



# Life Lines

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
481 SNEAD DRIVE  
FAIRFIELD GLADE, TN 38558  
PHONE: (931) 484-7273

**PASTOR: THE REV. LEWIS A. GROCE**  
lewis111661@gmail.com  
(615) 925-9903

**CONNECT WITH US AT:**  
general@christlutheranchurchffg.org  
www.christlutheranchurchffg.org  
<https://facebook.com/christlutheranchurchffg>

Volume 35, Issue 1

January 2022

## a message from our pastor

Yet more housekeeping. Advent is now concluded and we have arrived at Christmas! The season of Christmas runs from Christmas Day through Epiphany (the almost forgotten Feast Day). So, if you are keeping score at home, the famous 12 Days of Christmas come AFTER the big day and conclude just before Epiphany (Jan 6).

Tradition holds that this is when the wisemen finally made it to Bethlehem. In point of fact, no one really knows, so most manger scenes have the full compliment of characters present. There is room for grace here!

Most of us have a passing acquaintance with epiphany. We understand "epiphany" to be the "lightbulb moment." The dictionary definition is: *"a sudden, intuitive perception of or insight into the reality or essential meaning of something, usually initiated by some simple, homely, or commonplace occurrence or experience. a literary work or section of a work presenting, usually symbolically, such a moment of revelation and insight."*

Within the church world, Epiphany has a slightly more pointed meaning. We understand Epiphany to be the manifestation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles (that's us!) – this is represented by the Magi (Wisemen). These non-Jewish travelers/scholars/stargazers from the East observed the star, came to worship and brought interesting gifts.

In the spirit of Epiphany, I hope to clear up a misconception that I've heard a couple of times now. If there are "a couple" - there are probably more, so if you already know about

"Chi-rho" - feel free to skip ahead to the rest of the newsletter. Here's the info.....

I posted a note on my white board at Church about the Wisemen and the Baby Jesus returning to the Creche when we get to "Xmas". I was corrected by folks who thought I was taking Christ out of Christmas. Nay, nay, gentle reader, not at all.

In Greek, the word "Christ" is written as Χριστός. That's *chi - rho - iota - sigma - tau - omicron - sigma*. Sigmas are different depending on whether they are within a word or at the end. The shorthand version is to use a "chi-rho" or just a "chi". An example you have seen is found on the side of our building. The large black letters are a stylized Chi-rho with the rho superimposed upon the Chi. It is not an X-P.... it is a Chi-rho... an abbreviation for Christ.

So, in the English speaking world, instead of writing out "The Mass of Christ" every time we talk about December 25<sup>th</sup>, we write Christmas - a shorthand version. The even shorter version is to use a capital "chi"... and it looks like Xmas. While I may be lazy, I am certainly not attempting to "take Christ out of Christmas." Hope this helps clarify and "make plain" what those big letters are on the side of the building!!

God's Peace-

Pastor Groce





Join your fellow members at 8:30 Sunday mornings for coffee, snacks and lots of conversation.

If you enjoy this fellowship opportunity, please consider becoming a host. Food does not need to be elaborate and purchased items work great. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board for hosts each Sunday. If you have not hosted Coffee Hour in the past, please note "new" beside your name and someone will work with you that week. Any questions, please contact Pat Bock at (224) 600-0433.

Thanks, see you soon.

## Bread of Life January 9th

Volunteers needed to provide:

- 2—Crockpots of Soup
- 3—9x13" Pans Apple Crisp
- 2—Large Tubs Cool Whip

To claim your contribution, please sign up on the mobile bulletin board.



## December Council Notes

The Council met on December 16 with a catered lunch followed by the regular meeting. After lunch, Joe Birmingham thanked members that are going off the Council for their service, Joe Birmingham, Craig Cristen, Bruce Fundling, Linda Ferris, and thanked other members who will be continuing into 2022 and beyond. Joe also introduced 2022 officers and team leaders: Gary Deierlein, Council President; Bonnie Irvin, Welcome Team Leader; Chris Mattheis, Finance Team Leader; and Dave Irvin, Treasurer.

The Council acted as follows:

- ◇ Approved policies and charters as reviewed and proposed by the various teams
- ◇ Approved the Audio-Visual Technician Position Description and authorized employment of the Audio-Visual Technician
- ◇ Approved Policy and Procedures for Permanent Installation of Objects on Church Property or In Church Facilities
- ◇ Discussed proposed uses for 2021 Surplus Funds
- ◇ Decided the next Council meeting will be on January 13, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.
- ◇ Approved a \$5,000 donation to Lutheran Disaster Response from surplus funds to assist victims of the December 10 tornadoes.

Joe Birmingham, 2021 Congregation Council President



## READINGS AND PSALMS JANUARY 2022

	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
January 2	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalm 147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:1-18
January 8-9	Isaiah 43:1-7	Psalm 29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
January 15-16	Isaiah 62:1-5	Psalm 36:5-10	I Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
January 22-23	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Psalm 19	I Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21
January 29-30	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalm 7:1-6	I Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30

## WORSHIP SERVICE ASSISTANTS—JANUARY 2022

Saturday:	Greeters	Ushers	Lector	Communion Assistant	Audio-Video Booth	Tellers
January 1	NO WORSHIP SERVICE					
January 8		C Floros; M Floros				
January 15						
January 22						
January 29						
<b>Sunday</b>						
January 2	S Dugan	B Bisarek; D Tenny	J Deibel		R Tenny	S Dugan/E Litman
January 9	B & C Brown		L Ferris			K Sloboda/J Chilcote
January 16			B House			K Sloboda/R Miner
January 23	B & P Bock		B Bock	S Dugan		M Simmons/R Miner
January 30						M Simmons/R Borges

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Please keep the following in your prayers.

*Names stay on Prayer Concerns for three weeks unless otherwise instructed. Call Vickie to extend the time or add names.*

- o George Anderson
- o Odette Cadart
- o Ruby Carr
- o Gloria Floros
- o Glen Goergen
- o Bill Henderson
- o Walt Mellor
- o Richard Queen
- o **ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL**
- o **David & Alicia Brondos**, our missionaries in Mexico
- o **Kiswahili Lutheran Mission Church**, Nashville, our mission partner.
- o **Christy Farber**, daughter of **Dave & Linda Farber**
- o **Tom Looney**, husband of **Ann Looney**
- o **Annie Mrozinski**, granddaughter of **June Levora**
- o **Bridget Stern**, niece of **Nancy Sparagna**
- o **Ace Tucker**, 6-week old great-great nephew of **Karen Toomey**

## Prayers and Deepest Sympathy

Our prayers and deepest sympathy are extended to **Kay Landrus** upon the death of her father **Cedric Wright on Tuesday, December 28**. Cards can be sent to Kay at 136 Dalefield Loop, Fairfield Glade, TN 38558. Please keep Kay and her family in your prayers.

We rejoice with all the saints in heaven and on earth as we share our hope in the risen Christ and the promise of eternal life.

## Education Team News

Sunday Education Time (SET) meets following worship in fellowship room C from 10:45-11:45.

January begins a new series looking at Lutheranism led by Pastor Groce. Called "Inquiring Minds Would Like To Know: Lutheranism", the series continues for six weeks. Please look for the signup sheet in the Narthex and sign up so we can ensure adequate classroom space.

- 01/09 – Inquiring Minds Would Like To Know: Lutheranism 1
- 01/16 – Inquiring Minds Would Like To Know: Lutheranism 2
- 01/23 – Inquiring Minds Would Like To Know: Lutheranism 3
- 01/30 – Inquiring Minds Would Like To Know: Lutheranism 4
- 02/06 – Inquiring Minds Would Like To Know: Lutheranism 5
- 02/13 – No class – Congregation Meeting
- 02/20 – Inquiring Minds Would Like To Know: Lutheranism 6

CLC Education Team

thank you!

...from our Faithful Staff -

*I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. Philippians 1:3-5 NRSV*

Paul begins his letter to the Philippians with these words and they apply here as well. On behalf of your staff, thank you for your very generous Christmas gift. It is a thoughtful and appreciated gesture. Thank you as well for your partnership in the Gospel. Your support and prayers throughout the year sustain and carry us forward. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

...from Fellowship -

Thank you for your overwhelming response to provide cookies for the Sounds of the Season concert. What a blessing to be able to enjoy fellowship with members and guests.

...from the Service Team -

With gratitude, the Service Team would like to thank those who generously donated monies to purchase Christmas presents for 15 needy children from Pleasant Hill Elementary School. Thanks also go to all the dedicated shoppers, all the gift wrappers and those that delivered the gifts to the school. Each child received a full outfit including shoes and a winter coat, along with requested presents the child mentioned. Again, many thanks go to all those generous service hearts who made the Kids' Christmas.

## HELP WANTED

The Communications Team is seeking volunteers for two projects:

1. The church history brochure needs updating. The church's history is documented until 2005, but since then no history has been written. We want to update this brochure during 2022. If this is an activity that you would enjoy working on, please contact Joe Birmingham at [jbirm66@gmail.com](mailto:jbirm66@gmail.com)

2. In the spring of 2022, the Communications Team will be designing a postal mailing to go to all addresses in 38558. The purpose will be to introduce our pastor and provide information about our church. If you have a graphic arts background or knowledge of graphic arts, we could use your help on this project. If you are interested, please contact Bill Bock at [williambock@gmail.com](mailto:williambock@gmail.com).



**HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY**

2	Judy Aebischer
4	Sharon Loper
6	Janice Deibel
6	Betty House
6	Kay Landrus
10	Jane Komar
11	Doug Johnson
13	Ed Schwaberow
17	Buck Flankey
18	Garry Eckes
19	Mary Nolan
22	Bill Savarese
24	George Anderson
25	Karen Laipply
26	Evelyn Birmingham
29	Glen House
30	Barbara Kalmar



**HAPPY JANUARY ANNIVERSARY**

2	Don & Nancy Fairchild	62 years
8	Joe & Evelyn Birmingham	50 years
13	David & Linda Farber	49 years
30	Lynn & Elaine Dawson	51 years

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF**

The Rev. Lewis A. Groce, Pastor  
 (931) 484-7273, ext. 101 - office  
 (615) 925-9903 - cell  
 lewis111661@gmail.com

Vickie Hodge, Communications Director /  
 Parish Office Administrator  
 (931) 484-7273, ext. 103  
 parish.administrator@christlutheranchurchffg.org

Karl Knebel, Audio-Visual Technician

Joy Rachor, Director of Music / Organist  
 (931) 260-4779  
 jrachor@charter.net

Ann Looney, Saturday Pianist  
 (931) 248-2570  
 annklooney@gmail.com

**THE 2022 CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

**Officers:**

CLC Council President - Gary Deierlein  
 (386)-804-2294  
 e-mail: garydeierlein13@gmail.com  
 CLC Council Vice-President - Betty House  
 (931) 210-9610  
 e-mail: bjhouse47@comcast.net  
 CLC Council Secretary - Pam Arcaro.  
 (931) 287-6003  
 e-mail: pamarcaro@gmail.com  
 CLC Council Treasurer - Dave Irvin  
 (828) 302-0407  
 e-mail: bdirvin@charter.net

**Council:**

CLC Communications Chair - open  
 email:  
  
 CLC Education Chair - Rick Tenny  
 (434) 851-1682  
 e-mail: ratenny78@gmail.com  
 CLC Fellowship Chair - Pat Bock  
 (224) 600-0433  
 e-mail: pbockfellowship@gmail.com  
 CLC Finance Chair - Chris Mattheis  
 (931) 287-0468  
 e-mail: webgolfn@comcast.net  
 (CLC Financial Secretary - Glen House  
 (931) 210-3521  
 e-mail:  
 finance.team@christlutheranchurchffg.org)  
 CLC Property Chair - Open  
 e-mail:  
 CLC Service Chair - Barb Boyce  
 (931) 742-0186  
 e-mail: bboyce1@charter.net  
 CLC Stewardship Chair - Dick Jahm  
 (931) 287-0856  
 e-mail: djmj5@hotmail.com  
 CLC Welcome Chair - Bonnie Irvin  
 (9828) 320-3264  
 e-mail: bonnieirvin@charter.net  
 CLC Worship & Music Chair - Denise Knebel  
 (845) 551-2096  
 e-mail: dknebel22@gmail.com

**Life Lines submissions are due  
 January 15 for publication  
 in the February issue.  
 Items can be submitted  
 by email to Vickie at  
 parish.administrator@christlutheranchurchffg.org**



Some of our Stephen Ministers enjoying the Stephen Minister Luncheon at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church on Thursday, December 9 - from left: Pastor Lewis Groce, Judy Hammond, Sue Gauerke, Linda Vance, Dave Farber, Gene Ferris, Eve Pry; in the center: Grayce Tyszko

Also celebrating Grayce Tyszko's 38th year as a Stephen Minister.

If you would like more information concerning Stephen Ministry, please contact Beverly Olin or Judy Hammond.



Peavine Care Center Director Bob Diller (left) accepts a check in the amount of \$2000 from Pastor Lewis Groce of Christ Lutheran Church for the purpose making the holidays a little brighter for needy families in Cumberland County.

Back row: Joe Medeiros, Rick Tenny, Peg Medeiros. Front row: Bob Diller, Pastor Lewis Groce, Erin Medeiros, Deb Tenny, and Mary Dega



Peavine Care Center volunteers Pastor Lewis Groce, Joe Medeiros and Rick Tenny pack turkeys in care boxes that were distributed to

# JANUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <i>New Year's Day</i> <u>8:00 a.m.</u> <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> <u>9:00 a.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group  <u>5:00 p.m.</u> Worship with Holy Communion
2 <u>8:30 a.m.</u> Coffee Fellowship <u>9:30 a.m.</u> Worship with Holy Communion	3 <u>10:00 a.m.</u> GriefShare - Via Zoom  <u>1:00 p.m.</u> <i>P.E.O. Sisterhood</i>	4  <u>10:30 a.m.</u> Property Team Meeting	5  <u>1:30 p.m.</u> Hand Bell Rehearsal <u>4:00 p.m.</u> Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6 <u>9:00 a.m. - Noon</u> Pastor Groce Office Hours <u>9:00 a.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group <u>9:00 a.m.</u> Finance Team Meeting <u>1:00 p.m.</u> Welcome Team Meeting <u>1:00 p.m.</u> <i>Kinseekers</i> <u>4:00 p.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group	7  <u>2:00 p.m.</u> <i>Cumberland Swing Experience Rehearsal</i>  <u>7:00 p.m.</u> Upper Cumberland Jewish Community Service	8 <u>8:00 a.m.</u> <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> <u>9:00 a.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group  <u>5:00 p.m.</u> Worship with Holy Communion
9 <u>8:30 a.m.</u> Coffee Fellowship <u>9:30 a.m.</u> Worship with Holy Communion <u>10:45 a.m.</u> Sunday Education Time <u>10:45 a.m.</u> Stephen Ministers Meeting <u>12:30 p.m.</u> Serving Lunch at Bread of Life	10 <u>10:00 a.m.</u> GriefShare Via Zoom	11 <u>9:00 a.m.</u> IT Team Meeting  <u>1:00 p.m.</u> Executive Team Meeting  <u>3:00 p.m.</u> <i>Plateau PC Users Group</i>	12 <u>9:30 a.m.</u> <i>Machine Embroidery Sewing Society</i> <u>1:00 p.m.</u> <i>Korean War Vets Association</i> <u>1:30 p.m.</u> Hand Bell Rehearsal <u>2:45 p.m.</u> Worship & Music Team Meeting <u>4:00 p.m.</u> Rehearsal Chancel Choir <u>6:00 p.m.</u> <i>Cumberland Mountain Civil War Round Table</i>	13 <u>9:00 a.m. - Noon</u> Pastor Groce Office Hours <u>9:00 a.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group  <u>1:00 p.m.</u> Congregation Council Meeting  <u>4:00 p.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group	14 <u>10:00 a.m.</u> Stewardship Team Meeting <u>11:00 a.m.</u> <i>Book Club</i>  <u>2:00 p.m.</u> <i>Cumberland Swing Experience Rehearsal</i>	15 <i>Life Lines submissions due</i> <u>8:00 a.m.</u> <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> <u>9:00 a.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group  <u>5:00 p.m.</u> Worship with Holy Communion
16 <u>8:30 a.m.</u> Coffee Fellowship <u>9:30 a.m.</u> Worship with Holy Communion <u>10:45 a.m.</u> Sunday Education Time	17 <u>10:00 a.m.</u> GriefShare - Via Zoom	18	19  <u>1:30 p.m.</u> Hand Bell Rehearsal  <u>4:00 p.m.</u> Chancel Choir Rehearsal	20 <u>9:00 a.m. - Noon</u> Pastor Groce Office Hours <u>9:00 a.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group  <u>4:00 p.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group	21  <u>2:00 p.m.</u> <i>Cumberland Swing Experience Rehearsal</i>  <u>7:00 p.m.</u> Upper Cumberland Jewish Community Service	22 <u>8:00 a.m.</u> <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>
23 <u>8:30 a.m.</u> Coffee Fellowship <u>9:30 a.m.</u> Worship with Holy Communion <u>10:45 a.m.</u> Sunday Education Time  30 <u>8:30 a.m.</u> Coffee Fellowship <u>9:30 a.m.</u> Worship with Holy Communion <u>10:45 a.m.</u> Sunday Education Time	24 <u>10:00 a.m.</u> GriefShare - Via Zoom  31 <u>10:00 a.m.</u> GriefShare - Via Zoom	25	26  <u>1:30 p.m.</u> Hand Bell Rehearsal  <u>4:00 p.m.</u> Chancel Choir Rehearsal	27 <u>9:00 a.m. - Noon</u> Pastor Groce Office Hours <u>9:00 a.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group  <u>4:00 p.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group	28 <u>10:00 a.m.</u> Fellowship Team Meeting  <u>2:00 p.m.</u> <i>Cumberland Swing Experience Rehearsal</i>	29 <u>8:00 a.m.</u> <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>