



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:
info@christlutheranffg.org
www.christlutheranchurchffg.org
<https://facebook.com/christlutheranchurchffg>

Volume 36, Issue 1

January, 2023

a message from our pastor

Advent - Christmas - Epiphany. The Church Year begins at a frenetic and frantic pace. It is not all that dissimilar from life in general. We close out one year and begin the next at a dead run of parties and gatherings and whatnots. Moving from one event to the next with precious little time to rest or reflect. One of the many things I have learned from leading the *GriefShare* program (which is starting up again in January) is this little nugget: **Take Time For Yourself.**

Doesn't sound all that earth shaking, but it can be a life-saver. Whether processing grief and loss or navigating the holiday (Holy Day) season, we encounter a high degree of expectation. Some of the expectation is thrust upon us and some we pile on ourselves, especially in the holiday season.

Our holiday tables should resemble a Norman Rockwell painting. All of the food must be cooked to perfection. We expect to ascend the pinnacle of joy and happiness and then stay perched there while we survey gatherings we encounter. Children and grandchildren are to be little angels - quiet, clean and well behaved - while we smile beatifically over the assembly.

The reality is probably much closer to what Mary and Joseph would have encountered at the first Christmas. No great meals... smelly animals... a screaming child... a mind-numbing, bone-crushing fatigue. The picture in our heads slowly fades to black as reality takes over. When that happens, **Take Time For Yourself** (followed closely by make expectations more realistic).

I told you before that it doesn't seem fair that Mary gets all the attention in this season and the "Hail Mary" as well. So, for all of us who understand the experience of just being tired... for all of us who had experience fall far short of expectation... for all of us who know deep in the quietness of our heart of hearts what it feels like to fall far short of the Norman Rockwell/Hallmark Holiday experience. Enter St. Joseph. Joseph the long suffering one. Joseph the one who understands what it is to have expectations shattered. Joseph walks into a very difficult situation with his focus forward and his head held high. Joseph who does not attempt to achieve perfection, but does the best that he can with what he has where he is. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus.

"Hail Joseph, full of patience, the Lord is with thee. Blessed are thou among men and blessed is the child placed into your care and keeping. Holy Joseph, Guardian of Jesus, pray for us caregivers now and in the hour of our complete exhaustion. Amen."

Take Time For Yourself as you move through these Holy Days. Give yourself the gift of expecting and accepting less than the Norman Rockwell picture of what is supposed to happen. Be present in the messiness and noise and chaos - because that is where God encounters each and all.

Merry Christmas and Bright Epiphany –
Pastor Groce

From our President.....

Happy New Year to all! I hope everyone had a safe, healthy, happy and blessed Christmas.

Each of us should take a moment to thank Pastor Groce for the beautiful Advent, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. This celebration of the birth of Jesus was made so meaningful by our Pastor in addition to Joy and the choir, musicians, the Bob Johnson Players, ushers, worship leaders and so many more. They all deserve our gratitude. Special thanks go to Rich and Denise Knebel for hosting the Christmas Day brunch, with good food and fellowship.

The last council meeting for 2022 was held on December 15, starting with a luncheon aided by Pat Bock and the fellowship team. During the meeting we thanked council members whose term is completed and welcomed new members for the coming year. The unified team effort by the 2022 council enabled us to accomplish a great many tasks. I look forward to 2023 for the continuation of projects still ongoing and new ideas for the future of Christ Lutheran Church.

In 2023 we will be proposing a restructuring of the council and changes to the by-laws and constitution, approved by the Synod. In February you will be presented the details and, in November, you will be asked to vote for approval. During the year, I will continue to have a couple of informational meetings as well as team temple talks as needed.

In 2022 we talked about community. We have, and will continue to, focus on being a caring congregation to all people. In addition to all our events, the very successful Sounds of the Season concert reflects just that, in that residents, in and outside our congregation, were included. A comment I received was that this was the best seasonal concert we have had in many, many years and, that we have set the bar very high for others, in showing just how much we care about all in our community.

We are a very blessed congregation. We are in a solid financial position and expect that no one will deem that it should lead to complacency.

In closing I just want to add that, in 2022, we have had friends and family who are now resting in the arms of Jesus. We mourn their passing. They will never be forgotten. We have members fighting serious illness. We pray for them always, as we pray for one another.

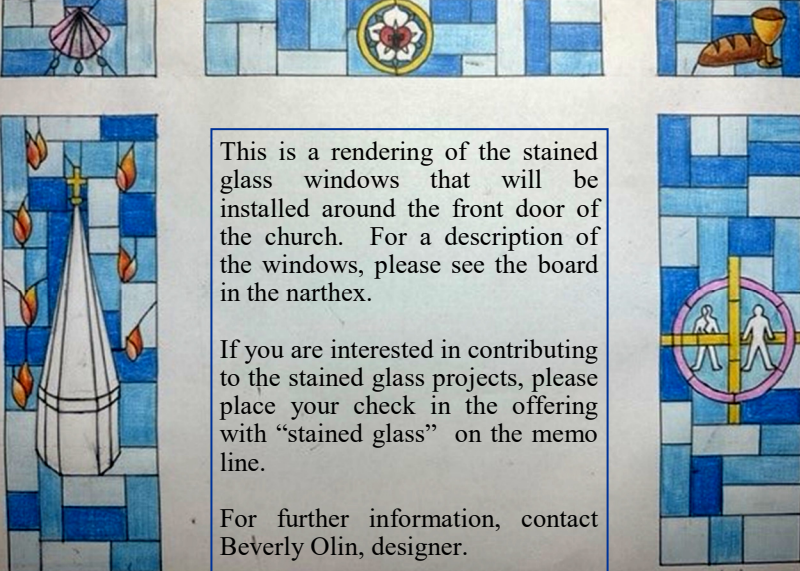
I thank you for your support and help this past year and I look forward to 2023. God Bless!

Gary Deierlein



Celebrating the 2022 council accomplishments and welcoming the 2023 council. Thanks to fellowship for the lunch.





This is a rendering of the stained glass windows that will be installed around the front door of the church. For a description of the windows, please see the board in the narthex.

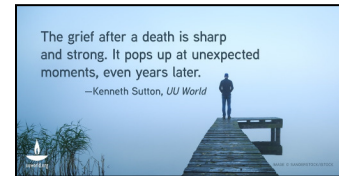
If you are interested in contributing to the stained glass projects, please place your check in the offering with "stained glass" on the memo line.

For further information, contact Beverly Olin, designer.

In person GriefShare will begin on Tuesday, January 10 at 1 p.m. Please contact the church office if you would like to attend.

This program is open to anyone in the community, is non denominational and confidential. There is no cost for this program.

We welcome you if your grief is recent or you are still struggling to find peace and closure.



Greeters Needed!

Greeters are needed for Sunday mornings. Greeters are asked to be at the front door 20-30 minutes prior to the service. Duties are simple. Open doors for church members and visitors when possible; help anyone who needs assistance with walking or carrying items; and welcome visitors and encourage them to sign the guest book. All you need is a smile and Christian love. If you can help serve, please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway. Thank you.

As we finish the year your Property Team continues to focus on maintenance and church appearance. Next Spring, we plan to resume work on the outside area to bolster our appearance to our community and members. So, be on the lookout the next announcement for a Spring workday.

On another note, we have a two part security system. Part one is a key fob entry system that locks and unlocks the door. Part two is the alarm system. Both of these systems work independently. The west entry door is opened with a key fob. For scheduled events, the door will not open until the first person enters using their key fob during the scheduled unlocked time. If you have questions, please contact the office.

If no one else is at the church when you open the door, follow the directions printed above the key pad to turn off the alarm.

Thank you, Stephen Brown,
Property Team

January Barrel Ministry

Bread of Life Rescue Mission
"In servant-like service to others, a Servant Heart"
281 Fourth Street in Crossville, TN

This Mission serves three meals a day.

The Bread of Life Rescue Mission is always in need of staples to feed the homeless who attend a meal. Their food needs include:

macaroni and cheese, crackers, instant mashed potatoes, canned vegetables, canned fruit, and canned meats.

Non-edibles include:

Aluminum foil, sandwich bags, trash bags (13 gal and 39 gallon), coffee, coffee creamer, quart and gallon freezer bags, Styrofoam dessert plates, dinner plates and bowls, plastic forks, spoons and knives.

Thank you again for your generous hearts,

Your Service Team



Thank you for making Christmas a bit more special by joining together to select, wrap and deliver gifts to a family of twelve in the Crossville community.

Thank you ❤️

From all the CLC Staff **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. The Finance Team recommended and Council accepted their recommendation to make your gift a "non taxable" event by covering the portion which would have been due on the gift. Hence, generosity and thoughtfulness.

As we journey together in 2023, we are all excited to discover what ministry God has in store for CLC and the wider community!! Merry Christmas and a joyous Epiphany!!

Karl, Ann, Joy, Vickie and Lewis

Who was Bob Johnson?

The Bob Johnson Players are back! Now many are asking, "Who was Bob Johnson?"

Back in the late 90's, a couple of members at Christ Lutheran came up with the concept of enhancing Lenten and Advent services with appropriate drama. Both Bob Johnson and Lowell Knobloch had experience in community theater and had in fact performed at the Cumberland County Playhouse. Together these men formed a small group of actors, who at first had no name. They appeared not only during Lent and Advent, but also performed what amounted to one-act plays at the church's Annual Dinners. The photo below pictures the Players in 2000.

Bob Johnson passed away in the early 2000's and the drama group was officially named the Bob Johnson Players in his memory. Lowell Knobloch continued acting and directing for several years, eventually passing the leadership to Eve Pry. Then, along came Heidi Anderson Dagg, who actually had professional acting experience! Heidi became director of the Players. After a prolonged "intermission," thanks to Covid, the Players are back. We can always use new talent! Anyone interested in drama and performing, give Heidi a call.



Sounds of the Season and Christ Lutheran Church



presented a check to the Avalon Center Sunday, December 18 for over \$1,600. Rachel Bruning, Director was present to accept the

donation and share a few words about their mission.



thank you

It is hard to express my thanks to our church family for all the caring and support received during the time of **Tom's illness and the Memorial Service.** Pastor's visits, cards, food, phone calls, the chancel choir and Memorial gifts have certainly been appreciated. I am proud to be a member of Christ Lutheran Church.

God's blessings,
Sue Dugan

Notes from the Health and Safety Team

Winter weather is upon us and it never hurts to think about driving safety in the colder months. Below are a few helpful hints to make your drive time safer.

- If the weather is bad and it's not an emergency, wait until the day warms up. The snow will melt, ice will be gone, and the brighter daylight will improve visibility.
- Wet leaves can be as slick as black ice - slow down when there are leaves in the roadway or whenever you see a slick shine.
- Stock your vehicle with some survival items - a warm blanket, energy bars, bottles of water, etc. - just in case you end up stuck on the road somewhere.
- Refill your gas anytime it falls below 1/2 tank. If you have to idle while waiting on a tow truck, you will want to stay warm.
- Consider storing a bag of kitty litter in your trunk. If you end up off the road, it could provide the needed traction to get you back on your way.
- If it has been more than a year since you have had your wiper blades replaced, consider doing that now. Worn wiper blades will impact your visibility during rain and snow.

Stay safe and healthy!

Building Bridges will meet Saturday evening, January 7 at 6 p.m. to watch a movie. Please bring popcorn to share, drinks will be provided. There is a \$2 cover charge. For more information contact Kathie Whiffen or Craig Christen.

CLC's Stephen Ministers hosted members of area churches Stephen Ministers for the annual Christmas Luncheon. Many hands made for light work organizing, preparing, set up, clean up and speaking. Multiple positive comments were received.

Jon provided music



Fellowship assisted with serving and clean up

Sounds of the Season

What a beautiful evening enjoyed by many congregants and community members. CLC hosted nearly 200, filling the sanctuary with sights and sounds. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful music ministry.

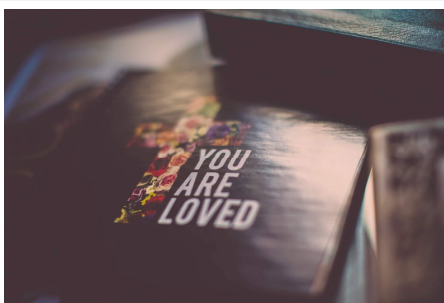


PRAYER CONCERNS

*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.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Betty Anderson ○ Don Baassler ○ Sherry Botsford ○ Gayle Burroughs ○ Ruby Carr ○ Bill Henderson ○ Lowell Knobloch ○ Jean LeBreux ○ Pastor Doug MaGinn ○ Bill Martin ○ Jan Martin ○ Walt Mellor ○ Joe Nilsen ○ Paul & Katherine Pellek ○ Glen Schimelpfenig ○ Rachel Schimelpfenig ○ Vicky Sproule ○ Phil Tenney | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 Ley ○ David Nims, cousin of Marion Miner ○ Chuck Saylor, friend of Donn & Linda Vance ○ Janet Yanke Spencer, cousin of Barb Comshaw |
|---|---|



READINGS AND PSALMS JANUARY 2023

	<u>First Reading</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Second Reading</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Dec 31 and Jan 1	Numbers 6:22-27	Psalm 8	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:15-21
January 7 & 8	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthews 3:13-17
January 14 & 15	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 40:1-11	I Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
January 21 & 22	Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalm 27:1,4-9	I Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23
January 28 & 29	Micah 6:1-8	Psalm 15	I Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12



January

- 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 Gary Eckes
- 19 Mary Nolan
- 21 Graham Kneale
- 22 Bill Savarese
- 25 Karen Laipply
- 26 Evelyn Birmingham
- 29 Glen House
- 30 Barbara Kalmar



January

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|----------|
| 2 | Don & Nancy Fairchild | 63 Years |
| 7 | John & Linda LeBreux | 56 Years |
| 8 | Joe & Evelyn Birmingham | 51 Years |
| 13 | David & Linda Farber | 50 Years |
| 30 | Lynn & Elaine Dawson | 52 Years |

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

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
info@christlutheranffg.org
- Karl Knebel, Audio-Visual Technician
(931) 200-2519
- Joy Rachor, Director of Music / Organist
(931) 260-4779
jrachor@charter.net
- Ann Looney, Saturday Pianist
(931) 248-2570
annklooney@gmail.com

THE 2023 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Officers:

- CLC Council President - Gary Deierlein
(386)-804-2294
e-mail: garydeierlein13@gmail.com
- CLC Council Vice-President - Sue Straw
(931) 335-9517
e-mail: straw916@gmail.com
- CLC Council Secretary - Pam Arcaro.
(931) 287-6003
e-mail: pamarcaro@gmail.com
- CLC Council Treasurer - David Irvin
(828) 302-0407
e-mail: bdirvin@charter.net

Council:

- CLC Communications Leader - Craig Christen
(931) 224-8261
email: ctchristen@earthlink.net
- CLC Education Leader - Rick Tenny
(434) 851-1682
e-mail: ratenny78@gmail.com
- CLC Fellowship Leader - Lynne Schwaberow
(937) 620-6494
e-mail: lschwaberow@gmail.com
- Co-Leader - Ed Schwaberow
(937) 620-9643
E-mail: elschwaberow@gmail.com
- Co-Leader - Linda Ferris
(985) 502-4388
e-mail: lgferris98@yahoo.com
- CLC Finance Leader - Chris Mattheis
(931) 287-0468
e-mail: webgolfn@comcast.net
(CLC Financial Secretary - Vicki Deierlein
(386) 689-2090
e-mail:
finance@christlutheranffg.org
- CLC Property Leader - Steven Brown
(304) 634-0130
e-mail: brown175@mctc.edu
- CLC Service Leader - Glen House
(931) 210-3521
e-mail: gahouse33@comcast.net
- CLC Stewardship Leader - Linda Vance
(901) 493-5529
e-mail: lvance2364@gmail.com
- CLC Welcome Leader - Bonnie Irvin
(9828) 320-3264
e-mail: bonnieirvin@charter.net
- CLC Worship & Music Leader - Denise Knebel
(845) 551-2096
e-mail: dknebel22@gmail.com

JANUARY 2023

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