



The Christ Messenger

Christ Lutheran Church
Vienna, West Virginia

January 2022

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Our Mission:

As Children of God, nourished
by the Word, Sacrament and
Fellowship of loving, forgiving,
and hopeful believers—

WE are guided by the Holy
Spirit to WITNESS to Christ's
saving presence in the World!

In a few short weeks we will begin our journey into the month of January. I searched for the meaning of the word January and found it has a Latin origin, named after the Roman god, Janus who was said to be a god of the gate, or of the door. The god Janus has two faces, one which looks backward to what has been and one forward to what is to come. It is very appropriate that January is the hinge which connects two years together. By the time you receive this newsletter we will be close to ending 2019 and about to enter through the door of 2020.

I wonder what our hopes and aspirations will be for 2022 as we walk through that door. One of the very big happenings for Christ Lutheran was my coming to be your pastor as well as Leesa Holder becoming our new organist. Liz and I are loving you and this wonderful area of West Virginia. This new year will be a unique one. It will certainly come with some of the same Covid challenges that we have had since 2020. I am sure that many of us hope that 2022 will be more of a life giving than a life draining year than last. Jeremiah gives us some words of encouragement from his 31st chapter. He says that for those of faith, God has made us a promise. In his words summarized were: *we are to sing for joy, because God is going to make it all right and we have to trust in that promise.*" This passage was written to a people in exile who would be restored, who would be redeemed, and who would be rescued from the situation they were in.

As we walk into this New Year through the door of the unknown, all of what we know we have already experienced, but still God is calling us to a place where we haven't been. God promises us that this for us will be our new exodus. Everyone will be able to come and there will be no shortages and no detours along the way. It almost sounds too good to be true doesn't it. For Christians, the ultimate gift is Jesus – the Word became flesh and dwelt among, and still lives within in us and we have received grace upon grace.

When we walk through the door of 2022, we walk knowing that Jesus has already blazed the path. We walk through knowing that no matter what happens, no force, no circumstance, no power, no matter how great can separate us from the love of God found in Jesus Christ our Lord. Knowing that puts us in touch with the life that God wills for us and which will always result in his amazing unfailing grace.

May you all have a blessed and Happy New Year

PASTOR TOM

Quiet Moments – January 2022

Dear Friends,

As we begin a new year, we not only can remember the tough times we experienced through COVID and any other difficulties; we should remember the good times as well. The following was created by the Countess of Craven written in the 1800's and it still applies to our today. She writes...

I thank Thee, God, that I have lived in this great world and known its many joys.
The song of birds, the strong, sweet scent of hay and the cooling breezes in the secret dusk,
The flaming sunsets at the close of day.
Hills, and the lonely heather-covered moors,
Music at night, and moonlight on the sea,
The beat of waves upon the rocky shore
And wild, white spray, flung high in ecstasy:
The faithful eyes of dogs, and treasured books.
The love of kin and fellowship of friends,
And all that makes life dear and beautiful.
I thank Thee, too, that there has come to me
A little sorrow and, sometimes defeat,
A little heartache and the loneliness
That comes from parting and the word, "Goodbye",
Dawn breaking after dreary hours of pain,
When I discovered that night's gloom must yield
And morning light break through to me again.
Because of these and other blessings poured
Unasked upon my wondering head,
Because I know that there is yet to come
An even richer and more glorious life,
And most of all, because Thine only Son
Once sacrificed life's loveliness for me-
I thank Thee, God, that I have lived.

Blessings on this New Year,
Liz

Good Samaritan Center Item of the Month



Men & Women's Deodorant

January Schedule at a Glance

Sundays:

January 2nd – 8:30 & 10:45 Service
(No Sunday School)

January 9th – 8:30 & 10:45 Service
9:30 Sunday School

January 16th – 8:30 & 10:45 Service
9:30 Sunday School

January 23rd – 8:30 & 10:45 Service
9:30 Sunday School

January 30th – Date of Annual Congregational
Meeting, More Information to Follow

Events:

January 13 - Elderberries @ Noon in the Fellowship
Hall

January 16 – Church Council meeting

ELDERBERRIES

Elderberries will meet on Thursday, January 13, 2022. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at church at 12 noon. Lunch will be "catered" so you don't have to bring anything except an appetite.

We will ask for you to feed the kitty (no more than \$10). There will be a door prize!

This will also be our planning meeting so bring ideas of new restaurants you've found, keeping in mind that we are seniors and need an easy entry with not much walking. Also, our numbers have grown (hurrah!) and not every place wants, or can handle a large group. Hope everyone can come. There will be a sign-up sheet. Also remember we are meeting on the second Thursday and not the third.

Thanks, Delores



Thank you so much to everyone who assisted in beautifying the church for the advent and Christmas season and those who came out to represent the church during the Vienna Christmas Parade!



Birthdays

January 2 – Sheila Behnke

January 14 – Laura Rogers

January 14 – Kelly Fleming

January 15 – Andrew Miser

January 28 – Nick Read

Anniversaries

January 19 – Terry & Vicki Wilson

Church Address:

4513 Grand Central Avenue

Vienna, WV 26105

Church Phone Number:

304-295-9241

Church Web Page:

<https://christlutheranviennawv.org/>

Church Facebook Page:

[Facebook.com/christlutheranchurchviennawv](https://www.facebook.com/christlutheranchurchviennawv)

We keep the following people in our prayers:

Russell Behnke; Jerry John DiNicola; Sally Ebeling; Pam Goots; Heather; Mary Hennen; Laura Lemley; Family of Joel McGuier; Rob Miser; Gary Miller; The Family of Jay Patel, Gean Secreto; April Sowards, Caren Thomas; Donna Vincent; Betty Williamson; Terry & Vicki Wilson; Tiffany Wilson; police and first responders; our troops; Christians and other minorities in the Middle East; people in the Ukraine and eastern Europe; pray for peace; and for our military, especially for Airman Elijah Modesitt (U.S. Airforce); Jon Shorr serving in Afghanistan; Conner Allen serving in China; families of all those who serve in the military; for all who have been diagnosed with COVID 19 and/or hospitalized for the virus, for all who have died from the virus, for all of our medical personnel and first responders who are treating patients, for all families and loved ones separated by quarantines, for people who do not have access to medical care to be treated, for folks who are unemployed and the underemployed.

Church Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9:00-12:00