



Life Lines

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Volume 36, Issue 2

February, 2023

a message from our pastor

Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and Abigail's Baptism.

Last month, I had very separate but related honors. The first honor was being asked to baptize our youngest granddaughter - Abigail Beatrice Groce. I had the Bishop come in and baptize our two boys. However, with the grandchildren there was no question! What a singular privilege and honor to be the vessel for such an extraordinary grace moment. What a privilege and honor to say while making the sign of the cross on her forehead: "Abigail Beatrice, child of God, you are sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever."

The very next day, January 10, I was asked to participate in the Law Enforcement Appreciation event held at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. I had the opportunity to sit with people - pray with people - talk to people at an emotionally charged moment in their lives. It seems so trivial to say "thank you" to people who risk their lives each time they put on the uniform... but it is so very important to make the effort.

Both of these opportunities were Stewardship moments. Both of these opportunities show the grace of God in stark relief to what our world often sees and does. Too often, law enforcement officers are at best ignored and all too often attacked. This day is a day to say "Thank you." Thank you for your service - thank you for your witness - **just thank you.**

Having the privilege of participating in a baptism is also a "thank you." It is a thank you to God for the gifts given to each of us. It is a thank you for the opportunity to pay it forward with the next generation of tiny Christians. **Just thank you!**

I do not know what lies ahead for little Abigail, but I do know that throughout her life she will bear that cross upon her forehead. Throughout her life, she will seek out and find ways to say "Thank You" for the gift given to her on January 8, 2023. You will note that Grandpa did not "do" anything. God is the actor. God is the one who claims. God is the one who seals with the Holy Spirit and marks with the cross of Christ. Grandpa merely supplies the oil!

Perhaps as we each move through the season of Epiphany, we can look for - lift up - and celebrate opportunities to say "Thank you." Opportunities for grace moments. Opportunities for Stewardship moments. Opportunities to live out our baptismal covenant and our shared responsibilities within the larger community.

God's Peace,
Pastor Groce

From our President.....

Happy February to All!

The Council kicked off the new year at the January meeting. New Team Leaders presented their goals for the year, so additional information will be shared as the year progresses. Today, I'll share the Three Year Planning Team is meeting and making plans for what our future may hold; the IT/Communications Team; 2023 Golf Tournament, Personnel, Executive, Council and Teams are all meeting as scheduled. We are preparing for the Annual Business meeting on February 19; please plan to attend. Projects of major interest include the stained glass windows (have you seen them?), Columbarium improvements and the reorganization of the council for 2024. You will receive updates as these projects move forward.

This year has also started out with a sad ring to it with the passing of four members and others having surgery and fighting serious illness. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

Please take this message from Proverbs 20:15 and put a smile on someone's face:

Have you ever received a note or card at just the right time with just the right word of encouragement? It's like getting a message straight from heaven, isn't it? In Proverbs, Solomon writes, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver." We may minimize the words we speak or the efforts we make to lift someone's heart or brighten someone's day, but in God's hands, those few words can make a world of difference. Just as careless, sarcastic or dismissive words have the capacity to damage, warp and kill, so a word of kindness—"word fitly spoken"—can change the course of a day...or a life. Knowing this, why don't we practice it even more? A notecard in the mail, a well-timed affirmation, or even a thoughtful email to a struggling soul may be among the most significant things you will accomplish—today or ever.

Thank you, Father, for those who have written timely notes or spoken words of hope and life to me through the years. Holy Spirit, show me where and how and when I can do this for others—both Your sons and daughters and those who are (for now) outside Your family. I don't want to "just talk", I want to speak words that You can use.

Gary Deierlein

Notice of Annual Business Meeting

The Christ Lutheran Church Annual Business Meeting will be held on **February 19, 2023**, immediately following the Sunday morning service.

The agenda will include:

- Approval of the Minutes of the November 2022 Annual Election and Budget Meeting.
- Approval of Annual Reports, including a review of the financial condition of the church as of December 31, 2022
- Approval of the Allocation of the 2022 Surplus Funds

For the church to conduct business at the meeting, there must be a quorum of 20% of the voting members.

Please plan to attend.

February Barrel Ministry

Morgan Scott Project
For Cooperative Christian Concerns
"A hand up---Not a handout"

Why Morgan and Scott Counties?

Tennessee's Morgan and Scott counties have experienced consistent loss over recent years and are some of the most poverty stricken in Tennessee.

For our Barrel:

Food supplies: canned foods such as fruits, vegetables, meats, soups and pasta products, peanut butters and foil, sandwich bags, quart bags

Personal hygiene items: toilet paper, deodorant, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, lotion, shampoo and conditioner, shaving cream and feminine hygiene products and diapers (adult and toddler)

Garden Supplies: seeds, tools, fertilizer, plants and **canning jars**.

Thank you again for your generous hearts,
Your Service Team

The Fellowship Team cleans up the kitchen. Thanks to all!



FREE FINANCIAL SEMINAR

The Finance Team in conjunction with Thrivent is sponsoring a free, informational financial seminar here in the Fellowship Hall at Christ Lutheran Church on Saturday, March 25, 2023. It begins at 10:30am and ends at 1pm with a light lunch provided at 11:30am.

Topics to be covered include:

- General estate planning
- Charitable estate and legacy planning
- Charitable estate planning for today and tax-efficient strategies using RMD's
- Social Security changes
- Investment strategies during recessionary times
- Thrivent Action Teams

Please sign-up on the activities bulletin board so we can appropriately plan enough food for lunch.

HELP WANTED!

Our church needs people to help with memorial thank you notes. It is an easy job that can be done at home. The materials you use are provided by the church. If you are interested, call Jody Schuning at 931-200-0375. If I am not at home please leave your name and number.

Lenten Soup Suppers Return!

New time, same menu, same location. Read on for details:

Beginning March 1st, we will again have **soup suppers** during Lent. Since we will be starting the Lenten service at 5:00, the soup suppers will be **AFTER** the service at **6:00 p.m.** (or as soon as the service ends). Please check the bulletin board for an opportunity to either bring a crockpot of soup and/or to help with set up or clean up.



Your Fellowship Team really appreciates you!!

SMOOTH MOVES
Wednesdays @ 11:00 AM
February 1 – March 1 (5 weeks)
at
Christ Lutheran Church
481 Snead Rd., Fairfield Glade

This BEGINNER'S CLASS will prepare you for an active springtime through breath, balance, light hand weights and gentle movements.

Easy on the joints, ideal for improving flexibility & increasing circulation while decreasing stress, anxiety, inflammation & chronic pain. **Smooth Moves** is great for seniors, people who sit in a chair at work, people returning to physical activity after an injury or time away & any beginner interested in gentle exercise.

Five consecutive classes focus on harnessing the breath for balance practice, upper-body strength training and fundamental seated yoga postures.



A donation of \$5.00 per class is suggested - a generous portion of which remains with Christ Lutheran Church for the kind offer of class space. Free for CLC members.

Registration is required to hold your spot.
To register, please contact Jan Pitzer at: 615-481-0871

Jan is a Certified Yoga Teacher (CYT-200) w/ Senior-Specific teaching experience.

Please check your mailbox for your 2022 year end Statement of giving.

Also, if you haven't picked up your 2023 envelopes, they are also in your box..

Please pick them up so we won't need to mail them.

Thanks!



Bread of Life -

The Service Team plans to continue preparing a meal the 2nd Sunday of each month for the Bread of Life Rescue Mission in Crossville. The number of persons to be served is now 50+. Thank you to Joe & Evelyn Birmingham for doing the January meal. Also, thank you to Craig and Terilu Christen for agreeing to do the meal for February. The Service Team is looking for a volunteer to serve as the BOL meal coordinator to plan simplified monthly meal menus, prepare sign-up sheets/bulletin announcements and LifeLines articles each month and set up the monthly food collection process. The Service Team will assist in finding volunteers each month to do any food preparation and deliver the meals to BOL. We plan to use Thrivent Action Team \$\$\$ to purchase some of the food items this year.

Glen House, Service Team Chair

HELP WANTED!

Our church needs people to help with memorial thank you notes. It is an easy job that can be done at home. The materials you use are provided by the church. If you are interested, call Jody Schuning at 931-200-0375. If I am not at home please leave your name and number.

POT LUCK....POT LUCK....POT LUCK....POT LUCK

Following the Congregational Meeting on February 19, 2023, there will be a potluck. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board. Please sign up to help set up, clean up and to attend. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Your Fellowship Team



Your Stephen Ministry team is actively caring for members of our community. In order to meet the needs within our congregation, we are seeking willing, caring men and women to join our next class that will begin later this quarter.

If you are interested in a confidential, caring relationship, please see the Stephen Ministry bulletin board for information or contact Beverly Olin at 931-200-4610 or any member of the Stephen Leader Team.

STEWARDSHIP....It's more than money, although we need it to operate the church and our programs

STEWARDSHIP....It's giving of our talents to coordinate Teams and care for one another

STEWARDSHIP....it's giving of our time to assist others to complete our mission

STEWARDSHIP....Christ Lutheran has many opportunities to utilize your time, talents and resources. If we each do a little, we can accomplish so much!

If interested in joining the Stewardship Team, contact Linda Vance at lvance2364@gmail.com or 901-49-5529.



Our new stained glass windows have been 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 future stained glass projects, please place your check in the offering with "stained glass" on the memo line.

For further information, contact Beverly Olin, designer.



The design/construction/installation team:
Beverly Olin, Red Rottero and Brennan Ellis



Beverly is the first to walk through the new windows around the front door. They are stunning!



Our Prayers and Deepest Sympathy are extended to the families and loved ones of four of our members.

We remember:

+ Our beloved Walt Mellor, joined the Church Triumphant on January 1. A Memorial Service was held at the church on January 28. Cards may be sent to his daughter, Dianne Mellor at 280 Lakewood Drive, Fairfield Glade, TN 38558.

+ Our beloved Gayle Burroughs who joined the Church Triumphant on January 3. No services were held locally as Gayle relocated to Indiana.

+ Our beloved Pastor Doug McGinn, joined the Church Triumphant on January 5. A Memorial Service was held at the church on January 21. Cards may be sent to Karen at 100 Samaritan Way, Apt. 317, Crossville, TN 38558.

+ Our beloved Phil Tenney who joined the Church Triumphant on January 9. A Committal Service was held on January 21. Cards may be sent to the family % of his niece, Marcia Juday, 196 Fox Run Road, Crossville, TN 38571.

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.

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 ○ Ruby Carr ○ David Farber ○ Judy Hammond ○ Bill Henderson ○ Lowell Knobloch ○ Paul Kronau ○ Pastor Joe Nilsen ○ Bev Smith ○ Vicky Sproule ○ Grayce & Walt Tyszko ○ Kathie & Larry Whiffen | <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 ○ David Nims, cousin of Marion Miner ○ Bill & Mary Ann Todd, parents of Bev Smith's daughter-in-law, |
|---|--|



READINGS AND PSALMS FEBRUARY 2023

	<u>First Reading</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Second Reading</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
February 4 & 5	Isaiah 58:1-9a	Psalm 112:1-9	1 Corinthians 2:1-12	Matthew 5:13-20
February 11 & 12	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Psalm 119:1-8	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Matthew 5:21-37
February 18 & 19	Exodus 24:12-18	Psalm 2	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9
Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	Psalm 51:1-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
February 25 & 26	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Psalm 32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11

Happy Birthday

February

- 2 Mary Cooper
- 3 Hazel Yaskannin
- 4 Becky Utz
- 5 Mike Morgan
- 6 Miriam Simmons
- 10 Sharon Oniga
- 11 Mike Kendall
- 14 Ron Borges
- 14 Gloria Floros
- 16 Bill Neeb
- 22 Linda Farber
- 22 Joe Garner
- 26 Matthew Christiansen



February

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|----------|
| 5 | Bruce & Diane Klockars | 51 Years |
| 6 | Gene & Linda Ferris | 41 Years |
| 7 | Jon & Fay Kowalsky | 36 Years |
| 11 | Don & Debbie Gunsten | 56 Years |
| 17 | Fred & Paula Rehorst | 27 Years |
| 23 | Al & Cindy Love | 50 Years |

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

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THE 2023 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

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FEBRUARY 2023

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