



## +Christian Symbol+

### ROSE

This flower, often shown as stylized artwork, is a symbol for Advent, the promise of the Messiah and Jesus' nativity. A white rose represents the Virgin Mary, and a red rose stands for martyrs. A wreath of roses symbolizes heavenly joy.

# CHAPPEL NEWS

Return Service Requested

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
337 Farview Avenue  
Paramus, New Jersey 07652

# CHAPEL NEWS

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NEVER WORRY  
ABOUT THE SIZE  
OF YOUR  
CHRISTMAS TREE.  
IN THE EYES  
OF CHILDREN,  
THEY ARE ALL  
30 FEET TALL.

## ADVENT MEANINGS

During Advent, which begins this year on December 3, many churches and families use wreaths to symbolize watchfulness and increasing joy as Christmas approaches. Colors for the candles vary, with some traditions using blue (for hope or creation) and others preferring purple (for royalty, humility or penitence).

The four candles that each represent a week in Advent also signify hope, peace, joy and love. (The third candle is often pink.) In the center is the white Christ candle, representing Jesus as the light of the world. That candle is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The round, green Advent wreath has special meaning of its own. It symbolizes eternal life and the unending love of God, who sent his only Son to earth to die in our place.

## ADVENT PROGRAM

The season of Advent is here! On Sunday, December 3rd after worship service, we plan to hold our annual Advent Program in the Family Room.

Lunch and refreshments will be served as we decorate our live Advent wreaths with ribbons and berries. Desserts would be greatly appreciated.

Please sign up in the Narthex so we can prepare. If you have your metal wreath forms from last year, please bring with you.

Any questions, reach out to Carrie. Hope to see you there!



**CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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# NOTE FROM PASTOR JONATHAN



Why so blue? Although we usually ask something like this when someone is sad, that's not what I'm asking rhetorically now. You may notice in worship that we are decorated in blue, from the decorations in our worship space called paraments to the candles we light during this season in the Advent wreath.

Yes, as we start a new church year, we have moved to the season of Advent, a season of preparation, of waiting, and of hope. This blue color is intended to remind us of this feeling and idea of hope – hope as we look forward to Christmas and our celebration of Jesus' birth, and hope in the promise of Jesus' return.

Another color that has been used historically in Advent is purple, but this has a different connotation. Purple is also the color that is used in the season of Lent – the season of preparation for Easter. This color reminds us of the kingship of Christ, but also of repentance, solemnity, and lament.

Over time we have shifted our focus in Advent, this season of preparation for Christmas, from repentance and lament towards hopefulness and active waiting. So, our colors and decorations have shifted over the years to reflect this as well.

As the days continue to shorten and the temperature continues to get colder, I pray that you are reminded of our hope in Christ – a hope of the abundant life we are promised, a hope of God's loving kingdom becoming a reality in our world, a hope of meeting face to face with Christ, a hope of a world where suffering and pain will be no more.

I look forward to the completion of this season of hope on Christmas when we celebrate together the hope, love, and joy of this world, Christ Jesus.

God is with you,  
Pastor Jonathan



Noyes "Bart" Bartholomew, Donald Bickert, Dolores Brickman, Chris Brooks, Lori Butterick, Tony Calise, Mike Chapman, John Cutler, Ken Cutler, Carl Fazio, Krista Fuchs, Mary Carolyn Harrison, Fred Hesse, Terry Klotz, Dennis & Jennifer Kruk, Anna & Walter Kruk, Kaitlyn Kruk, Carol Livingstone, Renee Lomelino, Jack Lowack, Marie Lupinski, the Maller Family, Kathy Mallet, Irene Maury, Catherine Quadrozzi, Erin Raffery, Doris Robinson, Cathy & Roger Schramm, Dave Splieth, Marge Tomaselli, Mark Tomaselli, Lenny van Dam, the Vega Family, Janice & Dave Wedderman, Robert Wiederschall, Paul & Deb Witte and Peter Zingaro

### Those serving in the military...

Bryant Rodriguez Cyriax, Greg Flintall, Devin Vega and Rachel Zarnke

### Those who can't be with us...

Carol DeMott, Al & Barbara Frielink, Evelyn Schramm and Irma Weishaupt



# A "WARM" THANKS



Thank you to everyone who bought a first aid kit for my Eagle project fundraiser. The money I raised will go entirely to Cat Crew Rescue, an organization in Oradell that helps rescue, rehab and re-home homeless animals in Bergen County.

A big part of my project was building outdoor cat shelters for the cats to get out of the cold. A few volunteers helped me build them a few weeks ago. We cut holes for the cats to enter, stuffed straw into them and painted 14 styrofoam coolers. Thanks to Behnke Building Supplies for donating the plywood. The plywood will be put on the top of the shelters to act as an awning. My cousin Georgie donated the wood pallets. The reason for the pallets is so the shelters aren't on the ground which could lead to them being flooded and get water damage. I also sprayed insulation on the bottom of 15 cat water bowls to keep the water from freezing in them during the winter.

On November 19th I helped my beneficiary Mrs. Sembos place 3 shelters in a cat colony in River Edge. The colony was between two apartment buildings and on a small bridge close to Rt. 4.

I also want to thank everyone for the cat supplies and donations which I collected for Giving Tuesday.

- Ean Ralston



catcrewrescue



# DEC

## Lay Assistant | Usher Altar Guild | Counter Schedule

**DEC 3** 10:00am  
**Lay Assistant** Pat Berinato  
**Usher** Margarete Denicola  
**Altar Guild** Lore Braun

**DEC 10** 10:00am  
**Lay Assistant** Bob Denicola  
**Usher** Lori Mercer  
**Altar Guild** Marge Tomaselli

**DEC 17** 10:00am  
**Lay Assistant** Pat Berinato  
**Usher** Linda Polise  
**Altar Guild** Gina Lally

### Christmas Eve

**DEC 24** 10:00am  
**Lay Assistant** Pam Sakala  
**Usher** Linda Comery  
**Altar Guild** Linda Polise

### Christmas Eve

**DEC 24** 8:00pm  
**Lay Assistant** Bill Jaichner  
**Usher** Anne Carman  
**Altar Guild** All help

**DEC 31** 10:00am  
**Lay Assistant** Chris Nilsen  
**Usher** Margarete Denicola  
**Altar Guild** TBD

**Counter** All Hands

## CRAFTY LADIES: PROJECT TIE-KNOT



Please join the Crafty Ladies for a special project. On Saturday, December 2nd, they are helping the youngest member of our church with his Boy Scout Eagle project. As part of his project, Ean Ralston is making tie-knot blankets for the foster cats of Cat Crew Rescue, an organization in Oradell that helps rescue, rehab and re-home homeless animals in Bergen County. Any help would be appreciated to either donate fleece material or help cut and tie some blankets. Every foster kitty that finds a home receives one of these blankets.

Snacks and refreshments will be provided. Thank you!

## PONDERINGS AT THE END OF A DAY — OR YEAR

Dutch Catholic priest and theologian Henri Nouwen found it useful to reflect on several questions at the end of the day: "Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say words of healing?" Pondering such questions may prove valuable at the end of a year as well: "How did I contribute to peace in the world this past year? Did I bring smiles to others' faces? Did I offer words of healing?" Nouwen continued, and we can too: "Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love?"

Many of us set New Year's resolutions for self-improvement, asking, "What are my goals? How can I better myself, my weight, my work-life balance, my habits?" But Nouwen said of his self-inquiry: "These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will bear many fruits, here in this world and [in] the life to come." His resolution was to share God's love with others. With God's help, it can be ours as well, for each new day and each new year.

## BIBLE QUIZ

Elizabeth, an older relative of Mary the mother of Jesus, was miraculously pregnant at the same time as Mary. What was the name of Elizabeth's husband?

- A. Aaron
- B. Zechariah
- C. Joseph
- D. Simeon



Answer: B (See Luke 1:5, 39-41.)

## BIRTHDAYS

Christine Denicola	12/3
Nicole Young	12/3
Paul Berinato	12/10
Edith Sachs	12/10
Madison Mercer	12/17
Rob Denicola	12/24
Lori Mercer	12/24
Anna Kruk	12/24
Jesus Christ	12/25
Karin Carlough	12/31





# Puzzle!

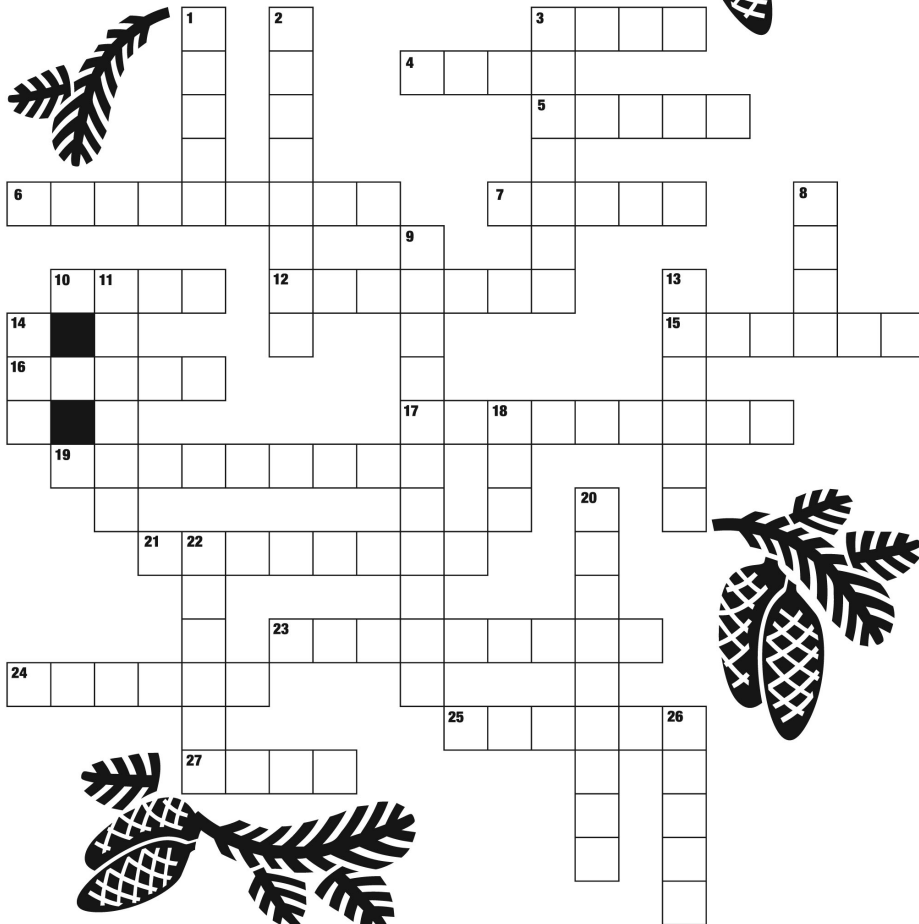
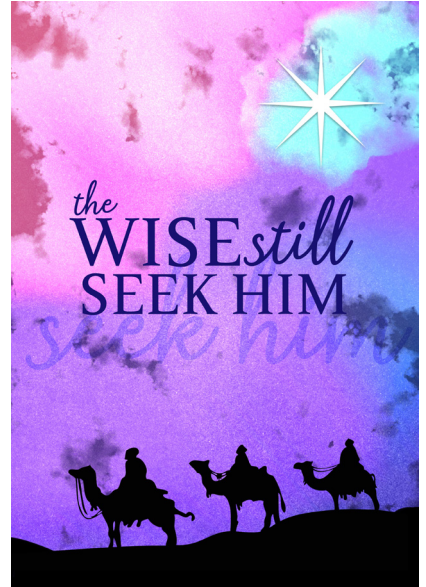
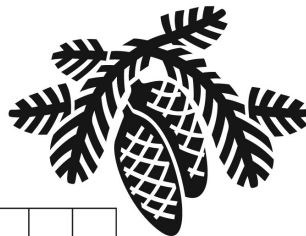
Take a break from Christmas preparations to complete this seasonal crossword.

**DOWN**

- 1. song
- 2. keeper of sheep
- 3. Anointed One
- 8. a gift of the magi
- 9. red plants
- 11. coming
- 13. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. 12th month (abbrev.)
- 18. B&B
- 20. a form of holly
- 22. heavenly messengers
- 26. he ordered the slaughter of the innocents

**ACROSS**

- 3. wise men
- 4. author of the most famous Christmas account
- 5. red-suited gift-giver
- 6. of Ephrathah
- 7. presents
- 10. Gabriel came to her
- 12. has a red nose
- 15. "Messiah" composer
- 16. northern little helpers
- 17. patron saint of children
- 19. made flesh
- 21. home for Mary
- 23. tree decorations
- 24. crib
- 25. he was a carpenter
- 27. a nova



Answer: DOWN 1. carol, 2. shepherd, 3. Messiah, 8. gold, 9. poinsettias, 11. Advent, 13. Christ, 14. dec, 18. inn, 20. mistletoe, 22. angels, 26. Herod; ACROSS 3. magi, 4. Luke, 5. Santa, 6. Bethlehem, 7. gifts, 10. Mary, 12. Rudolph, 15. Handel, 16. elves, 17. Saint Nick, 19. incarnate, 21. Nazareth, 23. ornaments, 24. manger, 25. Joseph, 27. star

# DECEMBER 2023

Church (CH)  
Fellowship Hall (FH)  
Family Room (FR)  
Office Building (OB)

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<b>31</b> New Year's Eve Worship Service (CH) 10:00am Korean Congregation Worship (CH) 12:30pm					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Crafty Ladies Tie-knot Blankets (FR) 10:00am
<b>3</b> Worship Service (CH) 10:00am Korean Congregation Worship (CH) 12:30pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> Worship Service (CH) 10:00am Council Meeting (OB) 11:15am Korean Congregation Worship (CH) 12:30pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Endowment Meeting (OB) 6:00pm Potluck & Prayers (FR) 6:30pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Crafty Ladies (OB) 10:00am
<b>17</b> Worship Service (CH) 10:00am Korean Congregation Worship (CH) 12:30pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Worship Service (CH) 10:00am Korean Congregation Worship (CH) 12:30pm Worship Service (CH) 8:00pm	<b>25</b> Christmas Day Church Office closed	<b>26</b> Church Office closed	<b>27</b> Church Office closed	<b>28</b> Church Office closed	<b>29</b> Church Office closed	<b>30</b>

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF AND COUNCIL

**Pastor**  
**Church Secretary**  
**Sexton**  
**Director of Music Ministries**  
**President**  
**Vice President**  
**Council Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**Recording Financial Secretary**  
**Financial Secretary**

Rev. Jonathan Westerlund  
 Debbie Geerlof  
 Bob Sakala  
 Michael Wittenburg  
 Chris Nilsen  
 Bill Jaichner  
 Pam Sakala  
 Paul Berinato  
 Pat Berinato  
 Marge Tomaselli

### Inward Ministry Team

**Christian Education**  
**Shepherd**  
**Worship**

Pam Sakala  
 Carrie Ralston  
 Marge Tomaselli

### Administrative Team

**Financial**  
**Property**

Chuck Young  
 Bill Jaichner  
 Chris Nilsen

### Outward Ministry Team

**Servant**

Anne Carman  
 Rosemary Chandra  
 Jan Behnke

**Stewardship**