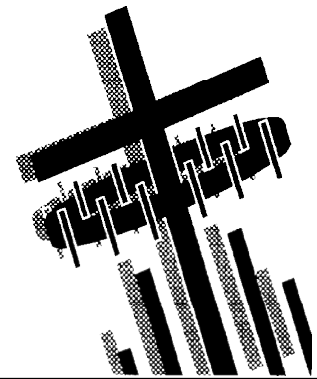


# Comments



324 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, SE ~ Hickory, NC 28602 ~ 828-328-1483 ~ January 2025

## Christ Lutheran Church – 125 Years

*God Is Still Making All Things New*

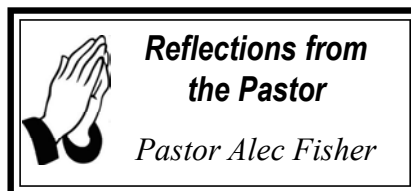
*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth* (Genesis 1:1). These words pierce the fabric of reality, through space and time. Through good times and bad, human history—world history—is full of tragedies and triumphs, victories and catastrophes which bind humanity together and tear us apart. These words bring us back to the beginning of the universe itself. Before all things, there was God.

At the very beginning of his gospel account, St. John reframes this history. He writes, *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it* (John 1:1-4). The Son of God, the Word of God, has been there this whole time, before it all, before time itself. God was always working toward something. And now, the one through whom the world was created was coming into this world to bring about transformation and renewal, something that the world had not seen or experienced since the day God began to create it.

In John’s vision on the island of Patmos, he sees a new heaven and a new earth and says that the old heaven and the old earth have passed away. He

writes, *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new”*

(Revelation 21:3-5a).



**I AM MAKING ALL THINGS NEW!** It’s notable that God does *not* say that he *will* make all things new. The verb is in the present tense, not the future. I *am* making all things

new. God will complete his work at the culmination of time, but his restoration is not just some far off future event. God began his work of restoration when his Son, Jesus Christ, came into this world to bring about our salvation—the salvation of his creation. God is, has been, and will continue making all things new. He has been doing this work for our whole lives.

God carries out his work in all corners of his Kingdom in many and various ways—in all kinds of contexts. In the year 1900, God decided to carry out his work of making all things new in the new congregation called Christ Lutheran Church. In this year, 2025, we celebrate that our God has been at work making all things new in the midst of Christ

(continued on page 2)

# CLC Notes and News

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(continued from page 1)

Lutheran Church for 125 years. In the 1900's, God was making all things new. In the 1920's, God was making all things new. In the 1950's, God was making all things new. In the 1970's and '80's, God was making all things new. In the 1990's and the 2000's, God was making all things new. And now, in 2025, God continues his work of making all things new in our midst as each day of our lives points us to that final day when his work will be complete.

This year, we're going to celebrate; we're going to remember; we're going to reflect. Holding close all those memories of the past, we're going to cherish what our God has done to make this congregation such a special community, through which he has worked to build his Kingdom. We're also going to embrace our God's ongoing work. We're going to envision; we're going to dream; we're going to embrace all that our God has in store for us as we continually move into the future! After 125 years, God is still making all things new! I look forward to celebrating this year! May our Lord bless the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church as he works through us to proclaim his eternal gospel!

*And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true"*

(Revelation 21:5).

In the Love of Christ,  
*Pastor Alec*

A decorative graphic with the words "Happy New Year!" written in a highly ornate, black cursive script. The letters are thick and feature elaborate flourishes and swirls, particularly around the 'H' and 'Y'. The text is centered and occupies the lower-left portion of the page.

## New Sunday Small Group Studies – Beginning January 12<sup>th</sup>

One of the wonderful blessings of Christian community is the bond we build when we gather together around God's Word. We have the opportunity to do just that with several new small group studies which will start up in the new year, **beginning January 12**. There will be several choices that will take place on **Sundays** at both **9:00am** and **10:30am**. Here is a list of topics that will be available and where they will be meeting:

### at 9:00am

- "Nurturing Your Faith: Patient Urgency"  
(ongoing) - *Media Room*
- "The Great Divorce" discussion -  
*Youth Room*
- "The Momentum Theorem" by Dave  
Ramsey - *Multi-purpose Room*

### at 10:30am

- "In the Footsteps of the Savior" by  
Max Lucado - *Media Room*
- Young Adult Group - *Youth Room*
- "The Great Divorce" discussion -  
*Multi-purpose Room*

The New Year is a perfect time to start something new to enrich your life. We hope you'll consider joining one of these groups!

*Dear Friends,*

*Thank you so very much for your generosity in feeding our J.V. football players at Hickory High! The sandwiches, chips and everything are so very appreciated!*

*God bless you all,*

*Lee Ann Arnason (JV mom)*



The LWML will meet on January 8, the second Wednesday instead of the first, at 11:00am in the multi-purpose

room. Kathy Ludwig will lead the topic from the winter quarterly. Please bring your quarterly with you.

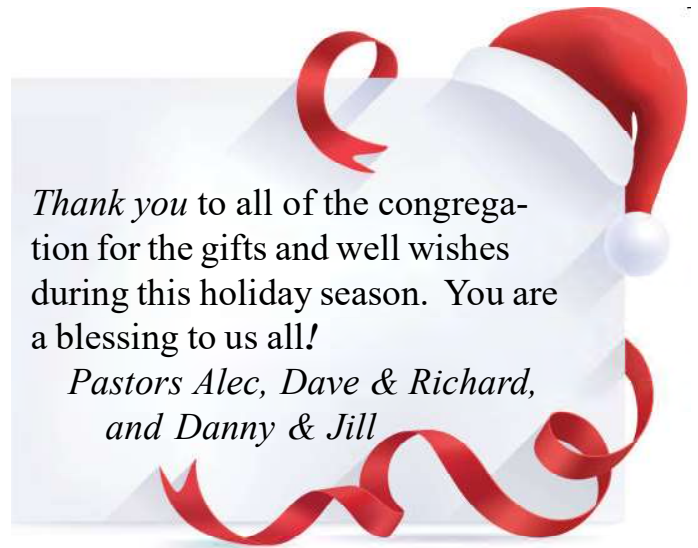
Again, we thank the congregation for helping us with our mites by picking up the box and putting your pennies and quarters into it. Return them to the LWML basket.

## Guiding Through God's Love

**January Door Offering: Rebuild Camp Linn Haven**, both Camp and Mountainside congregation had much damage in the aftermath of Helene. We will help Camp Linn Haven to be ready to open for the summer season with our donations.



Linda Bolick is just taking a quick break at the Hickory Soup Kitchen! It is such a blessing to be able to give back to the community. Won't you come to help on the third Wednesday of each month? You will be the one receiving the blessing!!



*Thank you to all of the congregation for the gifts and well wishes during this holiday season. You are a blessing to us all!*

*Pastors Alec, Dave & Richard,  
and Danny & Jill*

*Dear Friends:*

*Thank you for partnering with us in ministering to the needy in our community. Generous gifts like yours make it possible for us to help meet the increasing needs of those who are hungry in our area. We depend upon faithful friends like you to enable us to continue to address their needs. Thank you for putting your compassion into action. Your generosity is an incredible blessing! Thank you!*

*Sincerely,*

*Austin Pearce, Exec. Dir.*



# THE CHURCH FAMILY

## JOYS, PRAYERS, & CONCERNS

### Mission outreach for:

- our ministry of Guiding through God's Love
- local outreach ministers: CCM, Soup Kitchen, University Christian High School, Pregnancy Care Center
- Mid-Atlantic Lutherans in Mission (malim.org)
- Lutheran Heritage Foundation

**Hospital:** George Bixby (12/18 friend of Ludwigs)

**Recovering:** Judy Baker (12/15); Tim Brewer (11/24); Rebecca Locke (12/17); Lisa Smith (11/24); Jim Starkey (12/15); Rita Crotts (12/1 sister of Tony Lail); Eli (friend of Betsy Downs); Charlie McKelvain (12/15 grandson of Jennifer Hughes, son of Ashley); George Dengin (12/15 father of Chelsea Donovan)

**Undergoing treatments:** Teresa Mays; Joanne Moser (12/1); Doris Smith; Courtney Brown (12/15 friend of the Hamby's); Barbara Jones (sister of Lois Hunt)

**Under doctors' care:** Kathie Albright (12/1); Shelly Baker; Barbara Clemons; Carmen Divers; Becky Rimmer; Rita Roseman; John Sigmon; Paul Gadd (12/1 friend of Betty Link); Thomas Coley (12/8 brother-in-law of Jimmy Gantt); Paul Cates (12/8 husband of Angela)

**For shut-ins:** Juanita Isenhower at Trinity Village; David & Donna Lumb at home; Peggy Mays; Robert Sigmon (Autumn Care, Statesville); Carolyn Smith (Autumn Care); Randy Smith; Alice Yount

**If not otherwise updated, prayer requests will remain on the Prayer List for four (4) weeks.** Some dates are listed next to names to indicate when a person has been added to the Prayer List. Please update the church office with any changes within four (4) weeks to help us keep the Prayer List current.



Financial Stewardship		
	Actual: Nov. 2024	Actual: Jan.–Nov. 2024
Income	\$ 20,284.48	\$ 253,943.92
Expense	\$ 23,579.72	\$ 257,445.92
Net Income	– \$ 3,295.24	– \$ 3,502.00



# January 2025

# Christ Lutheran Church

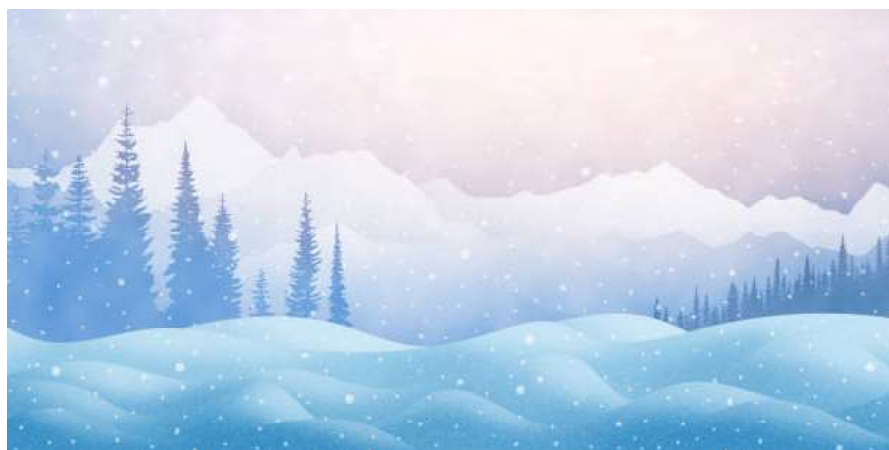
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Office <u>Closed!</u> <b>1</b> 	<b>2</b> 7:00p CMT (FLC)	<b>3</b> 10:00a Zumba 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	<b>4</b> 
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> after Christmas 5</b> 9:00a 1 <sup>st</sup> Service ☩ 9:00a Sunday School 10:00a Fellowship 10:30a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Service 11:45a Sunday Lunch	<b>Epiphany 6</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC) 	<b>7</b> 10:30a PEEPS 6:00p Womens Bible Study (Zoom)	<b>8</b> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a LWML	<b>9</b> 7:00p CMT (FLC) 	<b>10</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	<b>11</b>
<b>Epiphany &amp; Baptism of Our Lord 12</b> 9:00a 1 <sup>st</sup> Service Sunday School 10:00a Fellowship 10:10a Ad. Choir Reh. 10:30a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Service ☩☩ 11:45a Elders	<b>13</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	<b>14</b> 10:30a PEEPS 6:00p Womens Bible Study (Zoom)	<b>15</b> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC)	<b>16</b> 7:00p CMT (FLC)	<b>17</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	<b>18</b> 
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> after Epiphany 19</b> 9:00a Meal Service ☩ Sunday School 10:00a Fellowship 10:30a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Service 	<b>Newsletter Deadline 20</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC) 1:00p <i>Matthew Monday</i> w/ Pastor Alec <b>MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY</b>	<b>21</b> 10:30a PEEPS 6:00p Womens Bible Study (Zoom)	<b>22</b> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Soup Kitchen 1:00p Bible Study w/ Pastor Alec	<b>23</b> 7:00p CMT	<b>24</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	<b>25</b> 11:30a <i>Feed the Needy</i>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> after Epiphany 26</b> 9:00a 1 <sup>st</sup> Service Sunday School 10:00a Fellowship 10:10a Ad. Choir Reh. 10:30a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Service ☩☩	<b>27</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC) 1:00p <i>Matthew Monday</i> w/ Pastor Alec 6:30p Kenworth Mtg. @ CLC	<b>28</b> 10:30a PEEPS 6:00p Womens Bible Study (Zoom)	<b>29</b> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 1:00p Bible Study w/ Pastor Alec	<b>30</b> 7:00p CMT	<b>31</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	

## *January 2025 Birthdays and Anniversaries*

### *Congratulations and may God continue to bless you!!!*

- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 3 Karen Miller          | 15 Allison Higgins   |
| 4 Tanya Sigmon          | 16 Janice Buchanan   |
| 5 Hannah Fulbright      | 21 Janet Matthews    |
| 9 James Deal            | Mary Roseman         |
| 10 Robin Turner         | 29 Skyla Walker      |
| 12 Jason Lail           | 31 Rachael Abernathy |
| 13 Heather Jenkins      | Linda Gantt          |
| 14 Emma Roseman-McGuire | Deborah Hefner       |

<i>Anniversaries</i>	
12	Thomas & Robin Turner
30	Stephen & Amanda Lemaire



	<b>January 5</b>	<b>January 12</b>	<b>January 19</b>	<b>January 26</b>	
<b>Preaching</b>	Pastor Fisher	Pastor Tucker	Pastor Ludwig	Pastor Fisher	
<b>Lector</b>	Jim Hunt	Robie Hillhouse	Karla Bolch	Cam Davis	
<b>Distributor</b>	~*~	Linda Bolick	~*~	Zach Rose	
<b>Acolyte</b>	Jack Fisher	Adeline Fisher	Jack Fisher	Adeline Fisher	
<b>Elder</b>	Maria McKinney	Angie Ewing	Nicole Rose	Robert Kraay	
<b>Counters</b>	Cam Davis Kathryn Pingel	Darryl & Dot Grater	Pat Hamby Bob Rinehart	David & Shawn Terry	
<b>Audio/Video</b>		Kyle Donovan		Cam Davis	
<b>Media</b>	Kyle Donovan	Rick Lail	Susan Fulbright	Karla Bolch	
<b>Host</b>	Pat Hamby	Anna Newton	Betty Link	Maqry Puett	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Sadie Lail	Anna Lail	Sadie Lail	Anna Lail	
<b>Security Team</b>	Randall Mays	Jimmy Gantt	David Puett	Britt Griffith	

# Connection

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It is January! A brand-new year! Time to finish putting away Christmas decorations and start making New Year's resolutions. Within the Church Year, we move into "Ordinary Time" – the Sundays which do not fall within the major liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. As we box up the remnants of the holidays, we remember that the blessing of Christmas is always with us, even in ordinary times.

## A Prayer for Putting Away Christmas Decorations

Lord Jesus, today we have put all of our Christmas decorations away. We are entering Ordinary Time, and our house looks "ordinary" again, too.

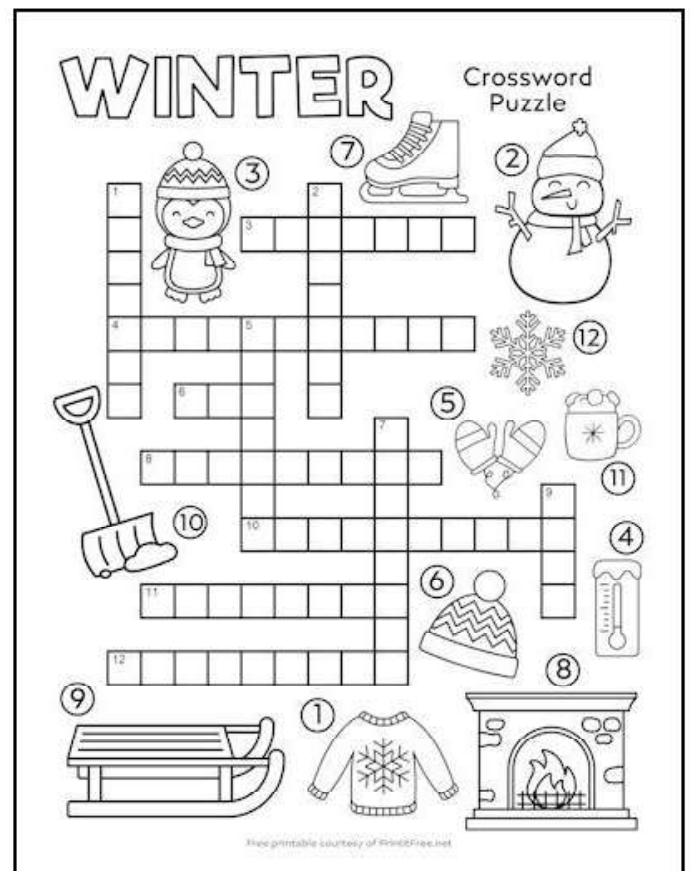
But Lord, you know, and we know, that our house has a secret. Deep inside it, all of our Christmas decorations are still here. The blessing of Christmas is always with us, kept in the deep, quiet places of the house.

And Lord, our lives will become ordinary again, too, but you know that each of us has the grace of baptism. The grace which you gave us is always with us, in the deep, quiet places of our soul.

May we live the grace of Christmas every day, only without all the trappings: May we give generously, receive gifts gratefully, welcome others, and study your life.

Make our house be a home with Christmas at its core, and our souls a home where Jesus always dwells. Amen.

<https://aleteia.org/2019/01/06prayer-for-putting-away-christmas-decorations/>





# Christ Lutheran Church

324 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, SE  
Hickory, NC 28602

## Comments

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### Our Mission Motto is

*Guiding Through God's Love*

### CHURCH STAFF

Adm. Pastor.....Rev. Alec Fisher  
Assoc. Pastor.....Dr. David Ludwig  
Assistant Pastor..Rev. Richard Tucker  
Organist.....Danny Foster  
Secretary.....Jill P. Lafone  
Adm. Assistant.....Nancy Rinehart  
Newsletter Staff.....Nancy Rinehart  
and Jill Lafone  
Contributors: CLC Family & Friends



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# Christ Lutheran Church

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