





*Advent at CLC 2021*

**CLC Weekly Update**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

**December 5, 2021**

**IN-PERSON WORSHIP**  
**this Sunday, December 5, at 9:30AM**  
**Pastor Erin Evans presiding**



**WORSHIP WITH US**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

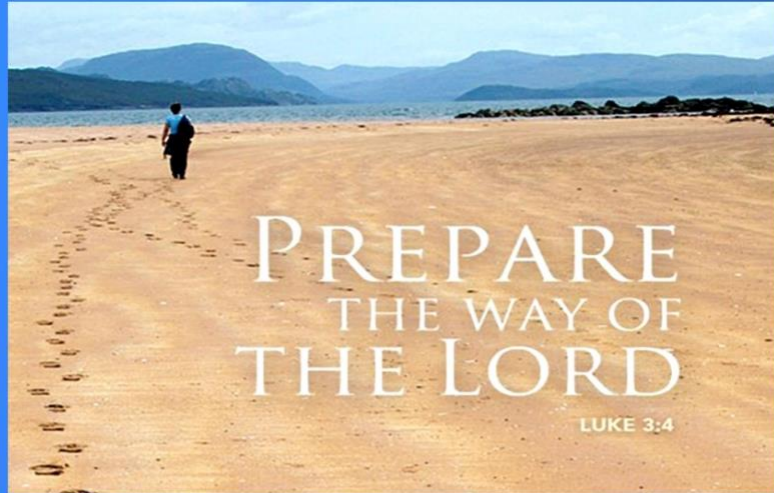
Psalm: Luke 1:68-79

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

**Gospel: Luke 3:1-6**

**Pastor Erin Evans preaching**

Christ Lutheran Church  
917 Evergreen Avenue, Millvale, PA 15209 ~ 412-821-4300 ~  
eMail: christlutheran917@gmail.com ~ www.clcmillvale.com



JOHN THE BAPTIST

In the miraculous birth of John the Baptist, we see the foundation of what is to come. We see how interwoven his story is with Jesus' origin story. When Zechariah regains his voice, his imagination is also restored. He offers deep praise for God's tender mercy, and casts a hopeful vision for his own child. He sings blessings into John's being. This lays the foundation for John's life. In turn, John will go on to prepare the way for Jesus who will guide us all in the way of peace. In this week, we focus on making space—in our lives and our imaginations—for God's blessings to break through. ~



PLEASE  
CONTINUE  
TO MASK  
OR  
SOCIAL  
DISTANCE!

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### **ADVENT WORSHIP AT CLC: CLOSE TO HOME**

**When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply.** During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. *Close to Home* acknowledges the “already but not yet” tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God’s promised day—our everlasting home—is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us.

**The Advent and Christmas scriptures are rich with home metaphors and imagery.** John the Baptist prophesies about the One who is to come, but reminds us that we are still wandering far from God’s promised day; his message hits close to home, especially for those experiencing inequity and oppression. After receiving the angel’s news, Mary retreats to Elizabeth’s home, seeking refuge and safety. Christ is born in the midst of a journey home, in a crowded dwelling space amidst livestock and shepherds alike. The Magi travel far from home to pay homage to Christ, and, having been warned in a dream, they avoid Herod by traveling home another way. In these scriptures, home is both physical and metaphorical, something we seek and something we are called to build. Ultimately, God is our home and resting place. God draws near and makes a home on earth—sacred ground is all around us.

***Close to Home* also names the pain many of us will carry into this season.** The holidays can poke at our grief. Many will be missing loved ones lost to sickness and tragedy. The traumas of the pandemic will still be with us. Many will have lost homes—due to natural disasters, economic hardship, and unjust policies. Many do not feel safe in their own homes due to poor living conditions or harmful family dynamics. Many feel alone and isolated at home. Churches are discerning transitions with their physical buildings; many of our spiritual homes are changing.

**This Advent, may we be comforted by the One who dwells intimately with us.** May we expand safety and sanctuary for everyone wandering far from home. May we come home— wherever home is found—to live fully with joy, hope, and courage.



CLOSE to  
HOME

**JOIN US THIS SEASON**

LONGEST NIGHT WORSHIP  
WEDNESDAY DEC. 15TH @ 7:00PM

DESIGNED TO CREATE SACRED SPACE  
FOR THE GRIEF, LONGING, AND  
HEARTACHE THAT FEELS CLOSE TO  
HOME—ESPECIALLY DURING THE  
HOLIDAY SEASON.

**LONGEST NIGHT WORSHIP: WEDNESDAY DEC 15th @ 7pm**

For those who have experienced loss, the holidays can be a particularly painful time, stirring up grief in acute ways.

A Longest Night service is designed to provide space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance amidst the holiday hustle and bustle. In this pandemic season of life, grief and loss will be magnified and nearly universal, and a service like this may be needed now more than ever. We hope the scripture, poetry, and music are a gift to the community and the individual. CLC welcomes you to and holds this space for you. ~

**Advent at CLC**



Homesick  
First Sunday of Advent

**2nd Sunday of Advent - December 5th 9:30am -  
"Laying the Foundation"**

**3rd Sunday of Advent - December 12th 9:30am -  
"A Home For All"**

**Longest Night Service - December 15th 7:00pm -  
"Heartache Hits Close to Home"**

**4th Sunday of Advent - December 19th 9:30am -  
"Seeking Sanctuary"**

**Christmas Eve Worship - December 24th 7:00pm -  
"Invited Home"**


**1st Sunday of Christmas - December 26th 9:30am -  
"Lessons and Carols: Chosen Home"**

**Epiphany - January 2nd 9:30am -  
"Home By Another Way"**



## WAYS TO GIVE FOR CHRISTMAS

CLC will again be helping local families with gifts for their children. Families can sign up their kids in the office (18 and under). We need members to purchase gifts and return them to the office for distribution. Age/gender/gift wants and suggestions will be provided. We are also providing gifts for adults with mental health needs living in the local CRR home in Millvale, and wants/suggestions will be provided for those as well. Please let Pastor Erin know if you can help with this holiday generosity, and make the season bright for those in need of support.



**CONFIRMATION CLASS RESUMES ON SUNDAYS at 8:39am**  
in the Library, with Leonard Jansen and Pastor Erin teaching.

## Another Way to Give this Season . . .

Dear Members and Friends,

I preached a sermon this summer and shared that my sister Mary lived and worked in Afghanistan for awhile, and is very active with helping Afghan refugees both to get out of the country and to resettle here. Through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, she has recently rehomed a family of 12, outside of Washington DC where she lives, and is providing everything they need: from beds to employment connections to kids toys. Her Lutheran congregation has set up a page to donate to this effort, and she has a small committee of church members helping her.

Many folks have asked if we are doing anything to support local refugees, but we just don't have the same number of families resettling here in Pittsburgh. If you'd like to help this family by donating, the money will go to providing new linens, small appliances for the kitchen, winter clothes for the family, and much needed furniture, as well as regular groceries and meals delivered for now.

You can donate at: <https://hopecp.org/donate.html>  
or see the Weekly Update for a Click to be taken to Hope Lutheran Church's donation page and choose **Fall Mission Appeal, Local Refugee Resettlement Fund**.

Peace,

Pastor Erin Evans

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### **Concordia's Ninth Annual Live Nativity**

**Sunday, December 12**

148 Marwood Rd., Cabot, PA 16023 (Entrance #5, Haven II)

Performances at 4:30, 5:15 and 6 p.m.

For more information, call

724-352-1571, ext. 8268 or visit

<https://www.concordialm.org/events-news/concordialivenativity2021>

### ***At CLC December 5 to December 12, 2021***

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
5 8:30am Confirmation Class 9:30am Sunday Worship	6 9:30-11:30am Food Pantry	7 9:30-11:30am Food Pantry	8 4-7pm Millvale Community Counseling Center Services 6-7pm Girl Scouts - Gathering Place	9 9:30-11:30am Food Pantry 5:30-7pm Boy Scouts 5:30pm Sewing 7pm Choir Practice	10 9:30-11:30am Food Pantry 7:00pm NA Meets Library	11 9am AA Meets-Library 7pm NA Meets-Library Gathering Place Booked for Michelle H. - her daughter Crafts

#### **Upcoming Commemorations**

**Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342**

**Monday, December 6, 2021**

Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.

**Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397**

**Tuesday, December 7, 2021**

While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.

**Visit Us at [CLCMillvale.com](http://CLCMillvale.com)**

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## One Stop Santa Shop

Craft Fair and Vendor Show

Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

10am-2pm

*Christ Lutheran Church*

917 Evergreen Avenue, Millvale



The host will  
be donating all  
table costs  
and proceeds  
from the  
Chinese  
Auction to  
CLC!

Come enjoy  
this fun event!

## pray & crochet

No matter your skill level, we'll pray together  
and make blankets for those who might  
need an extra layer of compassion

**SECOND THURSDAY OF  
THE MONTH:  
December 9th 10:00am**

**CLC**  
**MILLVALE**  
Christ Lutheran Church

## Food Pantry Items Needed:

Mayonnaise  
Spaghetti Sauce  
Canned Chicken and Tuna  
Pancake Mix and Syrup  
Jello  
Pudding  
Icing  
Cake Mix  
Cream of Mushroom Soup



Open 9:30-11:30am Mon.,  
Tues., Thurs. & Fri.

**CLC**  
**MILLVALE**  
Christ Lutheran Church





## Anticipation 2

Joseph Imhoff

The ketchup moves very slowly, tapping on the neck is often sufficient to let air in and ketchup out; do not hold the bottle upside down shaking or pounding the bottom or rap the bottom of the neck.

On this the Second Sunday of Advent there are a few taps on the neck in anticipation of the future beyond the Nativity to pique our interest in what the future holds. This week the focus is not on Jesus' coming as a child but his entry into his ministry which is some thirty years in the future.

The Prayer of the Day and the lighting of the Advent Wreath refer to a foundation of faith which we know to be Christ Jesus but the assigned reading for year C of the liturgical cycle talk about the foundation being laid in preparation of that ministry, John the Baptizer!

The prophet Malachi related that God is going to send a messenger ahead of the one who is to come. The words should sound very familiar because George Frederic Handel used today's reading in several well know passages of his oratorio Messiah with the libretto created by Charles Jennens in 1841.

In St. Paul's letter to the Church at Phillippi the readers are admonished to remain steadfast in their knowledge and love in order to remain blameless until the day of Christ, meaning his next coming as they are already the product of his coming at what we now refer to as Christmas.

"Here comes the judge, here comes the judge!", is an apt line from a Flip Wilson comedy sketch to lead into the Gospel lesson from Luke this Second Sunday of Advent. John, son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, cousins of Mary making John, who can only be a few months older than Jesus, a second cousin of Jesus, is the fulfillment of the prophecies made by Isaiah, in last years lectionary cycle as the messenger proclaiming the coming of the Messiah.

If you ever watched movies about the life of Christ it seems John must have aged very fast in his short lifetime because he usually appears years (instead of months) older than Jesus.

So today we can honor John's birthday by joining his father in singing "Zechariah's Lullaby", loosely using some of the words spoken as the silence imposed by the angel for not believing he would have a son until the day he named his son "John". ~



## Life in the Wilderness

The American Red Cross offers a training called Wilderness and Remote First Aid, during which participants learn skills to be used in case of emergencies such as low blood sugar, hypothermia, and burns when professional help is unavailable or far away. For someone experiencing a health crisis in a wilderness setting, a companion with remote first aid skills can be lifesaving.

When Luke introduces John the Baptist in today's gospel, readers are told that the word of God came to John in the wilderness. The wilderness mentioned here brings to mind a place that is remote, sparsely populated, and rugged. Yet there is a sense of another wilderness being illuminated here as well—the wilderness of a messy world where some have wealth and status while others experience food insecurity, injustice, and homelessness.

It is into this wilderness that John the Baptist proclaims that one is coming through whom “all flesh shall see the salvation of God” (Luke 3:6). Luke's intentional listing of all the authorities in power (vv. 1-2) indicates that he wants readers to know just how different John the Baptist and, more importantly, the one he proclaims are from the rulers of the day.

People were drawn to the message John proclaimed, yet throughout his ministry John was clear that it wasn't about him or his personal agenda but rather the work of God through him. He pointed to the Promised One and to the salvation Jesus offers. Like Jesus, John proclaimed a message that extended to the vulnerable and spoke of caring for our neighbors.

Similarly, as followers of Christ, we are commissioned to go into the wilderness, to bring good news to the little and the least, and to proclaim the work of God in our lives, through both our actions and our words. As we do, we bear witness to the promise that Jesus is indeed the Messiah, the one who leads us from death to life. ~



Christ Lutheran Church  
CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ORDER

Deadline: dec. 5, 2021

Size	# ordered	cost
4 ½ " Pot \$ 4.00	_____ x \$ 4.00	_____
Color: Red _____ white _____ pink _____		
6 ½ " pot \$ 8.00	_____ x \$ 8.00	_____
Color: red _____ white _____ pink _____		

Total cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Ordered by: \_\_\_\_\_

May have more than one name

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Purchased for shut-in: \_\_\_\_\_

Please place this order form and money in the offering plate. If you prefer to call the office, please do so 412.821.4300 during office hours and give Patty the information. Then place the money in the offering plate the following Sunday.

You may pick up your flowers on December 24, 2021 from the altar after service.

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Youtube: clcmillvale ; Twitter: ChristMillvale ;  
Facebook and Instagram: #CLCMillvale.