

WELCOME TREASURED MEMBERS AND HONORED GUESTS! Simeon sang the Nunc Dimittis, “Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace,” when he held love incarnate, the baby Jesus. Singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs in one another’s ears is one way of sharing God’s greatest gift of love.

NOTE TO OUR GUESTS: Since Holy Communion is a public demonstration of unity in faith, those who commune should express their acceptance of the faith and teaching for which we stand. Our welcome to visitors is heartfelt. Visitors from another Lutheran church or Congregation are asked to please approach our Pastor, if you have not already done so, before attending communion this morning. Also, if you’re not a member of an LCMS church but would like a blessing, cross your arms across your chest to receive the blessing. Individual cups are available, in addition to the common cup, as you approach the Altar. **Non-alcoholic white wine** is available in the center of the tray.

VISION STATEMENT: Christ Lutheran Church will continue its Christ-centered, life directed focus, responding to the needs of its members, emphasizing local and worldwide witness, and acting as a catalyst for the improvement of the neighborhood.

<u>Hymns:</u> Praise Band insert
<u>Liturgy:</u> Divine Service, setting 3 p. 184
<u>The First Lesson:</u> Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15.....page 55
<u>The Second Lesson:</u> Colossians 3:12-17page 984
<u>The Holy Gospel:</u> Luke 2:22-40.....page 857
<u>Sermon:</u> Seminarian Jerry Smith “Wonderful Nonsense”..... Luke 2:22-40

CHECK OUT THE CHRIST LUTHERAN FACEBOOK PAGE AND “LIKE” US TO STAY INVOLVED AND INFORMED.

ELDERS PRAYING WITH PASTOR: - Mike Fritch
ASSISTING WITH HOLY COMMUNION: Tommie Washington, Dario Lamberti and Mike Fritch

GREETING YOU THIS MORNING are Bill and Judy Nelson.

ACOLYTES: Madeline Mooney and Bella Blair
NEXT SUNDAY: Joe Lamberti

USHERS FOR DECEMBER: Team #1 (Aaron-Miriam and Team #3 (Zechariah-Elizabeth).

LAST WEEK: Tithes and Offerings: \$14,933.60, MTD: \$40,942.15; Improvement Fund: \$40.00, MTD: \$337.00. Attendance: 197. Sunday School Attendance: N-2nd 6, 3rd-7th 10, 8th-HS 6, Adults 42, Visitors 4, Total 68.

THIS IS THE 52nd SUNDAY OF OUR PLEDGE YEAR

HOSPITALIZED: *OSF:* Shirley Swanson; *Proctor:* Christel VandeVoorde

CONTINUED PRAYERS: Jayme Knapp, Mike Clayton, Barb Dreher, Shawn Foote, Phyllis Wendland, Gerald Wendland, Don Sparks, Abigail Young, Eddy Jones, Al Garman, Donna Gogele, Rachael Otten, Sandra McGarity, Pat Kretzmann, Diane Hume, Kamron Lightbody, Donald Anderson, for those in the military, for our Church Boards and their members, for Christians being persecuted worldwide. **THE BOARD OF ELDERS REMINDS YOU** that if you wish to have your prayer request added to the Christ Lutheran Prayer Chain, please contact either the church office (637-5309 or laura@berkshier.net) or our Lay Minister, Reg Lee (678-4764 or fbrd2002@comcast.net).

HERE AND THERE - 2019 CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE in the church annex. First come, first served! ***PLEASE CHECK YOUR INFORMATION*** in the church bulletin. Envelopes for the new year will be coming soon, along with an updated copy of the church directory. Have you disconnected your landline? Has your email address changed? If you aren’t sure we have your new information, PLEASE call the church office and give us your info, including cell numbers and emails.

LUTHERAN WATCH IS COMING! WATCH #43 will be held March 1-3, 2019 at the Spalding Renewal Center. Registration forms are available in the church office. Cost is \$100 for the weekend, and assistance is available should you need it. For more information, you can contact Barb O’Dell at (309)635-7962 or Pastor.

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH is hosting a Dave Ramsey’s “Financial Peace University”! Have you ever made a New Year’s resolution about your finances and failed to follow through? Do you just wish you could use the words “peace” and “finances” in the same sentence? This is your chance! Financial Peace University is a nine-class course on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:30 PM, from Jan. 9th-Feb. 27th. The last class will be held Sunday, March 3rd. Registration is available online at www.salemofpeoria.com. Or you may contact Rebecca Sipf at (937)408-9461 or beccagur1@hotmail.com.

CLYF, MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! – There will be open gym along with the football playoffs on January 13th at CLS. Time is dependent on the playoff schedule, so we will announce the event time next week. There will be snacks, pizza, drinks and games. There is no cost. For more info, check with Christel VandeVoorde, Joe Rudebeck or Pastor.

TITHING ENVELOPES FOR 2019 are available in the annex this morning. PLEASE CHECK YOUR INFORMATION ON THE LABEL and make sure it is correct. This information is what will be listed in the coming church directory. If you don’t see your envelopes, please contact the church office at 637-5309.

A NEW FLOWER CHART has been posted in the annex for next year, so families may sign up to provide flowers for the altar each Sunday. If you have any questions, please call Christel VandeVoorde at 267-3053.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER – Even though God, through His Son, seeks a relationship with each of us, He gives us the freedom to choose whom we will serve. Unfortunately, many of us never allow Him to be in control of our lives. Instead we put Him in the margins of our lives, making decisions without seeking His guidance and living to please ourselves rather than Him. Yet, in spite of our sinfulness and rebellion, God still wants an intimate relationship with us. If we foolishly choose to serve something or someone other than our Heavenly Father, we live in idolatry, and we violate the first commandment: “You shall have no other gods before Me” (Exodus 20:3).

DID YOU KNOW? - Thursday and Friday evenings used to attract many members to the Parish Hall to participate in some competitive bowling on the three lanes that used to be where the Bible classrooms are now. Cigarette smoke filled the air, as it was acceptable to smoke at that time. There were not automatic pin setters, so the pins were picked up and reset by 7th and 8th graders for a salary of \$1.25 per game. One could go home with \$3.75 in his pocket! Who threw the fastest ball? Of course, that was Rev. K. Richard Schliepsiek! Pin setters always feared his ball and the pins flying!

Submitted by Larry Von Behren

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS - The Church Mouse could use some helping hands in 2019. You choose the day of the week. The Church Mouse is a faith-based ministry. Proceeds benefit Lutheran Hillside Village and Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. If you are willing to help, you choose the amount of time: 2 hours a week, 2 hours per month, one day a month, etc. Please contact one of the store managers: Shirley Lewis or Joan Resler at [\(309\) 673-2363](tel:3096732363). The Church Mouse Thrift Store needs volunteers and occasionally the use of a truck & driver Tues – Sat, 10 – 2 pm. Duties inside the store would include: sorting and hanging clothes, bagging purchases, organizing shelves and racks. A person with a pickup truck would be beneficial as calls are received describing large items that cannot be easily transported. Staff would accompany you to load and unload, as needed.

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES (LHM) is a trusted expert in global media that equips and engages a vibrant volunteer base to passionately proclaim the Gospel to more than 100 million people worldwide each week. Through its North American headquarters and 34 ministry centers on six continents, LHM reaches into more than 50 countries, often bringing Christ to places where no other Christian evangelistic organizations are present. LHM's flagship ministry, The Lutheran Hour®, airs weekly on more than 1,800 radio stations and the American Forces Network. Today on the Lutheran Hour - "A Long Good-Bye" with Guest Speaker: Dr. Dean Nadasdy. As the year comes to a close, we likely have regrets and guilt. We can beat ourselves up over work left undone, but Jesus Christ has assured us that He is your hope. His grace is more than sufficient to take us into another year and give us peace. (Luke 2:27-32)

AS YOU LOOK FORWARD to your worship next Sunday, you should read the appointed lessons for the Second Sunday after Christmas:

The First Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6
 The Second Lesson: Ephesians 3:1-12
 The Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

THIS WEEK THE LORD WILLING (DEC 31 – JAN 6)

MON 12/31: New Year's Eve
TUE 1/1: New Year's Day/Offices Closed
WED 1/2: Parish Ministry6:00 PM
THU 1/3: Quilting.....Noon
 Day School4:00 PM
 Stewardship & Finance.....6:00 PM
FRI 1/4:
SAT 1/5:
SUN 1/6: Holy Communion9:00 AM
 Sunday School and Bible Classes..... 10:30 AM
 CLYF Bake Sale

2018 ELDERS' RESPONSIBILITY LIST

Albert-Rayford – Cleveland Ralph Teske
 Closen – Fredericks Tommie Washington
 Frederking – Kirkwood Dario Lamberti
 Kisler – Mills Tom Zaia
 Minassian – Roth Mike Fritch
 Rudebeck – Tosch Mike Lelm
 Traenkenschuh – Zentko Gary Heinz