



# Life Lines

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## a message from our pastor

Epiphany - Probably the least understood of the days marked on the liturgical calendar (not to be confused with a liturgical **colander**).



Officially, Epiphany is the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi (Matthew 2:1–12) and is celebrated in the West on January 6. The non-Church meaning is more like an “Aha moment.” An epiphany is a moment of clarity or revelation that is triggered by a person, object, or situation.

This year the calendar (not **colander**) is a little odd. Jan 6 falls on a Saturday so we will mark the Day of Epiphany at our Saturday night worship. Then when we gather on Sunday, we will mark the Baptism of our Lord. Two feast days, back to back! Both of these festivals have a similar and related focus.

January 6 is flashy and splashy with wisemen, gifts, and pageants. What’s not to love? And yet Baptism of our Lord is also about making Christ manifest. At least for the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke – John does his own thing), Jesus’ baptism is a public event. It is designed to “make manifest” this Jesus. It is hard to escape the booming voice and descending spirit.

John’s Gospel, written later, skips over the actual baptism, but does have John making a public announcement: Here is the Lamb of God (Agnus Dei). It is hard to get any more plain than that. This Jesus is like nothing and no one you have ever seen before. This Jesus who encounters you will be a life changing force.

It will take several generations for the Church to flesh out and fight through how we understand Holy Baptism and the difference between John’s baptism of repentance and the sacrament which claims us today. However, this much is certain: making Jesus manifest, whether through star following or ritual washing, was a vital function of the early Church. Making Jesus manifest REMAINS a vital function of the Church today.

If our words and deeds and ritual actions do not make manifest Jesus Christ, then perhaps we need to re-examine them. And if our actions make plain and manifest the love and grace of God present in Jesus Christ, perhaps we should worry less about what others think of us! Our mission and ministry is not all that different John the Baptizer. We make no grandiose claims about ourselves, we simply make plain the one in our midst, present and active, who is love incarnate.

God’s Peace- Pr. Groce

## From our President.....

Happy New Year to all! I hope you had a very merry and blessed Christmas.

As we move forward in 2024 some things will be a little different - no Executive Council meetings and for the year, less Congregation Council meetings. There will be a few more Town Hall Meetings to give you, the Congregation, the opportunity to give more ideas and direction you want CLC to go. Please remember all meetings are open and we invite you to attend.

The following is the schedule of upcoming important meetings:

1. Town Hall - Saturday, January 13 at 4:00 p.m.
2. Town Hall - Sunday January 14 at 11:00 a.m.  
NOTE: These meetings will be to discuss where you want CLC to go in the future and we will provide some ideas.
3. First new Congregation Council Meeting - January 16, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall B
4. Golf Tournament Planning Meeting starts on January 10, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Tournament date is Sunday, September 15 at Dorchester. Please save the date! Team members needed.

Thank you all for your help and support. Have a safe and healthy 2024.

God bless,  
Gary Deierlein

*The CLC Staff would like to THANK YOU for your generosity and thoughtfulness in providing a financial Christmas Gift this year. Your partnership and support throughout the year are appreciated, but this gift will certainly brighten the holiday season. As in 2022, this year's gift is a "non taxable" event. The church covered the portion which would have been due on the gift. Once more, generosity and thoughtfulness.*

*We are all excited to discover what ministry God has in store for CLC and the wider community in 2024! Merry Christmas and a joyous Epiphany!!*

*George, Ann, Joy, Vickie and Lewis*

### READINGS JANUARY 2024

#### January 6, 2024

##### Epiphany of Our Lord

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm: Psalm 72:1-7,10-14  
Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12  
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

#### January 7, 2024

##### Baptism of Our Lord

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5  
Psalm: Psalm 29  
Second Reading: Acts 19:1-7  
Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

#### January 13 & 14, 2024

##### 2nd Weekend of Epiphany

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-20  
Psalm: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
Gospel: John 1:43-51

#### January 20 & 21, 2024

##### 3rd Weekend of Epiphany

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
Psalm: Psalm 62:5-12  
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

#### January 27 & 28, 2024

##### 4th Weekend of Epiphany

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm: Psalm 111  
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

## THE 2024 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

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## National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

Tuesday, January 9 is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. The Sanctuary will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. to provide an opportunity for CLC parishioners and friends to pray for Law Enforcement Officers. On the hour, Pastor Groce will offer a Litany. Please join us sometime that day to pray.

## Bread of Life Meals

I neglected to write an article and a thank you for November. We tried out a spaghetti casserole and it seems to have been a success. The intent is to use the same recipe each month. We will begin doing that in January 2024, so look for the sign-up sheet.

As many of you know, in November-early December, Ron and I downsized our belongings by donating and selling our "surplus". We sold our house and moved to an apartment at Good Samaritans. Since we are well into our 80's, it seemed appropriate to have less responsibilities. So far the move seems to have been a good one for us.

I was so distracted with our activities that I never gave a thought to Bread of Life. So I requested help in the way of donations and we served pizza, salad/baby carrots and fruit cups. People were so generous that I have \$48 left over. With the money left over from Easter, I now have \$118 to use for BOL another time.

Thank you to all the wonderful helpers! A special shout out to Linda and Richard Queen who enjoy showing up at BOL to lend a hand!

Jo Borges

## Barrel Ministry for January 2024

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of Life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." John 6:35.

Bread of Life Rescue Mission needs your help. They are asking for: Food staples, cleaning supplies and toiletries.

This is the Barrel Ministry for January, 2024!

Your Service Team



# 2023 Kid's Christmas Wrapping Party



# 2023 Christmas Potluck



# *Dear God, Thank You!*

Thank you for all the gifts we notice,  
and all the gifts we don't.

Thank you for the ever-flowing river of your grace,  
your justice, your compassion and your love.

Let our gratitude overflow into generosity.

Let your gifts to us overflow into gifts we give to others. As  
your children, made in your image,  
let us be creators of abundant life for all

In the joyful, generous name of Jesus we pray.

*Amen*





December 2023

Dear Peavine Care Center Lovers,

Merry Christmas! Christmastime is a time for peace, love and joy. It is a time to give thanks to God for His gifts that never cease. In that spirit, I want to thank all of you for your many gifts to Peavine Care Center. Thank you for your generosity and compassion, your time and your talents, working together in the service of others. 2023 is another record year for our care center, and yet our expanded client load has not deterred us from continuing our resolve to fight hunger in Cumberland County.

There are so many people involved in making Peavine Care Center a success and so many “thank you’s” that are due. I am humbled by the wonderful and generous work you all do.

To our benefactors, the FFG Rotary Club, FFG Ladies Club, Knights of Columbus, Neighbors & Newcomers and so many others, thank you, not only for your financial support but also for raising awareness about hunger in our community.

To our individual contributors, thank you for remembering us in your charitable giving. We couldn’t do what we do without you.

To our sister pantries, Crab Orchard Care Center and Cumberland Good Samaritans, thank you for your kindness, collaboration, and sharing your good fortune with us in the spirit of achieving common goals. We know that when we work together everyone is better off.

To the churches of Fairfield Glade Council of Churches, thank you not only for your continued financial support but also for furnishing the brunt of our volunteers. We know that we are blessed and remain so very grateful for your support.

Lastly, to our volunteers, “thank you” doesn’t seem adequate. Week after week you pour out your unending generosity to benefit Peavine Care Center. Receiving, sorting, storing, bagging, and distributing—it is hard work and time consuming. I am humbled by the dedication and enthusiasm of each one of you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

I am very proud of the good work that we have accomplished together. This year we averaged 130 households every week and near the end of the year that number increased to over 140. These are people who don’t have enough money to buy nutritional food for their family. These are people that can’t make ends meet without our help. I’m proud of the way we’ve served our clients—supporting, assisting, not judging. As citizens of the greatest nation on earth, it is what we are *asked* to do—help our neighbor. As Christians, it is what we are *called* to do—love our neighbor. And we do! Thank you for being a Peavine Care Center lover!

Lynne and I wish each and every one of you a Blessed and Merry Christmas, and a new year full of God’s richest blessings.

Peace,

*Bob*

Bob Diller, Director  
Peavine Care Center Food Pantry



## PRAYER CONCERNS

Please keep the following in your prayers.

### PRAYER CONCERNS

- Betty Anderson
- Sherry Botsford,
- Jan Deibel
- Jude Dzibinski
- Duane Schiller, visitors welcome
- Paul Sloboda
- **ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL**
- **Kiswahili Lutheran Mission Church,**  
Nashville, our mission partner
- **Abby,** granddaughter of **Bob & Barb Boyce**
- **ELCA Global Mission**
- **David Corrado,** CLC Seminarian
- **Katherine Corrado,** mother of **CLC Seminarian David Corrado**
- **Roz Kerr,** mother of **Bill Kerr**
- **Maxwell LeBreux,** grandson of **John & Linda Lebreux**
- **Connie Reagan, Bread of Life**



### *Birthdays*

6	Jan Deibel	18	Garry Eckes
6	Betty House	19	Mary Nolan
6	Kay Landrus	25	Karen Laipply
10	Jane Komar	26	Evelyn Birmingham
11	Doug Johnson	29	Glen House
13	Ed Schwaberow	30	Barbara Kalmar

**Life Lines submissions are due  
January 23 for publication  
in the February issue.  
Items can be submitted  
by email to Vickie at  
[info@christlutheranffg.org](mailto:info@christlutheranffg.org)**



### *Anniversaries*

7	John & Linda LeBreux	57 years
8	Joe & Evelyn Birmingham	52 years
13	David & Linda Farber	51 years
30	Lynn & Elaine Dawson	53 years

