
NEWSLETTER

Issue 4

December 2019



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Message from the Vicar

O Come, O Come Emmanuel.....This beloved hymn is sung throughout our churches this advent season and provides the prayer of our heart. Emmanuel comes to us from a Hebrew word and means “God is with Us.” While we are busily preparing our homes for the Christmas events that are to come with shopping and baking and wrapping, we also prepare our hearts and our minds for the child that is to come. The baby who is to be borne of the courageous young girl, Mary, and her faithful husband, Joseph. The power of this prayer, “O Come Emmanuel” reveals our deepest need. Throughout our lives, all through the year, we encounter struggles and pain which sometimes seem to be more than we can bear, and into these moments, we pray for God to be present with us – O Come Emmanuel. When we celebrate the joys and miracles of life, we exclaim our thankfulness that God is with us in those moments too.

In a world which seems to totter on the brink of chaos, fears abound – from poverty to climate change to medical costs to the opioid crisis to veterans suicide to the deep divide in our country’s political and cultural beliefs – it can feel like we are battered from all sides. But as Christians, followers of this Christ-child who was born as a human child to experience life and all its difficulties just as we do, we are called to be present amidst this turmoil. Christ calls us to Keep Awake, be aware of these struggles and find how it is that we can help, how we can alleviate the suffering of others and the groaning of God’s creation. And, we can do these things because we pray, O Come Emmanuel. Only within the shelter and protection of God’s merciful love and compassion can we show the courage of Mary and offer ourselves to serve our God and our neighbor.

When things get too hectic this holiday season, remember this prayer. Keep it with you every day. O Come, O Come Emmanuel. May God be with you and with your family and friends, both near and far. The miracle we await will come with joy this Christmas. Let your hearts be of good courage for the world needs you and your witness to the light of the Christ child who came to scatter the darkness of this troubled world.

Advent Blessings,
Vicar Jennifer

The President's Page

As we end 2019 I would like to thank the congregation of Christ Lutheran for all you do. We have again done "God's work with our hands." this past year. Thank you for that. Let us continue to show the love of Christ in all we do in the year to come.

May the Blessings and Joy of Christmas be in our hearts all year long.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Bill

News from Social Ministry

On November 24, our Social Ministry members organized a food drive for our Harvest Home.

Please note, there are envelopes in the narthex for Join Hands. Our church refers people to this organization to assist with gas and other needs.

If you would like to purchase Mutzy Money, please see Cindy Brookhart. If members purchase \$500 or more, we receive 5% from Mutzabaugh's Market which we use to help needy people in our community.

Our Social Ministry mission is to provide the members of CLC ways to serve the needs of our neighbors and to encourage each member of the church to participate in this service.

Our council members are: Donna Clay, Sandy Hoover, Sandy Morrison, Gail Smith who serves as Council Liaison and Velma Wittlinger who serves Chairwoman.

-Velma Wittlinger

Christmas on the Tavern Green

The Duncannon Borough Parks & Recreation, in conjunction with The Market On Tavern Green, will hold a Christmas event on Saturday December 7 from 2:00 – 6:00 PM. Kendra Masser will be representing Christ Lutheran Church. We are asking the congregation for donations of candy to hand out to the children during the event.

"For the Christmas event happening in Duncannon on December 7th, I will be organizing the church table with a fun activity for the children. I am planning on baking sugar cookies and making icing with the help from other church members. Children will have the opportunity to "paint" the icing on their cookies and then eat their delicious artwork." - Kendra Masser

Calendar of Events

December 1 – Advent begins

December 4 – Ladies Advent Breakfast at 9:30 AM Otterbein UMC.

December 4 – Midweek Service at 6:30 PM. Soup & Bread served at 5:45 PM.

December 5 – Council Meeting – 6:30 PM.

December 7 – Final Gifts of Grace Clothing Bank 9:00 – 10:00 AM

December 7 – Duncannon Borough Holiday Kickoff from 2:00 – 6:00 PM. CLC will host a table.

December 8 – Hanging of the greens following worship service. Please bring a light snack to share.

December 11 – Midweek Service 6:30 PM, Soup & Bread served at 5:45 PM

December 14 – Men's Breakfast at 8:30 AM

December 15 – Advent Family Hour at 8:45 AM. We will be assembling good baskets for our homebound members. The Youth will lead the 10 AM worship service.

December 15 – Longest Night Service at 6:30 PM.

The Christmas season is often marked by expressions of joy, excitement, and happiness. It's a time for family to gather and for churches to worship pointing to the hope that is found in the coming of the Christ child. Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people in our congregations and communities. There is a growing attentiveness to the needs of people who are blue at Christmas. Increasing numbers of churches are creating sacred space for people living through dark times. Such services are reflective, accepting where we really are, and holding out healing and hope.

December 16 – Congregational Christmas Party at 6:00 PM, please bring a covered dish.

December 18 – 3rd (last) Midweek service. This will be a hymn sing. The community is invited to share soup and bread prior to the hymn sing. We will be singing Christmas Carols!

December 24 – Candlelight Christmas Eve Services: 5:00pm & 7:30pm.

December 29 – Service of Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion.

January 5 – The Duncannon Council of Churches will sponsor a Festival of Music on Sunday January 5, 2020 at 3:00 PM at the Presbyterian Church. Please see Joe Abate or Vicar Jennifer if you would like to share a gift of music during the Christmas season.

January 12 – Game Day at 2:00 PM, bring your favorite game and a snack for an afternoon of fun.

February 2 – Super Bowl Chili Cook-off at 4:00 PM

February 15 – Valentine Day Pasta Night at 5:30 PM

-- Cindy Brookhart

Contact Us:

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Christ Lutheran Church Duncannon, PA

Newsletter Updates: ssford@comcast.net

Upcoming Newsletters

January through March - please have news articles to me by December 30, 2019

April through June – please have new articles to me by March 31, 2020

July through September – please have new articles to me by June 30, 2020

October through December – please have new articles to me by September 30, 2020

***A supplemental December 1 newsletter will be published if needed.

Articles for the newsletter can be emailed to ssford@comcast.net, the information you wish to have in the newsletter can be typed into the body of the email or sent in a Word document or call me at 717-443-1911.