



# Christ's Corner on the News

Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church ♦ 100 South Third Street, Lewisburg, PA 17837

**CHURCH BUDGET/COUNCIL ELECTIONS MEETING:** will be held on **Sunday, December 14** after the 9:30 service. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on candidates for the 2026 Church Council and to review and approve the Church Budget for 2026.

**DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER** is Monday, **December 15**. The January newsletter will be assembled and mailed out on Tuesday, **December 23** at 9:15 am.

**POINSETTIAS** can be taken home **AFTER the LATE service** on **Christmas Eve** or the following **Sun., December 28<sup>th</sup>**.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE** will be closed Thurs., **December 25** through Fri. **Jan. 2, 2026**.

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2025** must be received in the Church Office by Sunday, **Dec. 28** to be credited toward your 2025 Giving Statement. Anything received afterward, regardless of the printed envelope or postmarked dates will be credited for 2026.

In order to be eligible to receive their second semester funding, **KUNKEL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD** students must submit their previous semester grades (with cumulative GPA), registration for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester full-time enrollment and any contact information changes to the church office by **January 8, 2026**.

## DECEMBER 2025

**Wed., Dec. 3**

Beer & Carols

6pm @ Rusty Rail

**Fri. Dec. 5**

Christmas Caroling @7pm

Meet at Lewisburg Post Office

**Sun. Dec. 7**

Synod Youth X-mas Party

2:00pm–4:00pm @ CML

Faith Lab

4:30pm–6:30pm @ CELC

UYG Road Trip Bible Study

6:30pm–8:00pm @ CELC

**Sun., Dec. 14**

Church budget/council  
elections meeting

United Youth Group

2:00pm–4:00pm @ CML

Youth Christmas Party

6:00pm @ CELC

**Wed. Dec. 17**

Blue Christmas

7pm @ CELC

**Wed. Dec. 25 – Fri. Jan. 2**

Church Office Closed

Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but still nothing is as shining as it should be for you. Under the sink, for example, is an uproar of mice — it is the season of their many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves and through the walls the squirrels have gnawed their ragged entrances — but it is the season when they need shelter, so what shall I do? And the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard while the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow; what shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly up the path, to the door. And still I believe you will come, Lord: you will, when I speak to the fox, the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know that really I am speaking to you whenever I say, as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in."

"Making the House Ready for the Lord" by Mary Oliver

Dear Christ's Lutheran,

As we enter the Advent and Christmas seasons, we stand again before the holy mystery that God chose to draw near to us—not in power or spectacle, but in the smallness of a child. Christmas is the annual reminder that God's love is not distant or abstract. It is embodied, vulnerable, and personal! In Christ's birth, God steps into our world's messiness and pain and offers healing from within it.

Christmas teaches us that salvation comes through presence—God's presence with us and our presence with one another. The incarnation is not simply an event long ago, but a pattern for our lives: God has made a home in our world and we, in turn, are invited to make room for God.

This season I've been thinking about Mary Oliver's poem *"Making the House Ready for the Lord."* In it, Oliver describes preparing her home—all the dusting, the sweeping, the shooing away of messy creatures that wander in—and realizing that her life, all its clutter and all its imperfection, is still a place where God enthusiastically comes. She confesses her house "not cleaned and ready," yet she keeps preparing anyway.

The poem is not about tidying for a divine guest, but about honesty. We do not wait to be worthy before welcoming Christ, because ultimately we will never be worthy on our own; we welcome Christ trusting that God shapes our worthiness. Oliver reminds us that the Lord enters through the cracks—into the untidy places of our hearts, our families, our world and delights in our calls of "Come in, Come in".

In our preparations, in this messy world, in our untidy homes, we hold tightly to this truth: God comes to us by grace alone. Christ is born not in a neat and spotless home or even a clean stable but into our real and imperfect lives. That means your weariness, your worries, your hopes still in formation—these are precisely the places God seeks to be born again this Christmas.

So, as you prepare your home, your calendar, your celebrations, I invite you also to prepare your heart with gentleness. Make room for silence. Hold space for wonder. Let Christ enter not only the beautiful parts of your life but into the complicated ones as well!

May Emmanuel, God with us, find in each of us a humble manger—simple, imperfect, but open. May we call out "Come in, Come in" and take joy in God's arrival in our world. And may the peace of Christ dwell within you in this holy season.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Katy

DEC. 80+ BIRTHDAYS	
13	Carol Lewis
25	Nelson Yost
25	Judy Cotner
25	Kay Rozyckie
26	Mel Wunder

DEC. WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES	
29	Matt & Ann Reed

A **BIG thank you** to everyone who took the time to wish me a happy birthday! Each of you made my day even more special.

*Beverly Harvey*



### From the Archives. by Gary Parks

The Church Archives is overwhelmingly composed of paper items including Church Council Minutes and official records, weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters, obituaries and memorial programs, and photographs. Sound recordings of the Church services form a significant portion of the Archives as well. Metalware objects including communion ware, brass plaques, offering plates, candelabra, and a silverplated tea service are housed within the Archives. Ceramic mugs, commemorative plates and glass paperweights form a small but important subsection of the Archives. An inventory of the contents of our cornerstone highlights the previous contents and what it currently contains (opened on our Anniversary). Textiles include a Christian flag, carpet samples, and a **red choir robe** which may be from circa 1955. The following ephemeral items relate to the Choir Robes.

National Church Goods Supply Co., Philadelphia, Pa., Catalogues

- Catalogue, with pages of color swatches, price list
- Measure Order Blank
- Additional Catalogue of the different styles
- Correspondence to Mr. Lake T. Sheary
- Order form with order for 12 robes, January 1955
- Measurements & styles



Also, the textile collection contains:

**USHER POCKET SQUARES.** These were worn in the breast pocket of the suit jacket of ushers, signifying that they were ushering that day. They signified the church season. The flap is a figured silk. An embroidered gold cross (four equal arms on the cross) is attached. The pocket square is inserted over a stiffened card which would insert in the pocket and hold the pocket square in place. They are white, green, purple and red. There are five white, seven green, nine purple, and eleven red.

## December Faith Formation Information



**FAITH LAB** - Sunday December 7 - 4:30 to 6:30 pm at Christ's. It is our lesson about Christmas. All pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome to join us with their parents. Meal is provided.

**Youth - Christmas Dinner Party at Christ's**  
**Sunday, December 14 from 6 to 8 pm**

**Bring a \$20.00 gift for the gift exchange.**  
**For 6th through 12th graders**

### *Here are just a few things to look forward to in 2026!*

- ♦ **WINTERFEST** – January 2-4 - In Lancaster for High schoolers and college students  
**Cost \$100.00** – Contact Charlene if you want to go!
- ♦ **UNITED YOUTH GROUP** – Road Trip Bible Study, Game Nights, Lock-in, and Movie Nights
- ♦ **FAITH LAB** – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month – Continuing to learn about Living in God's Time – Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> graders and parents.
- ♦ **Pre-Game Super Bowl Party** – February 8<sup>th</sup> – 2 pm to 4 pm
- ♦ **Mini Mission Mondays** – February 16 and March 16
- ♦ **RENEW Retreat at Camp Mount Luther – February 20-21** - For Confirmation Students and High School Youth – Theme is "Join the Faithful Feast"
- ♦ **SYNOD lead Youth Events** – March 8 – Open Mic/Talent Show
  - April 12 – PICNIC

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

# **From the Music Team - Brandy & Joanne**

## **Proposed Worship Schedule for December**



**Sunday, Nov. 30** - *First Sunday of Advent* - ELW Setting 1 - Hope Candle

9:30 am worship - Prelude and Communion anthem by Bob Lamparter, violin

**Sunday, Dec. 7** - *Second Sunday of Advent* - ELW Setting 1 - Peace Candle

9:30 am Worship - Communion Anthem by Pop-Up Choir -

"Soon and Very Soon" - ELW # 439

All interested singers welcome!

**Sunday, Dec. 14** - *Third Sunday of Advent* - ELW Setting 1 - Joy Candle

9:30 am Worship - Pre-Service, Prelude & Communion Anthem by Parish Choir

Offertory Anthem by Children & Family Choir

**Wednesday, Dec. 17** - *Blue Christmas Service* at CELC - 7:00 pm

**Sunday, Dec. 21** - *Fourth Sunday of Advent* - ELW Setting 1 - Love Candle

9:30 am Worship - Pre-service and prelude by Parish Peal Handbell Choir

Offertory anthem by Youth Drumming Ensemble (Tentative)

**Wednesday, Dec. 24** - *Nativity of Our Lord - Candlelight Worship*

3:30 pm - Pre-Service Instrumental & Vocal Selections by Soloists, Choirs and Ensembles

4:00 pm - Family Worship -Specifically structured for children - Eucharist and Candlelight  
Vocal & Bell Anthems by Children & Family Choir; 12-Bell Ensemble; Orff  
Ensemble (tentative)

7:30 pm - Pre-Service Instrumental & Vocal Selections by Soloists, Choirs and Ensembles

8:00 pm - Traditional Worship - Eucharist and Candlelight

Anthems by Parish Choir, Parish Peal Handbell Choir

**Sunday, Dec. 28** - *First Sunday of Christmas*

9:30 am Worship - Service of Lessons and Carols

Vanessa Lloyd, pianist

# Choirs & Ensembles for Advent and Christmas Eve

**1) Pop-Up Choir:** Will provide the communion anthem on Dec. 7. Anthem will be "Soon and Very Soon" - ELW # 439. All interested singers welcome! Folks not comfortable singing an alto, tenor or bass part may stay on the familiar melody. For more info, contact Brandy Aguirre.

**2) Parish Choir:** Will provide anthems on Dec. 14 and also for the traditional Christmas Eve service. All interested singers welcome! Rehearsals take place on Monday evenings. For more info, contact Brandy Aguirre.

**3) Children & Family Choir:** Will provide an anthem on Dec. 14 and also for the Family Christmas Eve service. Children rehearse during the Sunday school hour. All children welcome! For more info, contact Brandy Aguirre.

**4) Parish Peal Handbell Choir:** Will provide anthems on Dec. 21 and also for the Traditional Christmas Eve service. Ringers should check e-mail for updates to the ringing schedule. Contact Joanne Vasey.

**5) 12-Bell Ensemble:** Hoping to organize a 12-bell Ensemble to provide an anthem for the Family Christmas Eve service. Interested ringers should contact Joanne Vasey.

**6) Orff Ensemble:** Hoping to organize an Orff Ensemble for the Family Christmas Eve service. Interested folks should contact Joanne Vasey.

**7) Youth Drumming Ensemble:** Will provide the offertory anthem on Dec. 21. Rehearsals continue during the Sunday school hour. Contact Brandy Aguirre.

**8) Vocalists and Instrumentalists Invited to Provide Special Music for Christmas Eve:** Singers and instrumentalists in the congregation are invited to provide anthems for Christmas Eve Worship. Choose one or both services. All ages and experience levels welcome! Solos, duets, and ensembles welcome! If interested, please contact Joanne as soon as possible.

## Thank You!

Thanks to all musicians who shared their talents in worship during the month of November.





# Worship Assistants for December 2025

	December 7 2 Advent	December 14 3 Advent	December 21 4 Advent	December 24 Christmas Eve	December 28 1 Christmas
9:30 am					
Worship Asst.	Sarah Patte	Joseph Martin	Heather Miller	4pm Dale Biesecker 8pm Heather Miller	Joseph Martin
Lector	Rick Faux	Ken Stitley	Mark Elliott	4pm Beverly Harvey 8pm Jim Snyder	Tom & Miriam Milbrand
Acolytes	Lilly Patte Olivia Koontz	Devlynn Williams Maddy Hauck	Claire Hershberger Marie Winder	4pm Ellis Reed/ Violet Hauk 8pm Ruth E. Miller/ Marie Winder	Aaron Hershberger Devlynn Williams
Communion Ushers	Beckie Stahlnecker Laura Faux	Miriam Milbrand Jackie Cvik	Mel Wunder Judy Cotner	4pm Tim Goff Cordell Dean 8pm Sarah Patte Oliver Patte	Jim Snyder Ken Stitley
Communion Assistants	Gregg Wetzel	Tess Trowbridge	Colleen Nevil	4pm Patti Faux 8pm Bill Borys	Rick Faux
Communion Pourers	Bill & Carole Bollinger	Mark & Adelyn Elliott	Laura Faux Tim Apple	4pm Darlene Rowe Jackie Goff 8pm Jackie Cvik TBD	Tim & Carol Apple
Usher Team	Tim & Carol Apple	Julie & Jerry Albright	Tess Trowbridge Jackie Cvik	4pm Tom & Miriam Milbrand 8pm Gary Parks Laura Faux	Wayne Hook & Tim Goff
Welcome Desk	Janie Keiser	Laura Adams	Bill & DeDee Wagner	4pm Pam Baker 8pm Laura Adams	Beverly Harvey
Altar Guild	All Teams				
CPIC	Tom Stahlnecker				



**BEERS & CAROLS**

JOIN THIS HOLIDAY PUB SING ON  
**DECEMBER 3 | 6:00PM**  
AT  
**RUSTY RAIL  
BREWING COMPANY**  
5 NORTH 8TH ST.  
MIFFLINBURG, PA

COORDINATED WITH:



The poster features a dark green background with a pattern of holly leaves and red berries. At the top center is the Rusty Rail Brewing logo, which includes a shield with 'RUSTY RAIL BREWING' and 'EST. 2013'. Below the logo is a large, stylized banner with the text 'BEERS & CAROLS'. To the left of the event details is an illustration of two frothy beer mugs clinking. The event details are in white and yellow text. At the bottom, three church logos are displayed: Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Milton Lutheran Church, and United In Christ Lutheran Church.



**Fri., Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**7pm -7:45 pm**  
Meet at the  
Lewisburg Post Office  
on the corner of  
Third & Market St.

Enjoy cookies at Christ's Lutheran Church afterward

The graphic for 'Let's Go Caroling' features a blue and green striped scarf with a holly leaf and berries at the top. Snowflakes and musical notes are scattered around the text. The event details are contained within a green circular bubble on the right. The bottom line of text is in a red serif font.





YOU'RE INVITED!

# CHRISTMAS CRAFT WORKSHOP

**SATURDAY, December 6 | 3:00PM**  
 United In Christ Lutheran Church  
 1875 Churches Road, Lewisburg, PA

Sponsored by:





Crafts! Cocoa! Cookies! Carols!










# Blue Christmas Worship

Wednesday, December 17th at 7:00pm  
 Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 100 South Third Street, Lewisburg, PA





A service for remembering loved ones  
 no longer with us amid the holidays.

May you have the gift of FAITH,  
the blessings of HOPE  
and the PEACE of his LOVE  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

