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## Festival of the Three Kings & Epiphany is January 6, 2010

This festival completes the Christmas story with the arrival of the three kings to the manger in Bethlehem.

We will begin this festival, 5:45 pm with a traditional Filipino and Panamanian meal and other traditional desserts.

There will be information and displays on how the holiday is celebrated in the Philippines and Panama.

We will have a story time and activity for families, as well as an opportunity for others to explore the meaning and history of celebrating Epiphany, all from 6:30 pm to the time of the service. Worship, including the arrival of the three kings and Holy Communion will be at 7:00pm. Add this to your family's Christmas calendar, as you will not want to miss this special celebration.

## Village Nights will resume January 13, 2010

Meals begin 5:45 pm -6:30 pm

Family Bible Story time 6:30-6:45 pm

Small Group study 6:35-7:30 pm

Confirmation Classes 6:35-7:30 pm

High School Youth gathering 6:35-7:30 pm

Worship 7:35-7:55pm

Joyful Noises Choir 6:30- 7:00pm

Adult Choir 7:00-8:30pm

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Kathy Hade
2	Sierra Lackey Adam Hade Deborah Goodwin
4	Joanne Buckel Ali Meyer Patty Donovan Jenna Adkins Joe Barnes Inara Small
7	Heather Riddell Amy Waltz
12	Jennifer Maier
14	Jamie Glendenning Martina Bosdell
15	Robert Magann, Jr.
16	Stephanie Karn
17	Vikki Shumaker Ashley Karn
18	Kay Rilee Bill Riddell Megan Solada
20	Nathan Ellis
23	Lynne McAfee
26	Susan Nepomuceno
27	Nancy Hendrickson
28	Erin Ring
29	Chris Berg
30	Natalee Rinaca Rachel Tripp Dennis Burns
31	Ann Mansueti Lainey Riddell

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Virginia Harris
3	Bill Boldin
4	Madison Wangenstein
8	Reese Harris
10	Stephen Reynolds Bob Maier
11	Tatum Gyllenhoff
12	Ann Marie Farnsworth Mallory Marchetti
13	Pat Long
14	Tamera Thompson AnnMarie Price Becky Yensen
15	Dary Ellis Judith Garnett Lillian Yensen
16	Andrea Hendricks Emma Lantz
19	Samuel Peterman
19	Samuel Peterman
20	Chris Glendenning
20	Gale Moyer
23	Joe Williamson Annabella Faudale Dagmar Carlsen Carleigh Heckel
24	Laura Mills
	José Nepomuceno
26	Judy Maier
27	Ron Butler Stephen Schleck
28	Donna Mansueti Darren Hendricks
29	Curtis Pilgrim
31	Cindi Jones Caroline Hizer Abby Murray

## Christmas Gift Ideas

If you are looking for great gifts for those special persons on your Christmas list, consider CLC made with grace Apple Butter, or CLC Cookbooks. Funds generated from the sale of these items will help us send members to Appalachian Service Project this summer. Costs for Apple Butter, \$6.00 pint, \$3.00 half pint, cookbooks \$10.00. Make checks payable to Christ Lutheran and leave in church office.

**IF YOUR BIRTHDAY** doesn't appear on the monthly list for the *Parish News*, it's because we don't have a record of it! If yours is missing, give us a call (266-5775) or email Katy at [bearskaty@aol.com](mailto:bearskaty@aol.com) so we can include you in the newsletter.



*From the Parish Nurse....*

Advent is a time for hope, peace, joy, and love, not mounds of gifts, chaotic rounds of parties, or copious amounts of food. Consider what has real meaning for you. Is it the Christmas story you heard as a child or its impact on you as an adult? Think about how the music of the holiday displays love and peace in a harried world. Don't let commercialism or stress overshadow the gifts of love and sharing that you offer your loved ones.

*"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." Matthew 5:4 NIV*

The holiday season can be a mixture of feelings, especially if you are grieving the loss of a loved one. Celebrations take on a different meaning as you work through the many emotions of grief. Do you attend every party you are invited to? Do you decorate your home the same way as before the death? Do you maintain family traditions or create new ones? Do you find new ways to include the deceased such as donating gifts in his/her name? Tackling the holidays after a loss, whether recent or old, is a work in progress. Make changes that feel right to you and honors those you have lost.

*"Give and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full – pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back." Luke 6:38 NLT*

Not all gifts are material. Sharing your time with others is a gift that can be given all year round. Look for community agencies or projects that need manpower. Homeless/abuse shelters, food pantries, meal sites, tutoring projects, hospice programs, Big Brothers – Big Sisters, and many other programs need manpower to provide their services. Research shows that volunteering is also good for your physical and mental health so choose a project, commit your time, and make it a family event. It will improve the lives of others while it reaps unexpected spiritual and family benefits.

*"Be sure to give to the Lord the best portions of the gifts given to you." Numbers 18:29 NLT*

The holidays are times of joy but also times of change. Children grow into adults with lives of their own. Families lose loved ones to death through illness, old age, or accidents. Young adults marry and move away from home, changing the comfortable family traditions of their youth. Your gift to your family and friends is providing loving presence during the changes in their lives, and helping them develop new traditions and relationships that incorporate the changes that have occurred. Remember the best gift you can give is yourself – be loving, be supportive, be present.

Give *yourself* the gift of peace in the midst of a world in chaos. Have a healthy and great holiday and share your peace with those around you. Let me know if I can be of help to you.

--- Cathy

***Excerpted from Seasons for Wholeness: Monthly Themes and Programming for Parish Health Ministry VI, IPNRC.***

Dear People of Christ,

One of the things about a mission church is the energy and enthusiasm of those people who have committed themselves to starting something new...a new congregation. When I was young my Dad was called to a mission church in Burlington, Iowa.

The street of this "house church" (yes, we met in a big old house) was "Sunnyside." And I have to say, I recall the attitude of these saints on that street as being on the "sunny side" as well. I will never forget their commitment and their joy and their determined presence as a gathering community in worship and Sunday school.

I think about our congregation. What an opportunity we have here in this place on Woodman Road! By adding a second pastor it can feel like a mission church around here, one filled with energy and enthusiasm. And we have an advantage over a very young congregation. We have a history of mission, ministry and presence from which to draw; we have a history of strong member presence and participation.

It's almost Christmas! (I hope yours will be a joyous holiday season.) It is a season of hope. I have only one hope this year. It is that YOU may join this "mission church" called Christ Lutheran Church for regular worship, avid Bible study, over-the-top welcoming of guests and fellow members, dedicated participation in a ministry of your choice, and joyous enthusiasm about our congregation.

I offer you two important questions with which to begin the New Year. How do you see your church as a mission church? And how can you contribute of yourself to ensure that your church establishes itself again in this upcoming year as a mission church...full of energy and enthusiasm?

In Nomine Jesu,

**Note:** Remember the new (for us) Epiphany Service at Christ Church on January 6, 2010.

**LAMB's Basket** needs food each week. All Clients receive Rice, Canned Vegetable, Fruit, Macaroni & Cheese, Pasta & Spaghetti Sauce.

Also needed are: Soups, jelly & Diapers (next step up from infant).

Please add one or two of these items to your grocery



## **ANNOUNCING:**

### **1st Communion Class Dates & Information**

Could it be time to be thinking about First Communion for your child? It is an important step and needs to be taken seriously by you and your child. Remember, **opportunity to receive the sacrament at Christ Church is not based on age or class grade.** Thus, we have students who are very young as well as those close to confirmation age.

#### **How do you know your child is ready for the class?**

- Observe how she or he comes to the altar for the blessing and note the interest in your receiving the sacrament.
- Watch for responses to the children's sermon and when you read or your child reads a Bible story.
- Ask your child about receiving the sacrament.
- Don't forget, reception is not determined by a test. We are "prepared and worthy who believes these words, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." (Small Catechism)

**The schedule for the classes is as follows and will begin with lunch for all participants, students, parents & siblings:**

Jan. 17	Noon - 1:30 PM - Parents & Students
Jan. 24	Noon - 1:30 PM - Parents & Students
Feb. 31	Noon - 1:30 PM - Parents & Students
Feb. 7	Noon - 2:15 PM - Students only
Feb. 14	Either Service - First Communion Day

Also remember, it is mandatory that at least one parent or sponsor attends a separate session offered simultaneously on the first three class dates. Those classes are designed to help you assist in your child's learning. Please call the church office (266-5775) as soon as possible to register your child.

## **YOUTH & ADULT APPALACHIA MISSION TRIP July 25 - July 31, 2010**

Have you ever thought about going on a mission trip but were concerned about the distance away from home, length of time required for the trip and the cost? Then this is an opportunity for YOU! Each year we plan the trip to nearby Appalachia for exactly 7 days. And the cost is reasonable; we raise most it (about \$325/person).

This year we will be in Brenton, West Virginia doing home repair (no skills needed; only a willingness to help.) The benefits are enormous: The satisfaction of helping others, plus an opportunity for spiritual growth and renewal.

Who can go? Youth (ages 15-17); Young Adults (ages 18-20); Adults (age 21+). We only have space for 18 people. To ensure your place on the trip, fill out the form on the Welcome Table and drop it into the offering plate or call the church office (266-5775) as soon as possible.



## THE ANGELS ARE HERE!!

It's hard to believe it's that time of year already! Please pick an angel (or two!) off our *Angel Tree* located in the Commons. As you select your angel, remember to sign your name in the log book.

All gifts need to be wrapped (with angel attached) and returned to church by Sunday, Dec. 13. **If the *Angel Tree* gift** you selected is clothing, please include a gift receipt inside your package to facilitate the exchange of the item, should it not fit.

If you would like to help with assembling the family packages, please join us at church on Monday, Dec. 14 at 5:00 PM. If you have any questions, contact Eileen Johnson at (804) 752-6140.

You have been generous in years past and this year, more than ever, we need your help to make Christmas morning merry and bright in these households. God sent His Son to remind us that believing in Him, loving like He loves us, being kind and generous to all people, is the way we reflect His light and love. Come, be that light for the families on the *St. John Angel Tree*.

## ***Remember the poor this holiday season***

There are so many little things in our lives that are so easy to take for granted. Consider the story of a social worker serving in a middle-class county in Virginia. Her job is to care for homeless students in the county's schools. Many of the children she is responsible for live in motels.

She brings them bags of groceries she gets from local food pantries and food banks at little or no cost. A local thrift store gives families \$50 gift certificates to purchase used clothing. Shoes she can get as well. What the kids need is new socks and underwear. You can't buy those things with food stamps. Even if the thrift store sold donated underwear who would want it?

As you make plans this holiday season, as you plan for feasting and gift giving and gift receiving, why not make a second set of plans as well? Why not consider how you might be able to share out of what God has blessed you with?

Remember the kids who lack for new, clean underwear. Remember people living in what we now know as the 2/3's world who do not have clean healthy water to drink. Remember the millions of people who get and re-get malaria because they lack mosquito nets costing as little as \$10 each.

Make those plans and then act on them. Give to your local food pantry or food bank. Make an extra contribution this year to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. You can even give a gift in honor or memory of someone to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal through their [website](http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Responding-to-the-World/ELCA-World-Hunger/Donate-Now.aspx) (<http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Responding-to-the-World/ELCA-World-Hunger/Donate-Now.aspx>).

There is so much we take for granted, so much we assume to be certain in our lives that is trivial. Yet we are also told to be certain that on the cross Jesus died and was raised from the dead so that we too might know resurrected life. Trust this good news as you share with those in need. <http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs030/1101896013264/archive/1102279528548.html>

## **Lakeside Networking and Support Group**

Our focus is employment networking, learning about community resources, tips for internet job searches, updates on upcoming employment events, and mutual support. Our outreach is for all who are experiencing changes in their employment status as well as those who may have employment opportunities to offer.

Upcoming meeting dates are December 4 & 18, 2009,  
January 8 & 22, 2010, February 5 & 19, 2010 from 8:00am-9:30am.

Please check the website for changes due to inclement weather.

River View prints by Billy Hockman are for sale \$10.00 and funds raised will be used by the Lakeside Networking & Support group. Please see Susan Nepomuceno, Katy Vess or Billy Hockman to purchase prints. They are wonderful gifts for all. Print is available to view in the Commons area.

Dear Members of Christ Church,

I got a package in the mail the other day from Christ Lutheran full of Halloween candy and I'm not going to lie, it really made my day. I always remember hearing about the care packages sent to the college students when I was a little kid and now I'm that student, weird right? I just wanted to thank everyone that had to do with this gift and it is really good to know that everyone is thinking of all of us in college. ...I'm having a great time but I'm missing everyone at church. See you all over break!

Brooks Jung

Dear Friends,

Belatedly I thank you all so very much for the support you gave me during my many months of hospitalization. Special thanks go to Elizabeth and Mason. I miss you all, especially my friends of the Trinity Gathering.

If time permits, come to see me. I'm still a shut-in, but I have progressed a long way since March.

Sincerely,  
Margaret Lindsay

*Tyler and Gale Moyer have settled into their new home and are doing well. If you would like to send your greetings or get in touch with them, please contact the church office for their address.*

**OUR PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY** are for Basil Tripp on the death of his mother on November 6.

## **Sunday School**

The last day of Sunday school in 2009 will be December 20 for both children and adults. Sunday school will resume on Sunday, January 10.

New adult topics include a study of 1 Corinthians and a continuation of people in the Old Testament. Beginning in Lent there will also be a study of the Marks of the Christian, a Lenten Journey.

If you have ideas about adult Sunday School topics, please talk to Pastor Kristin

## **RALY Christmas Party**

The **Richmond Area Lutheran Youth** Christmas party is on Sunday, December 6 from 5:30-8:00pm. There will be pizza, games, devotions, and worship.

This is open to all youth from grades 7-12. We will be leaving from Christ Lutheran at 5:00pm and are asked to bring deserts and drinks. Pizza will be provided.

Please let Pastor Kristin know if you will be attending by Wednesday, Dec. 2 to arrange transportation and food.

## **Winter Celebration**

Winter Celebration, the Virginia Synod high school retreat, is January 29-31. Applications are on VA synod website. Cost to each participant is \$75. All applications are due to Pastor Kristin by Dec 6. We are also in need of at least one more adult leader, please talk to Pastor Kristin if you are interested.

## **Youth Group News**

As has been done in the past, the youth group will be shopping for Christmas baskets for Safe Harbor as well as our own angel tree. Please keep an eye on the bulletin and email for details of when this will occur.

CLC Youth Group will meet Sunday, January 10 at noon for lunch and to begin planning youth Sunday, which is February 7. Please let Pastor Kristin know in advance if you are coming to plan food. Come with ideas for youth Sunday and how you might like to participate.

## **Children's Christmas Program**

December 13, 2009  
4:30pm with potluck dinner following

Come and experience the Nativity Story as told by our children and youth. We will share the story of the Incarnation in story and song with musical offerings by the Cherub Choir, Joyful Noises, all of our children and youth, as well as individual musicians and the Celestial Bells.

A potluck dinner will follow the program with drinks and desert provided.

For all participants – please remember that we will be rehearsing during the Sunday school hour on Dec 6 & 13 as well as Saturday, Dec 12 at 10am.

## **Stewardship Message:**

In sports we always hear teams saying from the very beginning they had a "GOAL" at the beginning of the season; To win the Super Bowl, The World Series, or The NBA Championship. Everyone involved with the team makes a number of sacrifices and gives of themselves to achieve the ultimate GOAL.

Members of our church can enjoy the same feeling of ecstasy by setting a personal goal for regular giving. Resist the forces that tell you, " It doesn't matter what you give, any gift is fine," or " you don't need to give if you don't want to," or "giving is a necessary sacrifice of church membership so we can pay the bills." The people saying such things haven't caught the

Christian understanding of the reason for giving.

The reason for giving is NOT to pay the church's bills. The reason for giving is to achieve the goal of substantial, inner, spiritual growth and a sense of deep satisfaction. If we set giving--goals for ourselves we will do that. If we don't we will have no certain path to follow; no discipline that guides our spiritual journey, no sense of satisfaction that we are living out our personal faith in ministries to others; and no sense of one---ness with God, whose very nature is "GIVER". Moreover, without a personal giving--goal that we are working to meet, "church" seems a lot less meaningful to us.

Set a GOAL for yourself or your family. Use the 'giving--goal' chart that was included with your pledge card. Try at least \$ 1 per week for every \$1,000 of annual combined household income. The goal can be set as high as it needs to be to give you that inner feeling of one--ness with God. YOU set your own giving goal. Pay attention to where your heart is. Remember Jesus did not say, "Where your heart is, there will your treasure be also." Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matthew 6: 21

**TRINITY GATHERING** will have its Christmas meeting on December 10 at 10:30 AM at **Imperial Plaza, "The Virginia Room"** (ask at gate for directions). Pastor Moehring will teach the Bible study, beginning at 11 AM. All congregation members are cordially invited to join us. Lunch following the Bible Study is optional. Please call Tinky Keen (262-4292) if you plan to attend.

On January 14, the *Trinity Gathering* will meet at **Imperial Plaza, "The Virginia Room"** at 10:30 AM with Bible study at 11 AM and lunch (optional) following. All are welcome. Call Tinky Keen (262-4292) to say you can come.

## **Stewardship Message:**

" But God, we are down nearly \$ 30,000 from our budget.....", I said. "our ministry opportunities are huge.....our building has many regular groups meeting weekly," I continued.

"Rely on Me," God replied. " Have I ever failed you? Didn't I help you with your new associate pastor and other financial obligations? Has anyone ever missed a paycheck? So rely on me."

" But God, " I sheepishly pleaded one more time, " the scripture says you will provide all our needs."

"Your needs, yes," said God, " not your wants. You see, I clothe the grass of the field and feed the birds of the air, and I will supply your needs IF you seek first MY righteousness and rely on me."

" OK, OK, I understand. But is it ok for us to tell others about our financial needs and ask that they respond with support?"

" Sure," said God, "and you may also tell them that even though it's a bit uncomfortable, I'm pleased when you depend on Me. Oh.....and tell them I love them, too."

Hmm, While this is only a make believe conversation between God and me, it's pretty pointed. We know these are tough times for all, however, we must do our part. But that remains the huge question...." WHAT'S MY PART?" I once asked our current Bishop that question when he was still in a pastor's role, and he told me that was between me and God. I hope everyone will give prayerful consideration as to their giving. God is a lot stronger than many of us believe, but whatever you give God will always be there for us and he loves us unconditionally!

Submitted by Gerald W. Ransone

## *Hymn of the Month: January*

### **# 285 “Peace Came to Earth”**

Tune name: *Schneider*

Text: Jaroslav Vajda, b. 1919

Music: Paul Manz, b. 1919

Jaroslav Vajda also wrote the texts for “Now the Silence” and “Go, My Children, With My Blessing.” He named this tune after Pastor Theodore Schneider at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Lancaster, PA, in honor of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination. The author says, “the hymn was to laud the Incarnation rather than the charms of Christmas, and was to be presented as a gift to the church and to Pastor Schneider.”

Since the text has a unique meter, for which there were no existing tunes, Paul Manz was commissioned to write the tune. Paul Manz has been a prolific composer of both choral and organ music, as well as an organ recitalist. He has worked tirelessly in and for the Lutheran Church and recently retired in his 90s.



## *Hymn of the Month: December*

### **# 247 “Come Now, O Prince of Peace”**

Tune name: *Ososõ*

Text and music: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947

This hymn was copyrighted to WGRG, which is the Iona Community in Scotland, an ecumenical Christian community of men and women that is committed to seeking new ways of living the gospel of Jesus in today’s world. Its main activities take place on the island of Iona, and is somewhat similar to the Taizé community in its purpose.

Geonyong Lee is a contemporary Korean composer and writer, and you will notice the Asian influence in the tune. The text is perfect for Advent and the tune is very easy to sing.

## Christmas Eve services:

6:30 p.m. Cherub Choir and Joyful Noises will be singing a joint anthem, as well as each singing separately.

10:30 p.m. The Chancel Choir will be singing pre-service music, as well as three pieces during the service.

The Chancel Choir will go caroling at Sheltering Arms in Mechanicsville on Saturday evening, Dec. 12, and the Joyful Noises will go caroling to some of our homebound members on Sunday, Dec. 20 after worship. **Anyone is welcome to come with us!** You don't have to be a member of a choir.

## POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Please fill out the bottom portion of this form and return it to the church office or place it in the offering plate at any worship service *to give a poinsettia for use in the church during the Christmas services.*

**Please attach a check so that we do not have to collect at a later time.**

This year you may order red poinsettias with 4-5 blooms in a foiled pot at a cost of \$14.00 per pot. These plants may be taken home following the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ plant(s) to be used in the church during the Christmas services.

Please **PRINT** the following information:

**TO THE GLORY OF GOD IN MEMORY OF**

\_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

Please **PRINT** the following information:

**TO THE GLORY OF GOD IN HONOR OF:**

\_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_



**DEADLINE: DECEMBER 13**

### **Opportunities to Share your Gifts & Talents**

Have a coat in your closet that you no longer wear, or that your children have outgrown? These coats can warm others during the winter months ahead. Drop off coats at any Puritan Cleaners and they will clean them and do any repairs if needed then distribute them to those needing coats this winter. So spread the warmth this winter. There is one Puritan Cleaners right up the road from CLC on Woodman Road and Hungary Road.

Little Lutheran Families will be collecting dog and cat food to help Meals for Pets, part of Meals on Wheels. Donations of dry dog and cat food, and canned food, (can need to have tabs). Place donations in the dog crate/bed in the Commons area. Pet toys, treats, and collars & leashes are also accepted.

## Remembering Those in Need of Prayer

An important ministry at Christ Lutheran Church is remembering people in prayer. But so often the person and the name of the one who submitted the person get lost in the months that pass. Though God is not bound by our naming and remembering, it is important that the Church be a good steward of each person's name. Because we want to be intentional about our congregation's prayer life, we offer the following:

- The bulletin now carries the names of persons who have been recently submitted.
- The newsletter contains our homebound members, those family and friends serving our country, and friends and relatives in need of long term prayers.
- And, you may place names of anyone under the stone on the altar at any time. These will be left there for about 1 month.

Please remember: you need to continue to be an intentional steward of the person's name you submit. Keep pastor and the church office "in the loop" as conditions change; make sure we all can celebrate the "prayers answered" by taking that person's name off the prayer lists.

### **Our Homebound:**

Eva Brenmark, Bessie Grogg, Virginia Harris, Audrey Hartsoe, Katherine Magann, Carroll and Janice Schroeder, Margie Werner

### **Family & Friends Serving Our Country:**

Todd Burns, Josh Mullins, Jeremiah Mullins, Michael Rose,

### **Members, Friends & Relatives in Need of Long Term Prayers:**

Spencer Carlsen, Vivian and Dale Hupp, Craig Prekup, Jane Pickels, Nate Metheny, Al Driggers, Donna Coffman, Alice and Bob Lucan, Angie Smith, Betty Charette, Wayne Hatchel, DC Cheatham, Charlotte Eller, Jennifer Chun, Jon Jones, Michael Stinson, Megan Leuty, Brian Litten, Serena Lambert, Nick Franca, Nicholas Charlesbois, Jack Brown, Kai Davis, Eli Horn, Taylor Love, Drew Kryszinski, Krysten Collins, Chloe Shiver, Kieran Hathaway.

## **Sharing the Faith: Roots and Wings**

December is rich with opportunity for sharing our faith and values with those most dear to us. Advent and Christmas are beloved seasons in which families naturally participate in rituals and traditions and service projects. This year, seek to be intentional about what you are doing. Intentionality avoids the pitfalls of trying to create the ‘perfect holiday’, and instead focuses activities and rituals on nurturing your children in the way of faith, building character and forming patterns that will guide them throughout their lives.

### **Rituals and traditions:**

Consider celebrating Santa Claus on St. Nicholas Day, December 6, reserving December 25 for the celebration of the Christ Child. Read a story about the original St. Nick, and reflect as a family on ways that we can be “Santa” for others.

Make Christmas cookies as a family. Make homemade gifts.

Watch a beloved Christmas movie together.

### **Caring Conversation:**

In Germany, the custom of Christ Kindl helps people focus on the spirit of giving during the Advent season. According to the custom, at the beginning of the Advent season, individuals select the name of a family member. Throughout the season, the Christ Kindl secretly does small favors for that person, such as making his or her bed, leaving a small treat or gift, or any other gesture that displays love, caring and thoughtfulness. On or around Christmas Eve, the Christ Kindl reveals his or her identity.

Write a family Christmas letter, giving everyone the opportunity to share what has been the highlight of their year, a favorite family event or why Christmas is important to them.

### **Worship and prayer:**

Use your crèche to tell the story of Jesus’ birth. Place figurines throughout the house and let them ‘travel’ to Bethlehem a little bit each day. Don’t let the wise men get there until Epiphany! Provide a child-friendly crèche for young children to play with.

Use an advent wreath for family prayers in the evening or at bedtime. Practice waiting (which is the whole point of Advent!) by incorporating some silence and stillness in your prayers or sometime throughout each day.

### **Family Service:**

Make gift/care packages for those who will be spending Christmas in homeless shelters, nursing homes, prison, etc.

# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Brothers and sister graced with the Cross of Jesus Christ  
joyously drawn together by the Good News into a ministry of  
seeking, sharing, caring and serving

## **The People of Christ Luther Church, Ministers**

The Reverend Eric J. Moehring, Pastor  
The Reverend Kristin Hunsinger, Associate Pastor  
Linda Keener, Music Director  
Cathy Lantz, Parish Nurse  
Susan Nepomuceno, Discipleship Coordinator  
Katy Vess, Administrative Assistant  
Melony Bosdell, Youth Director  
Heather Heckel, Web Master  
Carol Jones, Newsletter Editor

## **Congregational Officers and Council Members for**

Karl Hade, President	Melony Bosdell
Rakup Richard, Vice President	Frank Greenday
Paul Quel, Treasuer	Faith Hobson
Cindy Williamson, Financial	Joe Williamson
Anne Harris, Secretary	Luke Ramsey
Ken Bjelstrand	Jennifer John
Patty Franz	
Danielle Bosdell and Beth Williamson , Youth Representatives	

## **Mission Team Captains**

<b>Seeking:</b> Harry and Heather Heckel	<b>Serving:</b> Jim Schnellenberger
<b>Caring:</b> Kay Rilee	<b>Sharing:</b> Diane Kellogg

## **Sunday Schedule**

Worship: 8:15 AM  
Sunday School: 9:25 AM  
Worship: 10:30 AM (Nursery available)

Church Address: 7809 Woodman Road,  
Richmond, VA 23228  
Church Phone: 804-266-5775 Fax: 266-4979  
Church Web Page: christlutheran.org  
Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 AM-5 PM  
LAMB's Basket: Tues., Thurs. & Fri., 10 AM-1PM (565-8007)