

December 2023 Monthly Newsletter Inside this month's issue

PAGE 2 Pastor's Message

PAGE 5 Holiday News

PAGE 7 Youth and Family Events PAGE 8 Childcare Update

16 Fleetwood Road Fleetwood, PA 19522 610.682.7664 christ@christmertz.org Office Hours M-TH: 9<sup>AM</sup> - 1<sup>PM</sup> FRI: 9<sup>AM</sup> - 12<sup>PM</sup> Hospital Code: 206

### FROM OUR PASTOR

### The Rev. Martin A. Milne

Well, it's one of those years. It's one of those years that pastors and congregations wrestle with just about every seven (7) years. This year is one of those years. You might be asking yourself, "What is he talking about?"

Well, I will tell you. Here is the great issue worth wrestling over ....

#### "What do we do when Christmas Eve is the same day as the 4th Sunday of Advent?"

Yes, the 4th Sunday of Advent is December 24. Hmmmm, that seems vaguely familiar to another church holy day that we celebrate. Ah yes, Christmas Eve! The eve of the Nativity of our Lord/Christmas Eve is also December 24th.

Ah, so what do we do?

- 1. Do we skip the 4th Sunday of Advent in lieu of three (3) Christmas Eve services?
- 2. Do we hold both 4th Advent AND three (3) Christmas Eve services?
- 3. Do we simply forego all of it and give the pastor Christmas Eve off?

Well, I can tell you it is NOT door #3.

However, in a well-crafted motion by Worship and Music to our Congregation Council, your leaders have set our schedule for this particular Christmas season. And the motion is as follows ...

### **Motion to Council Concerning Advent 4 & Christmas Eve**

WHEREAS, [approximately seven (7) years the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord/Christmas Eve falls on the Sunday of 4th Advent, and:

WHEREAS, since the COVID-19 pandemic, the congregation of Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville has incorporated a 1:00PM worship service and eliminated the 10:00PM worship service, and;

WHEREAS, understanding human nature, our parishioners will most likely choose to come to our Christmas Eve celebration while foregoing our usual Sunday morning 9:00AM worship service, and;

WHEREAS, the last time this occurred, roughly seven (7) years ago, we had not incorporated an early service at 1PM;

BE IT SO MOVED THAT, the Worship & Music committee of Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville moves that we forego the 9:00AM worship service on December 24th, 2023 (4th Advent) so as to accommodate the congregation's natural inclination to attend Christmas Eve worship at either 1PM, 4PM, or 7PM

So we will indeed forego our regularly scheduled 4th Sunday of Advent on December 24th @ 9AM to allow us to prepare and lead worship for the Nativity of our Lord/Christmas Eve @ 1PM, 4PM, & 7PM. We are hopeful that you and your family will join us for worship Christmas Eve – look for a special mailing in the month of December – and the amazing ways we will celebrate the birth of the Messiah at each service.

The Rev. Martin A Milne

cell: 484-505-0987

mamilne@gmail.com

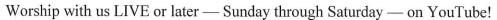
## **Worship Schedule for December 2023**

Worship Service @ 9:00<sup>AM</sup> № Sunday School following Children's Sermon

Date & Time	Happenings	Readings
Sunday, Dec 3	Service of Holy Communion 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 64.1-9; Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19 1 Corinthians 1.3-9; Mark 13.24-37
Sunday, Dec 10	Service of Holy Communion 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 40.1-11; Psalm 85.1-2,8-13 2 Peter 3.8-5a; Mark 1.1-8
Sunday, Dec 17	Service of Holy Communion 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11; Psalm 126 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24; John 1.6-8,19-28
Sunday, Dec 24	<b>Nativity of Our Lord</b> Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9.2-7; Psalm 96 Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-14[15-20]
Sunday, Dec 31	<b>Service of Holy Communion</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas	Isaiah 61.10-62.3; Psalm 148 Galatians 4.4-7; Luke 2.22-40



### CAN'T MAKE IT SUNDAY MORNING IN PERSON?





### Frozen Seafood & Crab Cakes Sale

benefitting the Linda Potteiger and Marjorie Bailey to further and continue educational advancement.

Order online at christmertz.org

Orders due December 10 Pick up December 16





## **December 2023 Sunday Morning Worship Leaders**

If you would like to serve as a worship leader, please let Stef know in the office. We would love to have you part of our worship leadership.

Sunday, December 3	Reader Acolyte Usher Altar Guild Communion Assistants Greeter Council Persons	Youth Lucas Hartman Megan Gangawere Sherry Rogers, Pete Flemming Charlie Ronco, Natashia Reitenauer Youth Sue Smith, Tom Trupp
Sunday, December 10	Reader Acolyte Usher Altar Guild Communion Assistants Greeter Council Persons	Nadine Hoffman Aiden Nace Tom and Sue Trupp Sue Smith, Denise Williams Bill Koch, Lauren Mills Eleanor Dreibelbis, Fay Marko Sue Smith, Tom Trupp
Sunday, December 17	Reader Acolyte Usher Altar Guild Communion Assistants Greeter Council Persons	Lori Stoudt Dominick Tomasi Deb Adam Gene and Patsy Greenawalt John and Jeanette Tomasi Denise Williams, Laruen Mills Sue Smith, Tom Trupp
Sunday, December 24	Reader Acolyte Usher Altar Guild Communion Assistants Greeter Council Persons	Volunteers are needed for the 1pm, 4pm and 7 pm Christmas Eve Services There will be NO 9AM Sunday Service that day
Sunday, December 31	Reader Acolyte Usher Altar Guild Communion Assistants Greeter Council Persons	Margie Miller Cole Pengelly Kathy Greiss Ann Heinly, Grace Bohn Faye Strachan, June Heller Jody and Craig Kemp Sue Smith, Tom Trupp





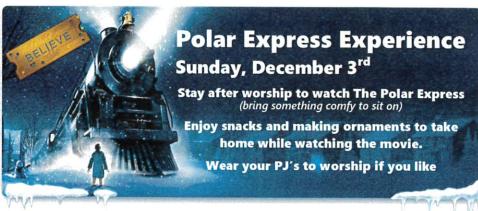
Deadline for Christmas Boxes is December 13

holiday napkins

## ANGEL TREE

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Angel Tree. Just as a reminder, please return your <u>UNWRAPPED</u> gifts along with the ornament by Sunday, December 3, along with wrapping paper or gift bag.





Last day of Sunday School and Confirmation is December 17<sup>th</sup>. Sunday School will meet again January 7<sup>th</sup>; Confirmation January 14<sup>th</sup>

Merry Christmas!!!

WE	DDING ANNIVERSARIES  December 2023
Dec 17	Dee & Kevin Reinert
	Doris & Gary Williams
Dec 22	Linda & Daniel Stern
Dec 25	Joan & Daniel Readinger
Dec 26	Toni & Chris Markey
Dec 27	Deb & Richard Adam
	Janet & Jerry Keller
Dec 30	Laura & Matthew Turner
Dec 31	Jeff & Gail Fox

LUNCH	
<b>BUNCH</b>	

INN ON MAIN IN OLEY DECEMBER 21 @ 12PM

## ATTENDANCE & GIVING AT A GLANCE

	Aug 2023	Aug 2022
Income	\$22,026	\$18,028
Expense	\$33,210	\$31,077
Difference	(\$11,026)	(\$13,048)

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Date	In-Person Worship	On-Line Worship
10/29/2023	146	104
11/05/2023	104	48
11/12/2023	92	67
11/19/2023	139	39
11/26/2023	93	34

### Miller Keystone Blood Drive Sunday, January 7

8:00AM - 2:00PM

See John Tomasi about an appointment or sign up on-line

https://donor.giveapint.org/donor/schedules/drive\_schedule/86690

# Did You Know We Have a QR Code for On-Line Giving?

- Open your camera app on your phone
- Center the camera on the QR code
- \* Tap the highlight screen when indicated

## IT'S THAT SIMPLE! GIVE IT A GO!



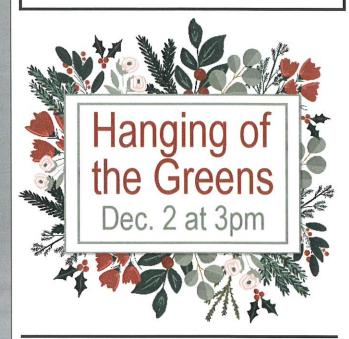


Dec 1 Bryon Oswald Karen Bertolet  Dec 2 Pamela Brunner Todd Greenawalt  Dec 3 Diane Nagel Patrick Behm  Dec 4 Karen Turner Nate Lawrence  Dec 5 Olivia Wanner Dec 6 Sue Heffner Dec 7 Scott Sanders Dec 8 Leon Mazurie II Dec 10 Tyler Williams Dec 14 Jackie Dekovitch John Rautzhan  Dec 16 Dan Miksiewicz Tim Hoffman  Dec 17 Laura Treichler Colin Flemming Dec 18 Eleanor Dreibelbis Dec 19 Faith Wanner Karen Waters Kristan Frederick  Dec 20 Timothy Behm Dec 21 Nadine Hoffman Dec 22 Patrica Rohrbach Aaron Messersmith Dec 24 Regina Sanders Fred Ziegler  Dec 25 Brian Gabel Christopher Weidele Dec 26 Louise DeMatteo Dale Leister  Dec 28 Bill Messersmith Keith Flicker Dec 31 Erica Caskie Laila Heffner	DEC	CEMBER BIRTHDAYS
Dec 2 Pamela Brunner Todd Greenawalt  Dec 3 Diane Nagel Patrick Behm  Dec 4 Karen Turner Nate Lawrence  Dec 5 Olivia Wanner Dec 6 Sue Heffner Dec 7 Scott Sanders Dec 10 Tyler Williams Dec 14 Jackie Dekovitch John Rautzhan  Dec 16 Dan Miksiewicz Tim Hoffman  Dec 17 Laura Treichler Colin Flemming  Dec 18 Eleanor Dreibelbis Dec 19 Faith Wanner Karen Waters Kristan Frederick  Dec 20 Timothy Behm Dec 21 Nadine Hoffman  Dec 22 Patrica Rohrbach Aaron Messersmith  Dec 24 Regina Sanders Fred Ziegler  Dec 25 Brian Gabel Christopher Weidele  Dec 27 Vale Deeter Natashia Reitenauer  Dec 28 Bill Messersmith Keith Flicker  Dec 31 Erica Caskie	Dec 1	Bryon Oswald
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Dec 28  Bill Messersmith  Keith Flicker  Dec 31  Erica Caskie		Dale Leister
Dec 28  Bill Messersmith  Keith Flicker  Dec 31  Erica Caskie	Dec 27	Vale Deeter
Dec 31 <b>Keith Flicker</b> Dec 31 <b>Erica Caskie</b>		Natashia Reitenauer
Dec 31 Erica Caskie	Dec 28	Bill Messersmith
		Keith Flicker
Laila Heffner	Dec 31	Erica Caskie
		Laila Heffner



Thank you for all the get well cards, well wishes and prayers after my surgery.

Linda Hilbert



## January DIY Class Wednesday, January 3 @ 6<sup>PM</sup>

Come make a wooden board with us. Cost is \$20. Deadline to sign up is December 24th. Please give your check (payable to Lauren Mills) or cash to Lauren, Jenna Anzelmo or Stef in the office. There are 25 spots available. Don't miss out!!



### Christ Church Children's Center

The First Step to a Bright Future
Volume 12 Issue 3





### FROM MR. Mike...

The staff and children of Christ Church Children's Center wish you and your entire family a blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year! We want to thank the church for your support throughout 2023! Here's to a safe 2024 full of learning, laughter, and smiles!

## Holiday Hours

Christ Church Children's Center will be closed from December 24 through January 1. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 2 at 6:30 AM.

## Help Support the Ministry of CCCC

The costs of providing childcare are rapidly outpacing what parents can afford. You can help CCCC with this vital ministry by donating supplies to the center. Supplies can be dropped off in the bin marked CCCC. Here is a list of supplies that we use on a regular basis:

Doritos - Blue or Blue

Fruit Snacks

Pretzels

**Graham Crackers** 

Tissue Boxes Peanut Butter Tortilla Chips

**Bugles** 

Veggie Straws

Batteries – AA or AAA

Animal Crackers Sun Chips



# 2024 Million Smiles Campaign

Christ Church Children's Center has launched our new fundraising campaign for 2024. It is our response to a broken childcare system. We need to pay our teachers better and fund our childcare center differently. We cannot just keep raising rates and making childcare more expensive.

Christ Church Children's Center's Million Smiles Campaign will raise money to support our center financially without constantly raising rates. The campaign will...

- \* Allow us to pay our teachers what they deserve (currently make an average of about \$12 per hour).
- \* Provide effective educational supplies that are creative and innovative for our children.
- \* Help us attract more staff with competitive salaries.
- \* Give our community affordable childcare.
- \* Help us enroll additional children in our program.

#### Three ways to donate:

- 1) Scan the QR Code
- 2) Visit https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/fundraising/578c9652-be48-42fd-86be-deab77c71420
- 3) Get a Form at the Church Bulletin Board and Return it with Your Donation



# Have shoes in your closet that you never wear? We are talking heels, boots, sneakers, kids shoes, cleats etc.

Consider donating them to Cub Scout Pack 575!

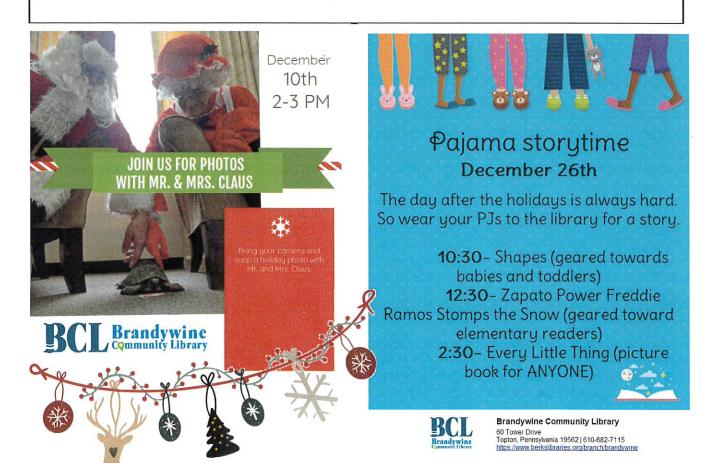
Every pair of gently worn, used or new shoes we collect will help fund our organization (and be kept out of landfills)!

Cub Scouts Pack 575 of Longswamp has fifteen scouts this year, and we are very excited to see our membership begin to return to pre-Covid numbers. Because of the recent increase by the National BSA's annual registration to \$130 per child, our fundraisers are more important than ever in helping to relieve some of the financial burden for our scout families. In recent years, we've sold popcorn, sandwiches, pierogies and burgers to cover these expenses. This year, we'd like to try something a little different, and give back at the same time.

The shoes that you gather will become an economic lifeline for micro enterprises in developing nations. These shoes will be sold in their communities, promoting commerce opportunities and leading to economic sustainability.

Help us with our goal by donating anytime between December 1 and January 31. There will be labeled boxes where you can drop off shoes in gently used or new condition. Box locations include: Brandywine Heights schools as well as participating churches.

We thank you so much for your ongoing support of our Scout Family





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
r					Ţ	7
Youth Sunday 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> Worship Service 9:15 <sup>AM</sup> Sunday School	4	ري د	9	7 6:00 <sup>PM</sup> YOGA	8 5:30 <sup>PM</sup> CCCC Staff	0
2nd Steuer Baptism 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> Worship Service 9:15 <sup>AM</sup> Sunday School Sacrament of Holy Communion	11	12	13		15	16
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> Worship Service 9:15 <sup>AM</sup> Sunday School Sacrament of Holy Communion	18 7:00 <sup>PM</sup> Congregation Council	19	20	21 12 <sup>PM</sup> Lunch Bunch 6:00 <sup>PM</sup> YOGA	22	23
Christmas Eve Services  Tpm, 4pm, 7pm Worship Service Sacrament of Holy Communion	25 KINGWAN	26 1:00 <sup>PM</sup> Kyler/Shafer wedding	27	28 6:00 <sup>PM</sup> YOGA	29	30
31 Mensch Baptism 1st Sunday of Christmas 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> Worship Service Sacrament of Holy Communion				Christ Mertz Lutheran Church 16 Fleetwood Road № Fleetwood P office: 610.682.7664 № email: christ The Rev. Martin A. Milne, Pastor	Christ Mertz Lutheran Church 16 Fleetwood Road № Fleetwood PA № 19522 office: 610.682.7664 № email: christ@christmertz.org The Rev. Martin A. Milne, Pastor	# 19522 christmertz.org