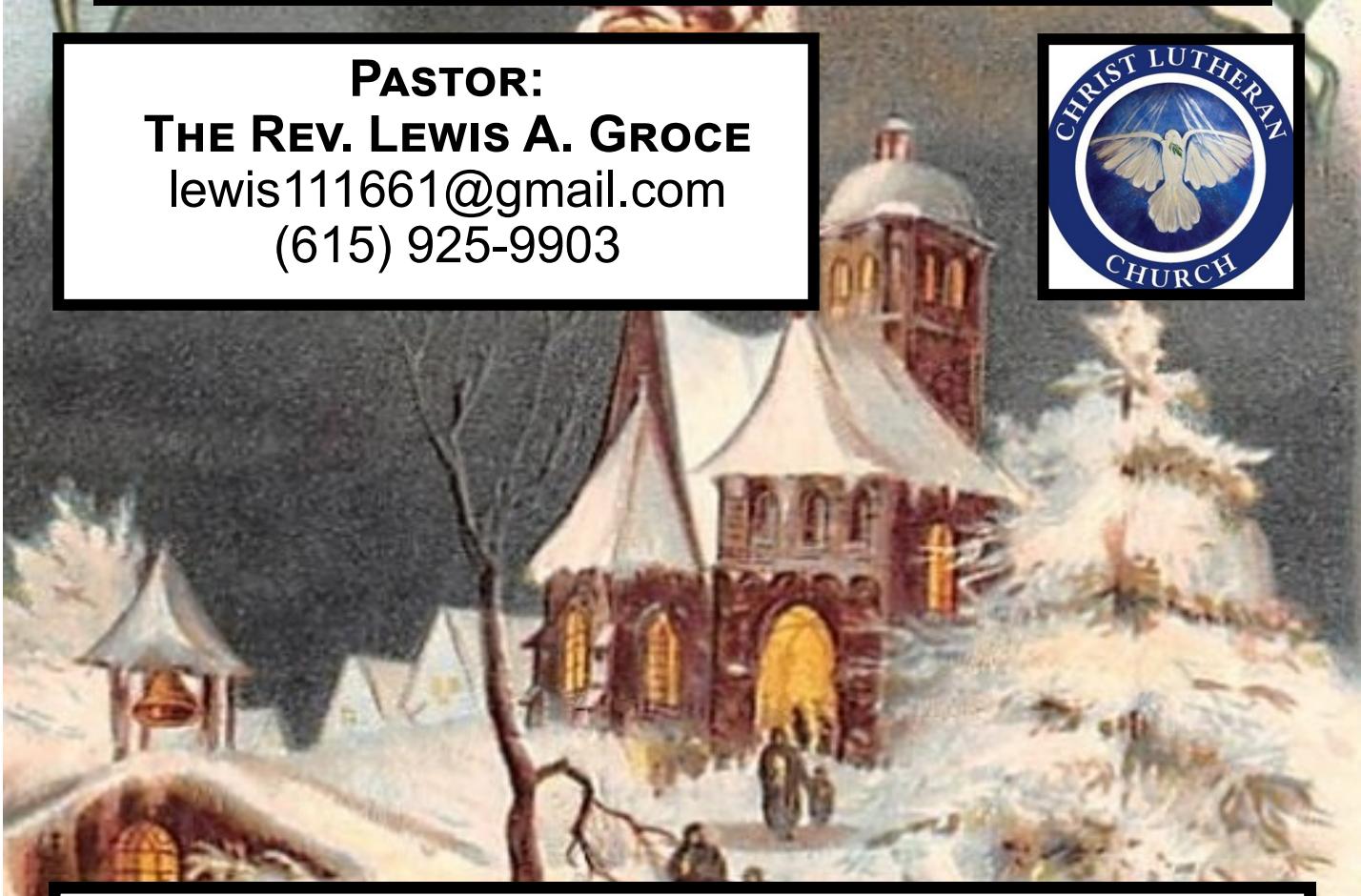


BEST WISHES
FOR A HAPPY
NEW
YEAR

Volume 41 Issue 1

January 2026

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New Year Wishes

May this
New Year
be the
happiest and
the best of
all Years
for you.

JAN

1

January Readings

January 3 & 6

First Sunday of Christmas

First Reading..... Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm..... Psalm 147

Second Reading..... Ephesians 1:3-14

Gospel..... John 1:[1-9] 10-18

January 10 & 11

Baptism of Our Lord

First Reading..... Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm..... Psalm 29

Second Reading Acts 10:34-43

Gospel..... Matthew 3:13-17

January 17 & 18

Second Sunday after Epiphany

First ReadingIsaiah 49:1-7

Psalm..... Psalm 40:1-11

Second Reading.....1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Gospel.....John 1:29-42

January 24 & 25

Third Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading.....Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm.....Psalm 27:1, 4-9

Second Reading.....1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Gospel.....Matthew 4:12-23

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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				1	2	3
4	5	6 <i>Jan Deibel Betty House Kay Landrus</i>	7	8	9	10 <i>Jane Komar</i>
11	12	13 <i>Ed Schwaberow</i>	14	15	16	17
18 <i>Garry Eckes</i>	19 <i>Mary Nolan</i>	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 <i>Evelyn Bir- mingham</i>	27	28	29 <i>Glen House</i>	30 <i>Barbara Kalmar</i>	31

January 2026 Anniversaries

Sun **Mon** **Tue** **Wed** **Thu** **Fri** **Sat**

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Jean & Linda LeBreux (59)	8 Joe & Evelyn Birmingham (54)	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Pastor Lewis Groce

Every so often we need to back up and review. By the time you read this, we will have sailed through Advent and Christmas. Advent and Christmas don't require a great deal of explanation. The one thing which does require some explanation is the Twelve Days of Christmas. Contrary to what Wal-Mart would have you believe, these are not leading up to Christmas.

The Twelve Days of Christmas begin on Christmas Day (December 25) and run through Epiphany (Jan 6). As a culture we like to start the Christmas season just after Thanksgiving Day. However, within the Church, Christmas waits its turn until Advent is complete. Then we begin counting the days of celebration until we get to Epiphany. In those twelve days we eat a lot of cookies, sing a lot of carols and open a lot of presents!! We have a great deal to celebrate.

Now Epiphany tends to be the "forgotten season" and this is truly unfortunate. Epiphany literally means "making manifest" or "making plain." This is where we get the "aha" moment... having an epiphany can be a sudden burst of insight or a great idea. Sort of like, "Oh, I thought the Twelve Days of Christmas" were leading up to Christmas. Aha.... they follow Christmas and end with the dawning of January 6. Quite an Epiphany!

This is when the wisemen really shine! Their job within the Church is to make plain the person of Christ. These guys come from the East. They come from outside the Jewish tradition. Their journey, guided by the brilliant star, symbolizes the divine guidance that leads us to the truth of Christ's birth and Christ's mission. Wisdom and understanding come from unexpected sources and often defy human expectation.

The light of Christ draws all to its radiance. The light promised in Advent and born at Christmas, now illuminates the darkness without ceasing. We sang those words throughout the Wednesday's in Advent:

**Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;
the light no darkness can overcome;
Stay with us now, for it is evening
and the day is almost over.
Let your light scatter the darkness,
and shine within your people here!**

**May we carry that light... be that light.... share that light with all whom we encounter.
Happy Advent, Merry Christmas and Joyous Epiphany.**

**Here's an "aha" moment for you.... a moment of making plain. Our Administrator, Pam Smith, is working on her undergraduate degree. A double major in Accounting and Psychology. Pam is a bright light having made A's in both English and Psychology this past term while working at CLC and celebrating grandchildren! When you have an opportunity, please congratulate Pam on this accomplishment and for sharing her light with all of us!!!
God's Peace-**

Christ Lutheran's Council Corner

Hello,

Here it is, a new year. I hope everyone had a joyous and peaceful Christmas celebrating our Savior's birth.

Personally, I'm excited to start 2026 as president of the council, and I'd like to express my gratitude for the trust and support I've been shown by everyone.

As my first act as council president, I'd like to thank Gary Deierlein for his service to Christ Lutheran Church as council president over the past 4 years. And I'm glad to have him as a source of knowledge and mentorship. Thank you, Gary!

My wife Diana and I came to The Glade three years ago this coming spring from Nashville ,TN.. I had moved there from Iowa in 1985, after graduating from the University of Iowa. I started a career in the home improvement retail industry during which time I met Diana. Work moved me to several states in the South, eventually bringing me back to Tennessee, where I reconnected with Diana after life had taken us in different directions.

The rest, as they say, is history.

Diana and I feel so blessed to have found a church family filled with so many caring, loving and talented people as we've found at Christ Lutheran Church.

I know I haven't met everyone yet, but I will, and am happy for the opportunity.

Together we'll continue to serve our community and grow our church.

Your brother in Christ,
Richard Wessels



A happy New Year

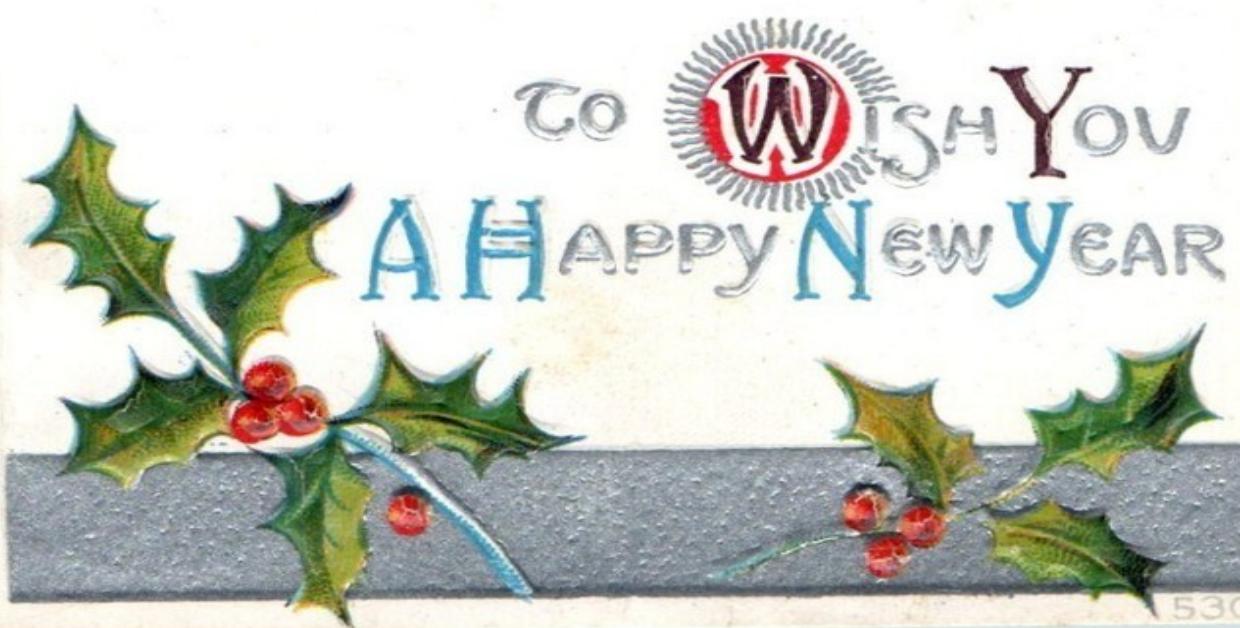


The Welcome Team would like to thank you for being such a friendly and welcoming congregation. When we host Inquirers' Coffee for prospective new members, we almost always hear the same thing—people were drawn to our church because they felt genuinely welcomed from the moment they arrived. That warm spirit is an important part of how we invite others to know and grow in Christ.

As we look ahead to 2026, please continue to help the Welcome Team by greeting visitors and making them feel at home. We also invite you to let us know if someone in our church family could use a little extra care, whether that means a phone call, a visit, a ride, or a meal. Our goal is to help everyone feel connected, supported, and cared for—because we truly are FAMILY.

If you know of someone who may need help, please reach out to Heather Pelfrey at (865) 216-7564, Deb Tenny at (434) 237-2120, or contact the church office at (931) 484-7273.

Love in Christ,
The Welcome Team



Education Team Message

A New Year means new beginnings. As many people will undoubtedly make resolutions to eat better now that the holidays are past us, so too should we be resolute in our faith journey.

How about one of these ideas:

-Make a decision to try to read the the Bible from cover to cover this year with one of many great devotional bibles available in our own church library.

-Utilize the devotional booklets we have in the back of the church. They are available in pocket size and large print. They give you a little scripture to read for each day followed by a brief summary.

-Go to a Bible study on Mondays at 9am, led by Cathy Lada. It is open to both men and women.

Up and coming in Education:

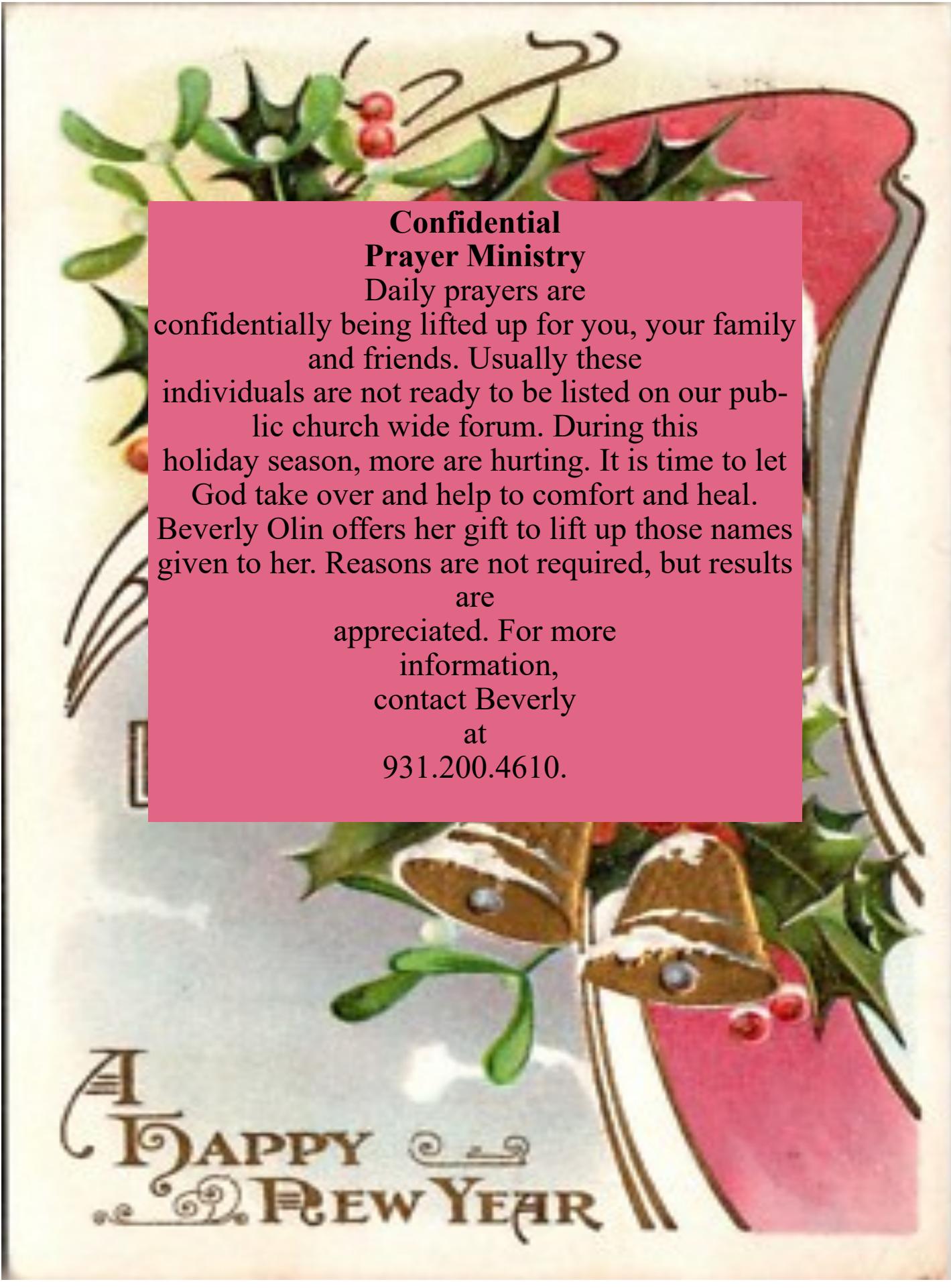
-We are trying to organize a new men's Bible study and would welcome any advice you have on topics and format.

-In the upcoming month or two, we will have a Dementia seminar, led by Linda Queen and Carol Donalson.

-This Spring we will have another multi-session End of Life seminar and expand on many topics that were popular from last year.

Have a happy New Year,
Diana Wessels

May this be
a Happy
New Year
Day



Confidential Prayer Ministry

Daily prayers are confidentially being lifted up for you, your family and friends. Usually these individuals are not ready to be listed on our public church wide forum. During this holiday season, more are hurting. It is time to let God take over and help to comfort and heal. Beverly Olin offers her gift to lift up those names given to her. Reasons are not required, but results are appreciated. For more information, contact Beverly at 931.200.4610.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR



BARREL MINISTRY FOR January

We will continue to collect for
Peavine Care Center through De-
cember. All



On behalf of the Christ Lutheran church council we would like to offer a heartfully thank-you to Gary Deierlein, David Irvin and Debby Goergen for their selfless service to the congregation. We know none of you are leaving, just switching to different ways of serving. Words cannot express our gratitude.

"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" Matthew 25:21



MY NEW YEAR
GREETING



Bible Study of the Book of Acts Begins:

Starting: Jan 5—April 27

Mondays at 9:30 am

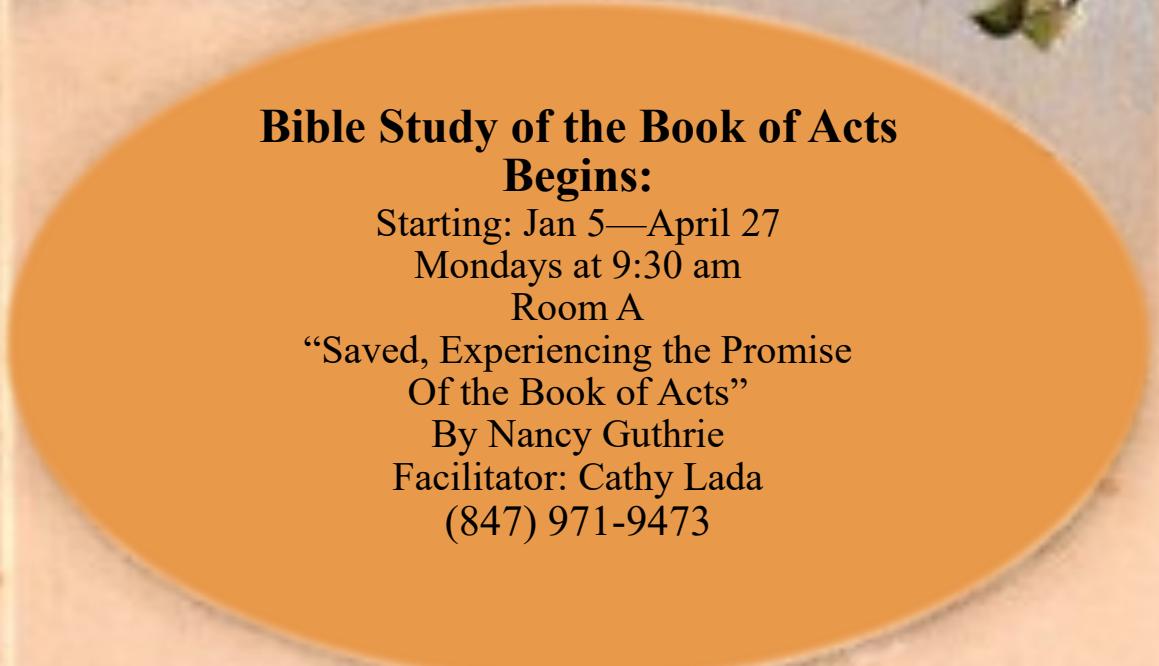
Room A

“Saved, Experiencing the Promise
Of the Book of Acts”

By Nancy Guthrie

Facilitator: Cathy Lada

(847) 971-9473



HEARTIEST **W**ISHES

for a very
Happy New Year





A Note About Coffee Hour

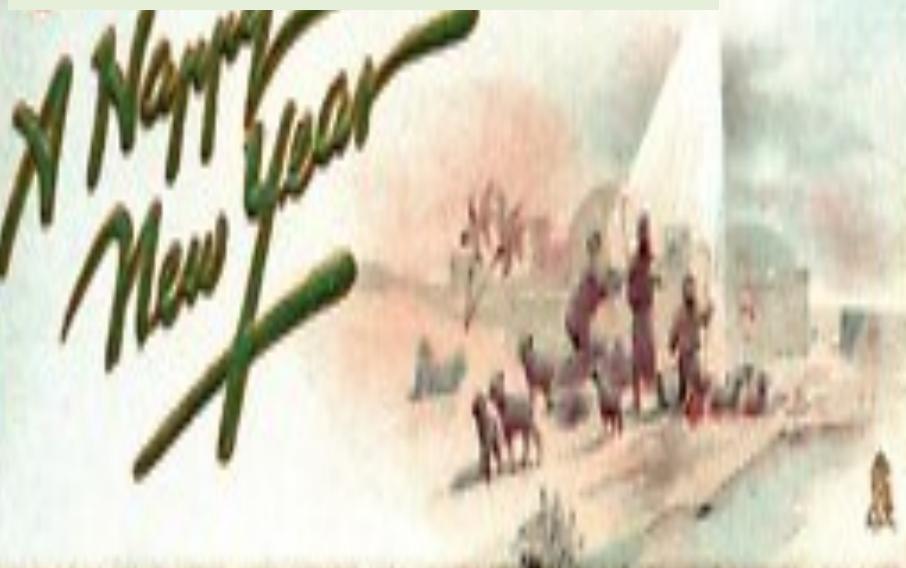
Our Church needs volunteers to set up and serve coffee each week.

Although, we sometimes have bitter cold mornings, snow and possibly ice.

If you have signed up to host coffee hour and nasty weather appears on your Sunday morning, you are in no way expected to come out in those conditions.

With that being said, I hope this encourages you to sign up and serve. There is a signup sheet across from the office on the bulletin board.

Many hands make light work!



SERVICE TEAM ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The Service Team ended 2025 in the true spirit of Christmas thanks to the generosity of our church family. We had 4 new members join us during the year: Denise Angel, Kay Kibbel, Pam Masterson, and Richard Wessels. As a very active team, we can use all the help we can get and anyone is welcome to join us.

Thanks to your generosity we collected over \$4000 for our Kids Christmas. Our usual charity is House of Hope and we provided gifts to 28 children age 4 months to 13 years. After providing everything on their wish lists we still had over \$2700 left. So we reached out to Crossville Iglesia and this team that has worked so hard all year long came through, buying winter coats and gifts for all 27 kids ages 9 months to 16 years old.

Since many of us are grandparents and don't get to see our grands and great-grands open their gifts and we don't even get to see the kids from House of Hope that we buy for, it was decided to have a little holiday party. The toys were put in black trash bags by family groups and delivered earlier so "Santa" could surprise them on Christmas but on December 20 we had a party for all the families and presented each child with a winter coat. We enjoyed seeing all the families. Please enjoy the photos of the festivities. They were most grateful for the gifts and the party. Special thanks to Linda and Gene Ferris who assisted from hospitality and our team members' husbands and Linda LeBreux's daughter, Danielle Horton.

Thank you to all who made Christmas nicer for 55 children in Crossville!

And a New Year begins....

Watch for our notices about the monthly Barrel Ministry collections. In January we are collecting for Bread of Life. Please bring in Pantry items – canned goods, crackers, macaroni, pancake mix, cooking spray, jelly, peanut butter, Hygiene items – shampoo, body wash, lotion, make-up, and Cleaning products.

Access your Thrivent Choice benefits for Service related projects.

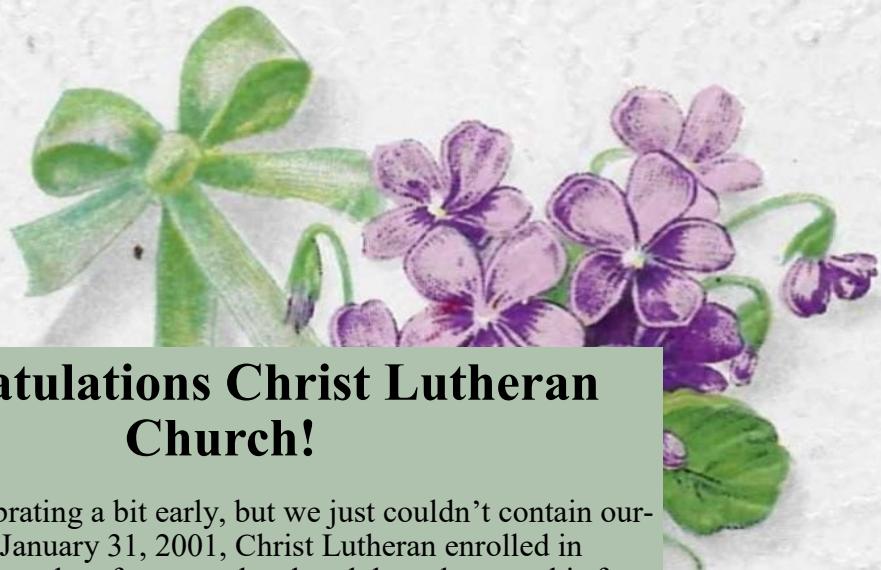
Make special donations for our Designated Funds as you are able.

And keep our team and projects in your prayers.

Thank you for a great 2025 and your support for 2026.

Pictures of Iglesia Christmas Party on next page.....





Congratulations Christ Lutheran Church!

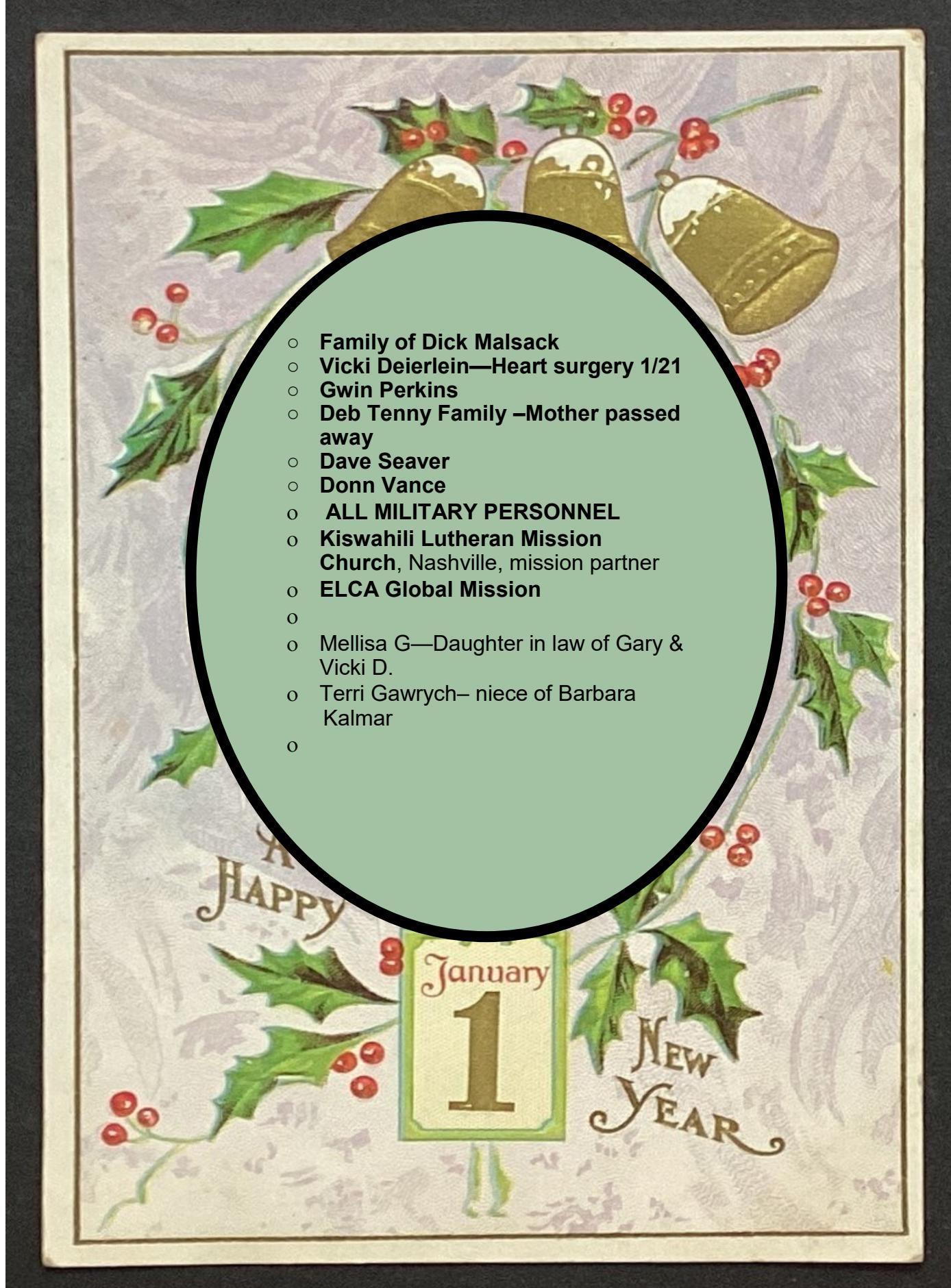
We may be celebrating a bit early, but we just couldn't contain ourselves. On January 31, 2001, Christ Lutheran enrolled in Stephen Ministry, therefore, we, the church have been at this for twenty-five years. No one keeps track, but I often wonder how many of our members and friends have experienced the love of a Stephen Minister when they have been confronted by something bigger than they. We are trained and present to guide you through the valley you may be in. Stephen Ministers have 50 hours of training during Stephen Leader led modules covering care, compassion and confidentiality (and many others) plus we meet monthly to review what we learned during training and other pertinent topics. Throughout, we are reminded only God can cure; we can care. I continue to hear fellow Stephen Leader departed Tom Dugan remind us there are only three things to remember as we accept a Care Receiver – pray, pray, pray. Pretty much sums up our role.

Throughout 2026, you'll be hearing more about Stephen Ministry. Until then, if you find yourself in that proverbial "hole" and can't seem to find a way out, please contact Pastor Groce to determine if a Stephen Minister could help. Or If you feel called to become a Stephen Minister, please reach out to a Stephen Leader.

May your Advent journey be a time of reflection and peace.

Your Stephen Leaders:
Carol Donalson, Sue Gauerke, Judy Hammond, Beverly Olin,
Linda Vance, Pastor Groce

A
Happy
New
Year



- Family of Dick Malsack
- Vicki Deierlein—Heart surgery 1/21
- Gwin Perkins
- Deb Tenny Family —Mother passed away
- Dave Seaver
- Donn Vance
- **ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL**
- **Kiswahili Lutheran Mission Church, Nashville, mission partner**
- **ELCA Global Mission**
-
- Mellisa G—Daughter in law of Gary & Vicki D.
- Terri Gawrych— niece of Barbara Kalmar
-

Dear Christ Lutheran Family,

With grateful and thankful hearts, we want to extend our deepest thanks to each of you for the wonderful gifts, cards, monetary gifts, and heartfelt words of kindness you shared with us this Christmas season.

Your generosity and thoughtfulness truly touched us more than words can express. Each card, gift, and kind message was a reminder of the love, care, and support that makes this congregation such a special church family. We are deeply blessed by you.

It is truly a joy and a privilege to serve Christ Lutheran Church and each of you. Thank you for your encouragement, your prayers, and for the many ways you show your appreciation throughout the year. We feel honored to walk alongside you in ministry.

May God bless you abundantly in the coming year, and may your hearts and homes be filled with peace, joy, and hope.

With sincere gratitude and Christmas blessings,
The Staff of Christ Lutheran Church

Pastor Groce, Josh Davis, Ann Looney, George Sengstock and Pamela Smith



Happy
New year





Moving Update
Dick and Eve Pry have a
new address as of January
6, 2026.

Dick & Eve Pry
100 Samaritan Way
Apt. 101
Crossville, TN 38558

