

The Clarion

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1245 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 610-433-4271

February 2012



LENT

We invite you to join us at 5:30 pm for our Midweek Lenten Services to be held on the five Wednesdays of Lent at the St. Stephen Outreach Center beginning with "Food" and continuing with "Faith". Soup will be served at 5:30; the program begins at 6:00; Holden Prayer at 6:30.

Signup sheets for soups, bread, desserts & drinks will be in the narthex.

*Ash
Wednesday*

Worship:

8:00 AM - St. Stephen Outreach Center with a light breakfast following the service.
(Enter through the Franklin Street doors.)

11:00 AM - Christ Church (Chapel)

7:00 PM - Christ Church (Nave)

Pastor's Message...

We recently celebrated the 30th Anniversary season of 12th Night. Everyone was great and the crowds seemed to appreciate our efforts. The children were very cute and new and old actors were faithful to their parts. It is a play about THE story of Jesus and all that has grown up around that Story. The 12th Night Festival is a way to remind us that we are always part of a story. From the stories we learn as we are growing up, the families we are a part of, the different kinds of work we have done, funny and sad things we do, are all part of our stories.

What is always important for us as Christians is to see how God's story and our story weave together. Our story and the stories of those who around us, weave together into a novel that is marvelous and complex. It becomes difficult after a while, to see where one story begins and another ends. Memories of the past and hopes of the future are part of the weaving too.

At Christ Church we are very fortunate to have the fantastic weaving that is our past, present and future. It is the faces of those who have grown up here and who have come to be a part of us here. It is St. Stephen and all the other congregations where people have come from to be a part of our weaving. Babies, the elderly, young faces, older faces make up the color and design of who we are coming to be.

Sometimes when we have an Annual Meeting like we did last week, it is possible to see ourselves as the sum total of a financial report or a committee report. We are much more than that. We are the weaving of bright colors that startle people and help people to dream. We are the weaving that changes the lives of children in our neighborhood. It is part of our design to change adults from our neighborhood and every neighborhood around the world. Our designs and colors change us and all those around us.

So if you did not have a chance, take a look at the Annual Report. See yourself in that story. Remember all those people whose memories are still an important part of that story. See the new things that are starting to change our design. Enjoy the truth that with God nothing ever stays the same. We are always moving and changing into that new design and color that God wants us to be. We need everyone to be a part of our weaving and design. Without you, we are incomplete, less colorful and in need of design. Patch yourself in, there is plenty of room.

-Pastor Maxon

Reminder:

There will not be an Executive Meeting in February.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 12th, after the worship service. This will be the Council Retreat which will run from 11:30 to 1:30 with a light lunch.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL OFFICERS' DIRECTORY – 2012

| | | |
|--|--|----------------|
| Rev. William Maxon, ACSW, Ph.D., Senior Pastor | 6357 Larch Lane, Macungie, PA 18062 | (610) 965-5439 |
| Ms. Robin Flores, Vice-President | 2206 Overlook Lane, Fogelsville, PA 18051-1812 | (610) 366-0270 |
| Ms. Barbara Wentling, Secretary | 325 E. Lynnwood Street, Allentown, PA 18103 | (610) 791-0052 |
| Executive Committee Members-at-Large: | | |
| Mrs. Susan Palladino Black | 3821 Thomas Drive, Emmaus, PA 18049 | (610) 967-5532 |
| Mr. Fred Wuertele | 2404 West Highland Street, Allentown 18104 | (610) 351-9900 |

Council Members: Susan Palladino Black, Scott Buchman, Robin Flores, Barbara Irvine, Eugene Lachouchuc, Harriet Rust, William Schantz, Don Shinsec, Grace Siegel, Nadine Smith, Barbara Wentling, Fred Wuertele

Outreach Pastor's Message...

The Mind Transplant

I have often wondered in prayer "Lord, how can I change, how do I become more like you?" What I have discovered over time is that becoming more Christ like requires a fundamental change in the way we think. And this change over time is a daily process of literally turning around and surrendering our will to God throughout our lives. It is not a "What Would Jesus Do" personal choice of the day but rather "Lord, here I am. Live through me and in spite of me."

In the introduction to his book "Living with the Mind of Christ: A Lenten Study for Adults," James A Harnish writes that changing one's mind is not like changing your mind on the "model of your car, the destination for your next vacation, or the arrangement of the furniture in your living room." Real change, radical change, means a fundamental change in the way we think, resulting in practical changes in the way we live. As we use his book this year during our Lenten journey, we will begin by exploring the most eloquent passage in the New Testament, written by Paul and recorded in Philippians 2:1-11. Paul is all about radical mind changing. He challenges us today as he did the Christians of Philippi to "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus". The Greek word for "mind" describes a way of thinking that determines action. This mindset, like the hard drive of a computer, directs all of our actions. Therefore becoming a follower of Jesus requires a radical reorientation of our thinking that results in an equally radical transformation of our living. No one is TOO young, or TOO old for this radical mind transplant! You are therefore invited to take part in this journey as a community to the most wondrous surprise and destination ever – the Resurrection of Jesus the Christ our Lord!

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Week 1/Feb 29 th | Love: The Power to Change Your Mind |
| Week 2/Mar 7 th | Servanthood: Breaking the Me-first Mind-set |
| Week 3/Mar 14 th | Faithful Suffering: The Foolishness of the Cross |
| Week 4/Mar 21 st | Surrender: The Moment of Letting Go |
| Week 5/Mar 28 th | Humility: Moving Up by Coming Down |

Midweek Lenten Services will be held at the St. Stephen Outreach Community Center beginning with "Food" at 5:30 pm and continuing with "Faith". Signup sheets for soups, bread, desserts & drinks will be made available the first Sunday in February.

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR: On February 9th or 10th, 2012 a service of prayer will be held, at the St. Stephen Community Outreach Center, to commemorate the one year anniversary of the tragic Allentown Gas Explosion that occurred on February 9th, 2011. Specific details including the exact date and time will be announced in upcoming weekly church bulletins.

-Pastor Maritza

Music at Christ Lutheran Church

In March 2012 Music at Christ Church will present two exciting events as part of our concert series. Put these dates on your calendar!

On Sunday, March 18th, the Lenoir-Rhyne University A Cappella Choir and Brass Ensemble directed by Paul Weber will perform at 4:00 p.m. as part of the spring tour. There will be much more information to follow, but part of our sponsorship is providing housing for the approximately 50 members of the choir on the evening of March 18th. We will need about 25 host homes to accomplish this. If you are interested, contact the church office at 610-433-4271, and look for more information in the future.

On Sunday, March 25th, we will welcome the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (LVAGO) as they present a "Bach Marathon" from 2:00 - 7:00 p.m. This will be the 16th time that the LVAGO has presented a Bach Marathon; it has been one of their most popular events in past years. Members of the chapter will play Bach on our fine organ - and admission is free!

We hope to see you at these two fine musical events at Christ Church.

-Michael Krentz, Director of Music

Souper Bowl of Caring is February 5th

On the first Sunday in February, millions of Americans will be tuning into the Super Bowl. Many of them will be hosting or attending parties with abundant food and friendship. At the same time nearly 1 billion people around the world will be starving.

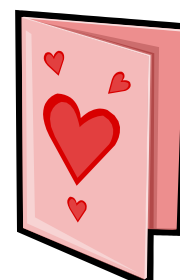
On this Souper Bowl Sunday, Lutheran youth will be doing something about that. They will be at Sunday School and church to receive your donations to end domestic and world-wide hunger.



McKinley Minute

In this month when we celebrate **Valentine's Day**, all the students, families and faculty from McKinley Elementary School want to express our great appreciation for YOU! As members of the community, you have welcomed us into your facility and made it possible for us to hold family-involvement events, school assemblies, basketball practice, and an after-school reading program. These programs enrich our lives, improve our children's education, and make us feel proud of our community! These are programs that we could not hold in our facility, as there is no space to accommodate such a large number of people. We thank you! We look forward to our continued partnership with you!

-Amy Jahn de Torrez



Calling all Kids:

Christ's Kids is pleased to announce that they will be participating with Social Ministry for a Card Party! Both groups will be meeting on February 12th for a fun and exciting day filled with the art of correspondence. Come and join us, it's bound to be enlightening and full of fun.

On February 19th the Christ's Kids will be receiving awards during the 10:30 service for their completion of the P.R.A.Y. series. The children have worked very hard this year to advance in this series. The boys will wear their Scouting uniforms because this is also a scout award as well as a faith award. Join us after worship for fellowship on this day to talk with the children about their accomplishment. There will also be cake and ice cream.

Please note that on February 19th we will also be having 1st Bibles for all who have not received a Bible. Come to Sunday School this day and learn about the Bible. Grades 4th to 6th.

Looking Ahead:

March - We will be making candy once again. So get into the mood to make some yummy treats. We will also pass out our candies at the Easter Services again and some for you guys to munch on as we make them. We are planning a Lock-In for March 24th, more details to follow in upcoming Clarions & weekly bulletins.

Also, there are 3 older kids in our parish going on a mission trip to New Orleans this summer. I would like to talk to all of the Christ's Kids to see what kind of help we can give to these kids for their trip. Maybe help with fundraising? Host a dinner since everyone did such a great job at the Sock Hop? Just food for thought.

See everyone Sunday:)

-Shellie Fritchman [610-417-2024](tel:610-417-2024)

Sunday School News. . .

On February 26th, the first Sunday in Lent, please join us for Sunday School in Fellowship Hall to bury the Alleluia until Easter and make "prayer pretzels". We will also be learning about our Lenten offering project to provide malaria nets to support the ELCA Malaria Campaign to end malaria deaths by 2015. Please help our Sunday School children with this project by providing spare change when they are collecting after services during Lent.

Lent is starting this month, and Easter will be upon us sooner than we think. As the stores start stocking Easter goodies, please consider buying and donating plastic eggs and wrapped candy. We will need these donated by March 15th so the youth will have time to stuff them. Watch for more information in March about our Easter egg hunts at Christ and the St. Stephen's Outreach Center.

Parents: We are developing a Sunday School e-mail list to help keep your family informed of upcoming lessons and events in Sunday School. If you would like to participate, please send your e-mail to Donna Lahouchuc at dlahouchuc@yahoo.com.

First Bibles . . .

The pastors will be teaching about the Bible during Sunday School on February 19th. Participating children will be presented with their own Bible at the 10:30 service that day. For more information, contact Shellie Fritchman.

FOOD BANK UPDATE



We contributed 193 bags of food and \$3567 to the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank in 2011. There were 67 bags and \$530 contributed during the Fall Food Drive.

To continue our mission of supporting the Allentown Ecumenical Food Bank we encourage you to bring nonperishable food (a box or can) the first Sunday of the month. Items needed are soup, sauce, and peanut butter (no glass please).

*Thank you for supporting the work of the Food Bank
and helping those in need in our community!*

A Moment for World Hunger

Several months ago I was making my way through the narthex when a woman stopped me and asked if our congregation had a supply of “World Hunger Offering Envelopes”. I was not prepared for her question; I assumed all members knew about these envelopes. Then it occurred to me that it might be helpful if I address this matter.

Yes, we have an ample supply of “World Hunger Offering Envelopes”. They are stored in a cabinet in the rear of the nave on the right side as you enter church for a pew. You might want to call this cabinet area our “Welcome Center”. In addition to offering envelopes, the cabinet holds other literature, letters, reports, schedules, posters, etc.

Two other matters deserve mention. When using these World Hunger Offering Envelopes, be sure to designate your envelope number and to indicate your family name. If you have other questions about this matter please contact me.

-Bob Loucks

SOC ET TUEM

(A Room Called Remember – Frederick Buechner)

The churches still stand, big ones and little ones, some that are almost full every Sunday and others that are almost empty. The Church is still in business, in other words, but the question is, what is that business, what goes on in these strange buildings scattered thick over the surface of the earth? Why do people continue to go there? What do they find when they get there? What do they fail to find? Why do people go to them no longer? Fundamentalists, liberals, evangelicals, humanists, charismatics, Roman Catholics, Jehovah’s Witnesses - - - are all of them doing the same thing or are they doing different things? Are some of them doing it right and others doing it wrong? Is there any sense in which you can say that God is present in any or all of them? These are not rhetorical questions, questions whose answers I plan to pull out of the hat at the end of my sermon. It’s because I don’t know the answers that I’m asking them both of you and of myself. And it is because some of you may share my confusion and uncertainty that it seems crucial to ask them also of God. Maybe at least part of our business in a church is to ask what is going on in it. Is there anything more or less important, real, or holy going on there than any place else?

12th Night Celebrates 30 Years!

Christ Church welcomed in 2012 by celebrating with our congregation and our neighboring communities the 30th Anniversary of our 12th Night Festival. During each performance our church was filled with uprising music, lively dancing and majestic pageantry. This amazing outreach ministry that began 30 years ago continues to be the focal point of each New Year, not only with our church members but also with so many of our neighbors and friends.

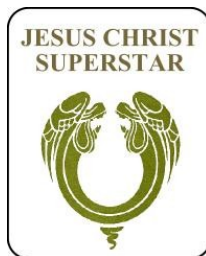
For many of us, 12th Night is a part of what we do to share the ministry of God's love. The impact of what we do is reflected on the faces of our "sold out" audience and during the standing ovations after each performance and I continue to be awe inspired with each passing year. As old friends and of course, a few new ones gathered for our first rehearsal, we all knew how wonderfully inspiring participating in the 30th Anniversary of 12th Night would be for all of us!

The dedication of every person involved with our production made our 30th Anniversary another year to be remembered! The committee members, members of our choir and orchestra, director, the bag pipers, our dedicated cast members, costume design teams, props committee and all the "behind the scenes" people are truly the hearts and souls of 12th Night. Without all of you, this outreach ministry would no longer continue to play an important role in the lives of so many.

My deepest thanks to everyone who participated in the 30th Anniversary of our 12th Night Festival. Your dedication and willingness to share your time and talents in this ministry fills my heart with love and pride and I am humbled to be a part of this celebration of God's love each year! I look forward to working with all of you in the months ahead as we prepare for our 2013 performance!

"All the friendships, laughter and fellowship of 12th Night are the memories we hold in our hearts all year!"

-Janice Buchman,
Casting Director



Sunday, April 1st at 2 PM at
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
417 N. 7th St. Allentown, PA 18102
A free will offering will be taken for
neighborhood center youth programs

We need youth and adults to fill roles
as disciples and the crowd.

Rehearsal schedule: Sundays at 1 PM – 4 PM
February 12, 26, March 11, 25
Dress rehearsal and cast dinner
Saturday, March 31, 4PM - ???
Please contact Lynn Weaver
laPoste@juno.com or 610-767-5687

Poinsettia Delivery Thank You

52 homebound members of our combined congregation received very nice poinsettias for Christmas.

Many thanks to the 20 people who so willingly gave of their time to deliver the plants, their efforts were much appreciated.

-Marilyn Denby

A happy person is not a person in a certain set of circumstances, but rather a person with a certain set of attitudes.

-Hugh Downs

Christ Church Joys and Concerns

DEATHS

James A. Ottinger, 1/10/12
Barbara J. Karapelou, 1/12/12
Helen M. Patterson, 1/22/12

MEMORIALS

In memory of Doris E. Loux
Susan Watt

In memory of John E. Schaffer
Fay Shaffer

In memory of James A. Ottinger
Carrol Nemchik
The Breakfast Club Ladies
Lori Starr
Marion & Denise Mensinger
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kuntz
Joe & Barbara Freeman
Elizabeth Spadt
Don & Lynn Shurilla
LuAnn Steinhauer
Bob & Ruth Loucks
Brooke Fulford
Friends & Neighbors of 895 Cold Spring
Dennis & Lois Fisher
JoAnne Warner
Walter & Ruth Dex
Ken & Peg Harvey
Mark & Leesa Wimmer
Ray & Betty Buss
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Klingborg
Henry & Janet Peters
Kathy & Dennis Steckel
Dodge & Vykje Whipple
Jane Fisher
ThermoFusion
Bruce & Lynn Hook
Nancy Allender
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Mathews
Gail & Billy Walker
Cheryl & Mark Gehring
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Siegfried
Melissa & Robert Bell
Evelyn Albee Family
Richard Christine
Hans & Irmgard Kanengieser
Small Business Advisors, LLC

In memory of Barbara J. Karapelou
Carrol Nemchik
Don & Lynn Shurilla
JoAnne Warner
Aris & Barbara Harris

DONATION

In honor of Walter & Ruth Dex
John, Yenni & Sophia Dex

THANK YOU NOTES:

Thank you for the plant and the beautiful Christmas cards. They were greatly appreciated.

-Edna Wirth

Thank you for all the cards and the poinsettia.

-Joe Petrakovich

Thank you to my church family for the beautiful flower and greens and the poinsettia! I always appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness.

-Dorothy Frost

Many thanks for the flowers, cards and visits by Pastor Maxon and others throughout the year. Thank you also for the beautiful shawls made by the women of Christ Church. We enjoyed the poinsettia so much that we watered it regularly throughout the year and kept it alive and just gave it away to one of the residents at Devon House when we received another one this year.

-Bruce & Gail Reimer

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia. Thank you also for all the cards and prayers during my recent surgery. Thank you also for the altar flowers. Marilyn Denby brought Jim home from dialysis the whole month of November every Wednesday. What a great help that was. Again, thank you.

-Edie Ottinger

Thank you for the truly beautiful poinsettia.

-Elsie & Frank Kincaid

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia and all the cards I've received.

-Helga McGee

Thank you for the lovely flowers and the poinsettia. It means a lot to be remembered at the holidays and to feel that I can still share in the church's fellowship during Christmas. Happy New Year.

-Miriam Ritter

The Gift for Life. . .

There were a total of 84 blood donations given by Christ Lutheran blood volunteer donors at one of the Miller Keystone Centers in 2012. Thank you to these donors who gave their time and Gift of Life in November and December :

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Francis Cannon | Jaime Faux |
| Floretta Heller | Joseph Holko |
| James Kresley | Elizabeth Kulik |
| Ronald Paff | Steve Patterson |
| Virginia Rothenberger | Brian Schimmel |
| Harry Siegel | |

Volunteer your time by joining these individuals to become a blood donor. Blood donors continue to be needed throughout the year in our community and new donors are always welcome. Just call Miller Keystone at [610-691-5850](tel:610-691-5850) or [1-800-223-6667](tel:1-800-223-6667) for an appointment or questions about donating at their Donor Resources department or visit online at GIVEaPINT.org.

They value their donors and the commitment to saving lives. Please remember to let them know you are from Christ Lutheran of Allentown when you donate. If you have any questions feel free to call Ruth Dex at [610-966-7725](tel:610-966-7725).

THANK YOU NOTES (cont.):

Thank you for all the beautiful flowers I've received from the church.

-Elizabeth Kuntz

I am so very thankful for the wonderful cards I received, especially from the Sunday School children. I feel the warmth of my church family through all the cards. Thank you also for the poinsettia.

-Margit Kinard

Thank you for the cards & poinsettia.

- June & John Sabara

Thank you very much for the poinsettia.

-Gertrude Miller

Thank you for the very lovely flowers that were delivered to me over the weekend. They are so very beautiful.

-Grace Hammer

Thank you for the generous donation of \$125. Without ongoing support from neighbors such as you, we would not be able to continue the services our shelter has to offer.

-Marsha Eichleberger,
Sixth Street Shelter, Director

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Mrs. Dorothea McHugh, 2/3

Mr. Bruce Reimer, 2/21

Mr. Elwood Bernhard, 2/22

Mrs. Lucille Romberger, 2/24

we have a
very special birthday
this month!
Happy 100th Birthday
to:
Mrs. Miriam U. Ritter
on February 28!



The Clarion

Christ Lutheran Church
1245 W. Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18102-4372

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Sunday Worship Schedule

Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Church School
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Spiritual Growth Forum
9:00 a.m. in the Chapel

Office Hours: Mon.– Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(closed for 1/2 hour lunch between 12-1)

Rev. William Maxon, ACSW, Ph.D., Senior Pastor
Rev. Maritza Torres Dolich, Outreach Pastor
Rev. Theodore C. Schlack, D.D., Pastor Emeritus
Dr. Michael Krentz, Organist/Director of Music; Susan Hill,
Assistant Organist; Karl DeBoeser, Choir Director; Donna
Lahouchuc, Christabells Choir Director;
Nadine Smith, Children’s Chimes

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Published Monthly by Christ Lutheran Church
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610-433-4271 fax: 610-433-9832

FEBRUARY CLARION SPONSOR:

In celebration of
Miriam U. Ritter’s birthday,
by Bob, Susan, Rob, and Sara

Inclement Weather???

When there is inclement weather in the coming winter months, please call the church office to determine if a scheduled event or worship has been cancelled or postponed. Pastor Maxon will leave a message on the answering machine with the relevant information. Also, please check WFMZ-TV and WAEB's "Operation Snowflake" where announcements regarding our scheduled activities will be posted.