

## Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church



# INSIGHT

December 2025

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

### 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 & 10:30AM**

### 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**

## FROM THE PASTOR

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5)*

December is a month filled with light — candles on Advent wreaths, twinkling trees, and homes shining with warmth and color. But beyond the decorations, we are reminded of a far greater light — the light of Christ that shines into the darkness of our world. That's the heart of Christmas. In Jesus, God steps into our world, bringing hope where there is despair, peace where there is conflict, and joy where there is sorrow. This is the promise that we celebrate.

It's hard to believe that 2025 is coming to a close! I have been lamenting about the speed of time to the staff almost all year. As we enter this unique time of Advent and Christmas, our hearts are full of gratitude for all that God has done in our church family this year. From Sunday worship and Bible studies to fellowship meals, outreach projects, and quiet moments of prayer — we see God's faithfulness every step of the way.

December is always a special time at church. The sanctuary glows with candles and greenery, carols fill the air, and we gather to celebrate the greatest gift of all — Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. In the midst of all the busyness, may we pause to remember the simple miracle of that first Christmas: God's love coming near to us in the form of a child.

As we share this season with friends and family, let us also remember those who might be feeling alone or in need of a little extra hope. A kind word, a warm meal, or an invitation to worship can be a powerful way to share the love of Christ.

Thank you for being such a loving, caring community. May your Christmas be filled with peace, joy, and the warmth of God's presence — and may the coming year bring new opportunities to grow together in faith and love.

*See you in worship,*

*Pastor Randy*

**PGSO**

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

### Advent Midweek worship:

“What do you fear? Insisting on hope this Advent”

This year there will be 2 midweek Advent 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.

**Tuesday, December 9th @ 7:00PM**

**Tuesday, December 16th @ 7:00PM (Organ Concert following)**

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

5:30PM: - Holy Communion Christmas Service

7:30PM: - Holy Communion Christmas Service

11:00PM: - Holy Communion Christmas Service

**Also note:**

**December 28th -Sunday morning (one 9:30AM Service only)**

## PARTNERSHIP

This community group shares and discusses a word each month and the many and various ways in which we interact with it. **This month it is: GRATITUDE**

## “THEO-THURSDAY” RETURNS

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 Demetrios restaurant (note newer location - 7851 Broadview Rd, Seven Hills) on Thursday, December 18th @ 9:30AM.



## INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHURCH?

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

## 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 at [jenna.waltz@gmail.com](mailto:jenna.waltz@gmail.com).



### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Pastor Randy's Message
- Worship Schedule
- Theo-Thursday
- Poinsettia Orders
- Welcome New Members
- Concerts
- Grief and the Holidays
- YAC Pancake Breakfast & Jesus' Birthday
- Giving Tree
- Urgent Need
- Shelter Holiday Event
- Men's Holiday Night
- Women's Fellowship Night
- Women's Advent Social

## ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

On Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> our annual congregational meeting was conducted following the 10:30 worship service. A 2026 Mission Investment Plan (Budget) was approved, and the following were elected/appointed to leadership positions:

**Vision Board:** Tonya Pagel and Cristina Wells

**Vision Board Youth Representative:** Nate Brunovsky

**Treasurer:** Laura Kiick

**The following were ratified for the 2026 Ministry Board:**

**Education:** Kathy Hoinski

**Serving:** Linda Radefeld and Jan Romance

**Fellowship:** *Remains Open – if interested talk to Pastor Randy*

**Worship:** Mark Lickert

**Secretary:** Diane Haberny

We thank Dan Bartik who completed his term on the Vision Board

Also we recognized this year's HIDDEN DISCIPLES:  
James Alfieri – For his new ministry of concerts @ CRLC

Gail Stelmaschuk – For all the work she does for the altar care, concert series, outside worship and various leadership positions

***Congratulations and thanks James & Gail!***

## POINSETTIA ORDERS

Time to order poinsettias. Each plant is 7.5", double-stem red. The price is \$17.00. Orders can be found in the weekly church bulletin. Please make checks payable to CRLC Flower Fund and can be placed in the collection plate or brought to the church office. Poinsettias may be picked up after the Christmas Eve 11pm service.

**Orders must be placed no later than December 14th.**



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



**Patrick Marks & Annette Blanc**



**Susan Pilgrim**



**Loveri Family**



**Terry & Marlene Calaway**

## CRLC MUSIC MINISTRY ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2025

### **Rev. David Eck's Everlasting Light liturgical setting**

CRLC will begin utilizing Rev. David Eck's Everlasting Light liturgical setting for Advent, 2025. 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.

### **Marty Haugen's Holden Evening Prayer Dec. 9 and 16 at 7pm**

Written in 1985-86 by Marty Haugen during a musical residency at Holden Village, Holden Evening Prayer is a simple Lutheran vespers service that follows traditional form while using contemporary and inclusive language. Since then, the service has been adopted around the world and continues to be used weekly at Holden Village where it is lovingly known as Vespers '86. Once a year Holden invites Villagers across the globe to come together through participation in the Holden Evening Prayer. Together, we seek to support and draw strength from one another, reaffirming our values as people who have been called, equipped, and sent, and supporting each other's work in environmental stewardship and justice for all people.

### **"What Sweeter Music" A Christmas Cantata featuring the choirs of Good Shepherd Christian Church, Strongsville United Methodist Church and Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church Dec. 14 at 4pm.**

From John Leavitt comes this elegant cantata for Christmas, set up in the form of a classic "Lessons and Carols" service. A colorful tapestry of beautiful sounds, this major work has great variety in its scope and style.

### **"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" Advent Recital Dec. 16 at 7:30pm**

Piano and organ settings of this English metrical paraphrase of the "Cherubic Hymn" that comes from the Liturgy of St. James, and dates from the mid-fifth century.

### **Christmas Caroling and Fellowship Dec. 21 at 3pm**

Join us as we bring Christmas Joy to the residents of Chippewa Place in Brecksville. Hot chocolate and cookies follow in the Gathering Space.

### **Christmas Eve Extended Musical Prelude Dec. 24 at 7pm**

Featuring soloists, instrumentalists, Ruah! Musicians, CRLC choir and special guests.

**SACRED SOUND COLLECTIVE:**  
**A CLEVELAND AREA ECUMENICAL CHOIR**

FEATURING THE CHOIRS FROM:  
CHRIST THE REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
GOOD SHEPHERD CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
STRONGSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**WHAT SWEETER MUSIC**

**A CANTATA FOR CHRISTMAS**

BY JOHN LEAVITT  
HAL LEONARD CORPORATION

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>, 4:00PM**

CONCERT HELD AT:  
CHRIST THE REDEEMER CHURCH  
9201 BRECKSVILLE RD., BRECKSVILLE, OH 44141

FREE-WILL DONATION

# READINGS FOR DECEMBER

## DECEMBER 7—Second Sunday of Advent

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

Isaiah 11:1-10  
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Romans 15:4-13  
Matthew 3:1-12

## DECEMBER 14—Third Sunday of Advent

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

Isaiah 35:1-10  
Psalm 146:5-10  
James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11:2-11

## DECEMBER 21—Fourth Sunday of Advent

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

Isaiah 7:10-16  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-25

## DECEMBER 28—First Sunday of Christmas

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the "holy innocents" of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

Isaiah 63:7-9  
Psalm 148  
Hebrews 2:10-18  
Matthew 2:13-23

December is a time to prepare our hearts and homes to welcome the Christ Child. **Our Savior is our greatest Gift .**



As you prepare for Christmas, consider choosing *healthy holiday gifts and menus*. Here are some suggestions to get creative & stay healthy. Food often helps us feel connected to one another during the holiday. You don't need to deprive yourself, eat only boring foods, or take your treats with a side order of guilt; Instead, practice [defensive eating & cooking](#).

**Cook from (and for) the heart.** To show family & friends that you *really* care about them, be creative with recipes that use less butter, cream, lard, vegetable shortening, and other ingredients rich in [saturated fats](#).

Typical food gifts often encourage unhealthy eating during the holidays. Instead, consider gifts of fresh fruit or unsalted nuts - such as almonds & walnuts. An herbal tea assortment encourages flavorful relaxation.

Don't eat everything at feasts/parties. Be choosy & spend calories judiciously on the foods you love. **Make room for veggies.** At meals and parties, don't ignore fruits & vegetables. They make great snacks and even better side or main dishes — unless they're slathered with creamy sauces or butter.

Save your appetite for the big meal by skipping the appetizers or serving lighter snacks like cut-up fruits and veggies. **Eat with attention**—start small - eat slow enough to feel full. Eat what you enjoy. (polite “try” tastes are good for children.) Keep portions in check. Enjoy your favorites without overeating. Put less on your plate and pass on that second helping. Split appetizers, entrees and desserts with others. Enjoy some of the splurges of the season without overdoing it.

Many times, [low-grade hunger is actually a sign of dehydration](#). Alternate water with other drinks. **Limit liquid candy** – pop, energy drinks & juice. Sip Smarter! Fruit juice is fruit, but no more than 1/2 cup-1 cup/day. *Sugary beverages should be viewed as once-in-a-while treat not a dietary staple.*  
<https://www.healthdigest.com/413213/this-is-how-much-sugar-is-really-in-a-can-of-coke/>  
[https://www.cdc.gov/healthyweight/healthy\\_eating/drinks.html](https://www.cdc.gov/healthyweight/healthy_eating/drinks.html)

Swap out marshmallows & whipped cream with steamed or frothed low-fat milk.

Enjoy non-alcoholic versions of your favorite cocktails to lower the calorie count.

Gotta have the ‘nog’? If it's just not Christmas without eggnog, try a low-fat version or mix it with an equal amount of low-fat or nonfat milk. Enjoy the flavor without as many calories.

May you enjoy all the sights, sounds, smells & gifts of the Christmas season, inspired by the God's love for us manifested in the gift of our Savior. “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights...” James 1:17 NIV

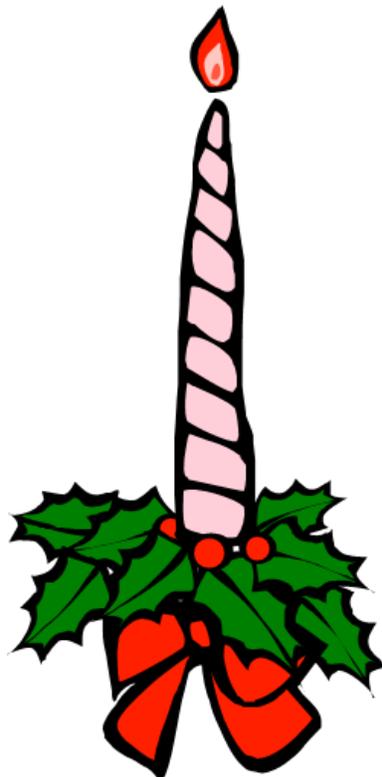
*Jill Koubal*  
Parish Nurse, RN, BSN

# Grief and the Holidays

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.

Come learn **some ways to remember and honor loved ones during the holidays.**

Please meet parish nurse Jill in her office after either the 8:00am or 10:30am worship services on **Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** to receive a **memory candle** and handouts that may be of assistance during this time.



*YAC*  
**PANCAKE  
BREAKFAST**



**IN FELLOWSHIP HALL  
HOSTED BY YAC (YOUTH AND CHRIST).  
EVERYONE IS INVITED WHILE CELEBRATING  
JESUS' BIRTH (HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS).**

*Sunday, December 21st*

*8:30 - 10:30am*

*Children's Christmas Program 9:30am*

ADVENT



The children are making Advent wreaths to share with their families along with information on the lighting of each candle.

CHILDREN'S TIME



Tess and Theo created Goliath after watching a video in Children's Church.

Our pre-K/ Kindergarten class were making fish to fill the nets to overflowing.



## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



### **“THE HISTORY OF LUTHERANISM IN NORTH AMERICA”**

Joel Bussard continues this series through the final month of this year.

Please note, there will NOT be class on the following Sundays:

December 21st – No class – pancake breakfast & children Christmas  
Birthday Party

December 28th – No class – Christmas break

Next year’s class topics are being decided.



*"It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving" - Mother Teresa*

## 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.*

**Lutheran Disaster Response** actively works in *areas affected by tornados, hurricanes, flooding, wild-fires 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.

## **Aluminum pull-tabs needed 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.

A local recycler turns the pull-tabs into *money for their Family Fund.*

## REDEEMER CRISIS CENTER

### \*EMPHASIS ON ITEMS NEEDED\*

**Peanut Butter, Boxed Cereal and Toilet Paper,**  
lamps & lightbulbs  
matching bed linens (bagged & size indicated)  
16 qt. pots for rice  
non-condensed soup in cans with pull-tab tops  
fruit in cans with pull-tab tops  
veggies in cans with pull-tab tops  
complete meal can goods with pull-tab tops  
tuna fish  
Peanut butter  
Personal hygiene items for men & women  
Toilet paper  
Hand held can openers

## OASIS COLLECTION

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

Food/Snacks—must be nut-free:

- individual bags of chips, pretzels, cookies, or goldfish crackers
- fruit snacks
- applesauce cups or squeeze packs
- Nutrigrain bars
- plastic spoons

Art Supplies:

- Sharpened pencils
- Crayons, markers, colored pencils
- Coloring books/sheets
- Loose notebook paper
- Plain and construction paper
- Stickers

Hygiene & Personal Items

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| • deodorant   | • body wash           |
| • hair scrunchies                                       | • gentle face wash    |
| • socks (youth sizes)                                   | • hand sanitizer      |
| • lip balm (unscented)                                  | • tissues             |
| • toothbrushes & toothpaste                             | • cocoa butter lotion |
| • individual packets of A&D ointment or petroleum jelly |                       |
| • girls underwear (4T, 5T, Youth S (5-6) and M (7-8))   |                       |

CRLC will continue to help OASIS financially as they continue to support and partner with multiple inner-city Lutheran church's efforts to help disadvantaged youth.



# It's Giving Tree Time

Our 2025 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.

1. Choose a tag from the table or basket.
2. Take off post-it note. Keep for a reminder & put on your wrapped package.
3. Put the paper ornament on the tree.

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Each gift should be between \$15-25 dollars. Smaller dollar amount gifts should be wrapped together.

All gifts must be delivered to the Church by  
Sunday, December 14, 2025  
so Santa has time to deliver!!

# URGENT NEED

THE REDEEMER CRISIS CENTER HAS A NEED FOR 8-10 PEOPLE TO HELP PACK CHRISTMAS FOOD BAGS ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11TH, FROM 7-9 PM. IF YOU ARE WILLING TO HELP, PLEASE CALL LINDA RADEFELD. 440-227-4899. SEVERAL OF US WENT TO HELP WITH THANKSGIVING BAGS AND IT WAS REWARDING AND ACTUALLY FUN.



## LMM THANKSGIVING MEALS

CRLC members packed Thanksgiving food at Redeemer Crisis Center on Wednesday, November 19th.

Thanks to all who helped! Linda and Al Radefeld, Blaine and Judy Coleman, Jan and Todd Romance, Mark and Susan Lickert





# IMPORTANT

## >>> **ACOLYTES** <<<

Scan to Sign Up for a service



Available 2-3 months at a time

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**1 spot in each  
8am and 10:30am worship  
service(s) available**

Contact Cristina Wells for training at  
[cris1781@gmail.com](mailto:cris1781@gmail.com)



# Shelter Holiday Event

A SPECIAL CELEBRATION  
DEC 25, 2025  
LMM MEN'S SHELTER

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A WAY TO MAKE YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS MORE MEANINGFUL THIS YEAR? OR, MAYBE YOU AND YOUR OWN LOVED ONES ARE MEETING ON A DAY OTHER THAN DEC 25 TO CELEBRATE? PLEASE CONSIDER SHARING A PART OF YOUR CHRISTMAS DAY WITH THE RESIDENTS AND STAFF AT THE LMM MEN'S SHELTER. IT WILL BE YOUR CHOICE ON HOW LONG YOU CARE TO STAY, YOUR CHOICE ON BRINGING A DISH, HELPING TO DECORATE, OR MERELY COMING TO ENJOY THE MUSIC, SHARING A SMILE AND A KIND LISTENING EAR. YOUR PRESENCE WILL ADD TO THE JOY OF THE DAY! THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING MAKING THIS OPPORTUNITY A PART OF YOUR CHRISTMAS PLAN.

PLEASE READ THE FLIER FOR MORE SPECIFICS, OR CALL THE NUMBERS LISTED FOR MORE INFORMATION.

LMM MEN'S SHELTER  
LOCATION :  
2100 LAKESIDE AVENUE,  
CLEVELAND, OH 44114  
ENTER AT 2020 LAKESIDE  
AVENUE ENTRANCE  
PARKING LOT LOCATED  
DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM  
FRONT DOOR

## Men's Shelter Holiday Banquet

Thursday, December 25 | 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Volunteer start time: 10:00 AM

2100 Lakeside Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114

Enter at 2020 Lakeside Ave. Parking lot directly across from front door.



**Food items needed:** Turkey, Stuffing, Chicken, Ham, Candied Yams/Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Cornbread, Desserts, Spaghetti, Vegetarian Dishes, or YOUR CHOICE.

**Other items needed:** Decorations, Table Cloths, Napkins, Paper Plates, and Plastic ware. Dishes can be dropped off between 10am on 12/24 until the end of the event.

Please join us as we share a holiday meal with the residents of the shelter. Please bring a dish, give a hug, serve a meal, hold a conversation and get to know someone, help decorate, or just give a little of your time. Help us to bring added joy to the holiday season.

**Contact & RSVP:**

Terry Vaughn (216) 333-2430 [tvaughn@lutheranmetro.org](mailto:tvaughn@lutheranmetro.org)  
Carl Cook (216) 376-0369 [carlcook2100@gmail.com](mailto:carlcook2100@gmail.com)



## South Hills Lend – A – Hand Food Pantry

Serving the Cities of •Broadview Heights•Independence•Seven Hills

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November 21, 2025

Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church  
9201 Brecksville Rd  
Brecksville OH 44141

Dear Congregation of Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church,

On behalf of South Hills Lend-A-Hand, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your generous support. Your recent donation of 309 pounds of food and non-perishable items, along with 60 pounds of paper goods, will have an immediate and meaningful impact on the families we serve each month.

We would also like to express our sincere thanks to Jan Romance and Linda Radfield for their exceptional efforts in organizing the food collection drive and carefully checking expiration dates. Their hard work, attention to detail, and dedication ensured that the donated items were ready for distribution and safe for the families who rely on our pantry.

Your church has long been a compassionate and committed partner in serving our community. This collection effort reflects the kindness, teamwork, and generosity that your congregation consistently demonstrates. Contributions like yours strengthen our mission and allow us to meet the growing needs of our neighbors with dignity and care.

Thank you again for your continued partnership and for supporting our community through your giving and volunteer leadership.

With sincere gratitude,

Karen Atwell, Chairperson  
and the Entire Staff at the South Hills Lend-A-Hand Food Pantry

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**P.O. Box 470972•Broadview Heights, Ohio 44147•(440) 526-0514**

South Hills Lend A Hand is a 501(c)(3) organization (EIN 34-1757991)  
Donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law



Sign-up form is on the message board in the Narthex.



### **MEN'S "HOLIDAY NIGHT"**

As in recent times, traditionally following the women's Advent Social, the men of the congregation meet for the "Men's Advent Beer." It is open to all! This will occur at London Pickleworks here in Brecksville on Wednesday, December 10th @ 6:00PM.



### **ANNUAL CRLC LAKE CHAUTAUQUA GETAWAY NOTICE**

The anticipated CRLC Lake Chautauqua Getaway is canceled at this time. Should the situation change, please watch the church calendar, website and message board in the Narthex for updates.

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

The Women's Fellowship Night was full of talent and fun, as the ladies made gorgeous cards and sun catchers for our homebound members. Each card and catcher was made with love, as you can see from the photos. These will be delivered to the recipients in time for the holidays.

Thanks to all who participated!

Their creations were well received with notes of thanks such as: "I want to thank you and all of the women's group for the sun catcher. I put it on the window and since I get the afternoon sun, I am constantly looking at it and enjoying it! Please let the ladies know I REALLY APPRECIATE it!" - Marlene Mackenzie

I just wanted to thank you for the lovely butterfly. We have it up in the front window. We appreciate it. We appreciate all your efforts and thank you to all the ladies.—Connie Morović



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NIGHT—continued



# Women's Advent Social

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, REFRESHMENTS, AND SNACKS

Please plan on gathering together to start off the Advent Season so that together we can prepare our souls for the gift of Christmas to come!

When: Tuesday, December 2nd

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.

## 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*

<b>December 7</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>
Assisting Minister	Diane Wilson	Adrienne Davic
Communion Assistants	x	Wendy Dralle, Dennis Nagy
Blessors	Lisa Antonucci, Jeanne Travaglianti	Pam Waltz, Lisa Witzke/Sandy Weiss
Ushers	Mark Evans, Lisa Antonucci	Dana Vrcan, Frank Boulton
Altar Care	Pam & Bob Bertsch	Jan Hansler
Counters: Jeff & Cathy Smith, Jeff Luksa		Coffee host: Jeanne Travaglianti
<b>December 14</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>
Assisting Minister	Steve Wilson	Mark Lickert
Communion Assistants	x	Judy & Blaine Coleman
Blessors	Pam & Bob Bertsch	Debbie Dey, Jan Romance
Ushers	George Stelmaschuk, Todd Kiick	Blaine Coleman, Jeff Dentzer
Altar Care	Dorthea Kramer	Linda Eckenbrecht
Counters: Jeff Dentzer, Todd Romance		Coffee host: Jenni Halter
<b>December 21</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>
Assisting Minister	Don Dobos	Cristina Wells
Communion Assistants	x	Shirley Fisher, Lisa Witzke
Blessors	Gail Berzins, Joan Huber	Ina Stanek, Nancyanne Sindair
Ushers	Don Laubacher, Mike Berzins	Dan Bartik, Amy Marek
Altar Care	Cheryl Stiefvater	Dana Vrcan
Counters: Mike Bodanza, Elaine Foss, Lisa Witzke		Coffee host: Pancake breakfast

## 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	Please put See Sign-Up Genius
Communion Assistants	Please put See Sign-Up Genius
Ushers	George Stelmaschuk
Altar Care	Gail Stelmaschuk

#### December 24 7:30pm

Assisting Minister	Please put See Sign-Up Genius
Communion Assistants	Please put See Sign-Up Genius
Ushers	Lou Carouse, Frank Boulton, Dennis Nagy
Altar Care	Shirley Fisher

#### December 24 11:00pm

Assisting Minister	Please put See Sign-Up Genius
Communion Assistants	Please put See Sign-Up Genius
Ushers	Scott Witzke
Altar Care	Shirley Fisher

#### December 28 9:30 am ONE SERVICE

Assisting Minister	Dianne Young
Communion Assistants	Pam Carouse, Cheryl Laubacher
Ushers	Scott Witzke, Dennis Nagy
Altar Care	Gail Stelmaschuk
Counters: Joy Petrovic, Dan Bartik, Dennis Famey	Coffee host: No coffee hour

# Happy Birthday!

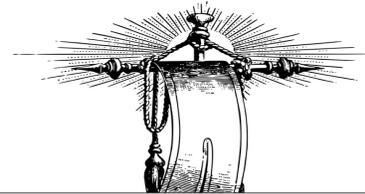
# Happy Anniversary!

1 Elaine Foss  
2 Lisa Dye  
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  
17 Joy Petrovic  
17 Jenna Waltz  
17 Terry Calaway  
19 Donna Payerle  
20 Frank Shima  
21 Jeff Abke  
21 Samantha Aller  
26 Averie Boerner  
28 Jeanne Travaglianti  
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



*"God does not need your good works,  
but your neighbor does."—Martin  
Luther*



Did you know that we have the ability to receive online giving through our website?  
([www.crlcbrecksville.org](http://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 recurring 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

- ◆ Did you know that on Sunday, December 28th we will have one 9:30AM service only?
- ◆ Did you know the youth of all ages will be doing the pancake breakfast and pageant on Sunday, December 21st?
- ◆ Did you know that we will again be doing Holden Evening Prayer during our Advent Midweeks? This year's theme is: "What do you fear? Insisting on hope this Advent"
- ◆ Did you know that the Long View Team continues to meet about our future ministry together?
- ◆ Did you know that we welcomed our newest members to CRLC last month?
- ◆ Did you know that Christmas Eve is on Wednesday this year? Check this newsletter for service times.
- ◆ Did you know that we held the annual congregation meeting was held in November? More details are in this newsletter.
- ◆ Did you know that in 2026 some of our youth will attend the Youth Quake in Pittsburgh in January?
- ◆ 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

Karen Knicely, Jirousek family, Lisa Witzke, Mark Antonucci, Rob Stiefvater, Joan Castelucci, Pam Carouse, Peggy Springer, Lauren Jirousek, Doris Caldart, Alberta Manzi, Don Brusk, Bev Sabella, Gretchen Grossenbaugh, Ken Kasper, Adalyn, Nancy, Fred Denk, Donna Franz, Mason Georgianna Bojtos, Paul & family, Ellen Carouse, Diane, Bev  
All those impacted by war and natural disasters.

Prayer concerns will be removed after 8 weeks, unless otherwise requested.



# DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> 6:30pm – 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal- James Alfieri	<b>2</b> 6:30pm Women's Advent Social	<b>3</b> 7:00pm Adult Choir	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Second Sunday in Advent: 8:00am Worship 9:00am – 12:00pm Holiday Craft with Jill Koubal 9:15am Adult Sunday School- History of Lutheranism in North America 9:15am Sunday School-All Ages 11:30am Worship	<b>8</b> 7:00pm Yoga	<b>9</b> 7:00pm Advent Worship	<b>10</b> 6:00pm Men's Advent Fellowship Night 7:00pm Adult Choir	<b>11</b> 7:00pm – 9:00pm Redeemer Crisis Center – pack Christmas food bags	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Gifts are given today! Third Sunday in Advent: 8:00am Worship 9:15am Adult Sunday School- History of Lutheranism in North America 9:15am Sunday School-All Ages 11:30am Worship 4:00pm What Sweater Music? A Contest for Christmas-Caroler	<b>15</b> 7:00pm Yoga	<b>16</b> 7:00pm Advent Worship 7:30pm Advent Musical Concert by James	<b>17</b> 7:00pm Adult Choir	<b>18</b> 9:30am Theo- Thursday at Demetrius	<b>19</b> Poinsettia delivery	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Fourth Sunday in Advent: 8:00am Worship 9:00am – 10:00am VAC Ferrelle Breakfast 9:15am Children's Christmas Pageant-Happy Birthday Jesus 9:30am 11:30am Worship 3:00pm Christmas Caroling at Chippewa Place	<b>22</b> 7:00pm Yoga	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 8:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 7:00pm – 7:30pm Extended Christmas Prelude 7:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 11:00am Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship	<b>25</b> Christmas	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:30am Worship- One Service Today	<b>29</b> 7:00pm Yoga	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>CHRIST THE REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> <b>9201 Brecksville Road Brecksville, Ohio 44141</b> <b>440.526.2303 <a href="http://www.office@crfbrecksville.org">www.office@crfbrecksville.org</a></b> <b>Monthly insight submissions: <a href="mailto:insight@crfbrecksville.org">insight@crfbrecksville.org</a></b>		

*The monthly newsletter of:*

**CHRIST THE REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**9201 BRECKSVILLE ROAD BRECKSVILLE OH 44141**  
(440) 526.2303 [www.crlcbrecksville.org](http://www.crlcbrecksville.org)

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*Praising God. Serving Others.*

The Reverend Randy O'Donnell, Pastor



*2025*