



# Life Lines

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a message from our pastor

I recently received an early Christmas present from a dear saint in our congregation. It is a book which will be making more appearances in the weeks and months to come. The book is **Wholehearted Faith** by the late Rachel Held Evans (author, columnist, blogger). Rachel died in 2019 far too soon. Jeff Chu worked to bring this book into being based upon uncompleted work which Rachel Held Evans left behind.

I read this work while I was recently at LTSS for meetings. It was and is powerful. I share with you now a little taste as we move into Advent. Here are her words:

*"I know that Christians are Easter people. We are supposed to favor the story of the resurrection, which reminds us that death is never the end of God's story. Yet I have never found that story even half as compelling as the story of the Incarnation.*

*It is nearly impossible to believe: God shrinking down to the size of a zygote, implanted in the soft lining of a woman's womb. God growing fingers and toes. God kicking and hiccupping in utero. God inching down the birth canal and entering this world covered in blood, perhaps into the steady, waiting arms of a midwife. God crying out in hunger. God reaching for his mother's breasts. God totally relaxed, eyes closed, his chubby little arms raised over his head in a posture of complete trust. God resting in his mother's lap.*

*On the days and nights when I believe this story that we call Christianity, I cannot entirely make sense of the storyline: God's trusted God's very self, totally and completely and in full bodily form to the care of a woman. God needed women for survival. Before Jesus fed us with the bread and the wine, the body and the blood, Jesus himself needed to be fed, by a woman. He needed a woman to say: "This is my body, given for you." God became vulnerable. (page 4ff) "*

That is some powerful writing!! That makes Advent new and accessible and alive. As we move into another Advent season, may we capture that sense of newness and wonder and possibility. It is so easy to become numb to the wonder. We've heard the story before. We know how it ends. May this year be an opportunity to encounter newness in the "old, old story."

We will use Marty Haugen's "Holden Even Prayer" for our midweek services. You've heard it in edited form - now you will encounter it as written. It is old and yet strangely new. The singable melodies will transport you through the weeks of Advent to encounter the vulnerable God coming to us again. Thanks to Joy and the choir for leading this effort.

The Bob Johnson Players are also returning this year after a COVID imposed hiatus. Thanks to Heidi and "the players." I am excited to hear them take us through the weeks of Advent with brief dramatic vignettes.

As we begin another Advent journey, may we capture the sense of wonder and possibility that permeates this season. May we carry the wonder and possibility forward throughout the coming year.

God's Peace – Pr. Groce

## From our President.....

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! What a joyous time of the year this is as we go into the season of Advent in anticipation of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. November 30, we have a chance to participate in the first of four mid-week Advent services (11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 12/21) beginning at 5:30 p.m. The first service on November 30 will be preceded by a potluck dinner at 4:30 p.m. I hope you will be able to attend.

The Chancel Choir, the Handbell Choir, and many talented guests will share *Sounds of the Season*, directed by our own Joy Rachor, at the church on Friday, December 9, at 6:00 p.m. A cookie reception will follow this event. Many hours of planning and rehearsals have gone into making this an evening to help us feel the Spirit of Christ.

The birth our Savior will be celebrated on Saturday, December 24, at 5:00 with a candlelight service. We will gather again on Christmas Day at 9:30 a.m. to continue our celebration. Special music will be presented by Joy Rachor preceding each service. For the first time CLC will host a Christmas Potluck following the Christmas Day Service. Please sign up on the Activities bulletin board if you wish to attend. We ring in the New Year with our normal worship services on December 31, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. and January 1, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

We have many opportunities to gather and worship our Savior during the month of December. I hope you will take advantage of the opportunities offered to us. Remember, Advent is a season of waiting.

Gary Deierlein  
Congregation President



### *Christmas Service Schedule*

*Christmas Eve service begins at 5:00 p.m.*

*Christmas Day service begins at 9:30 a.m.*

*Special music will begin 10 minutes before the service on both days.*

*New Years Day service begins at 9:30 a.m.*

Our prayers and deepest sympathy go out to the family of Tom Dugan who entered the church triumphant on November 10, 2022.

A Memorial Service for Tom will be held on Sunday, December 11 at 1 p.m. at the church. Following the service, a Celebration of Tom's life will be held in the Fellowship Hall. An open mic will be available for friends and family to share personal memories and to enjoy fellowship over cookies and coffee. All are invited to attend.



## THANK YOU!

For your caring support of Crossville's **COATS FOR THE COLD** ministry. Your coats, jackets, sweatshirts, hats, gloves and more was amazing again this year!

May God continue to bless our efforts. Thank you for your generous, loving, heartfelt giving.

Your CLC Service Team

### December 11 BOL Meal

We will be serving 65-70 clients ham, mashed potatoes, sweet potato casserole, cooked green beans, ready to eat rolls and Christmas cookies.

See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or call the church office.

We are blessed to serve...

Our thanks to the Property Team, Altar Guild and the Elves for decorating our church building for Advent and Christmas. Through the efforts of many, our spaces have been transformed!





**MEDIC Mobile will be at CLC  
Sunday, December 4  
8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**We need 20 people to sign up online**

**[https://tndonor.org/donor/  
schedules/drive\\_\\_schedule/80261](https://tndonor.org/donor/schedules/drive__schedule/80261)**

From Brenda Koster.....

Please accept my sincere gratitude to you all for your caring hugs and thoughtful prayers following my husband, Erwin's, accident and passing.

I am so thankful to have found such a great church family.

### **Christ Lutheran Church Education Team Schedule**

Sunday Education Time (SET) meets following worship in fellowship room C.

We will end the year with the following:

12/04 – The Case for Christmas 2: Beneath the Fake News  
– The Case for Christmas 3: A Mind-Boggling Proposition

12/11—No class today

12/18 – The Case for Christmas 4: The Prophetic Fingerprint

Join us for learning, coffee and conversation.

## **Midweek Advent Services 5:30 Wednesday's**

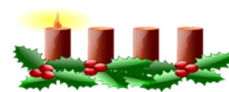
Midweek Advent services are returning this year along with the Bob Johnson players.

**Services on December 7, 14, 21 will begin at 5:30 p.m. No food will be served.**

Sign up on the bulletin board.

*The true light that gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. John 1:9*

Worship & Music Team



## **Backpack Help Needed**

Did you know that Christ Lutheran Church in conjunction with Good Samaritan in Crossville helps pack food items for needy children in various schools?

Fruits, proteins, dairy, grains and vegetables are packed in bags for the weekend and sent home. In order for this to be accomplished we need at least two people every other week to help at Good Sam's on 10th Street in Crossville for about an hour. Please consider adding this worthwhile cause to your calendar. The more people that help the less time is required. Sign ups are on the bulletin board.

*The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.*

*Proverbs 22:9*



**Life Lines submissions are due  
December 15 for publication  
in the January issue.  
Items can be submitted  
by email to Vickie at  
[info@christlutheranffg.org](mailto:info@christlutheranffg.org)**



## Christmas Potluck

Yes, we are trying something new!

Christmas time, like Thanksgiving, many of us don't have family here so our church family is offering a Christmas meal. Main dish will be ham and you will supply the sides. Sign up on the bulletin board. The meal will be served following the worship service. Contact Denise Knebel at 845-551-2096 or [dknebel122@gmail.com](mailto:dknebel122@gmail.com).



## Thanksgiving Feast

Kudos to the chefs and everyone that participated in the Thanksgiving Lunch. A feast to behold and enjoy.

Thanks Fellowship for coordinating this gathering.



## Golf Team Preparing for 2023 Tournament

The Golf Tournament Team met in early October to discuss the opportunities missed at the 2022 tournament and to determine the Honoree for 2023. Pastor Carl Olin will be the Honoree as he was instrumental in bringing Good Samaritan Society of Fairfield Glade to the community. For the next several years monies raised will also be shared with Fairfield Glade Resident Services..

Save the Date: **September 17, 2023** for the tournament. More details to follow.

## Notes from your Health and Safety Team

Christ Lutheran Church has a variety of home health equipment that may be borrowed from time to time as needed. Wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, toilet seat risers, etc. this equipment is normally stored in one of the storage areas in Room C.

Over the course of the last few months, the sign out sheet has not been used consistently. Starting immediately, let's all commit to using the sign out sheet that is posted on the inside of the storage door containing the equipment. Print your name, the name of the person who will be using the equipment, the type of equipment, and the date you are taking it. When you return it, please find your original sign out and put the return date.

If you borrowed equipment when the sign out sheet wasn't there, please go to room C and the storage room and sign it out now. This way, we can get a handle on what we have.

Thanks much for taking these extra steps!



*Thank you* ❤️ Donna Schiller for decorating our doors for the holidays. The wreaths throughout the church are beautiful and have put us in the spirit of the season.

New Phone Number for Bill and Jan Martin:  
936-242-6521

December Barrel Ministry  
Peavine Care Center

Peavine Care Center is in need of products which one cannot buy with a food card.

Items include: paper products, paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, napkins, shaving cream, soap, toddler diapers, tampons, shampoo, conditioner, razors, etc.

Thank you for your generous giving hearts.

Your Service Team






**Join us for**

*Sounds of the Season*

presented by



**Christ Lutheran Chancel Choir  
&  
Guest Instrumentalists**

**December 9, 2022**  
Friday - 6:00 p.m.




**Christ Lutheran Church  
Fairfield Glade**

**Service Team Update**  
“Coats for the Cold”

CLC has continued to aid our area families in need.  
To list just a few of the donated **209 items:**

- 41 adult and children’s coats
  - 36 jackets,
  - 10 scarves,
- 34 prs. gloves & mittens
  - 28 hats,
  - 5 hoodies,
  - 9 sweatshirts

"May grace and peace be yours unending"  
1 Peter 1:2b



## PRAYER CONCERNS

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

Please keep the following in your prayers.

- All CLC members who are suffering from COVID
- Betty Anderson
- Don Baassler
- Sherry Botsford
- Gayle Burroughs
- Ruby Carr
- Sallie Garvey
- Bill Henderson
- Lowell Knobloch
- Jean LeBreux
- Pastor Doug MaGinn
- Bill Martin
- Jan Martin
- Joe Nilsen
- Paul & Katherine Pellek
- Rachel Schimelpfenig
- Paul Sloboda
- Vicky Sproule
- **ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL**
- **David & Alicia Brondos**, our missionaries in Mexico
- **Kiswahili Lutheran Mission Church**, Nashville, our mission partner.
- **Zack**, grandson of **Judith Carleton**
- **Tim Campbell**, friend of **Pastor & Amy Groce**
- **Lynette Dinkler**, friend of **Donn & Linda Vance**
- **Maddie House**, 21 year old granddaughter of **Glen and Betty House**.
- **Dale & Treva Lay**
- **David Nims**, cousin of **Marion Miner**,
- **Chuck Saylor**, friend of **Donn & Linda Vance**
- **Janet Yanke Spencer**, cousin of **Barb Comshaw**



## READINGS AND PSALMS DECEMBER 2022

	<u>First Reading</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Second Reading</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
<b>December 3-4</b>	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalm 72:1-7;18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
<b>December 10-11</b>	Isaiah 35:1-10	Psalm 146:5-10	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11
<b>December 17-18</b>	Isaiah 7:10-16	Psalm 80:1-7;17-19	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-20
<b>Christmas Day</b>	Isaiah 62:6-12	Psalm 97	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:1-20



December

- 3 Steve Groce
- 3 Margi Johnson
- 3 Rich Knebel
- 7 Tom Carter
- 7 Debbie Gunsten
- 8 Vicki Brandt
- 11 Melinda Stran
- 12 Shirley Seibert
- 16 Sam Fischer
- 20 Al Moenck
- 22 Joan Radcliffe
- 25 William Bock
- 26 Amy Groce
- 26 Rita Julius
- 27 Lynn Dawson
- 30 Pam Arcaro



December

- |    |                             |          |
|----|-----------------------------|----------|
| 3  | Rob & Pam Arcaro            | 26 Years |
| 8  | Lou & Sharon Oniga          | 43 Years |
| 13 | Bill & Sue Henderson        | 8 Years  |
| 15 | Ben & Kathleen Welch, Jr.   | 60 Years |
| 18 | Craig & Terilu Christen     | 44 Years |
| 18 | Lowell & Kay Landrus        | 52 Years |
| 19 | Don & Judy Baassler         | 52 Years |
| 22 | Bob & Connie Brown          | 10 Years |
| 27 | Doug & Margi Johnson        | 47 Years |
| 27 | Richard & Sharon Moreland   | 61 Years |
| 30 | Lewis & Amy Groce           | 38 Years |
| 30 | Glen & Rachel Schimelpfenig | 29 Years |
| 31 | Dwayne & Jude Dzibinski     | 25 Years |

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**THE 2022 CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

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# DECEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<p>1 <u>9:00 a.m. - Noon</u> Pastor Groce Office Hours</p> <p><u>9:00 a.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p> <p><u>10:00 a.m.</u> Health &amp; Safety Team Meeting</p> <p><u>1:00 p.m.</u> Kinseekers</p> <p><u>4:00 p.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p>	<p>2 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i></p> <p><u>2:00 p.m.</u> <i>Cumberland Swing Experience Rehearsal</i></p> <p><u>7:00 p.m.</u> <i>Upper Cumberland Jewish Community Service</i></p>	<p>3 <u>8:00 a.m.</u> <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i></p> <p><u>9:00 a.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p> <p><u>5:00 p.m.</u> <b>Worship with Holy Communion</b></p> <p><u>6:00 p.m.</u> Building Bridges</p>
<p>4 <u>8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.</u> <i>MEDIC Mobile Blood Drive</i></p> <p><u>8:30 a.m.</u> Coffee Fellowship</p> <p><u>9:30 a.m.</u> <b>Worship with Holy Communion</b></p> <p><u>10:45 a.m.</u> Sunday Education Time</p>	<p>5 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b></p>	<p>6 <u>9:00 a.m.</u> Bob Johnson Players Rehearsal</p> <p><u>9:00 a.m.</u> Finance Team Meeting</p> <p><u>10:00 a.m.</u> Knitting Group</p> <p><u>10:00 a.m.</u> <i>New Grace Church of Christ Bible Study</i></p> <p><u>11:30 a.m.</u> Stephen Minister Luncheon</p>	<p>7</p> <p><u>10:00 a.m.</u> <i>PPCUG Board Meeting</i></p> <p><u>1:30 p.m.</u> Hand Bell Rehearsal</p> <p><u>3:30 p.m.</u> Chancel Choir</p> <p><u>5:30 p.m.</u> <b>Mid-Week Advent Service</b></p>	<p>8 <i>Vickie on Vacation</i> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b></p> <p><u>9:00 a.m. - Noon</u> Pastor Groce Office Hours</p> <p><u>9:00 a.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p> <p><u>1:00 p.m.</u> Welcome Team Meeting</p> <p><u>4:00 p.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p>	<p>9 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i></p> <p><u>10:00 a.m.</u> Stewardship Team Meeting</p> <p><u>2:00 p.m.</u> <i>Cumberland Swing Experience Rehearsal</i></p>	<p>10 <u>8:00 a.m.</u> <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i></p> <p><u>9:00 a.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p> <p><u>5:00 p.m.</u> <b>Worship with Holy Communion</b></p>
<p>11 <u>9:30 a.m.</u> <b>Worship with Holy Communion</b></p> <p><u>12:30 p.m.</u> Serving Lunch at Bread of Life</p> <p><u>1:00 p.m.</u> Tom Dugan Memorial Service</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p><u>10:00 a.m.</u> Executive Team Meeting</p> <p><u>10:00 a.m.</u> Bob Johnson Players Rehearsal</p> <p><u>10:00 a.m.</u> Knitting Group</p> <p><u>10:00 a.m.</u> <i>New Grace Church of Christ Bible Study</i></p>	<p>14</p> <p><u>9:30 a.m.</u> <i>Machine Embroidery Sewing Society</i></p> <p><u>1:00 p.m.</u> <i>Korean War Vets Association</i></p> <p><u>1:30 p.m.</u> Hand Bell Rehearsal</p> <p><u>3:30 p.m.</u> Chancel Choir</p> <p><u>5:30 p.m.</u> <b>Mid-Week Advent Service</b></p> <p><u>6:00 p.m.</u> <i>Cumberland County Civil War Round Table</i></p>	<p>15 <b>Life Lines submissions due</b></p> <p><u>9:00 a.m. - Noon</u> Pastor Groce Office Hours</p> <p><u>9:00 a.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p> <p><u>1:00 p.m.</u> Congregation Council Meeting</p> <p><u>4:00 p.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p>	<p>16 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i></p> <p><u>10:00 a.m.</u> <i>Fellowship Team Meeting</i></p> <p><u>2:00 p.m.</u> <i>Cumberland Swing Experience Rehearsal</i></p> <p><u>7:00 p.m.</u> <i>Upper Cumberland Jewish Community Service</i></p>	<p>17 <u>8:00 a.m.</u> <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i></p> <p><u>9:00 a.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p> <p><u>5:00 p.m.</u> <b>Worship with Holy Communion</b></p>
<p>18 <u>8:30 a.m.</u> Coffee Fellowship</p> <p><u>9:30 a.m.</u> <b>Worship with Holy Communion</b></p> <p><u>10:45 a.m.</u> Sunday Education Time</p> <p><u>5:30 p.m.</u> <i>UCJC Hannukah Service</i></p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p><u>10:00 a.m.</u> Bob Johnson Players Rehearsal</p> <p><u>10:00 a.m.</u> Knitting Group</p> <p><u>10:00 a.m.</u> <i>New Grace Church of Christ Bible Study</i></p> <p><u>6:00 p.m.</u> <i>Lion's Club Meeting</i></p>	<p>21</p> <p><u>1:30 p.m.</u> Hand Bell Rehearsal</p> <p><u>3:30 p.m.</u> Chancel Choir</p> <p><u>5:30 p.m.</u> <b>Mid-Week Advent Service</b></p>	<p>22 <u>9:00 a.m. - Noon</u> Pastor Groce Office Hours</p> <p><u>9:00 a.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p> <p><u>4:00 p.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p>	<p>23 <i>Church Holiday</i> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b></p> <p><u>2:00 p.m.</u> <i>Cumberland Swing Experience Rehearsal</i></p>	<p>24 <u>8:00 a.m.</u> <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i></p> <p><u>9:00 a.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p> <p><u>5:00 p.m.</u> <b>Christmas Eve Worship Service</b></p>
<p>25 <u>8:30 a.m.</u> Coffee Fellowship</p> <p><u>9:30 a.m.</u> <b>Worship with Holy Communion</b></p> <p><u>10:45 a.m.</u> Christmas Potluck</p>	<p>26 <i>Church Holiday</i> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b></p>	<p>27</p> <p><u>10:00 a.m.</u> Knitting Group</p> <p><u>10:00 a.m.</u> <i>New Grace Church of Christ Bible Study</i></p>	<p>28</p> <p><u>1:30 p.m.</u> Hand Bell Rehearsal</p> <p><u>4:00 p.m.</u> Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>29 <u>9:00 a.m. - Noon</u> Pastor Groce Office Hours</p> <p><u>9:00 a.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p> <p><u>4:00 p.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p>	<p>30 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> <i>Vickie on Vacation</i> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b></p> <p><u>2:00 p.m.</u> <i>Cumberland Swing Experience Rehearsal</i></p>	<p>31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> <u>8:00 a.m.</u> <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i></p> <p><u>9:00 a.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p> <p><u>5:00 p.m.</u> <b>Worship with Holy Communion</b></p>





*Wishing Everyone a  
Peaceful Advent  
and a Joyous Christmas*

*Pastor Groce*

*Vickie*

*Joy*

*Ann*

*Karl*