



# The Watchman



January 2023

## *Christ Lutheran Church, Pascagoula, MS*



When you look at the top of the page in our hymnal, you'll see how all the hymns are grouped into various categories. Some are parts of the church year: Advent, Lent, Pentecost, and so forth. Some of themes of the Christian life: baptism, the Lord's Supper, prayer, etc. A very few have to do with the regular calendar, including a handful that are for the New Year. It's an ancient Lutheran practice, to have a special New Year's Eve worship service – one of very few services throughout the year that are based on a secular date rather than a Biblical one.

Yet it is a very appropriate thing for a Christian to do, to reflect on the changing of the year. One of those hymns is "Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year," which says "Now greet the swiftly changing year with joy and penitence sincere. Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace another year of grace." The hymn

teaches us to reflect on our lives as a whole, using the past year as the specific example, and to find there causes of both joy and repentance: we have failed, for which we are sorry, and we have been forgiven, for which we are joyful. It teaches us to see our entire life through that frame of reference which ends each verse: "another year of grace." Whatever may come in the new year, we can be utterly sure that God's grace will be there for us.

Another hymn is "Across the Sky the Shades of Night," with "We gather up in this brief hour the memory of Your mercies; You wondrous goodness, love, and power our grateful song rehearses; for You have been our strength and stay in many a dark and dreary day of sorrow and reverses." Once again, the new year teaches us to remember how God has acted graciously for us in the past, and to commend everything in the past year (good and bad) into His hands; to put the old year to bed, so to speak. It

teaches us to likewise entrust the new year into God's hands and to be confident in His certain grace and blessing to us in Christ, even in the midst of this world's changes and challenges.

The Psalms tell us over and over that the love of the Lord for His faithful people is "steadfast" – unshakeable and certain. "The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him." The years change, the date on the calendar comes and goes and comes and goes, but the love of the Lord does not change. Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. No matter what the calendar says, that is always true, and therefore when we reflect on the passage of time in our lives, we are above all else thankful for the promise of eternity He gives. In the meantime, a new year is another year of God's grace. Happy New Year!



- 1 Kevin Rademacher & Dave Griffin (Crystal R.)
- 8 Roger Cox & Jay Torries (John T.)
- 15 Shawn Robbins & Bobby Trehern (Kevin R.)
- 22 Dave Griffin & Kevin Rademacher (Eve W.)
- 29 Jay Torries & Roger Cox (Elder)

- 15 Alyssa Purdy
- 16 Louis Bontly
- 25 Mark Schulte

## HAPPY Anniversary!

- 22 Jay & Janet Torries
- 24 Gary & Cathy Groff



Rita Shepherd



- 1 Eve Waffel
- 8 Cathy Groff
- 15 Donna/Anna Krebs
- 22 Susan Rademacher
- 29 Crystal Robbins

# Mary Martha News

Mary Martha will meet on January 15, 2023.



## OTHER NEWS

- **PRAYER CHAIN REQUEST:** As a reminder to all members, a chain phone call prayer request is available for all members. To either make a chain call prayer request or to start receiving chain prayer calls, please contact either your Elder or Pastor.
- **NURSERY:** Nursery is provided for children during worship service.
- **NEW CHURCH EMAIL:** The new office email is [CLC1888@outlook.com](mailto:CLC1888@outlook.com)
- **MEMBER INFO UPDATE:** Please complete the member form and turn it in to an elder, usher, or send it in an email to help update our records. Also please send a family picture for the directory to Janet or Pastor.
- **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:** We will celebrate January's birthdays and anniversaries on January 8 after the service. Please join us for fellowship and cake.
- **SUGGESTION CARDS:** Suggestion cards are available in the Sanctuary for recommendations and/or complaints.

**Would you like to join fellow Lutherans in a journey to the Holy Land? To learn about the Bible at the locations where it happened, and to follow in the footsteps of Abraham, King David, Jesus, and Paul? The dates are June 25 to July 7, 2024. More information will available soon, but please tell Pastor if you are interested.**



## January Scripture Readings

Jan. 1 <b>2023</b>		Circumcision and Name of Jesus	Num. 6:22–27	Psalm 8	Gal. 3:23–29	Luke 2:21
	<i>or</i>	First Sunday a. Christmas	Isaiah 63:7–14	Psalm 111	Gal. 4:4–7	Matt. 2:13–23
<b>EPIPHANY</b>	Jan. 6	The Epiphany of Our Lord	Isaiah 60:1–6	Psalm 72: 1–11 (12–15)	Eph. 3:1–12	Matt. 2:1–12
	Jan. 8	The Baptism of Our Lord / First S. a. the Epiphany	Isaiah 42:1–9	Psalm 29	Rom. 6:1–11	Matt. 3:13–17
	Jan. 15	Second S. a. the Epiphany	Isaiah 49:1–7	Psalm 40:1–11	1 Cor. 1:1–9	John 1:29–42a
	Jan. 22	Third S. a. the Epiphany	Isaiah 9:1–4	Psalm 27:1–9 (10–14)	1 Cor. 1:10–18	Matt. 4:12–25
	Jan. 29	Fourth S. a. the Epiphany	Micah 6:1–8	Psalm 15	1 Cor. 1:18–31	Matt. 5:1–12



### Christ Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes 12.12.2022

Kevin Rademacher called the meeting to order

Pastor opened w prayer

November council meeting minutes were read.

#### **Pastor's report**

- 12/24: Christmas Eve service at 7 pm.
- 12/25: Christmas Day service, no Bible Study or Sunday School
- Continuing with Advent services and soup suppers
- Will begin a new Bible study in January
- Red Cross requested to hold a blood drive in the Fellowship Hall 12/22 8-12 am
- Pastor attended a joint circuit meeting at Village Lutheran in McComb, LA. The congregation presented information on their mobile kitchen used for disaster relief.
- See attached Pastor's report
- January 8 Installation of new council and birthday celebration

- January 15 Elders and Mary Martha
- Council meeting on January 16

**President's report:** Kevin Rademacher

- 2023 new council member John Tetreau attended the meeting
- Working on the service dog policy
- Can we plan for a nativity walk December 2023? It will be the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Francis of Assisi's nativity.

**Vice President Report:** Dave Griffin

- Sign up for ushers and flowers. Signup sheets are in Memorial Hall.
- Dave will follow up on the amplifiers in the Sanctuary

**Elders Report:** Jay Torries

- Roger Cox has agreed to serve as our sixth elder
- We are planning to decorate the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary December 18 after worship. Lunch will be provided

**Financial Secretary:** Carl Erichsen

- Total deposits November \$8072
- December so far \$5303
- Ytd deposits \$117,541.92

**Treasurer:** Lin Jacobson

- All bills are current
- Working on the 2023 budget
- Checking account \$2152.57
- Scholarship fund balance \$4920.66

**Trustees**

- Missing shingles on the bell tower have not been addressed yet
- Still working on the rat problem. Rooms have been cleaned and sanitized
- Dave Griffin is going to install lights in the backyard and parking lot

**Evangelism:** Rita Shepherd

- Soup supper and Advent service attendance is low. Should we try a noon program next year?
- Volunteers and signup sheets: Rita suggested moving the back pew and replace with a table for signup sheets to the back of the Sanctuary.

**Mary Martha:** Kyndel Torries:

- No report

**Youth:** no report

**Education:** Donna Krebs Sunday school is in progress, and proposed starting a mom-toddler Bible class. If you are interested, please contact Donna.

**Social ministry:** no report

**Stewardship:** no report

**Safety:** Shawn Robbins is researching the purchase of an AED (automated external defibrillator)

**Endowment fund:** no report

**Old business:**

- Holy Land tour 2024
- Memorial garden-no updates

**New business:**

- Consider a tent for Nativity Walk at the Pascagoula Downtown Christmas next year

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully,

Susan Rademacher

## **Pastor's Report to the Board of Elders and Church Council December 2022**



Membership, Worship, and Christian Education

- Membership changes: Thyne Brown is on hospice care at home.
- The Sunday adult Bible study is almost done going through the book of Acts and will start something new in January. Please join us and suggest a topic you're interested in for our next subject!
- Advent devotion booklets are still available for members.
- Advent services and soup suppers conclude on December 21. Christmas Eve service will be at 7:00pm, and since Christmas Day is a Sunday this year, we'll have normal 10:00am worship, but no Bible class/Sunday school.
- Birthday celebrations have resumed the first Sunday of the month. Schedule for 2023?
  - Installation of church officers for 2023: Sunday, January 8.

Mission, Witness, and Outreach

- Christmas dinner is scheduled for Sunday, December 11 after church.
  - Invite friends and family to Christmas Eve service!

Circuit, District, and Synod

- Circuit meetings: we had a joint meeting on December 8 with Circuit 7 at Village Lutheran in Lacombe, LA to learn about about their disaster relief program.
  - As circuit visitor, I am still helping congregations in Biloxi and Hattiesburg fill their vacancies.

## Travel

- Vacation time for 2022: 18 days out of 21 (3 Sundays out of 3)
- Planned travel for December: going to TN the week between Christmas and New Year's.
  - Planned travel for January: none.

## Other Activities, General Information

- I have been contacted by the Red Cross to host another blood drive in our fellowship hall; they requested the morning of Thursday, December 22.

# Breaking News From Education

We begin a New Year with exciting news. We are discussing the possibility of establishing a new Sunday School class for Moms/Dads with toddlers. We are grateful for the 'new kids on the block' as it's always refreshing to know the congregation at Christ is growing. Our Youth keep us young! There's been some interest in developing a class for parents of small children who are not yet ready for our Elementary class. It would be an easy discussion among the parents on material yet to be decided (but think a reading of Psalms or Proverbs) in a kid-friendly environment. If you might be interested in such a program, please let Donna Krebs know at [dmck@cchmlawyers.com](mailto:dmck@cchmlawyers.com) or 228-327-8050.

As Mahatma Gandhi said: "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." "Our Bible classes keep us learning about the most important things!"

Peace!  
Donna





# January

## 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Officer Installation Birthday Celebration 11:00						Men of Christ Breakfast 8:00
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Elders 11:00 Mary Martha 11:00	Council 6:00					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00						
29	30	31				
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00						