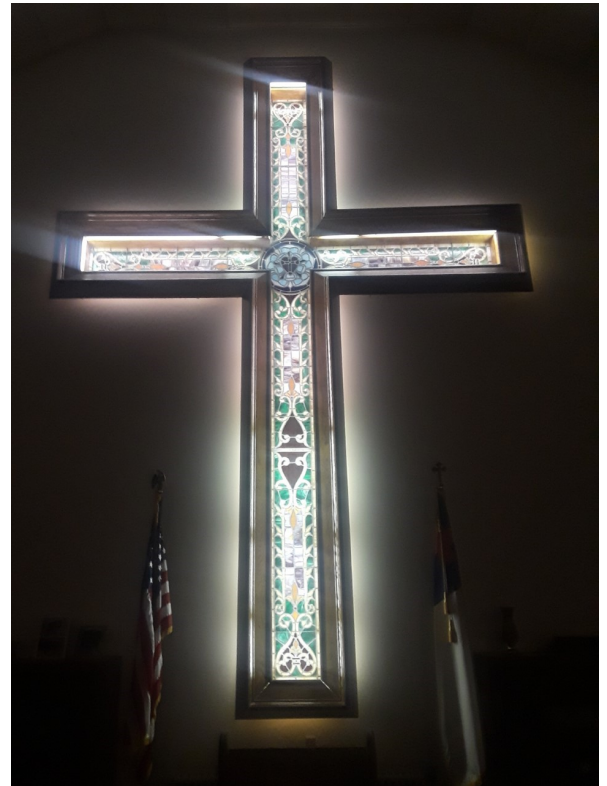


# CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024



## MISSION STATEMENT:

*As members of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, we strive to grow in faith, care for each other, and support the needs of the community as Jesus Christ has taught us.*

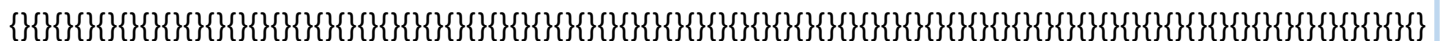
## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

The start of a new calendar year often means making a New Year's Resolution. Many of us make the usual resolutions to get more exercise, to eat a better diet, to stop smoking, to spend more time with our family. Has any of us ever involved God in our New Year's Resolution? Have we even thought to involve God in our lives on a regular basis; not just on Sunday mornings? I would like to challenge each of you to make a New Years Resolution that involves your faith. Read a devotion each day, to say morning and evening prayers, attend a bible study or Sunday school, attend church more often, join the prayer chain team at church, read the Bible each day, become part of the visiting team that visits our Senior Saints, or ask to be part of the card ministry team at Christ Lutheran that sends cards out to our members throughout the year. Each of these are ways to become closer to God. Some of these activities involve Apostolic Action; which is when we give of ourselves with the intention of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. Ephesians 4: 11-12 "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." I can't wait to hear how you decided to put God into your everyday lives. God bless you all and have a Happy New Year. Thanks be to God.

Terry Fry

President of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church Council

***It was he who "gave gifts"; he appointed some to be apostles, others to be prophets, others to be evangelists, others to be pastors and teachers. He did this to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian service, in order to build up the body of Christ.  
Ephesians 4:11-12***



Check out our website address.  
[www.christlutheran325.org](http://www.christlutheran325.org)

*"Am I Ready to Meet God?"*

**"... he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him.**

**To him was given dominion and glory and kingship..."** (Daniel 7:13-14)

Did you make any resolutions for the new year? How have you been doing in your efforts to keep those resolutions? Typically, we spend the waning moments of the old year in reflection over the events of the past year and in meditation over what we would like to do differently when the new year comes. Within a short period of time, those well-intentioned resolutions seem to fall by the wayside and are repeated once more at the end of the year. Perhaps we should consider making some resolutions, however, about our spiritual well-being. Remember that we don't need a new year to make those resolutions; we can begin at any time. If you think you might want to wait to make changes in your spiritual life, consider the following article.

*"Have you ever thought what it would be like to be presented to God? From time to time it is good to use our imagination to visualize what this might be like. We can learn a lot about our relationship with God and about how we are living our life. Author Robert Fulghum describes going out to his cemetery plot on every birthday to sit for awhile in a lawn chair and think about his presentation to God. From this challenging perspective he quickly sees what is vital and worthwhile in his life and what is not.*

*We may not have to sit on a lawn chair on our cemetery plot to think about our "last days," but reflecting on this reality can be a good thing. Rather than being something morbid, it can help us anticipate the union with the all-loving Being and review who and what is significant to us in this life. Visualizing our moment of being presented to the One who created us with love and who receives us with love can free us from some of the clutter and clutching of our lives and be a source of renewal. Think about it: how do you envision your presentation to God?"*

A new year offers us the opportunity to make dramatic changes in the practice of our faith as Christians. Making ourselves more disciplined, for example, especially in our spiritual life. Self-disciplined Christians see to it that they pray regularly and often. They will want to learn as much as they can about the Bible, the "owner's manual" which helps us understand what God requires of us. Self-disciplined Christians will take advantage of learning opportunities at their church. Remember that Sunday School is for all ages and offers fellowship as well as learning.

In *The Life You've Always Wanted*, Pastor John Ortberg writes, "Disciplined people can do the right thing at the right time in the right way for the right reason."

The letter to the Hebrews is very realistic when it points out that "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful." It goes on to say, "Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." (Read Hebrews 12:7-11.) It is that wonderful reward we should seek by deepening our spiritual life.

I pray that all of us here at Salem UCC and Christ ELCA will make resolutions this New Year to deepen our faith and become true followers of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We do not know at what hour or day or even year our Lord will return. Will we be ready to stand before him and claim our place at the banquet table?

**Pastoral Visits or Emergencies**

See you all in church!!!!

God's Blessing,

Your Pastor and Servant,

Pastor Bob.



The pastor is available to visit both in the home and at the hospital, but he needs to know about that need. If you know in advance of a hospital stay or surgery you can also give him a note on Sunday morning and he will do his best to be there for you. All contact information is located below.

Church office:

Salem UCC (610) 689-5106

Christ ELCA (610) 689-5424

Home Phone (610) 944-1286

Cell phone (717) 802-2099

E-mail salemucc@dejazzd.com

celchurch325@outlook.com

rwitmyer@ptd.net

pastorbob@dejazzd.com

Web Pages www.salem-oley.org

www.christlutheran325.org

## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS/MEETINGS

**Men's Breakfast** The men of Salem will be having their monthly Breakfast meeting on Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 8AM at the Pleasantville Diner and Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 8AM. Men of the church come out and join us for fellowship, prayer and great food. Please join us, there is plenty of room.



**Worship Committee** The Worship committee will be meeting on Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:30AM and Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30AM. All members should try to be at these meetings, so we can begin to plan for the Lent/Easter services.

**Consistory:** The Consistory will be meeting on the third Monday of the month. In January, we will be meeting Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> at 7PM and in February on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. All members should attend.



**Salem Congregational Meetings:** Following worship, Sunday, January 21st, there will be a congregational meeting to discuss and consider the Annual reports. Please plan to attend these important meetings.

**Offering Envelopes Ready** The 2024 offering envelopes are ready. You can pick up your packet on the table in the hall downstairs. Often over the years many of our folks forget to pick up their envelopes, if you know of a family member who hasn't picked theirs up please see that they get theirs. Your help will save us money in trying to mail them or trying to track them down.



## MISSION AND OUTREACH

Stewardship is...



Love in Action

**Stewardship** Please, during this time continue to give to the church. We know that these are hard times both personally and for the church. The church continues to be the church, worshiping, reaching out to those in need both in physical and spiritual needs. You can continue to support the church by sending your offerings and tithes to the church.

Give as you can. Thank you and God's Blessings.

**Monthly Food donations for Local Food Pantry** The Food pantry is in need of food during this desperate time. They are serving more families than ever. I know that we can not bring in our food offerings right now, but I would encourage anyone who can, to send money donations to the Food pantry. Donations can be sent to Oley Valley Food Pantry, Friedens Lutheran Church, 1076 Memorial Hwy, Oley, PA. 19547. Any little bit can help right now.

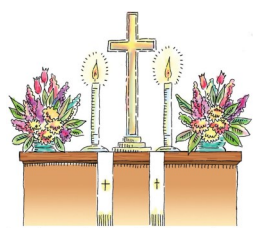


## Blanket Sunday



**Blanket Sunday** January 28<sup>th</sup>, we will have our Blanket Sunday mission offering. You will find an envelope at church or in the bulletin on January 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> so you can give to this important mission. Blankets+ means that Church World Service is there for the long haul as people recover from a disaster. It also means they provide support to families struggling against grinding poverty as they seek to develop viable, sustainable livelihoods – wells, livestock, micro credit, and health training. Blankets + also means you, because without you and our congregation, World service could not do this work. Our gifts provide the means to transform lives and communities during difficult times. Please consider a gift this year for Blanket Sunday. It may change your life, and it will definitely change the life of those who have no hope without Church World Service.

## WORSHIP ITEMS



Worship Schedule

**Regular Schedule of Worship** The Shared Ministry board as well as both governing church bodies has decided on the following Worship Schedule. The Schedule will be: Sunday School would be at 9AM and Worship would begin at 10:15AM. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays the worship will be at Christ ELCA at 10:15AM, the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday's worship will be at Salem UCC at 10:15AM. There will also be an 8AM Service twice a month and it will be held at Salem on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the Month. It will be about 45 minutes in length, it will include communion and we will sing the two acapella hymns. We will adjust the schedule as conditions dictate as we go forward.

**Communion** Communion will be held the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at Christ ELCA and the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at Salem UCC. For those worshipping in person in the Sanctuary we will come forward to receive the bread from the pastor and the cups of wine/juice from the assisting elders. For those worshipping on Facebook and YouTube Communion will be in the form of Virtual communion, that means for those worshipping at home over the internet we suggest having elements of bread or cracker and juice ready as they worship. We can all partake of the elements where we are at the appropriate time in the service.



**Worship online (Face Book/You Tube)** We will continue to record the service each week and post it on the Internet platforms so folks can worship at home. We will also record special services as well and post them. Continue to look for the emails containing the You tube links or look on the Face book pages of Christ Lutheran or Salem UCC to watch and worship.

## SPECIAL SERVICES

**Epiphany Sunday Communion** Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> begins for us the season of Epiphany, the season of Light. We will begin this new season of the church with the celebration of Holy Communion at the 10:15AM worship services.

**What is Epiphany?** Are you acquainted with the word "epiphany"? It is derived from the Greek word, *epiphaneia*, and means "an appearance". Centuries ago, the church set aside January 6<sup>th</sup>, the 12<sup>th</sup> day after Christmas, and called that day Epiphany, intending for it to refer to the revealing of Jesus as the Christ to the Wise Men who were Gentiles. The very first followers of Christ were Jewish. The story of the revelation of Christ to the Wise Men, who were non-Jewish, is a reminder that God meant for Christ to be the Savior of the whole world. As an old hymn puts it: "The light of the world is Jesus." The whole world! Have a Merry Epiphany! --Charles Ferrell



**Installation of officers:** During the Service on January 14<sup>th</sup> we will be installing the new officers of Salem UCC for this coming year. All officers should attend this service of consecration and installation.

## LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

**Lenten Sunday Communion** Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup> begins for us the season of Lent, a time of Preparation and Repentance. We will begin this new season of the church with the celebration of Holy Communion at the 10:15AM worship service.

**Soup and Word** This year I would like to again offer an opportunity for those who would like to spend some time in a Lenten devotional journey. The last several years we have had a good response to this event. This year it will again be held every Wednesday during Lent, starting with Wednesday, February 21, 2024. Those attending would meet from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM for Soup, Bread and the Word. There will be a signup sheet to get a general idea about how much food to prepare. Please don't hesitate to come if you didn't sign up; there will be enough for all, I'm sure. If you can only come to one or two sessions, please come.



## OTHER REPORTS

**Covered Bridge Sunday School** Thank you for your continued support with our fundraiser “Raise Right”, formerly Shop with Scrip. A total of \$7205.00 of gift cards were purchased for a profit of \$284.40. The next order form will be included in the Mar-Apr issue of the Church newsletter.

Our Children’s Christmas program, “Christmas Light Show”, was presented on Sunday, December 17, 2023 at Christ Lutheran Church at the 10:15 AM service. The program was enjoyed by all in attendance and even included audience participation. Children received a small gift from the Sunday School.

In January we will be having a “Gingerbread House” making event. Please contact Tammy if you would like more information.

Please contact Tammy Eckert (610-367-2930) if you have any questions or concerns about Sunday School.



**Property Committee** Nothing to report

## LUTHERAN LECTIONARY READINGS

### JANUARY

Sun Jan 1<sup>st</sup> –Baptism of Our Lord

1<sup>st</sup>-Gen 1:1-5

Psalm 29

2<sup>nd</sup>-Acts 19:1-7

Gospel-Mark 1:4-11

Sun Jan 14<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

1<sup>st</sup>-1 Sam 3:1-20

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

2<sup>nd</sup>-1 Cor 6:12-20

Gospel-John 1:43-51

Sun Jan 21<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

1<sup>st</sup>-Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

2<sup>nd</sup>-1 Cor 7:29-31

Gospel-Mark 1:14-20

Sun Jan 28<sup>th</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

1<sup>st</sup>-Deut 18:15-20

Psalm 111

2<sup>nd</sup>-1 Cor 8:1-13

Gospel-Mark 1:21-28



Share God's Word

### FEBRUARY

Sun Feb 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

1<sup>st</sup>-Isa 40:21-31

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

2<sup>nd</sup>-1 Cor 9:16-23

Gospel-Mark 1:29-39

Sun Feb 11<sup>th</sup>-Transfiguration of Our Lord

1<sup>st</sup>-2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm 50:1-6

2<sup>nd</sup>-2 Cor 4:3-6

Gospel-Mark 9:2-9

Wed Feb 14<sup>th</sup>-Ash Wednesday

1<sup>st</sup>-Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 OR

Isa 58:1-12

Psalm 51:1-17

2<sup>nd</sup>-1 Cor 5:20b-6:10

Gospel-Matt 6:1-6, 16-21

Sun Feb 18<sup>th</sup>-1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

1<sup>st</sup>-Gen 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-10

2<sup>nd</sup>-1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel-Mark 1:9-15

Sun Feb 25<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

1<sup>st</sup>-Gen 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm 22:23-31

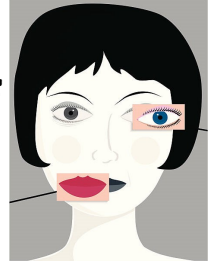
2<sup>nd</sup>-Rom 4:13-25

Gospel-Mark 8:31-38

## JUST FOR LAUGHS

*A middle-aged woman has a heart attack and is taken to the hospital. While on the operating table she has a near-death experience. She sees God and asks, "God, is this it?" God reassures her that she has another 30 years to live.*

*Upon her recovery she decides to stay in the hospital and have a face-lift, liposuction, breast augmentation—everything she's always wanted. She even has someone come in to cut and color her hair. She figures that since she's got another 30 years, she might as well make the most of it.*



*The day the doctors release her, she walks out of the hospital—only to be hit by a speeding ambulance. She arrives in front of God and complains, "I thought you said I had another 30 years!"*

*"Sorry" God replied. "I didn't recognize you."*

[Reprinted with permission, Church Chuckles, Tickling Your Holy Funny Bone]

### JANUARY

- 1/ Bradley Shirey
- 2/ Sharon Zook
- 3/ Vernon Schwanger
- 4/ Anthony Oswald
- 5/ Daniel Angstadt  
Colin Seidel
- 6/ Chelsea Fry
- 7/ Carol Schwanger
- 8/ Nora Mancini
- 9/ Brenton Hartman
- 11/ Sara Hoover
- 13/ Erma Burkhart
- 15/ Terry Fry
- 21/ Andrew Benning
- 21/ Debbie Schweinhart
- 22/ Karen Buzalewski
- 22/ Christina Favinger  
Charles Miller III
- 24/ Irene Keller
- 28/ Richard Loeb
- 29/ Andi Bieber
- 30/ Madison Spotts
- 31/ Lorraine Bender  
Angela Morgan

### FEBRUARY

- 2/ Dora Palmer
- 3/ Brian Seidel
- 7/ Lisa Houck
- 8/ Tyler Martin
- 9/ Wesley Fry
- 12/ Travis Mast
- 15/ Amy Parzanese
- 17/ Barbara Yerger
- 18/ Bonnie Swavely
- 20/ Marlin Bieber
- 21/ Adam Oswald
- 22/ Ty Haas
- 24/ Christine Bell
- 26/ Heather Hetrick  
Tyler Miller
- 28/ Richard Kase



Happy Birthday!





Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 616  
325 Covered Bridge Road  
Oley, PA 19547-0616

*Address Service Requested*

**CHRIST EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH (SPANGSVILLE)**  
**(SHARED MINISTRY WITH  
SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST)**

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[www.facebook.com/Christ-Lutheran-Church/160206940756851/](http://www.facebook.com/Christ-Lutheran-Church/160206940756851/)  
Website: [www.christlutheran325.org](http://www.christlutheran325.org)  
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Covered Bridge Sunday School (CBSS) at Salem UCC at 9<sup>AM</sup>  
(no CBSS in July and August)

Sunday Worship Services (September to June)  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays 8<sup>AM</sup> at Salem UCC  
(Communion both services)

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays 10:15<sup>AM</sup> at Christ Lutheran  
(Communion on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday service only)  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays 10:15<sup>AM</sup> at Salem UCC  
(Communion on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday service only)

Sunday Worship Services (July & August)  
Summer Sunday Joint Worship Services 9:30<sup>AM</sup> at  
Salem UCC (July and August)  
+++++

The Reverend Robert Witmyer  
Pastor of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church and  
Salem UCC Church (contact info inside second page)

Terry Fry  
Church Council President  
[tfry19@gmail.com](mailto:tfry19@gmail.com)

Kathy Stufflet  
Parish Secretary, Christ Lutheran  
(610) 698-4093-cell



Covered Bridge Sunday School Fundraiser

This is the Sunday School's fundraising program. The program is "Raise Right" formerly "Shop With Scrip." On the order form is a list of businesses and the amount of gift card(s) available. You pay the amount of the gift card and you will receive it to either use by yourself (like cash) or give as a gift. Sunday School will receive a percentage of the amount purchased. Percentage amounts differ with each company.

Please plan ahead. We plan for the next order form to be in the Mar/Apr Sprechen.

This order is **due on Sunday, November 12, 2023.**

**Payment is due with order.** Please make check payable to "Salem UCC Sunday School." This is an ongoing fundraiser. **I have added Visa** gift cards to help you support any local businesses that are not on the list. Please contact Carolyn Eckert (610-367-6433) if you have any questions. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Company	\$ Amount	# of cards	\$ Total	Rebate %
Visa Gift Card	\$50.00			1.25
Visa Gift Card	\$100.00			1.25
Ace Hardware	\$25.00			4
Amazon	\$25.00			1.7
Amazon	\$100.00			1.7
Applebee's	\$25.00			8
Arby's	\$10.00			8
Barnes & Noble	\$10.00			8
Barnes & Noble	\$25.00			8
Barnes & Noble	\$100.00			8
Bath & Body Works	\$10.00			12
Bath & Body Works	\$25.00			12
Best Buy	\$25.00			4
Best Buy	\$100.00			4
Boscov's	\$25.00			8
Cabela's	\$25.00			10
Cabela's	\$100.00			10
Carter's	\$25.00			10
Children's Place	\$25.00			12
Claire's	\$10.00			9
Cracker Barrel	\$10.00			8
Cracker Barrel	\$25.00			8
CVS Pharmacy	\$25.00			6
Dairy Queen	\$10.00			6.5
Dick's Sporting Goods	\$25.00			8
Domino's	\$10.00			8
Dunkin' Donuts	\$10.00			3.5
Dunkin' Donuts	\$25.00			3.5

Total - this page \_\_\_\_\_

Company	\$ Amount	# of cards	\$ Total	Rebate %
Famous Footwear	\$25.00			8
GameStop	\$25.00			5
Giant Food Stores	\$50.00			4
Giant Food Stores	\$100.00			4
Home Depot	\$25.00			4
Home Depot	\$100.00			4
Jo-Ann Fabric & Crafts	\$25.00			7
Kohl's	\$100.00			4
L.L. Bean	\$25.00			16
Lowe's	\$25.00			4
Lowe's	\$100.00			4
Marshall's	\$25.00			7
McDonald's	\$10.00			2
McDonald's	\$25.00			2
Michael's	\$25.00			4
Old Navy	\$25.00			14
Old Navy	\$100.00			14
Olive Garden	\$25.00			8
Panera Bread	\$10.00			8
Panera Bread	\$25.00			8
Red Lobster	\$25.00			8
Rite Aid	\$100.00			4
Sheetz	\$25.00			3
Staples	\$25.00			5
Starbucks	\$10.00			4.5
Subway	\$10.00			4.5
Taco Bell	\$10.00			5
Target	\$25.00			2.5
Target	\$50.00			2.5
Target	\$100.00			2.5
Texas Roadhouse	\$25.00			8
Wal-Mart	\$25.00			2.5
Wal-Mart	\$50.00			2.5
Wal-Mart	\$100.00			2.5
Wawa	\$25.00			1
Weis Markets	\$25.00			5
Weis Markets	\$100.00			5

Total - this page

Total - front page

Grand Total of order

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