

INSIGHT

A monthly publication of Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church
submissions by the 15th of each month to: insight@crlcbrecksville.org

DECEMBER 2023

CRLC STAFF

The Reverend Randy O'Donnell, PASTOR

James Alfieri, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Jill Koubal, PARISH NURSE, RN, BSN

Laurie Siebert, SECRETARY

Marci Kehoe, SECRETARY

Paul Travaglianti, YOUTH DIRECTOR

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIME: 8:00 & 10:30 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL: 9:15 AM

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Church Office is Closed on Monday

9:00 AM—2:00 PM TUES/WED/THURS

9:30 AM—1:00 PM FRIDAY



“Save us, O God of our salvation, and gather and rescue us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name, and glory in your praise. ”1 Chronicles 16:35

Good travelers? Are you ready yet? Are we there yet? These are all questions we ask around a journey. One of my goals for all of my four children is that they would become good travelers. This has certainly panned out for Kaley and Rachel because they have ventured and continued to venture to many places in this world. This is also becoming true of Theo and Tess as they have already been in a number of states and countries. They love hotels, airplanes (as long as the trip isn't too long), ships, boats, and new places.

Mary, the mother of Jesus must have been a good traveler too. We easily remember her adventurous trip to Bethlehem, but she also made another trek to the “hill country” during her pregnancy. Her journeys really frame a lot of what takes place these church seasons of Advent and Christmas.

As any seasoned traveler knows, what makes a good trip is to prepare things before ever leaving the household. Getting ready for our Advent(ure) involves more than just unpacking the old advent wreath or getting out the decorations and untangling the lights. It means getting our hearts and lives ready for Jesus. Ready hearts are filled with faith, joy, and hope. With ready hearts, we like Mary can set off to carry out God's plan for our lives and we await in eager anticipation of the Savior's birth. With Christ, new lives of freedom, forgiveness, love, and salvation begin again and again. The days leading up before most trips begin can be both exciting and scary. We don't know what will happen. But as our Advent journey begins, we already know what to expect, and we are expecting the one who arrives in a manger – a Savior for this world. May that expectation dominate these Advent days and may all your Christmas celebrations be blessed.

See you in worship,

Pastor Randy

PGSO

ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP

Our Advent midweek worship services are less this year, due to the way the calendar falls in such a unique way. This year there will be only 2 services on the Tuesdays in Advent. Once again, we will use Holden Evening Prayer as our worship format. We invite you to take time during this busy month in the Advent season and holiday rush to pause and remember the core of what this is all about.

There will be a type of online midweek Advent devotion made available for everyone, but it will not be a repeat of the midweek service.

Tuesday, December 12th @ 7:00PM

Tuesday, December 19th @ 7:00PM

"A Nativity Suite" an organ recital by James Alfieri will follow the worship service.

SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER

Sunday morning (one 9:30AM Service only) – December 24th will be celebrated as the 4th Sunday in Advent.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES later that day follow our regular schedule:

5:30PM: - Holy Communion Christmas Service

7:30PM: - Holy Communion Christmas Service—
(Prelude music with the choir to begin at 7:00 PM)

11:00PM: - Holy Communion Christmas Service

DECEMBER 31st

NEW YEAR'S EVE

One 9:30AM worship service.



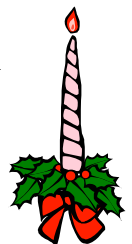
MEN'S "HOLIDAY NIGHT"

As in recent times, traditionally following the women's Advent Tea, the men of the congregation meet for the "Men's Holiday Night. This will occur at London Pickleworks here in Brecksville on Monday, December 11th @ 6:30PM. Join us for dinner or a drink or just some great conversation!

HOLIDAY GRIEF

Sunday, December 3rd—9:00AM—12:00PM

Celebrating the holidays after the death of a loved one is different. It is a time when the change in our life seems the most obvious. If you or someone you know is seeking support as we approach Christmas learn some ways to remember and honor loved ones during the holidays. Please contact parish nurse Jill for information about using a memory candle and handouts that may be of assistance during this time.



Dear CRLC Family,

The Faith Formation Advent Team will be providing you with a chance to share your thoughts and insights this Advent season. There will be 4 large candles on display in our gathering space with the labels. HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE. We ask that you post anything, be it words or pictures, on the appropriate candle that represents this message to you.

We wish everyone a blessed Advent journey as this gives us yet another way to share in this wonderful season of anticipation.



ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

On Sunday, November 19th our annual congregational meeting was conducted following the 10:30 worship service. A motion was passed to fund a 2024 parking lot project at 75% from existing funds while seeking to raise 25% from the congregation. A 2024 Mission Investment Plan (Budget) was approved, and the following were elected/appointed to leadership positions:

Vision Board: Steve Wilson and Ryan Haely

Vision Board Youth Representative: Zach Toghill

Treasurer: Laura Kiick

The following were ratified for the 2024 Ministry Board:

Education: Kathy Hoinski

Serving: Linda Radefeld and Jan Romance

Fellowship: *Open at this writing*

Worship: Mark Lickert

Secretary: Diane Haberny

WE THANK the following individuals who completed their terms of leadership:

Ministry Board: Lisa Witzke (Worship); Gail Berzins & Jennifer Eisenmann (Evangelism); and Jeanne Travagianti and Joan Castelucci (Fellowship)

Also at the 8:00 service we recognized this year's HIDDEN DISCIPLES:

Lauren Jirousek and Al Radefeld

Lauren– For all her work in our kitchen, all her work with bereaved families in helping to organize the funeral meals, and beyond – Lauren does many things behind the scenes.

Al – For all the many projects he has led, tackle and participated with, his many trips to Redeemer Crises Center, and his work with our insurance companies, Al also does many things behind the scenes.

Congratulations and Thanks Al & Lauren!

TIME TO ORDER POINSETTIAS!

Each plant is 7.5" double-stem red and is \$16.00 Orders must be in no later than December 10th Payment must be included with order. Please make checks payable to CRLC Flower Fund and place them in the collection plate or mail them to the church office. Poinsettias may be picked up after the Christmas Eve 11:00PM service.

Forms are available at the message center. For questions contact Maureen Michal (440) 526-2975.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER

After a long career working for a fortune 100 company, I decided to leave. It was a difficult decision to make, but I knew that God was guiding me to a more peaceful time in my life, as well as a more soul nurturing journey.

For several years I worked, and still work, part-time for our family print shop, Kehoe Brothers Printing. I felt I wanted to do more. My goal was to find a part-time position, so I could continue to help the family business and be home for my family. There's nothing like hearing my sons walk through the door with their cheery "Hello" and being able to be there to answer them and ask about their day.

Recently I ran into an ex-coworker who shared that another co-worker now works for a church, I took this as a sign. Once home, I looked online and the first position to appear was the position at CRLC. The hours are perfect for my schedule, which allows me the time to do all the things I've always done for my family. After only being in the position for less than two weeks, I already feel extremely welcomed by the staff and those I've met thus far.

My greatest joy, and what I believe is my purpose, is to be a mom to my three wonderful boys. Not boys anymore – actually men, but as a mom, I'll always call them "my boys". My husband/best friend and I have been blessed to be part of their lives and God blessed us with boys that have kind hearts and loving souls. The best part of my day is being able to spend as much time with my family as I can, knowing that soon our boys will be moving out and having families of their own. I capture every laugh, experience, and lesson they teach me, while they're still home, trying my best to weave in a lifetime of my wisdom along the way.

I would be remiss not to mention our loving dog Izzy. The unconditional love she shows us every day, is a reminder to me to try to do the same with all that I do. What's that saying? "I want to be the person my dog thinks I am". **Blessings to all! Marci Kehoe**

"THEO -THURSDAY"



Theo Thursday continues this month. This informal time is led by Pastor Randy and is open to all. This month we will again be at Royal Breakfast restaurant on Thursday, December 21st @ 9:30AM. A couple of special guests may be present.

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHURCH?

If you are interested in joining Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church, speak with Pastor Randy.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SING IN THE CHRISTMAS CHOIR?

We're working on music for the December services and Christmas Eve. If you would like to join us, the choir will be rehearsing on Wednesdays at 7:00PM

Congregation and Charity Giving and our Taxes

On Sunday, December 3rd following our second service (appx 11:30AM) our member Laura Kiick (a financial planner and currently our church treasurer), has offered to share information about charitable giving and tax planning. This event is for informational purposes only and is a free event open to everyone.

Also here is some written information about these activities.

Maximize Tax Benefits While Giving to Charity

At this time of year, many of us enjoy giving to our favorite charities. But since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, you may no longer be eligible to deduct charitable donations on your tax return, or the deduction may be limited. If you have an investment account, you might be able to participate in strategies that will save dollars on your next tax return while providing the maximum amount of giving power for your family.

For example, if you are 70 ½ and have a pre-tax IRA account, you can make a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (“QCD”)** directly from your account. QCD’s avoid ordinary income tax entirely, thus reducing taxable income and potentially, Medicare premiums. Simply issue a check payable to a charity and give it directly to that organization. The maximum amount allowed for 2023 is \$100,000. For those taking Required Minimum Distributions, the QCD counts toward that requirement.

Another common strategy for anyone with after-tax investment accounts is **transferring appreciated stock/funds** (purchased at a lower price than it is today) directly to the charity. This avoids capital gains tax on the unrealized gain. The full amount of the gift still counts toward your ability to itemize deductions. An alternate option for those with after-tax investments is a **donor advised fund**. Ideally, this type of account is also funded with after-tax appreciated stocks/funds. This allows you to avoid capital gains tax and take the full deduction for the addition in one calendar year. Once the account is funded, there is generally an unlimited amount of time to make charitable donations. Many choose to “bunch” multiple years of giving goals into one year to be eligible to itemize.

These are just a few brief, easy to implement examples of how to use your existing assets to achieve charitable giving goals while saving more on your tax return. For more information, consult your tax and financial advisors to evaluate each strategy within the context of your full financial picture.



Congratulations to our Youth who were confirmed on Reformation Sunday:

Ben L., Ben W., Alex,

Logan, Lydia, Emerson, Olivia

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

We are pleased to announce the launch this Fall of “Growing in Faith” here in the Northeastern Ohio Synod!

In the letter to the Ephesians, the apostle Paul writes, “I pray that, according to the riches of God’s glory, you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through the Holy Spirit and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.”

Growing in Faith is a ministry within the ELCA committed to fostering learning environments for followers of Jesus to grow in faith as they become more deeply rooted and grounded in love. We believe that lay members of our congregations are integral to healthy discipleship in our churches and communities.

Growing in Faith is a series of classes that you can take quickly in sequence or at a leisurely pace as it is convenient for you. Each course runs for 5 weeks and the cost is \$70 per course. The dates and times of these courses will be announced as they become available.

The courses available for registration now include:

Introduction to the Old Testament – Zoom 6-9pm – Dec 14, Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25

You can read more [here](#), or register through this code:



You can also register through this link: www.tinyurl.com/NEOS-GiF.

For any questions about Growing in Faith, please contact Bishop Laura Barbins (lbarbins@neos-elca.org).



Everlasting Light A Setting of Holy Communion for Advent and Christmas

CRLC will be utilizing Rev. David Eck's Everlasting Light liturgical setting for Advent, 2023.

Rev. David Eck has been the pastor of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, Fairview, NC since 1993. He earned his MDiv from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg. He is a singer/songwriter who has released a number of worship CDs as well as devotional and liturgical materials. Pastor Dave lives in Asheville with his husband, Gary Mitchell, who is a retired school teacher and church musician. Together, they have two adopted children and two granddaughters. His Everlasting Light setting is based on carols of the season.

Kyrie: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

JEFFERSON is a gapped Southern white tune from the United States. It uses only six notes of the minor scale. The hymn tune was included in *The Southern Harmony* (1815), a hymnal compiled by William Walker (1809-1875). Walker collected southern Appalachian folk tunes that came from England, Scotch, Irish and Welsh sources. Known as "Singin' Billy", he taught singing in Tennessee, Georgia and the Carolinas using a four shape note system.

Glory to God: Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA is a sprightly French folk tune. The harmonization is by Edward S. Barnes (1887-1958) from *The New Church Hymnal* (1937). Edward Shippen Barnes was born in New Jersey and studied at Yale with Horatio Parker and in Paris with Vincent d'Indy and Louis Vierne. He was the organist and choir-master at the Church of the Incarnation and Rutgers Presbyterian Church in New York, St. Stephen's in Philadelphia and at First Presbyterian Church, Santa Monica, California.

Holy, Holy: Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella

According to both William Simon and Nancy J. Skarneas, the tune to this carol has been known since the 14th Century -- not as a sacred hymn, but as a lively dance. It was composed by Marc-Antoine Charpentier, for the drinking song, *Qu'ils sont doux, bouteille jolie* in a 1672 revival of Moliere's *Le médecin malgré lui*.

Lamb of God: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI, EMMANUEL was traced to a fifteenth-century French processional copied for Franciscan nuns, where it appears as a funeral responsory with the text "Bone Jesu" and a counter melody.

READINGS FOR DECEMBER

DECEMBER 3 – Advent 1

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

DECEMBER 10 – Advent 2

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

DECEMBER 17 – Advent 3

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thess 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

DECEMBER 24 – Advent 4

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

DECEMBER 31 – Christmas 1

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

Isaiah 61:10--62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

... The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

Health News

December is a time of celebrating. For Christians, the focus is the **wondrous gift of our Savior**. Yet for some, the expressions of happiness do not match true feelings. Recent life changes or ongoing challenges cause feelings of sadness and **loneliness**.

Loneliness is an emotion that can be felt even when surrounded by others. Loneliness implies a sense of *separateness* that feels unpleasant. A dictionary definition is: a depressing feeling of being alone. Contrast it with word **solitude**. **Solitude** reminds us of Jesus seeking time to be alone and private for prayer and meditation (Matthew 14:23). Solitude is sometime described as *tranquil*, or as an *intentional* activity to encourage **serenity**.

Studies have found that behavior & social environment shape health. Social isolation and loneliness are associated with increased risk of illness. Chronic loneliness is a predictor in health & well-being. Research showed a correlation between loneliness, stress and the body's immune response to cold & flu viruses. Community building decreases anxiety, depression and loneliness.

There are 3 types of support in our lives:

- **Social support:** someone to spend time with
- **Emotional support:** someone to talk to about personal issues
- **Instrumental support:** someone to help with everyday tasks



Consider others around you. *Which type of support can **you** reach out and provide comfortably*, to those who you sense may be experiencing loneliness? Prepare your heart and mind to express interest and concern to others in a sincere and respectful manner.

If you are personally feeling alone, consider acting intentionally to find persons and activities that will help you to be interactive. Friendships and support systems are built through some degree of outreach on both sides. Be open to God's guidance. Resilience can be learned. Talk to someone who can help – professional counselors, the pastor or myself.

Consider these tips to help deal with holiday stressors and to build resilience:

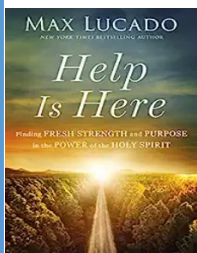
- Make connections. View the holidays as a time to reconnect with people.
- Set realistic goals. Take small concrete steps to deal with holiday tasks.
- Keep things in perspective. Avoid blowing events out of proportion.
- Take decisive actions. Make a decision to address the underlying cause of stressful situations.
- Take care of yourself. Pay attention to your own needs and feelings during the holiday season. Engage in activities that you enjoy and find relaxing.

Therefore, it is my wish for you this Blessed Christmastime, that you choose to intentionally seek time of solitude with the Lord - "He took them with him and they withdrew by themselves (Luke 9:10)" but in addition, to seek opportunities for social interaction.

May the Peace that comes from the Lord, help you to feel His Comforting Presence in Your Life.

Jill Koubal

Parish Nurse, RN, BSN



Women's Bible Study - No December Group Meeting

We will meet again on Wednesday, January 3rd at 10:00 and Thursday, January 4th at 7:00. Please read chapter 7 “How to Hear from God,” for the January Bible Study.

CRLC Faithful Readers—No December Group Meeting

Faithful Readers will not meet in December. We will meet again on January 17th at 10:00am in Chapelview Room. The book for January will be “The Other Einstein” by Marie Benedict.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE!

Pastor Blair Morgan has resumed his series doing an overview of the books of the Bible. Anyone can come any time – most of the sessions are stand alone on books of the Bible! Come and join this class! NOTE: No class on Christmas Eve or New Year’s Eve. Also no class on December 10th but come anyway for the youth breakfast and Sunday School Pageant during this time.

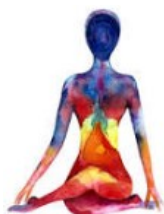
CHRISTMAS CANDLES

There will be **4 large candles** on display in our gathering space with the labels. *HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE*. We ask that you post anything, be it words or pictures, on the appropriate candle that represents this message to you.

We wish everyone a blessed Advent journey as this gives us yet another way to share in this wonderful season of anticipation.

EVANGELISM

GAIL BERZINS, JENNIFER EISENMANN



CHRISTIAN YOGA AT CRLC

Renew your mind, body, and spirit on Mondays, 7:00PM led by Jenna Waltz in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

The cost is a free will offering. Bring your own yoga mat.. For more information please contact Jenna.jenna.waltz@gmail.com.

PROPERTY

MIKE SKWARSKI, FACILITY MANAGER

If you notice something that needs to be fixed around the building, please complete a **Brown Maintenance Request Form** next to the mailboxes in the office and put it in Mike Skwarski’s (our Facility Manager) mailbox.



YAC

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, December 10th

8:30-10:30 am



Free-Will Offering will be taken for the ELCA Youth Gathering in July 2024.



Children's Christmas Program

9:15am

Come see our Sunday school Christmas program during the youth pancake breakfast. Please plan to attend both for a memorable Christmas breakfast show as our children continue to Shine Jesus' Light!

Christmas Gift Tree



Our 2023 Christmas Giving Tree Project will begin right after Thanksgiving. These gifts will be shared with children served by Redeemer Crisis Center. The tree will be displayed in the Gathering Space and decorated with gift tags. This year we will again be focusing on teens and preteens. Choose a tag, make your purchase and wrap. Please add the gift reminder tag on the outside of the present, so we know what is inside. If you purchase a clothing item with a logo, please indicate the color and logo (i.e. Browns orange t-shirt).

Return to Church by Sunday, December 10, 2023

so Santa has time to deliver!!

Harvest Sunday

Thank you for the generous donations of food items and paper products. All items will be delivered to Lend A Hand.



SOUTH HILLS LEND-A-HAND

We continue to collect food for the food pantry in Broadview Heights that serves residents of Brecksville, Broadview Heights, Independence and Seven Hills.

Call 440-526-0514 if you would like to help or need assistance.

Need on a more regular basis:

Tissues, Laundry Detergent and Canned Fruit

ITEMS NEEDED THE MOST:

canned meals/stew	canned soup
canned beans	canned fruit
canned vegetables	tuna fish
peanut butter & jelly	pancake mix
cereal rice	spaghetti sauce
macaroni & cheese	toilet paper
Tissues paper towels	diapers
hygiene products	liquid laundry detergent

USED CELL PHONES

Used cell phones are being collected throughout the year and will be donated to the **JOURNEY CENTER FOR SAFETY AND HEALING** (formerly *Domestic Violence Center*). There is a marked bag located on the coffee counter in the Gathering Space by the front entry doors.

The **JOURNEY CENTER FOR SAFETY AND HEALING** provides services that foster safety and healing for those affected by child abuse and domestic violence. Their model is grounded in self-determination and operates from a strengths-based philosophy while incorporating best practices and evidence-based strategies. Services are delivered through a trauma-informed lens with an emphasis on individual empowerment as persons navigate their own journey.

**We are collecting aluminum pull-tabs for
RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES.**

There is a large jar in the Gathering Space by the stairwell as well as in the coat room at the bottom of the food shelf.

REDEEMER CRISIS CENTER***NEW EMPHASIS ON ITEMS NEEDED*****Peanut Butter, Boxed Cereal and Toilet Paper**

Hand/toe warmers, Towels
Blankets and Comforters
Hand can openers, Pots and Pans
Electric fry pans & hot plates
Shampoo and Conditioner
Lotions, Body Wash, Shaving Cream
Toilet paper, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste

OASIS COLLECTION***NEW ITEMS***

Food items are needed for the OASIS ministry in Akron. There are about 50 children in the program that need to be fed.

Items can be dropped off at church into the NEW donation area of the coat closet.

Healthy after-school snacks for the children OASIS partners with. This would **include bags of small apples, bags of clementines or mandarin oranges, fruit cups, granola or fruit bars and peanut butter or cheese crackers**

Lutheran Disaster Response actively works in areas affected by tornados, hurricanes, flooding, wildfires and war. Donations can be made on our website home page or click on the donate tab. Checks can also be written to CRLC and write LDR on the memo line. CRLC will send your donation to LDR.

Women's Advent Social

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, REFRESHMENTS, AND SNACKS

The annual CRLC Advent Tea has been revamped a bit this year as we work to unite tradition with change. We will take the tea and candle lit contemplative service of the past, and add to it the simplicity of a potluck and social hour. We look forward to you joining us for this beautiful evening!

When: Tuesday, December 5th

Where: CRLC

Time: Doors open at 6:30 PM, Service at 7:00 PM
with refreshments to follow



Sign up in the gathering space to bring an app or desert to share.

WE BROUGHT BACK THE FELLOWSHIP!

Thanks to our ladies and gents who continually serve!



Christmas Caroling ... Bringing Cheer to Others!!

December 17th at 3:00PM, sign up on the message center

Under the direction of James Alfieri, the CRLC singers will once again bring cheer to others through the music of the season. There is no experience necessary to participate ... just a willingness to sing and spread joy! A sign up sheet will be in the narthex, and once we know who's participating, James will choose a date and finalize the details.

JOY TO THE WORLD!



A Ladies Lunch ... Join Us!
Fourth Tuesday of the Month

We hope you'll join other CRLC ladies for some lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, January 23rd. We'll meet at Simon's in Brecksville at 11:30am.

Mark your calendars for the fourth Tuesday of the month for this special time.

December - PASS
January 23rd
February 26th

Thankful to Kathleen Zakar for suggesting our lunches!
Signup on the Message Board in Narthex isn't necessary to join us!

WANTED

COFFEE HOSTS!

8:30AM - 10:30AM

STEP BY STEP DIRECTIONS PROVIDED

- START COFFEE
- BREW MORE AS NECESSARY
- BRING A SIMPLE SNACK TO SHARE
- CLEAN UP SPACE AFTERWARD

Can ask someone to share the time with you, or handle the morning yourself.
Easy and gratifying!

Sign up sheet in the narthex ... contact Jeanne or Joan with any questions

THANK YOU FOR HOSTING!

Annual CRLC Lake Chautauqua Getaway!!

MLK Weekend ... January 12-15, 2024

Don't miss out on this annual fun weekend spent in beautiful Lake Chautauqua, New York at the Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center. Sign up is in the narthex ... any questions can be directed to Jeanne or Paul Travaglianti.



When I contacted Pastor a couple years ago to offer to lead Fellowship again, I was excited and committed to bringing the Fellowship back to CRLC after the Covid years. I had a vision of offer-
ing a plethora of opportunities to gather ... with something for everyone. I was hopeful to enlist others to take on one event, or a part of the year, and spread the task so no one felt the whole burden of planning while our lives seem so busy. I was never able to get the second part of my vision off the ground, but with the help of my constant companion, Joan Castelucci, (who I called and enlisted right after I talked with Pastor), we did offer many opportunities to gather together, and we appreciate those who participated.

Along with the usual events falling under Fellowship ... Book Discussion, Card Group, Lenten Soup Suppers, Advent Tea, Hobby Nights and our yearly Lake Chautauqua Getaway

We added ... an Ice Cream Social (for members and the community the fireworks night of Brecksville's Home Days), S'More Fellowship (s'mores and conversation around a campfire), a Games Night (games and puzzles for all ages), a Family Fun Day at Kids Quarters (a time for parents to mingle while the kids played), an evening downtown on the Funny Bus (a fun couples night out), and a monthly Ladies Lunch

And ... we brought back Coffee Hours, Advent Tea, Christmas Caroling, the Reformation Dinner (thanks to the Kochs), and the Church Picnic.

A part of me, Jeanne, would love to continue in this church ministry as I've always loved time spent with my church family, but it's time to step aside and see what others can do. I encourage you to step up and see where you can help make Fellowship events happen at CRLC ... especially multigenerational events. There is so much to be learned from and shared with one another!

Thanks again to everyone who participated in something we offered ... we appreciate you and your support. Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving, and a Blessed and Merry Christmas!

Fellowship Ministry

Jeanne Travaglianti & Joan Castelucci

December Volunteers In Parish Service

As always, if you are unable to serve on a scheduled date, *please find your own replacement* and let the church office know by Wednesday of that week.

Thank you for your service!

December 3	8:00 am	10:30 am
Assisting Minister	Steve Wilson	Dianne Young
Communion Assistants	x	Al & Laurie Siebert
Blessors	Gail Berzins, Linda Radefeld	Kathy Hoinski, Lisa Witzke
Ushers	Don Laubacher, Mike Berzins	Wendy & Chris Dralle
Altar Care	Dorthea Kramer	Ilene Privara
Counters: Jeff Smith, Cathy Smith, Jeff Luksa		Coffee Hour Hosts: Jenni Halter
December 10	8:00 am	10:30 am
Assisting Minister	Mike Berzins	Lee Knicely
Communion Assistants	x	Frank & Mardell Boulton'
Blessors	Pam & Bob Bertsch	Pam Waltz, Debbie Dey
Ushers	Todd Kiick, Ken Blank	Jeff Dentzer, Jennifer Eisenmann
Altar Care	Lis Kroepel	Dana Vrcan
Counters: Jeff Dentzer, Mike Bodanza, Todd Romance		Coffee Hour Host: Pancake Breakfast
December 17	8:00 am	10:30am
Assisting Minister	Judy Hoshek	Elaine Foss
Communion Assistants	x	Jill & Karl Koubal
Blessors	Barb Wojtala, Jeanne Travaglianti	Nancyanne Sinclair
Ushers	George Stelmaschuk, Lis Kroepel	Blaine Coleman, Bill Waltz
Altar Care	Cheryl Stiefvater	Linda Eckenbrecht
Counters: Andrew Perry, Lisa Witzke		Coffee Hour Host: open
Christmas Eve Morning: December 24	9:30 am	ONE SERVICE
Assisting Minister	Dianne Young	
Communion Assistants	Ilene Privara, open	
Blessors:	open	
Ushers	Dan Bartik, Frank Boulton	
Altar Care	Dorthea Kramer	
Counters: Joy Petrovic, Dan Bartik, Dennis Farney		

December Volunteers In Parish Service

As always, if you are unable to serve on a scheduled date, *please find your own replacement* and let the church office know by Wednesday of that week.

Thank you for your service!

Christmas Eve Services

December 24 **5:30pm**

Assisting Minister	Elaine Foss
Communion Assistants	open
Ushers	open
Altar Care	Gail Stelmaschuk

December 24 **7:30pm**

Assisting Minister	open
Communion Assistants	open
Ushers	Lou Carouse
Altar Care	Shirley Fisher

December 24 **11:00pm**

Assisting Minister	Lis Kroepel
Communion Assistants	Dennis Nagy, open
Ushers	Scott Witzke, Lis Kroepel
Altar Care	Lis Kroepel

December 31 **9:30 am ONE SERVICE**

Assisting Minister	Judy Hoshek
Communion Assistants	Dianne Young
Ushers	Don Laubacher, Al Radefeld
Altar Care	Cheryl Stiefvater/Shirley Fisher

Counters: Peter Smith, Diane Wilson, Steve Wilson



- 1 Elaine Foss
- 6 Johnathan Miller
- 6 Sue Miller
- 6 Hilary Vilem
- 8 Sara DeBaltzo
- 8 Chris Hazelton
- 9 Gretchen Grossenbaugh
- 9 Beth Marcinko**
- 11 Janet Hansler
- 12 Christine Carouse
- 13 Alan Witzke
- 15 Laura Kiick
- 16 Sophie Klinger
- 17 Joy Petrovic**
- 17 Jenna Waltz
- 20 Frank Shima
- 21 Jeff Abke
- 21 Samantha Aller
- 26 Averie Boerner
- 28 Jeanne Travaglianti
- 28 Diana Mook
- 29 Mark Evans**
- 29 Karen Petro
- 30 Ayla Kusanke
- 30 Otto Witzke
- 31 Alex Koch

**= Milestone birthday



- 3 Jennifer and Mark Evans
- 20 Karen and Lee Knicely
- 21 Dianne and Joseph Kos
- 26 Ron Lasher & Lori Jakel
- 29 Meredith & Abe Shayeb
- 31 Brooks and Jacki Kerrick



*Wishing Everyone
a happy, healthy, blessed
Christmas!*

*Pastor Randy
James Alfieri*

Cecile Mastroianni

Jill Koubal

Marci Kehoe

Laurie Siebert

Paul Travaglianti

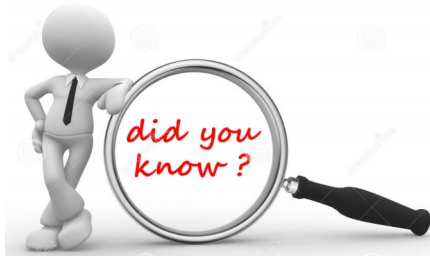


Online Giving

Convenient.
Simple.
Secure.

Did you know that we have the ability to receive online giving through our website?
(www.crlcbrecksville.org)

This option will allow for folks to contribute to our congregation using their credit card or debit card. There is not a cost for the church to host this ability, however this is a cost to us for every transaction that is processed. The donor however, can add this fee to any donation they make using this process so that the church receives the full amount intended. This will allow for folks who prefer to handle their giving in this way. This can be used for a one-time donation or it can be set up for reoccurring contributions. It also will allow specific giving to specific funds in our church. You also can download an app for your phone, and after a one-time set-up, you can easily use your mobile device for giving. Donors also have the ability to have recurring donations directly charged to their Bank or S&L checking or savings account through the church Simply Giving program without needing to use the on-line system. Please contact the church office to get more information or to set up this option."



- Did you know that we will again be using Holden Evening Prayer during our Advent Midweeks?
- Did you know that Christmas Eve is on Sunday this year? This creates some unique schedule changes.

- Did you know that Sunday, December 24th and December 31st we will have one 9:30AM service only?
- Did you know that the annual congregation meeting was held in November?
- Did you know that in 2024 some of our high school youth will attend the ELCA youth gathering in New Orleans?
- Did you know that our church treasurer, Laura Kiick, is going to offer an informational meeting about church giving and taxes? See more information in this newsletter.
- Did you know that Marci Kehoe is now working in the church office and replacing Karen Charbonneau? Stop in and welcome her!
- Did you know that in order to publicize something in the newsletter we need it by the 15th of the month prior?.

... and Now You Know!

CHRIST THE REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH PRAYS FOR. . .

Our Vision and Ministry Boards


Krause Family, Jones, Family, Kathie Brusk, Linnet Fritz,
Ken Kasper, Karen Knicely, Missy Koch, Nick Dobrinich,
Paul Cameron, Marlene Kasper, Jacob Cordiak, Janet Johnston,
Kim Jennings, Melissa Candage, Denise, John, Colby & Quintin,
Terry, Alice, Marcine, Lois Smith, Chris & Dave Foelber, Cole,
Kerri Weber, Doreen, Bob Gallik, Don, Marc, Adalyn, Tanya,
Celine Fernandez, Joanne North, Stuart, Bishop,
Charles, Ben, Nuvia Jim Miller, Saul Orelinus, Kristin,
Kafacsak Family, Phyllis Hassler
All those impacted by war and natural disasters





DECEMBER 2023

Praising God.
 Serving Others.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ADVENT 1 8:00a Worship/10:30a Worship 9:15a Sunday School for All 11:30a Charity Giving and our <u>Taxes</u> 9:00a-12:00p Holiday Grief	7:00p NO Yoga 7:30p AA Meeting	10:00a Staff Meeting 6:30p Women's Advent Social	7:00p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p AA Back to the Beginning	6:45p Kiwanis	Monthly INSIGHT Deadline	9:00a Decorate for Advent
ADVENT 2 8:00a Worship 8:30a YAC Pancake Breakfast 9:15a Sunday School/Christmas Pageant 10:30a Worship	7:00p Yoga 7:30p AA Meeting 6:30p Men's Holiday Night	10:00a Staff Meeting 7:00p Advent Worship	6:00p GS Troop 71369 7:00p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p AA Back to the Beginning	Winter Begins 21  9:30a Theo Thursday		
ADVENT 3 8:00a Worship 9:15a Sunday School for All 10:30a Worship 3:00 Christmas Caroling	7:00p Yoga 7:30p AA Meeting	10:00a Staff Meeting 7:00p Advent Worship/ Organ Recital	7:00p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p AA Back to the Beginning	6:45p Kiwanis		
ADVENT 4 Christmas Eve 24 9:30a Worship-One Morning Service 5:30p Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 7:30p Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 11:00p Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship	Christmas Day 25 Office Closed	Office Closed	7:00p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p AA Back to the Beginning	6:45p Kiwanis		
New Year's Eve 	9:30a Worship	CHRIST THE REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH 9201 Brecksville Road Brecksville, Ohio 44141 440.526.2303 www.office@crlcbrecksville.org Monthly Insight submissionsinsight@crlcbrecksville.org				

The monthly newsletter of:

CHRIST THE REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
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(440) 526.2303 www.crlcbrecksville.org

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The Reverend Randy O'Donnell, Pastor



2023