

Christ Lutheran Tidings

Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God. Hebrews 12: 12-13a

I have a list of books I want to read that will last me two lifetimes. I could probably add a third life for books that others have recommended to me. I pulled *Vanishing Grace* by Philip Yancey off my shelf and started reading it last week. The book speaks to the power of pilgrims, activists, and artists to convey grace in a world thirsty for it. I am drinking in the book like one of the thirsty.

I quickly noticed one important distinction. Yancey writes about conveying grace not conveying faith. When we convey faith, we talk about belief in the biblical story. Our faith shares Mary conceiving by the Holy Spirit and Jesus born in a stable and visited by shepherds as well as kings. These moments begin the story of our faith. Undoubtedly, sharing faith also includes the story of Good Friday and Easter Sunday as well.

Sharing grace looks different. Through faith, God conveys to us gifts of grace. These gifts include love, compassion, hope, strength as well as faith. As Christians we share compassion with people in various times of need. Especially this time of year, we find ourselves more aware of people without food and those whose homes are cold because they have to be careful about utility bills. We think about those celebrating holidays for the first time without someone. Perhaps military duty takes them away from home, or a new job across the country, or divorce separates family, or death. We find ways to share hope and grace with these folks during the holiday.

The first few chapters of *Vanishing Grace* lift up the opportunity to share grace with people outside of the Christian faith. You can share grace before you share faith and often times these moments of grace will down the road lead to moments where faith is shared and God is proclaimed good.

I look forward to sharing more about this book with you in the weeks ahead. And I look forward to celebrating the gifts of God's grace during the Advent and Christmas season.

God Bless,

Pastor McCarty

A Blessed Christmas to you from the Staff of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Robert McCarty

Florence Jowers Organist, Director of Music

> Brenda Wollner Secretary

Debbie McCray Custodian





Join us on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, 2017 7:00 P.M.

For our Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service

Musical Opportunities for December



Staunton Choral Society at Christ Lutheran

The Staunton Choral Society will present their 2017 Christmas Concert, "Tell the Good News," today at Christ Lutheran Church at 7:00 P.M. A free-will offering will be received. The Choral Society is directed by Raymond Hebert. Assistant Director is Cameron Pampus. Pianist is Jihye Lovelace. We hope you will attend!

Elisabeth Von Trapp to Perform at Calvary UMC, Stuarts Draft

Elisabeth Von Trapp, from the family whose story inspired The Sound of Music will present the Home for Christmas Concert on Tuesday, December 5, 2017, 7:00 P.M. at Calvary United Methodist Church. The concert is free and open to the public. A suggested donation is \$10. For more information contact: associate@umc2179.com or call 540-337-2980. Calvary is located at 2179 Stuarts Draft Highway, Stuarts Draft, VA.





Electrical Christmas Concert to Benefit SACRA

The Christmas Benefit Concert for SACRA will be presented on Monday, December 11, 7:00 P.M. (doors open at 6:30 P.M.) at Memorial Baptist Church in Staunton. Come join us for a time of music, fellowship and an offering to SACRA. Featuring local musical artists *Christo*pher Bono, Organist, Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir, The Faithful Men and Mr. Jefferson's Bones.



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Happy December Birthdays to:

- 3 Thomas Yeago
- 6 Jenn Barker
- 11 Philip Obenschain
- 13 Douglas Whitmore
- 17 Reanell Mitchell
- 18 Cathy Kuykendall
- 25 Linda Youngblood
- 27 Robbin Youngblood
- 28 Patricia Garber
- 30 Amy Walge



December Anniversaries

- 7 Neila & George Luzaich (22 years)
- 22 Linda & Fred Armstrong (38 years)

Please be sure to take a look at our seasonal bulletin boards that have been recently decorated to celebrate Advent and Christmas by Lorraine Bosserman.

Please email or bring pictures by for the bulletin board outside of the church office. We'd love to display them!



Happy January Birthdays to:

- 4 Connie Spitler
- 6 Meredith Yeago
- 8 Kendrick McCarty
- 11 Margie Obenschain Barbara Shaner
- 12 Mindy Reynolds
- 13 Walt Obenschain Rick Whitmore
- 15 Jay Shaner Ken Young
- 17 Amy Kiger
- 18 Fred Shaner
- 19 Judy Matthews
- 21 Elizabeth McCarty
- 25 Rebecca Rhodes
- 26 Grace Adams
- 27 Corey Shaner

Chip Shaner



A "Mitten & Hat Tree" has been placed in our Narthex for this Advent and Christmas season. You may knit or purchase hats, gloves and mittens for elementary school age children and bring them to place on our tree. This season, our gifts will go to Bessie Weller Elementary School. The greatest need for hats and gloves is for children in grades 3-5. Our goal is to collect 75 hats and 75 pairs of gloves!

Thank you! (Lorraine Bosserman for the Social Ministry Committee)

Church Council 2017 & New Church Council 2018

2017 Church Council Members:

Melanie Rhodes, President

Judy Matthews, Vice-President

Evelyn Young, Secretary

Allyson Langston

Dell Philpott

Donald Schneider

Barbara Shaner

Robbin Youngblood

Stacey Wolters

*Kathy Bigelow, Treasurer

2018 Church Council Members:

Allyson Langston

Scott Langston

Barbara Shaner

Gerry Wells

Robbin Youngblood

The Organizational Meeting for Church Council will be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2017, at which time the 2017 Council will finish business and the 2018 Council will end the meeting and elect their officers. New Council members should attend this meeting.



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Christmas Adopt-A- Family for 2017. This year's family includes three children – a boy, age 4 and two girls, ages 8 and 10. Tags will be distributed today and next Sunday, December 3. All gifts should be wrapped and returned to the church (please leave them in the church lounge) by Wednesday, December 6. To identify the family, tags should be taped to the gift.

In addition to requests for the children, family needs include silverware, pots, pans, towels and food (gift cards).

Our contact person for our family is Anita Sanders (292-1409).

If you would like to participate, but are unable to attend church, please feel free to call Anita.

We thank you so much for your loving care!

Social Ministry Committee of CLC

Pleasant Memories

Pleasant Memories will meet on Wednesday, December 13, 12:00

Noon at Pleasant View Lutheran Church for a covered-dish luncheon. The church will provide the meat for the meal and ask that you bring a side dish, salad or dessert. We hope you can come join us! Please call Brenda in the church office by December 7 to make your reservation.

Thank You from WELCA



WELCA reports that Thankoffering Sunday receipts last week were \$389.45 which will be distributed to local organizations in the next week or so. Thank you to all!

The Chrismon Tradition

Many credit Martin Luther with the tradition of a decorated fir or pine tree as part of the Christmas celebration. Though Martin Luther was an advocate and enjoyed this custom at Christmas and was always willing to help with tree trimming, it is doubtful he can claim the origin of the Christmas tree as his idea.

But, we can claim the Chrismon as a Lutheran original concept and creation. Frances Kipps Spencer originated Chrismons, Christian symbols to decorate the Christmas tree at Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia. Chrismons are traditionally handmade in colors of white and gold. White being the liturgical color for Christmas and representing the purity of Jesus. Gold is a symbol of Jesus' majesty, power and glory. Every year, people come from around the world to view the Chrismons on Ascension's tree and experience the spirit of Christmas through the beautiful symbols of Christian hope, peace, joy and love.

"O our God, we are surely in need of a shepherd to come and seek us. Therefore we rely completely on the Gospel. O Lord, we know that thou dost recognize thine own. May we cling to the assurance that thou are the shepherd who seeks us, thy straying sheep. Save us, O God, for the sake of thine only begotten Son. Amen"

Martin Luther

Christmas is Coming!

You are invited to stay after church on Sunday, December 17 to help decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. We are going to set

up the pew candles, the window candles and decorate the tree with Chrismons. Along with decorating we can enjoy our fellowship with sharing lunch (pizza) and maybe a few Christmas carols. *The more the merrier!*







Gingerbread House Workshop!

Saturday, December 16 2:00 P.M. Christ Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

Bring a gingerbread house kit (purchase one at Wal-Mart, Target or the grocery) and come join the fun.

Families may want to assemble a house together.

All ages invited

(Parents or adults asked to accompany children to help them assemble their creations.)

We will assemble your house according to directions from your kit. Brenda will provide extra candies, icing and special goodies and a few special decorating ideas to make your house unique, special and fun.

A special guest will stop by for a visit! Refreshments will be provided.

To reserve a table call Brenda by December 13, 885-4843, or use the sign-up sheet on the table at the back of the church.

Come and join our festive afternoon!



Remember in Your Prayers

Those who are Ill:

Alfred Berry, Dorothy Briehl (The Legacy)
Lynwood & Beth Craig
Patricia Doyle
Virginia Gregory (Shenandoah Nursing)
June Huff (Baldwin Park)
Sue Obenschain (Summit Square)
Karl Protil

Mary Lou Parkins (Whispering Pines, NC)
Jane Ruch, Bobby Schneider
Betty Van Lear (Brookdale)
Lillian & Herb Walge (Brookdale)
Winston Wine

Friends & Family of Members

Bill S. (father of Debbie McCray)
Daniel H. (friend of Florence Jowers)
Bernice (friend of Marty Philpott)
Linda P. (mother of Elizabeth McCarty)
Margaret (sister of Charles Shaner)
Roy (friend of Linda & John Vitt)
Loretta C. (niece of Lorraine Bosserman)
Peter S. (Florence Jowers' brother-in-law)
Bobby C. (friend of the Langston's)
Robert C. (friend of Stacey Wolters)
Doris & Clarence M. (parents of Anita Sanders)
Brenda K. (friend of Stacey Wolters)
Jessie G. (brother of Jim Gibson)
Linda Y. (sister of Woody Sanders)
Mindy (mother of Kiera Barker)



In Memoriam:

Amelia Ann (Jones) Berry

Extended Concerns:

Patricia Garber (Envoy of Staunton) Esther Seltzer (Augusta Rehab & Healthcare)

Friends of Congregation with long-term concerns:

Danielle (friend of a friend of Pastor) Sonia L. (mother of Suzanne Lochner) Doris M. (friend of Tom Miller)

Serving in the Military

Timothy, Becky Derick, Sean, Dusty

We are in the process of updating our prayer list. Please contact the church office if you would like to add or remove a name from the list. Thank you!



CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2807 North Augusta Street Staunton, Virginia

Phone: 540-885-4843 Email: celcsta@ntelos.net

10:30 A.M.—Worship

WE'RE ON THE WEB! Www.christlutheranstaunton.org

CHURCH STAFF:

The Rev. Robert D. McCarty, Pastor Email: revmccarty@earthlink.net

Brenda L. Wollner, Secretary
Email: celcsta@ntelos.net
Florence Jowers, Organist/Director of Music
jowersf@gmail.com
Debbie McCray, Custodian

2017 CHURCH COUNCIL:

Melanie Rhodes, President Judy Matthews, Vice-President Evelyn Young, Secretary Allyson Langston Donald Schneider Barbara Shaner Robbin Youngblood Stacey Wolters

2018 Church Council:

Allyson Langston Scott Langston Barbara Shaner Gerry Wells Robbin Youngblood

Kathy Bigelow, Treasurer

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church: By God's grace the Holy Spirit leads us to love and serve all.







Christmas Eve Worship

4th Sunday of Advent
Worship at 10:30 A.M.
Christmas Eve Candlelight

Service

at 7:00 P.M.





December 2017





Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Worship with us!

2807 North Augusta Street Staunton, Virginia 24401

Phone: 540-885-4843

Email: celcsta@gmail.com

1	SUN	MON	ТИЕ	$\mathbf{W} \to \mathbf{D}$	Тни	FRI	S A T
	Happy New Year! Advent Begins December 3					1	2
	3 10:30-Worship 6:45-Youth Mtg. 7:00-Choral Society Concert	4 7:00-Choir Re- hearsal	5 7:00-Von Trapp Concert at Calvary UMC/Stuarts Draft	6	7	8	9 Fellowship Hall Reserved
	10 10:30-Worship 6:00-Youth Party at Salem Lutheran	11 7:00-SACRA Benefit Concert at Memorial Baptist	12 7:00-Council Mtg.	13 7:00-Choir Rehearsal	14 ☆	15	16 2:00-5:00- Gingerbread House Workshop
	17 10:30-Worship 12:00-Decorating the Sanctuary	18	19 Newsletter articles due	20 7:00-Choir Rehearsal	21	22	23
	24 10:30-Worship 7:00-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28	29	30
	31 10:30-Worship	Jan 1 2018	2	3	4	5	6

December 2017 Worship Worksheet

December 2017 Worship Worksheet						
Date	Lessons	Hymns				
December 3	Isaiah 64:1-9	The Advent of Our God				
First Sunday of Advent	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	He Came Down (Verse 1)				
-	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending				
AM: Melanie Rhodes	Gospel: Mark 13:24-37	Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying				
December 10	Isaiah 40:1-11	Prepare the Royal Highway				
Second Sunday of Advent	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	He Came Down (Verses 1 & 2)				
	2 Peter 3:8-15a	All Earth is Hopeful				
AM: Tom Miller	Gospel: Mark 1:1-8	Blessed Be the God of Israel				
December 17	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus				
Third Sunday of Advent	Psalm 126	He Came Down (Verses 1, 2 & 3)				
	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	Savior of the Nations, Come				
AM: Scott Langston	Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28	Hark, the Glad Sound				
December 24	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	People, Look East				
The Fourth Sunday of Advent	Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26	He Came Down (Verses 1-4)				
	Romans 16:25-27	Oh, Come, Oh, Come Emmanuel				
AM: Phyllis Cox	Gospel: Luke 1:26-38	Joy to the World				
December 31	Isaiah 61:10—62:3					
First Sunday of Christmas	Psalm 148	******				
	Galatians 4:4-7					
AM:	Gospel: Luke 2:22-40					



Those Serving in December 2017 Worship Services

Date	Ushers	Acolyte	Crucifer	Reader	Greeters
Dec 3	Amy Kiger, Woodie Cason, Charles Shaner	Madi Langston	Kendrick McCarty	Gene Matthews	Miriam Handley
Dec 10	The Langston Family	Jackson Kiger	Jamison McCarty	Mindy Reynolds	Carolyn Haggerty
Dec 17	Carolyn Haggerty & Wayne Huntley	Erin Trost	Blaze Douglas	Sam Rowe	Rebecca Rhodes
Dec 24 AM	Jim Gibson & Jay Shaner	Jamison McCarty	Kendrick McCarty	Sam Rowe	Judy & Gene Matthews
Dec 24 PM	Woodie Cason & Wayne Huntley	Madi Langston	Rhiannon Wiseman	Jamison McCarty	* * *
Dec 31	Evelyn Young, Suzanne Lochner	* * *	* * *	Debbie Morris	Betty & Woodie Cason

Ushers: Please be at the church by 10:00 A.M. for usher duty on Sunday mornings. If you cannot serve as indicated, please contact our head usher Jim Gibson [292-5354].

ALTAR COMMITTEE: Dec. 3: Evelyn Young & Linda Youngblood Dec. 10: Anita Sanders & Linda Youngblood Dec. 17: Carolyn Haggerty & Betty Cason

MEALS-ON-WHEELS FOR December 12: Miriam Handley & Barbara Puzanskas; Betty & Woodie Cason

