

Christ Lutheran Church Community News

December 22, 2021



To attend any of the following services in person, wear a mask and practice six-foot distancing from other family groups. Masks and hand sanitizers are available inside the church entrance. If you are feeling ill, please remain at home.

Christmas Eve Family Service, 4:00 – Pastor John Stendahl has put out a “casting call” to all children and adults who aspire to dress as their favorite character in the Christmas story. You can bring a shawl from home and perhaps stuff a pillow under your shirt to become Mary, or you can don some of the costumes you find at church in the narthex: a halo and some wings, donkey ears, shepherd’s cloak, king’s robe, or a pair of sheep’s ears. Gather at the front of the church with the rest of the cast to hear the pastor retell the story of Jesus’ birth.

Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25, 10:00 am, Pr. Richard Hurst, presiding. A quiet, reflective, traditional service with Holy Communion.

First Sunday of Christmas, Sunday, December 26, 10:00 am, Pr. Clifford Gerber presiding. Gather together to "sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God" and hear the stories of Samuel and Jesus in the temple. These two adolescents take on the corruption of their day and change the course of history. Invite young people to come and hear these stories.

CLC Transition

The Rev. Clifford Gerber, our guest preacher Sunday, December 26, will be on-

call for pastoral emergencies during the week of December 26-January 1 .
He can be reached via his cell phone:
(508) 688-4763. Diane Stevens, Visitation Team coordinator, who will be out of town until December 29, can be reached on her return at (508)-641-0021 to arrange for home and hospital visits.

Interim Pastor David Hulse will begin leading weekly worship services on January 2, 2022 and will assume coverage for pastoral emergencies during his time with us.

Music Notes

Tom Berryman, Music Director

I hope you will come and worship with us at one (or all!) of our three Christmas services this weekend. Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm begins with carols and solos led by our CLC Choir, Bell Choir and instrumentalists. **Christmas Day at 10:00 am** features music by Ralph Vaughan Williams for viola and piano. On **Sunday, December 26**, the First Sunday of Christmas, we will offer a new composition, "From Heaven High", *Four Carols from the British Isles* (2019) for flute and piano by William Averitt.

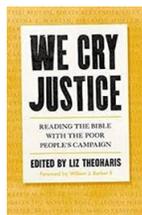
O Come Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord!

In the meantime, tune in to *Advent Devotions* each morning for readings, reflections, prayers and beautiful music.

Adult Formation

Adult Forum

There will be **no Adult Forum on Sunday, December 26** . We will resume meeting at 9:00 am on Sunday, January 2. Bring a favorite poem or Christmas memory to share. We'll provide coffee.



Mid-week Bible studies - December 22, 7:30 pm.

Gather via Zoom for the **final mid-week Bible study** tonight, Wednesday, December 22, at 7:30 pm. Watch for an Everyone email with the Zoom link and join us for a lively discussion.

Looking Ahead

CAMP CALUMET CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT IN 2022!

If the current Covid peak subsides in time, we hope to gather once again at Camp Calumet in West Ossipee, New Hampshire, on **February 4, 5, 6 for our annual congregation get-away**...Help us determine whether this is a viable February

activity [by completing an initial registration form.](#)

There are several housing options: Staff House - \$156/adult, \$78/youth; Heated cabins: \$128/adult, \$64/youth; Conference Center: \$210/person. The rate includes two nights lodging and all meals, Saturday breakfast through Sunday lunch. Children 6 and under eat and stay free. Scholarships are available for youth and adults.

Visit Camp Calumet's website for COVID updates:
<https://www.calumet.org/about/messagefromkarl>

Thank You's

Our outdoor-indoor tree lighting concert with the bell choir took place in spite of the freezing, sleety rain thanks to the efforts of Kim Petot and intrepid bell choir members. Celeste Larsen provided hot chocolate and cookies for the 35+ hardy souls who ventured out.

We also send our thanks to Pastor Rebecca Bourret and her husband Jeff Kinney who provided us with the tree to light. If you would like to send your thanks to them, their new address is 155 Ballard Street, West Hartford, CT 06119. A letter to the congregation from Pr. Bourret is posted on the bulletin board opposite the parish hall.

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

December 26, 2021

First Reading

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

For the Psalm

Psalm 148

Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

Gospel

Luke 2:41-52



**The Rev Cliff Gerber will be
preaching and presiding on December 26, 2021.**

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