still needs your help to identify new projects to fund with distributions from the Dominick and Anna Ricci Foundation. These new projects need to be reviewed by the Committee and Council before we vote at the 2015 Congregational Meeting. So download an application from the CLC website or pick one up from the mailboxes near the office and return the completed form to the Committee's mailbox. The deadline for any new applications to be considered is **December 7, 2014**. (Remember that in order to be considered the application must be signed by a member of Council.)

We have already met the minimum distribution in all areas so you can recommend a project in any one of the following:

**\* Outreach Ministry or Benevolences to  
local Community or worldwide**

**\*Special Congregational Ministries**

**\*Capital Improvement or Asset Replacement**

Bill Hoenigmann

The Special Gifts Disbursement Committee



The 2015 stewardship drive is coming to a close. Hopefully you have carefully considered your role, responsibility and importance in being a part of the campaign. We are a family and like all families we have jobs, responsibilities and sacrifices to make, to insure the family functions well. Please try to commit to a pledge and increase your existing pledge if possible. We have had a few members sign up to help on several committees already, but we are still looking for more participation. Please follow through; I guarantee you won't be disappointed.

Remember the theme for this year—**Generous 316**. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that who so ever believes in him, shall not perish, but have everlasting life. Wow—powerful and meaningful! What can we give that is powerful and meaningful???? You know the answer; act on it. God bless,

Mary Zeigler, Stewardship Chair



### ***Come Meet Koinonia's New Director***

On Saturday, December 13, at 10 am, Christ Lutheran Church is hosting a special listening circle with the new director of Koinonia, Pastor Gary Schaeffer. Pastor Gary joined the Koinonia team in September. Koinonia is launching a strategic planning process, and they want you to be a part of it. We will gather for a time of prayer and reflection about Koinonia's mission and vision. Pastor Gary will guide the conversation that will be focused on where Koinonia can grow into the future. We have a long relationship with Koinonia and are excited about Pastor Gary's leadership. Please RSVP to Pastor Marc ([marc.stutzel@gmail.com](mailto:marc.stutzel@gmail.com)) by December 6 so we can make sure that we have enough bagels and coffee on hand.

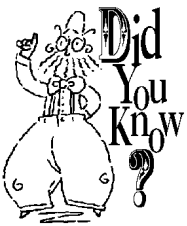
### ***Order Flowers Now***



**Beginning November 30<sup>th</sup> you may order poinsettias** for decorating the altar on Christmas Eve. Complete an envelope from the table in the Narthex. Your purchased poinsettia may be picked up following the 11:00 pm Christmas Eve service.

**Help will be needed** to deliver remaining poinsettias to those of our congregation who are sick or shut-in. Call the church office to volunteer to help.

**The 2015 Altar Flower Chart** will be available in the Narthex on December 7<sup>th</sup>. You are invited to choose a Sunday date you might wish to purchase altar flowers during 2015. For those who sign up, further information will be mailed to you. The flowers are \$40. per Sunday.



*... We tipped the scales?*

**Our Genesis Garden**

**Harvested 1,566 lbs.**

## ***Christ Lutheran's Advent Devotion Challenge***

Looking for a way to experience and share your faith and the Advent season at the same time? Are you on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram? Got a smartphone? For each day of Advent, post a photo that captures that day's theme. Tag Christ Lutheran (clc4u or @ChristWoodCliff) or add the hashtag #clc4u!



**November 30: Begin**

**December 1: *Expect* – December 2: *Share* – December 3 – *Story***

**December 4: *Joy* – December 5: *Love* – December 6: *Past***



**December 7: *Neighbor* – December 8: *Promise* – December 9: *Justice***

**December 10: *Gather* – December 11: *Cry***

**December 12: *Free* – December 13: *Share* --**



**December 14: *Evergreen* – December 15 -- *Caroling***

**December 16: *Faith* – December 17: *Generous* – December 18: *Present***

**December 19: *Light* – December 20: *Star***



**December 21: *Welcome* – December 22: *Journey* – December 23: *Future***

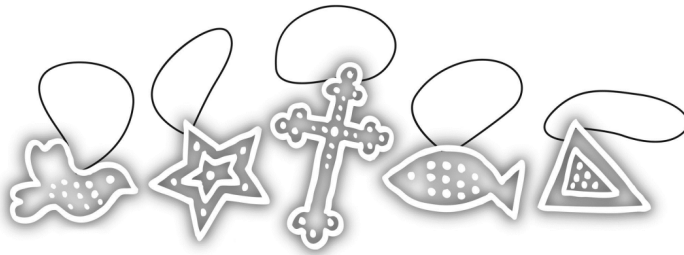
***Christmas Eve* – *Hope***



### ***Let's Go Train Station Caroling***



Monday, December 15 we will be going Christmas caroling at the local train stations! We did this last year and those who participated love it! We will sing Christmas carols (on key?) as the train comes in to the station and as weary commuters are getting off. Then people are handed a handmade ornament and invitation to our Christmas Eve Worship (usually by one of our enthusiastic kids) as they head off to their car. So save the date (time to be announced) and get on board!



### ***An Advent-ure!***

***“Hanging of the Greens”  
Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>  
3:00 p.m.***

***Join us for the fun and challenge for all ages to  
transform our sanctuary into  
a reflection of the glory of the Lord.***

## ***Advent is Calling! Prepare The Way of the Lord!***

This is the time when the church anticipates and celebrates the presence of God in Jesus Christ. November 30<sup>th</sup> is the beginning of Advent. Come, worship each Advent Sunday and experience the coming of Christ through Word, Sacrament, Music and Lighting of the Advent Wreath, with Christ in the center of it all.

### ***December Advent Happenings***

November 30 - 9:00 am Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion  
- 10:30 am Pastor's Installation Service with Holy Communion  
- 11:30 am Installation Reception

December 7 - 9:00 am Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion  
- 9:40 am Sunday Church School and Christian Chat  
- 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion  
- 5:00 pm Advent Dinner

December 13 - 10:00 am Koinonia Event at church

December 14 - 9:00 am Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion  
- 9:40 am Sunday Church School and Christian Chat  
- 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion  
- 3:00 pm Sanctuary Decorating  
- 5:00 pm Pizza supper

December 15 - Train Station Caroling (time TBA)

December 20 - Family Cookie Decorating, 10:00 am

December 21 - 9:00 am Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion  
- 9:40 am Sunday School Christmas Pageant  
- 10:30 am Worship with Holy Baptism and Holy Communion

December 24 - 5:00 pm Family Worship  
11:00 pm Candlelight Worship

**December 28 - 10:30 am One worship service with Lessons and Carols**

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## *Celebrate the Birth of Christ*

*Christmas Eve, **Wednesday**, December 24<sup>th</sup>*

*Come and **Worship and**  
Welcome the New Born King!*

*5:00 p.m. Candlelight Family Worship  
Youth Choirs and Holy Communion*

*11:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship  
Special Music and Holy Communion*



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*Christ  
is Coming!*

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Give us two hours . . .

We will prepare your hearts  
for a better Christmas!!!

*Come to the Advent Dinner!*

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm

♥ Advent Devotions

♥ Roast Pork Loin Dinner

♥ Make & Take crafts for children

♥ Gift bag craft for Seniors in LSS housing

♥ Dessert – it's still a secret!

♥ Love and Joy



### *Sing and Ring a Joyful Sound on Christmas Eve*



#### **Come One and All to Sing with Chancel Choir**

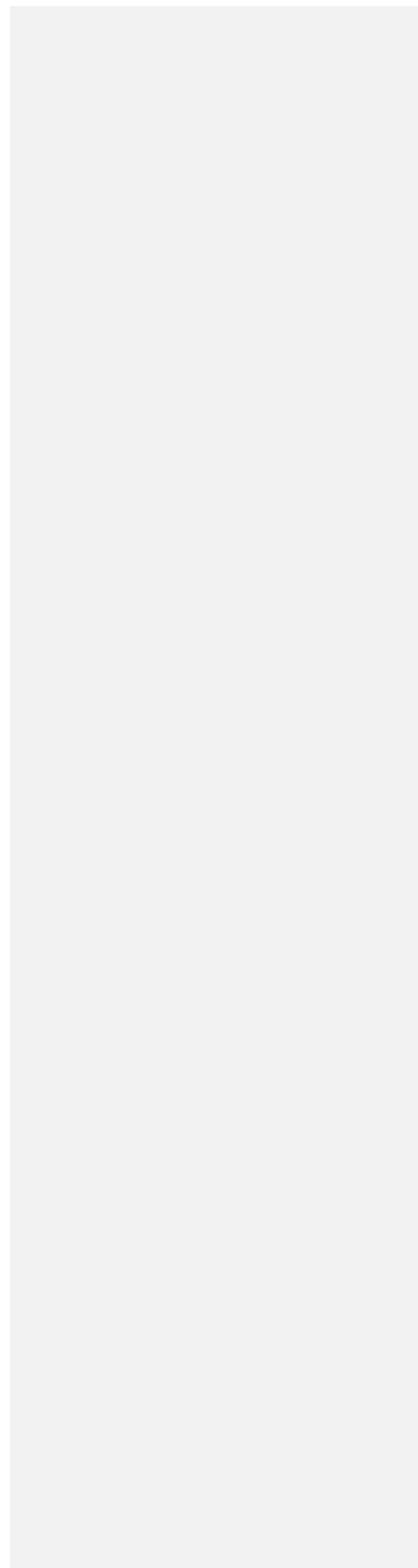
If you are interested in singing but can't commit to every week, you are invited to sing with the choir for the 11:00 pm Christmas Eve worship. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. Consider joining us.

**Handchime Choir rehearsals** for Christmas Eve services begin Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> following the 10:30 service. New members are welcome. See our Music Director, Argine.

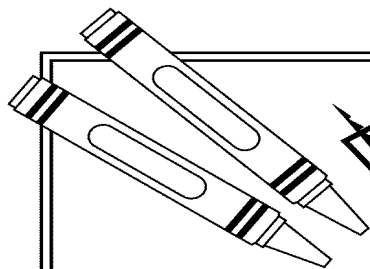
### *Christmas Rules for a Merry Christmas And a Happy New Year*

Be kind to each other,  
Be of good cheer,  
Treasure your family and all your traditions,

Fa la la as you decorate your halls,  
Keep your schedule light to make the moments bright,  
Enjoy the giving and the receiving,  
And remember that JESUS is the reason for this season,







# PUZZLE

## A Child is Born

*Jesus received many different names — even before he was born. Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) prophesies about four of these names.*

Directions: Unscramble the words on the name tags below. (Hint: The first letter is capitalized.)

MY  
NAME IS

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MY NAME IS

lerWnofud

esnruooCl

MY NAME IS  
vrelEnsitga

eahFrt

MY  
NAME IS

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Answers: Mighty God, Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace