

**January
2026**

Christ's Corner on the News

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Thurs., Jan. 1

New Year's Day
Church Office Closed

Jan. 2-4

Youth Winterfest

Sun., Jan 4

Faith Lab @ CELC
4:30pm – 6:30pm

Wed., Jan. 7

Church Un-greening
4:00pm

Wed., Jan. 7 & 21

Theology on Tap
6pm @ Rusty Rail,
Mifflinburg

Thurs., Jan. 8

Deadline for 2nd half
Kunkel materials

Thurs., Jan. 8, 15, 22 & 29

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

Sun., Jan. 11

UYG Road Trip Bible Study @
Beaver UMC
6:30 pm – 8pm

Sat. Jan. 17

Beat the Winter Blues
Bingo @ CELC
6:00pm

Sun., Jan. 18

Faith Lab @ UIC
4:30pm – 6:30pm

Jan. 23-24

UYG Lock-in @ CELC
6pm – 10am

Sun. Jan. 25

UYG Road Trip Bible Study
@ 1st Baptist
6:30pm – 8:00pm

THE CHURCH OFFICE closed on Thurs. December 25 for the holidays and will **reopen at 8am on Mon., January 5th.**

A Few Reminders:

January 19th is the **deadline** for **February newsletter** submissions. Newsletter will be assembled & mailed on **Tues., January 27th** at 9:15 am. We are looking for volunteers who would like to help assemble the newsletter. Contact church office if interested.

To receive the second half of the **Kunkel Scholarship award**, eligible students must have their previous semester grades with cumulative GPA, registration for 2nd semester (full-time enrollment) and updated college and/or e-mail address (if changed) in to the church office by 4:30 pm on **Thurs. Jan. 8th.**

INTRODUCING THE 2026 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Laura Adams	Andy Anderson	Tim Apple
Pam Baker	Jackie Cvik	Rick Faux
Meghan Hauck	Wayne Hook	Trace Nevil
Ann Sabol	Rick Slear	Tom Stahlnecker

A huge "Thank You" to all of our volunteers who have been so faithful and willing to serve here at Christ's Lutheran! Your efforts support the whole congregation as we worship. You are valued and appreciated!

Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church
100S. Third St., Lewisburg, PA 17837



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

Congregational Life News

2026 ANNUAL MEAT PROJECT: This is the 51st year for this project of the Central Pennsylvania World Hunger Association. The money collected will be used to purchase turkey and chicken to be processed this year on February 9-13. There is a great need for the meat, both locally and worldwide. You will find an offering envelopes for the 2026 Meat Project at the Welcome Desk.

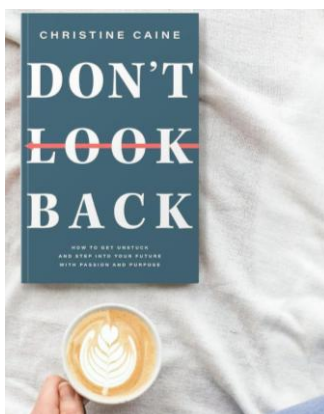
Beat the Winter Blues Bingo



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



Come and have fun. Everyone is a winner!



New 5 WEEK Ladies Bible Study by Christine Caine called "Don't Look Back" begins on **Thursday January 8, 2026** and will continue through to February 5 (weather permitting) at 9:30AM & 6PM. Ladies can purchase their own workbook before class begins from Amazon, Christianbook, etc. or The Bible Depot in Sunbury will order also them. (It takes about 2 weeks after ordering to receive your workbook).

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

January Wedding Anniversaries	
1	Susan Arisumi & Steven Schoenfelder
10	Andy & Leslie Anderson



Spiritual Growth Information for January 2026

WINTERFEST – A few of our high school youth will be attending a conference in Lancaster that is being held by the Lower Susquehanna Synod. It runs from January 2nd through the 4th. The theme is “Better Together”. The weekend events are about community, and the youth will strive to focus on their relationship with God in Christ Jesus, experienced in and with their gathered community of peers. They will draw upon the gift of the Holy Spirit that dwells within each of us. We will speak of the love and care God calls us to share with one another, and we will see it lived out in real time, with real people. One of the activities for the weekend is a food packing service event. Please keep Chad, Charlene, Ellis, and Olivia in your prayers for a safe and faith-filled experience.

Spiritual Growth Team Meeting – Wednesday, January 7 at 6:00 pm in the parlor. We will work on winter and spring plans. Anyone interested in youth ministry and/or Christian education is invited to join the team. The workload is minimal and fun!

Sunday School – We have classes for pre-school/lower elementary school children, and upper elementary/middle school youth. The younger class is being taught by Kailyn White and is held upstairs in the Sunday School wing. The confirmation class is being taught by Pastor Katy and Charlene Rineer and is being held downstairs in the youth room. The classes are on Sunday mornings at 10:45 am.

FAITH LAB - Faith Lab continues in 2026 as we welcome students from pre-k through 6th grade to explore “Living in God’s Time”. Each month we will gather for Bible study, games, crafts, and a family dinner sponsored by the host congregation. There is also a Bible study class for the parents. Faith Lab takes place on the first Sunday of the month at Christ’s Lutheran from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Then on the third Sunday of the month we meet at United in Christ Lutheran on Churches Road.

UNITED YOUTH GROUP – During the month of January the United Youth Group will have several activities. All 6th through 12th grade youth are invited to join us. Sunday, January 11th they will continue their Road Trip Bible Study. That will be from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at Beaver United Methodist church. Their annual lock-in takes place on January 23rd through the 24th. They will gather in the youth room at Christ's Lutheran from 6:00 pm Friday to 10:00 am Saturday. There will be many games, a painting craft, snacks, and a movie. Youth need to bring their sleeping gear and a snack to share. Then on Sunday, January 25th they will do another session of the Road Trip Bible Study. That will take place at First Baptist Church from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

Some Other Events Coming Up in the Winter of 2026

- Sunday, February 8 - 2 pm to 4 pm – UYG Superbowl Pre-party at St. Paul's UM
- Monday, February 16 -6:30 pm - Mini Mission – Fleece Blankets
- Friday-Saturday, February 20-21 – RENEW retreat at Camp Mount Luther for 6th through 12th graders –
 - Theme - Join the Faithful Feast
 - Registration is at campmountluther.org/renew
- Sunday, March 1 - 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - UYG Road Trip Bible Study at Christ's
- Sunday, March 8 – 2 to 4 pm – Synod Youth Event – Open Mic/Talent Show at Milton Lutheran
- Monday, March 16 – 6:30 pm – Mini Mission – Military Care Packages
- Sunday, March 22 – 6 pm – 8 pm – UYG Movie Night at Beaver UM

MORE EVENTS TO BE PUT ON THE CALENDAR
What do you want to do? Let Charlene Know!



BUFFALO VALLEY FAITH LAB

Scan to sign up!

1st and 3rd Sundays of the Month
 4:30pm-6:30pm
 September-May
 Grades K-6
 Free family dinner!

1st Sunday @ Christ's Lutheran
 100 S. 3rd Street
 Lewisburg, PA 17837

3rd Sunday @ United In Christ
 1875 Churches Rd.
 Lewisburg, PA 17837

Worship Schedule for January

Worship Schedule for January

Sunday, January 4 - *Epiphany Sunday* - Christmas Carol Liturgy - Color: White
9:30 am worship - Anthems TBA

Sunday, January 11 - *Baptism of Our Lord* - Liturgical Setting TBA - Color: White
9:30 am worship - Anthems TBA

Sunday, January 18 - *Second Sunday after Epiphany* - Liturgical Setting TBA - Color: Green
9:30 am worship - Anthems TBA

Sunday, January 25 - *Third Sunday after Epiphany* - Liturgical Setting TBA - Color: Green
9:30 am worship - Anthems TBA

Choir/Ensemble Updates

The choir/ensemble schedule for January is TBD. Please check weekly bulletins and e-mail for updates or contact Joanne Vasey for more info.

Thank You December Musicians!

Thanks to all musicians who shared their talents in worship during the month of December. Your talents truly enhanced our Sundays in Advent, Christmas Eve and the First Sunday of Christmas.

Special Music for January

Musicians are invited to share their talents for a Sunday in January by providing vocal and/or instrumental anthems. All ages and experience levels welcome! If interested, contact Joanne.



You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
What is this? or What does this mean?



We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light.

—Martin Luther's Small Catechism, Study Edition

As we head into the New Year, I am sure many of us are thinking about fresh starts! I am certainly happy to be waving goodbye to 2025 and look forward to the blank slate that is 2026. This blank slate opens up a myriad of new possibilities—new habits, new intentions, and renewed relationships—and invites us to reflect: Who are we becoming? How do we live together well?

These are questions that many wonder and spend the time determining how they want to live together, in healthy community. One of the guiding principles I keep circling back to are the Ten Commandments—the first three are about our relationship with God and the rest are about our relationship with one another. But the Eighth Commandments jumped to the forefront of my mind when one of my friends from camp reached out to me recently.

Working at camp, you work with the same people all summer. Our staff was about 75 people, and it's a pretty big staff when you think about it but man oh man is camp small. When you tuck 75 college-aged students on a mountain for 10 weeks with less than 24 hours off between weeks of kids, we can face some pretty big issues. Even after orientation closing circle, the establishment of our irrevocable ties, there are still sometimes where we drive one another crazy and even hurt those around us. There was a coworker, Pete, that I worked with in the second week of camp and in the middle of that week, he made an incredibly offensive comment about me. He hurt me and in the moment I said nothing. I decided that I would be professional for the sake of the job but on our off time or free time, he was someone I wanted to avoid. Pete ended up apologizing to me a day later, but to me the damage had been done so I thanked him for the apology and continued to give him the cold shoulder. We just had to finish that week and then we would have new co-counselors to work with.

Well, the joke was on me! Pete and I ended up working in an area together for the next three weeks. Somewhere in the middle of all of our time working together, Pete had moved on from his comment while my hurt sat and festered. It affected how I treated him, even in front of campers. I spoke poorly of him to my friends, and in turn he began to respond in kind. Every small mistake or minor issue with Pete was an opportunity to draw out my dislike and my frustration. Soon, there were non-truths or partial truths (severely blown out of proportion) flying around camp about both of us. It began to affect the way other people on staff viewed Pete and viewed me. I finally had my boss not so subtly tell me to go deal with this before she involved a program director. I dragged my heels on it and at staff worship that night, our program director preached on Matthew 18—reminding us to take accountability when we have wronged someone but to also speak up when we felt we have been wronged. Alright, message received God, I'm going to talk Pete. During the peace I pulled him aside to talk. I told him how much his comment had hurt me and had been weighing on me and even with his apology I was still frustrated he had made it to begin with. I apologized to him for my treatment of him and for my part in gossiping about him. I had no idea what to expect—I had been incredibly rude by this point but y'all, Pete just swept me into a hug, squeezed tight, and said "peace be with you". That was it, "if the member listens to you, you have regained that one". Pete ended up becoming one of my dearest camp friends, he's still a close friend. In that moment of reconciliation, our relationship had been set right. God's peace washed over us, easing the confusion and soothing festering hurt.

The words of Eighth Commandment, "you shall not bear false witness against your neighbor" are seemingly so simple on the surface. Don't lie about your neighbor. But Martin Luther's explanation in the Small Catechism reminds us that this commandment goes beyond that. This commandment addresses not only what we say out loud, but how we think about one another. It challenges our assumptions, our inner narratives, and the quick judgments we are tempted to make. To live according to the Eighth Commandment is to assume good will rather than ascribe malice—to give our neighbor the benefit of the doubt. Because Luther calls us even further—it's not enough to keep our judgement in check, instead, we are called to come to our neighbor's defense, to speak well of them, and to interpret all that they do in the best possible light.

Assuming good will means resisting the urge to jump to conclusions about someone's motives or character. When words are poorly chosen, when actions disappoint us, or when misunderstandings arise, we are sometimes quick to fill in the gaps with suspicion or anger. The

Eighth Commandment calls us to stop, to listen, and to ask whether there might be another explanation—one shaped by charity rather than accusation.

This is essential for healthy Christian community. Communities are not destroyed only by major conflicts; they are often eroded by small comments, shared rumors, half-truths, and unspoken assumptions. I think back to how healthy my relationship with Pete became once I stopped assuming the worst of him and began to look for and assume the best. My assumption of his malice rippled out into the entire camp staff, leading us to becoming unhealthy as a community where cliques and gossip rose quickly and instead of pressing pause on our initial thought and being open to actually listening, we judged and shunned quickly, causing some very real harm.

At the same time, assuming good will does not mean avoiding hard conversations or pretending that sin and hurt do not exist. Scripture calls us to speak the truth—but always in love. When concerns must be addressed, the Eighth Commandment teaches us to speak directly, humbly, and with the goal of restoration rather than embarrassment or punishment. I think of how quickly Pete pulled me into a hug and restored peace to our relationship after our honest and open conversation.

As we enter a New Year, this commandment offers us a meaningful spiritual practice. What would change if we resolved to speak well of others whenever possible? To stop the spread of gossip instead of passing it along? To defend someone who is not present to speak for themselves? To interpret an action in the best possible light before assuming the worst?

Living this way will not always feel natural. It requires patience, self-control, and trust in God. Yet it is grounded in the Gospel itself. In Christ, God does not ascribe malice to us, but meets us with mercy. God speaks a gracious word over sinners, calling us forgiven, redeemed, and beloved. And having received such undeserved grace, we are freed to extend it to our neighbors. Embracing one another completely to find peace restored and reconciled relationship. May this New Year be marked by words that heal rather than harm, by assumptions shaped by love, and by communities strengthened through mutual care. As we fear and love God, may our speech and our hearts be guided, so that we reflect Christ to one another in all that we say and do.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Katy

Worship Assistants for January 2026

9:30 am	<i>January 4 Epiphany of Our Lord</i>	<i>January 11 Baptism of Our Lord</i>	<i>January 18 2 Epiphany</i>	<i>January 25 3 Epiphany</i>
Worship Assistant	Sarah Patte	Dale Biesecker	Heather Miller	Joseph Martin
Lector	Tim Goff	Patti Faux	Beckie Stahlnecker	Carole Bollinger
Acolytes	Lilly Patte Marie Winder	Violet Hauck Devlynn Williams	Ruth Miller Lilly Tillson	Maddy Hauck Aaron Hershberger
Communion Ushers	Mel Wunder Judy Cotner	Beckie Stahlnecker Colleen Nevil	Laura Faux Miriam Milbrand	Jim Snyder Ken Stitley
Communion Assistants	Gregg Wetzel	Tess Trowbridge	Colleen Nevil	Rick Faux
Communion Pourers	Bill & Carole Bollinger	Mark & Adelyn Elliott	Tim Apple Darlene Rowe	Jackie Cvik Laura Faux
Usher Team	Colleen Nevil Beckie Stahlnecker	Rick Faux Tim Varney	Cherie Jarrett Mary Lou Shedden	Tim & Carol Apple
Welcome Desk	Janie Keiser	Beverly Harvey	Bill & DeDee Wagner	Pam Baker
ALTAR GUILD	Beverly Harvey			
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!