January 5, 2025 Epiphany of Our Lord



Christ's Lutheran Church

700 East Pennsylvania Avenue Oreland, Pennsylvania

Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church connects individuals to God, each other, and the community.

Welcome to Worship at Christ's Lutheran Church!

The feast of Epiphany ("manifestation") concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God's love to all people.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God-with-us,

we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.

Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, + forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy. Amen.

Gathering Song

Brightest and Best of the Stars ELW # 303

Please see the next page for the hymn.



Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt. Music: MORNING STAR, James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.

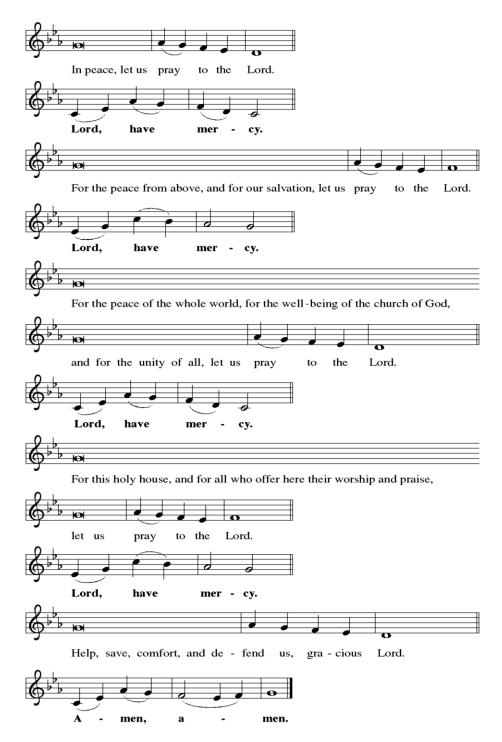
Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Kyrie

Setting One

Please see the next page.





Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from Isaiah, chapter 60.

¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ² For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³ Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; vour sons shall come from far away. and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Word of God. Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Thy Word is a Lamp

W & P # 144

The congregation will sing the following response: Refrain C^7 F Bb F C Bb F Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path. ¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son; ² that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice: ³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness, ⁴ Let him defend the needy among the people. rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor. Response ⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another. ⁶ Let him come down like rain upon the mown field. like showers that water the earth. ⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more. ¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute, and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts. Response ¹¹ May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service. ¹² For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress, the oppressed, and those who have no helper. ¹³He has compassion on the lowly and poor. and preserves the lives of the needy. ¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their lives, and precious is their blood in his sight. Response

Second Reading

A reading from Ephesians, chapter 3.

¹ This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

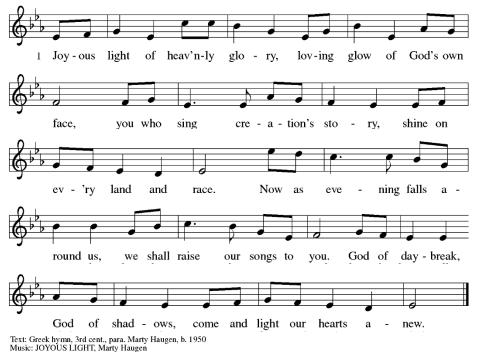
Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation Verse 1

Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory ELW # 561

Please see the next page for the hymn.



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The Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler

who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Pastor Axel Kaegler The Children's Message A Moment of Prayer Holy, Holy, Holy ELW # 473 San - to, san - to. san - to. mi ra - zón tea - do cora. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you. Se -Mi co - ra - zón sa - be de-cir: San - to e-res ñor. te heart is glad are ho - ly, My to say the words: You God.

Text: Argentine traditional Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional

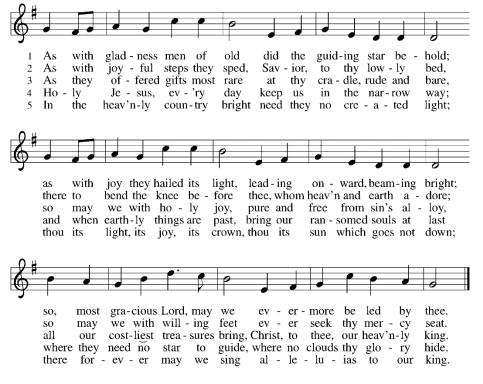
The Message

Pastor Axel Kaegler

Please stand in body or spirit.

Hymn of the Day

As With Gladness Men of Old ELW # 302



Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt. Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

Apostles' Creed

Let us affirm our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please kneel or sit as you are able for the prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

Your glory fills the earth. Bless the work of all who engage in dialogue with people of other traditions and faiths. Bridge our differences with a shared mission of revealing your boundless love to the world. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Restore the glory of creation. Send rain to water-parched lands. Revive ecosystems and habitats threatened by a changing climate, and protect the peoples and creatures who live in them. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Give the rulers your justice and reveal your righteousness to those who govern. Frustrate the plans of tyrants and oppressors. Encourage the work of community organizers and activists who speak out against injustice. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Help those who have no helper. Draw near to those who have no one to advocate for them or those who feel forgotten. Deliver those who call to you. Precious are they in your sight. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Liberate this congregation from a yearning for the past that forgets the future. Fuel in us a passion for discovery. Give us the boldness to dream and to imagine our ministries in new and different ways. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We give thanks for your holy ones who now rest in your radiant glory. Make us, with them, sharers in the boundless riches of Christ, our hope and promise. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

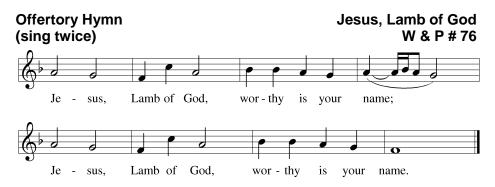
We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

You are invited to share God's peace with those around you and to greet those who are worshipping online.



Please stand.

Text: Dennis Jernigan, refrain of "You are my all in all" Music: ALL IN ALL, Dennis Jernigan

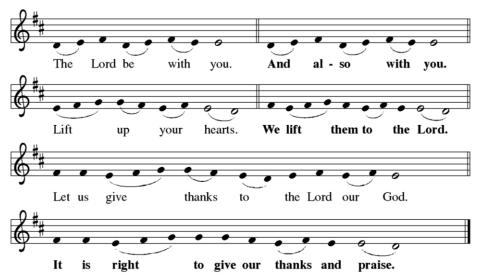
Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

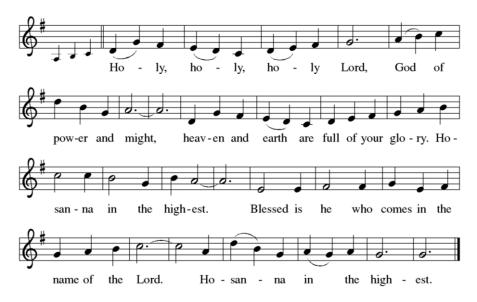
Setting One





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Holy, Holy, Holy



Thanksgiving at the Table

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new testament in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

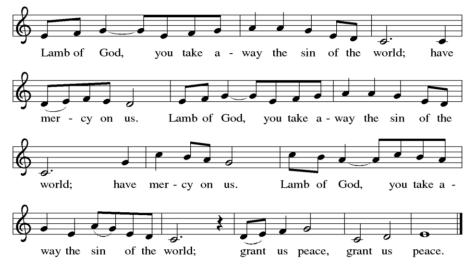
Please be seated.

Invitation to Communion

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

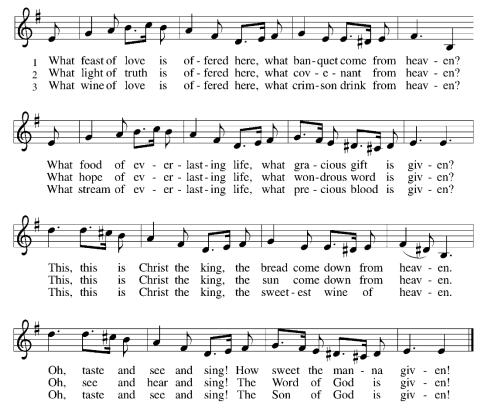
Lamb of God

Setting One



Communion Hymn

What Feast of Love ELW # 487



Text: Delores Dufner, oss, b. 1939 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent. Text © 1993 Delores Dufner OSB. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

Post Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**



Prayer after Communion

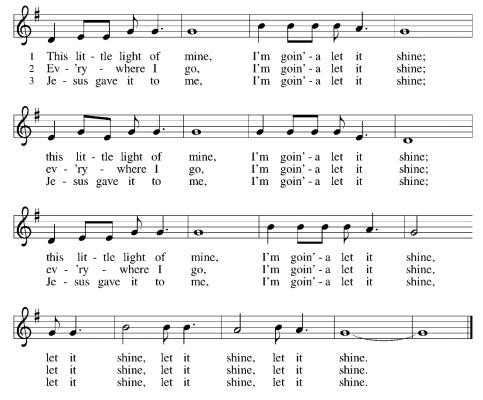
Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. **Amen.**

Blessing

The God of love, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always. **Amen.**

The Sending Song

This Little Light of Mine ELW # 677



Text: African American spiritual Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

Dismissal

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells with you. Thanks be to God.

Online Giving

To make an offering to support the work of Christ's Lutheran Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, you may use this QR code to access our site for secure online giving.



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Your Prayers Are Invited

We hope you will add the following people to your personal prayers. Those who are listed longer than 6 weeks can be found on the long term prayer list through the link in the weekly e-news or the monthly Link newsletters. To add a name to the prayer list or provide an update, please contact the office.

Margaret Anne "Anne" Abbott (mother of Elisa Tull's friend) Don Berger **Beverly Bortz** Bob Bortz Chuck Brucker (cousin of Karen Greilich, Lori Stevens, and Janine Asher) Nikki Busch (Becca Shelor's aunt) Chippy the Clown (long-time friend at CLC events) Holly Curran (friend of Bob Kelly) Rev. John Dougherty (Pastor, Trinity Lutheran - Ft. Washington) Clyde Engle Paul Engstrom Jamie and Keith Eyre (friends of Karen Bennion) Gil Gavish & Family (son-in-law of Elise & Steve Seyfried) Beryl Gutekunst Paul & Rose Hill (friends of Shirley & Clyde Engle) Abbey Koenig (sister of Jerry and Sally Beil's neighbor) Paul Korinth (friend of Bob Kelly) Melody Maurer Jody McClellan (Bob Bortz' cousin) The Monachino Family (John Melnick's sister's family) Chris Mudge Jim Munz Scott Paris and son, Benjamin Scott (friends of Mary Truppay) James Polis (brother of Jerry Polis and Diane Polis) Margie Reiman (Robin Griffin's aunt) Nancy Renner Rachael Rinders (friend of the Kaegler Family) **Betsy Selinger** Ruth Smith Marvin and Kara Strossenreuther (family members of Karen Bennion) Paul Winter (Debbie Melnick's brother) Nik Zitomer (Diane Polis' nephew)

We remember in prayer the family and friends of Kate Wheeler (sister-in-law of Consy Finney) who died on December 26. May her loved ones be comforted by the promise and hope of the resurrection.

The flowers on the altar today are dedicated in memory of Alma and Jim Francis by their children and grandchildren.

Stewardship: Bread of Life

In John 6:35, Jesus declares, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

This year as we reflected on how Bread sustains life; we ask that you also consider how your contributions to Christ's Lutheran sustain our Church, the ministries that feed and enrich our life together and the community around us.

Thank you to everyone who has returned their intent cards. If you have not done so yet, we ask that you return your intent card as soon as possible to help Council prepare the next congregational budget.

2025 Intent Cards can be found in the church lobby and through a link in the Wednesday e-news.

Family Table

Family Table will meet on the following Sundays in January at 9:15 am in Parish Hall: January 5, January 12, January 19, January 26

Family Table is open to families of all ages and make-ups. Come learn about God, our faith and how we walk in the world as People of God.

<u>Trivia Team</u>

The evening was looking pretty good for the Saints & Sinners during December's Trivia Night. Another First Place win was within reach when they were foiled in the final round by a question about Stephen King novels. Our team ended up with a Fourth Place finish.

The Saints & Sinners are looking forward to the next challenge, **Wednesday**, **January 8** at Tannery Run Brew Works, 131 E Butler Avenue, Ambler.

Trivia Nights take place on the First Wednesday of every month from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. Interested in joining the team? Come for fun, fellowship and perhaps a prize or two! Contact Daniel Melnick to RSVP.

PLEASE NOTE: Trivia Night in January will be the SECOND Wednesday.

<u>60 Plus</u>

60 Plus in January 2025. We will be playing a spirited game of teams Family Feud which is always a lot of fun. So bring your lunch and enjoy delicious desserts, coffee and tea. Good fun, good food and good fellowship. Come on out on **Thursday January 9th** at 11:30 AM to the Parish Hall.

Pub Theology

Our next gathering will take place on **Thursday, January 9** at 7:00 pm at Iron Hill Brewery, 1460 Bethlehem Pike, North Wales, PA 19454

Topic: Twelve Days of Christmas

RSVP to Pastor Kaegler at clcseniorpastor@christs-oreland.org.

Men's Group

The Men's Group meets for breakfast and fellowship on the third Saturday of the month at Halligan's Pub in Flourtown at 8:00 am.

We meet next on January 18, 2025. RSVP to jprasmussen9@gmail.com.

Wonderful Wednesday

Join us for Wonderful Wednesday on **January 22** at 6:30 pm at the home of Jon and Alice Rasmussen, 1947 Audubon Drive, Dresher, 19025

RSVP to Consy Finney cwfinney1@comcast.net or 215-771-5994 by Sunday, January 19.

Wednesday Bible Study

All are welcome to join us for Bible Study on **Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am** in room 200 with Pastor Kaegler. Please join us as we explore the Book of Revelation.

Puzzle Exchange

Research shows that puzzles help adults improve memory, enhance problemsolving skills, manage stress, improve visual and spatial reasoning, and develop a more positive mood. If you want to see if the research is correct – or if you just want an indoor activity for cold weather – feel free to borrow a puzzle from the shelf opposite the restrooms in the narthex. Enjoy!

Home Visits

If you or someone you know would like Pastor Kaegler to visit, please contact him at clcseniorpastor@christs-oreland.org or call the office at 215-886-4612.

FAITH IN ACTION

University Lutheran Feast Incarnate

The leaders of the Feast Incarnate, a year-round outreach and hospitality ministry for individuals who are food insecure, asked if Christ's Lutheran could sponsor a few dinners in 2025. Please let Sue Ross and/or Allison Uehling know if you would be interested in helping with future dinners.

Book Collection

Books Through Bars is a local organization that collects books and sends them to prisoners who request them by letter. Although they get plenty of the latest bestsellers and classic literature, they have a great need for *very specific* books that are often requested but are in short supply. If you have any **paperback** books on the following topics to donate, please put them in the labeled box in the narthex. Thank you!

Art, art instruction (drawing/painting/photography), home repair, building, HVAC instruction, plumbing, masonry, starting a business, real estate, cars, motorcycles, sudoku, crossword puzzles, and how to play the guitar (beginning and advanced). Wildlife, hunting, and sports magazines are also appreciated.

Willow Grove Food Pantry Collection

A box is located in the back of the Narthex by the "Giving Place" for donations of nonperishable items.

Once a month, or more if needed, we will drop off any donations to the pantry. Please consider bringing a nonperishable item to church with you each time you attend. Together we can help our brothers and sisters in need. Any questions please email Jen at community@christs-oreland.org.

FAITH IN ACTION

Visitation Ministry

Our newly formed Visitation Team keeps homebound and hospitalized parishioners linked into the life of the Church through prayers, presence, and the sending of Holy Communion.

If you have a heart for our congregation, want to listen to and treasure the lives of our church's elders, and know that Jesus goes to everybody - contact Pastor Kaegler to join in this ministry! clcseniorpastor@christs-oreland.org. Training, prayer and fellowship will be provided.

CLC Community Yarners

Following in the Yarners schedule for Winter/Spring 2025:

Mondays: January 13, 27; February 10, 24; March 10, 24; April 7, 21

Where: 700 E Pennsylvania Ave, Oreland (Room 200) 11 am to 1:00 pm

Don't know how to knit or crochet? No worries, all levels are welcomed! All items will be donated to a local charity. (TBD)

Please contact: Betty Messer: betty.messer508@gmail.com, phone: 267-475-2933 & Marty Frantz: marty.frantz@gmail.com, phone: 215-885-4812

PBJ Sandwich Donations

PBJ sandwiches can be dropped off at the following times:

Sunday mornings - Drop off your sandwiches in the narthex fridge when you come to Sunday morning services.

Mondays - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Coolers will be outside the chapel. **Tuesdays** - 9:00 am to 10:45 am Coolers will be outside the chapel.

Please make PBJ sandwiches with plain white bread, creamy peanut butter, and grape jelly. Wrap sandwiches in individual sandwich baggies and leave them uncut. Mark your bag with the number of sandwiches enclosed.

Thank you to our volunteers who pick up and deliver the sandwiches! If you'd like to help with delivery, please contact the church office.

Thanks to your support during 2024, CLC donated 7,319 PBJ sandwiches!

Christ's Lutheran Church 700 East Pennsylvania Avenue + Oreland, PA 19075 215-886-4612 + www.christs-oreland.org <u>clcsecretary@christs-oreland.org</u>

Ministers Senior Pasto Director of Sp Director of M Administrativ Preschool Dir Sexton	piritual Formation usic e Assistant	The People of Christ's Lutheran Church Reverend Axel Kaegler Becca Shelor Ken Selinger Lorraine Pfeiffer Sally Mead Pete Carr
Assisting Min Communion Soundboard Livestream Counter(s) Altar Guild Closer Assisting Min	Assistants	Wes Craig Jen Melnick, Wes Craig Diane Polis Don Hallman, John Melnick, Paul Zieger Jim and Mary Jane Brenneman Linda Daniels, Stephanie Staerk George Vermeire Adele Kelly
This Week at CLC!		
Sunday	9:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Choir Rehearsal (202) Family Table (PH) Worship at CLC and online
Monday	9:30 am 10:00 am – 6:00 pm 7:30 am	Monday Morning Men PBJ Collection (chapel) Boy Scout Troop 1 (PH)
Tuesday	9:00 am – 10:45 am 7:30 pm	PBJ Collection (chapel) Pack 88 Committee Meeting (203/204)
Wednesday	10:00 am 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Bible Study (200) Trivia Night (Tannery Run) AA (PH)
Thursday	11:30 am 7:00 pm	60 Plus (PH) Pub Theology (Iron Hill Brewery)
Friday	8:00 pm	AA (PH)

Monday January 20th 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Parish HII Christ's Lutheran Church - Oreland

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OF SERVICE



Make the holiday an especially meaningful one for you and your children! Join us for some afternoon snacks! Then you will be working with your children on a variety of fun service projects!

ADMISSION IS FREE! WE ASK THAT YOU BRING AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Money for Lutheran World Relief
- Non-perishable grocery items for food bank (no glass and please check expiration dates)
- a dessert to share

This event is designed for families - please plan to stay and experience this Day of Service with your children.

All ages welcome!

RSVP BY WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15TH

to director-spiritualform@christs-oreland,org