

Happy
New Year

JANUARY
2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed., Jan. 1

Church Office Closed

Sun., Jan. 5

United Youth Group @
Beaver Memorial UM
5:30 - 7:30 pm

Wed., Jan. 8 & 22

Theology on Tap
6pm @ Rusty Rail

Thurs. Jan. 9

2nd half Kunkel info due

Sat. Jan. 11

Bingo at CELC @ 7pm

Sun., Jan. 12

Soup & Bread Sale

Sun., Jan. 12

Faith Lab @ CELC
4 – 6pm

Thurs., Jan. 16

Ladies Bible Study
9:30am & 6pm @ CELC

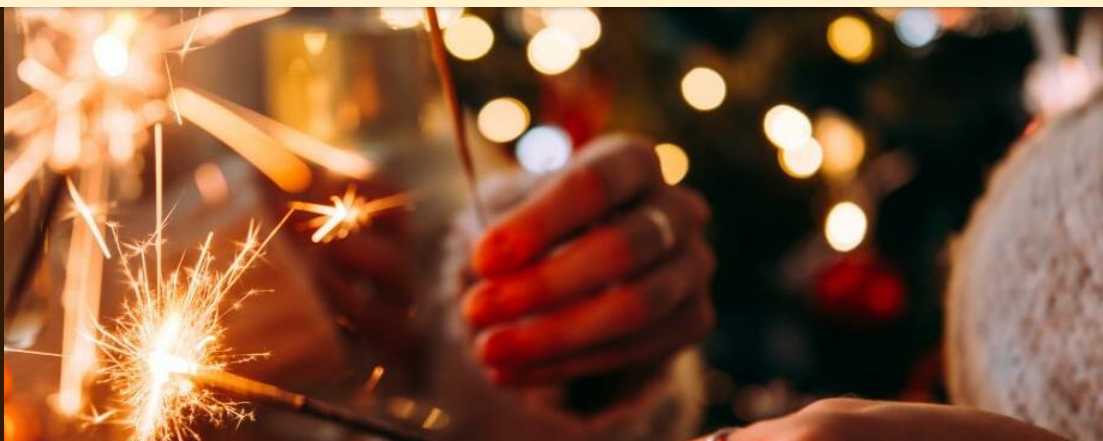
Fri., Jan. 17 & Sat., 18

UYG Annual Lock-in
@ CELC 6:30pm -10am

Sun., Jan. 19

Synod Youth Roller
Skating

Christ's Corner on the News



NEW WORSHIP SERVICE TIME: will begin at **9:30 am** on **Jan. 5th**.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on **Wed., January 1st** for New Year's Day.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

- **Thurs., January 9th** 2nd half Kunkel Scholarship info due.
- **Mon., January 20th** for February newsletter submissions. Newsletter will be assembled & mailed on Tues., Jan. 28th.
- **Mon., January 20th** for submitting 2024 annual committee reports to the Church Secretary.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY begins on **Thurs., January 16th**. The 7 week study is based on HEAVEN with Jennifer Rothschild.

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING has been moved to **Sun., February 16 28** after the 9:30 am service where we will review the Annual Report of 2024 and discuss plans for the future.

INTRODUCING THE 2025 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Laura Adams

Bill Borys

Diane Miller

Andy Anderson

Jackie Cvik

Heather Miller

Tim Apple

Rick Faux

Rick Slear

Pam Baker

Joseph Martin

Tom Stahlnecker

Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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¹ For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: ² a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted; ³ a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up; ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance; ⁵ a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶ a time to seek and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to throw away; ⁷ a time to tear and a time to sew; a time to keep silent and a time to speak; ⁸ a time to love and a time to hate; a time for war and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

Dear Christ's Lutheran,

As we enter into the new year, there is a growing sense of anticipation and excitement in the air. The turning of the calendar often invites us to reflect on the past and look forward with hope to what lies ahead. For many, the start of the new year is a time of personal resolutions, fresh goals, and a renewed sense of purpose. As a community of faith, this is also a moment of opportunity for us to refocus on where God is present in our lives. The writer of Ecclesiastes reflects on these rhythms of life—its season, its changes, and the profound truth that everything under the sun has its appointed time. As we look ahead to 2025, these verses invite us to embrace the year with a heart of faith and trust in God's perfect timing.

Just as the year unfolds in seasons—spring, summer, fall, and winter—so too does our life journey. There are times of planting and reaping, of mourning and dancing, of building and tearing down. The new year is an opportunity to pause and reflect on the seasons we have passed through. Some of us may have experienced difficult times over the past year—seasons of loss, illness, or struggle. Others may have encountered seasons of achievement, growth, or joy! Whatever these personal journeys have looked like, we are reminded that God is present alongside us in each and every one of these seasons.

As we enter 2025, let us take comfort in knowing that God is at work in our lives and is also working through us. As we think about these next seasons of life, I encourage us to consider how we can continue to grow in our relationship with Christ and with one another. As we make New Year's resolutions, we may not know what this year holds, but we know that we are held by a loving God who guides our steps and orders our days. We can endeavor to deepen our faith and attune ourselves to where God is speaking and shaping our lives; we can serve others with love and generosity, reflecting the heart of Christ in all that we do; we can strengthen our community by actively participating in the life of the church. We can face the future with hope, knowing that, just as there is "a time for everything," that in every season, God is working in us and through us. Happy New Year!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Katy

Social Ministry News

2025 ANNUAL MEAT PROJECT: You will find an offering envelope for the 2025 Meat Project in this newsletter. This is the 50th year for this project of the Central Pennsylvania World Hunger Association. The money collected will be used to purchase some of the 30,000 pounds of turkey and chicken to be processed this year on February 10-15. Ten percent of the cans are reserved for local distribution through 18 different agencies.

January 80+ BIRTHDAYS:	
5	Trudy Cardellino
8	Dennis Lucas
12	Joe Keller
12	Don May
24	Marian Jarrett
26	Ernie Gromlich
26	Ruth Ann Wallis



JANUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:	
8	Mike & Kathy Asche
15	Wayne & Lauree Wetzel

A MEMORIAL GIFT was received from Jim Apple of Lewisburg, in memory of Ed Nye.



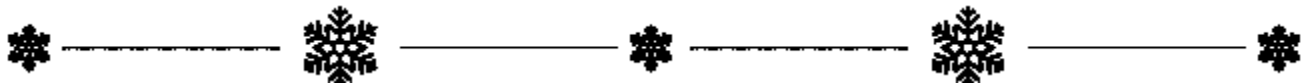
From the Archives... by Gary W. Parks

My latest project involves the arranging of materials relating to memorial services of congregational members. These materials include the memorial programs, obituaries, or individual records kept by the minister or funeral home. Over seven hundred congregational members are represented. Most of the records date from the 1970s forward. Sadly, so many of the names are familiar names, recent losses. The records are arranged alphabetically in a series of notebooks. Oversized programs are housed in a separate box. One program is probably the earliest that I have come across: "A Service To The Memory of Pvt. Donnal L. Ritter Vespers-April 15, 1945... Rev. V.D. Naugle, Pastor."

The program indicates that the Memorial Service was "held in memory of Pvt. Donnal L. Ritter, who died in the service of our country in the battle of the Philippines- killed in action on December 17, 1944." His biographical sketch is included "Donnal L. Ritter, son the late Ernest L. Ritter and his wife, Mrs. Florence Ritter. He was born May 15, 1923 at Renova {SIC}, Pa. and baptized in Zion's Lutheran Church of Renova at the age of six months. The family later moved to Lewisburg where he attended the Sunday School of Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church, and the public schools of Lewisburg.

Private Ritter entered the service of his country, January 29, 1943, and was assigned to the 24th Calvary Reconnaissance Troop at Fort Riley, Kansas. He received thirteen weeks of basic training there, after which he was sent to the Pacific war theatre. He was with his company in Hawaii, Australia, New Guinea, and in the conquest of the Philippines where he was killed in action on the Island of Leyte, December 17, 1944, at the age of 21 years, 7 months, and 2 days."

The program concluded with the Sounding of Taps by his nephew Richard Lee Derr. According to other records, his name is recorded on the Tablets of the Missing in the Manila American Cemetery, Manila, Philippines. Posthumously, he was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. His parents and siblings are buried in the Lewisburg Cemetery.



January 2025 Faith Formation Information

FAITH FORMATION TEAM MEETING – Wednesday, January 8 at 6:00 pm in the parlor. We will work on winter plans as well as plans for the youth trip fundraisers. Anyone interested in youth ministry and/or Christian education is invited to join the team. The workload is minimal and fun!

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Starting in 2025 the children and youth will meet on Sundays at 10:45 am to explore their faith! We have a preschool/lower elementary class that meets in the nursery, and an upper elementary and middle school class that meets in the youth room. All children and youth are invited to join us as we discover the various Bible stories and characters.



UNITED YOUTH GROUP – During the month of January the United Youth Group will be meeting at Beaver Memorial UM on Sunday January 5th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. This will be



one of the Remix lessons. That evening you need to bring your own dinner and Bible. All 6th through 12th grade youth are invited to join us. The UYG will also be having their annual lock-in at Christ's Lutheran on January 17th through the 18th from 6:30 pm to 10:00 am. We will have a dinner of pizza, play lots of games, a nerf battle or two, and watch at least one movie. Bring your sleeping bag and pillow, nerf supplies, and a snack to share. You may also invite a friend to join us.

ANNUAL SOUP AND BREAD SALE – The youth will be selling soup and bread again this year to raise funds for their mission trip to Toledo Ohio. They will meet on Saturday, January 11 from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm to make the Soups and Breads. Youth can come the whole time or a portion. Youth do not have to be going on the trip to come and help. This a perfect for confirmation service hours.



On Sunday, January 12 the soups and breads will be available for pick up after the service. This year we will be taking orders again. You can choose from Chicken Corn, Vegetable Beef, Turkey Rice, Ham and Bean, Broccoli Cheese, Vegetable, or Vegetable with Turkey. The soups come in quart and pint sizes. Cost for a quart is \$8.00 and a pint is \$5.00. If you buy two quarts you get a deal at \$15.00. The flavors of bread are white, sourdough, and Italian herb. The breads are a whole loaf for \$5.00 or half loaf for \$3.00. Call the church and talk to Charlene to place you order by January 8th.



MINI MISSION MONDAY - On January 13 at 6:30 pm we will gather to tie the labels on the M&M containers for the mission money collection. We will meet in the half-way up room. All youth going on the mission trip should come and help with this project.

ROLLER SKATING PARTY – The synod youth team is hosting a roller-skating party on Sunday, January 19th. Watch for more information to come about location and times. This event will be for junior and senior high youth.



Here are just a few more things to look forward to in 2025!

- ◆ **UYG Remix Lesson – Sunday, February 2** – 5:30 to 7:30 pm at St. Paul's UM
- ◆ **Bowling Event – Sunday, February 16** – Hosted by the Synod Youth Team
- ◆ **Mini Mission Mondays – February 17 and March 17**
- ◆ **Movie Night – Sunday, February 23**
- ◆ **RENEW Retreat at Camp Mount Luther – March 28-30** - For Confirmation Students and High School Youth – Theme is Food

What else would you like to see added to the calendar? Let Charlene know.

From the Music Team - Joanne & Brandy
Worship Schedule for January - Choirs/Ensembles/Special Music TBA

Sunday, January 5: *The Epiphany of Our Lord* - Christmas Carol Liturgy
9:30 am Worship - Ensemble/Choir/Special Music - TBA

Sunday, January 12: *Baptism of Our Lord* - Liturgical Setting - ELW Setting # 3
9:30 am Worship - Ensemble/Choir/Special Music - TBA

Sunday, January 19: *Second Sunday After Epiphany* - ELW Setting # 3
Stewardship Emphasis Begins
9:30 am Worship - Ensemble/Choir/Special Music – TBA

Sunday, January 26 - *Third Sunday After Epiphany* - ELW Setting # 3
Stewardship Emphasis Continues
9:30 am Worship - Ensemble/Choir/Special Music - TBA

Please Stay Tuned Regarding Choir/Ensemble/Special Music Scheduling for 2025

Members and Friends of Christ's Lutheran Church,
Please stay tuned for choir/ensemble/special music scheduling info which will be forthcoming in 2025 via bulletins, FB, e-mail, etc. At the time of the newsletter deadline, we are knee deep in bulletin and service preparation for Blue Christmas, Advent IV, Family Christmas Eve worship, Traditional Christmas Eve worship, and the Service of Lessons and Carols. Planning and scheduling for January is always a difficult task as we regroup and begin a new calendar year. Illness and weather become more of a factor also. Thank you for your patience and understanding. Joanne

Special Music Is Always Welcome!

Congregation members and friends are always welcome to provide anthems for worship. Anthems may be vocal and/or instrumental. All ages and experience levels welcome! Advance notice is required for planning purposes. Contact Joanne Vasey.

Thanks to All Advent and Christmas Season Musicians

Special thanks to the vocalists and instrumentalists of all ages who shared their talents in worship for our Advent and Christmas services. Your talents added to the glorious praise of the anticipation and celebration of the birth of Jesus. Please continue to share your talents in 2025.



Worship Assistants for January 2025

9:30 am	<i>January 5 2 Christmas</i>	<i>January 12 Baptism of Our Lord</i>	<i>January 19 2 Epiphany</i>	<i>January 26 3 Epiphany</i>
Worship Assistant	Sarah Patte	Pastor Biesecker	Joseph Martin	Heather Miller
Lector	Beverly Harvey	Carole Bollinger	Joe Keller	Ken Stitley
Acolytes	Lilly Patte Maddy Hauck	Marie Winder Claire Hershberger	Aaron Hershberger Violet Hauck	Ruth Miller Marie Winder
Communion Ushers	Tim Goff Cordell Dean	Bill Borys Judy Cotner	Mel Wunder Rick Faux	Bill Wagner Colleen Nevil
Communion Assistants	Gregg Wetzell	Rick Slear	Tess Trowbridge	Laura Faux
Usher Team	Cherie Jarrett Mary Lou Shedden	Tim & Carol Apple	Jerry & Julie Albright	Tess Trowbridge & Jackie Cvik
Welcome Desk	Bill & DeDee Wagner	Jackie Cvik	Laurie Slear	Roberta Winder
Altar Guild	Jackie Goff			
CPIC	TBD			

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS TAKE NOTE: Please check in with the Council person in charge (CPIC) when you arrive on Sunday morning to serve. If you are unable to be here, please try to switch with someone else ahead of time if possible. If changes have been made or assistance is needed, please call the Church Office at 570-524-0745 or email christchurch@dejazzd.com. Thank you-God bless you abundantly for your service to Christ and His Church!

Beat the Winter Blues Bingo



Saturday, January 11
@7:00 pm.
at Christ's Lutheran Church

Everyone, please bring a
"wrapped" gift up to a \$5.00
value and a snack to share.

SIGN UP AT THE WELCOME DESK



Come and have fun. Everyone is a winner!

UNITED IN CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO

Theology on Tap

JOIN US AT
RUSTY RAIL
6:00 PM ON JANUARY 8TH
AND 22ND



**BUFFALO VALLEY
FAITH LAB**



Scan to sign up today!




Second Sunday of the Month
4:00pm-6:00pm

Free family dinner!

Sponsored by:



You're invited to the launch of a
new monthly family faith
formation program!



May all of the
blessings
of the Lord
be yours in
abundance in the
New Year

From Pastor Katy, Pastor Justin
Charlene, Diane, Brenda, Joanne & Brandy