



CLC Weekly Update - January 1, 2023  
First Sunday of Christmas—In-Person Worship  
**On January 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30AM**

## **WORSHIP WITH US**

### **Name of Jesus**

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

Psalm 8

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:15-21

**Pastor Erin Evans preaching**

Christ Lutheran Church  
917 Evergreen Avenue, Millvale, PA 15209  
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Youtube: clcmillvale Twitter: ChristMillvale  
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Visit Us at [CLCMillvale.com](https://www.clcmillvale.com)

In the neighborhood...  
For good.

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



**THE  
CHILD WAS CALLED  
JESUS**

LUKE 2:21

From the beginning, through baptism, we are called Christian. We are “Christ-ened” at the font. Bearing Christ’s name, we share the same Father and are invited to address this parent intimately: Abba! Jesus bears our sins in humble obedience to the will of God. Today we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own. It is a good way to begin, again, another year. ~

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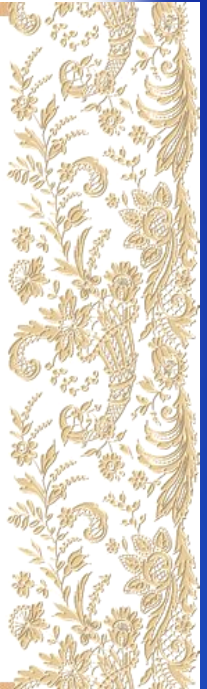
## Our Council Members for 2023

Erica Strafalace	Tim Komoroski
Kurt Schreiber	Jean Thens
Lennie Jansen	Bud Worst
Becky Nyren	Ray Lardin
Diane Curry	Joe Imhoff

Council Meetings are normally the 2nd Monday of the month at 7pm. Thanks to those who have served and all who share their time to lead our congregation!

## OFFERING ENVELOPES and End of Year Gifts to the Church

Please have your gifts, offering, and tithe for 2022 into the church by the end of the calendar year. New Offering Envelopes are being sent to members, please do not use your NEW ones until 2023 to avoid confusion. Your generosity makes a difference; thank you for your continued financial support of the congregation. If you do not receive envelopes in the mail please speak to Pastor Erin or Treasurer Ray Lardin.



SUNDAY SCHOOL for PRE-K THROUGH GRADE 6  
SUNDAYS AT 8:30AM

**NO Sunday STEAM  
on Sunday, January 1, 2023**

*See you all again on January 8 for class!*

**FOOD PANTRY  
DONATIONS  
NEEDED:  
CANNED FRUIT**



*The Food Pantry will open with normal hours on Monday, January 2nd.*

**The Food Pantry is Open Mondays and Fridays from 9:30am to 11:30am, and on Wednesdays from 5pm to 7pm.**



**Thank you to all who contributed, bought presents, wrapped presents, and gave generously!**

**We were able to provide Christmas presents for 32 families this year!**



**The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. †**

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## Squirrel Hill Health Center Mobile Medical Unit at CLC

Do you need a local Dr. you can walk to? Need a quick check up or conversation and not sure where to go? The Mobile Medical Unit RV will be parked here on **NORTH AVENUE, TWICE A MONTH**, for all your primary care needs! See the Flier below for more information and dates.

**NEW! Squirrel Hill Health Center Mobile Medical Unit At CLC** Do you need a local Dr. you can walk to? Need a quick check up or conversation and not sure where to go? The Mobile Medical Unit RV will be parked here on NORTH AVENUE, TWICE A MONTH, for all your primary care needs! See below:



Squirrel Hill Health Center's mobile medical unit provides primary healthcare services to Pittsburgh communities, regardless of patients' income level or insurance status. We treat patients of every age.

**PAYMENTS AND INSURANCE:** SHHC ACCEPTS ALL INSURANCES AND OFFERS A SLIDING FEE SCALE FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNINSURED.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SHHC, PLEASE CALL  
(412) 904-5284**

*Clinic Dates  
To Be Announced*

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**917 Evergreen Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15209**  
**\*\*Mobile Unit Will Be Parked on North Ave\*\***

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH**



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# God's Great Owl

(January)

Joseph Imhoff

An odd title you might think but it is the title of a chapter in Joseph Wood Krutch (1893-1970) 1949 book the Twelve Seasons \* A Perpetual Calendar for the Country. Having had the book for a long time, perhaps from college, I thought it might be a good starting point for my article the first Sunday of each month. J W Krutch, author, critic and naturalist, was an esteemed professor of English from 1938 to 1952 at Columbia University when advised by his doctors he moved to Tucson Arizona for health reasons.

He writes his first essay near the end of January, the snow so eagerly awaited in December had held off until the Winter Solstice and fallen just before Christmas. "The snow, then has been with us long enough so that it is now no novelty, but one of the conditions of life. When it first fell it was exciting almost as the first flowers of spring. Even my cats, I noticed, took it as gaily as children and dogs commonly do." Causing him to wonder if the animals have the same concepts of this as people do.

Out in the New England winter he continues to take his walk, the cats accompanying him where he observes, "...winter has turned the landscape into a kind of cold desert... The earth has been drastically simplified, and sweeping space is perhaps the most successful of its effects."

Winter for human beings is the time for festivities, the 'holidays' falling in the middle, a Christmas tree substituting for the beauty of the outdoors, the contrasts between inside and out as we travel from place to place with celebration.

One evening around eight P.M., "Suddenly I was alone with the universe. The realist things besides myself in all existence were not either human beings nor any living things. I seemed about to grasp what the earth, the suns, and the stars meant to themselves as distinguished from what they mean to any of us creatures...."

There is the lonely hoot of a great owl in the distance and he is returned to reality. The meaning is clear to him, the owl is foraging for food, the hoot is to startle the prey, mice most likely, into moving so it can swoop down and catch his dinner.

"In an instant I was back among my own kind. The communication from space was never received. Sometimes I wonder whether God, the only time He ever began to speak to me, was interrupted by one of His own owls." ~



## **Name of Jesus      Chosen Families**

When the shepherds arrived, they came upon a scene not unlike that in many nativity sets: Mary and Joseph, gazing adoringly (and sleepily, no doubt!) at the manger between them. This holy family, at once biological and chosen, encourages us to think with compassion and divine creativity about our own definitions of family and belonging.

Jesus, in both his name and his very being, was known and loved well before his conception, birth, or ritual entry into the community. This heir of God and adopted son was known and loved deeply and given a mission and purpose in the world.

We also, as heirs of God's mysteries, and as adopted children, are named, commissioned, and blessed, not because of our lineage, our ancestry, or our family affiliation, but because God is love. Through the infant Christ, we can see and know ourselves to be part of the family of God for which we and all people have been chosen.

This and all holiday seasons carry many cultural expectations and assumptions about families and family gatherings. How can our communities of faith, in this season and beyond, take special care to notice, include, and be transformed by the gifts of those who are single; those who are childless by choice or circumstance; those who are separated, divorced, or widowed; multigenerational households; same-gender couples and families; those who find family in places of congregate living; those who find kinship with communities of grief, recovery, or shared interest? How can we recognize and care for those in our communities who need to be embraced, included, seen, and loved for who God created them to be?

May the nontraditional nature of the holy family help us recognize familial love in all relationships where belonging is fostered, trust is built, encouragement is given, and joys and griefs alike are shared. May we see ourselves and all God's children as kin and kindred: one body, with its many diverse and beautiful members. ~



## Upcoming Commemorations

### Name of Jesus

#### Sunday, January 1, 2023

By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

#### Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, died 1872 Monday, January 2, 2023

Loehe was a pastor in nineteenth-century Germany. Loehe's chief concern was that a congregation find its life in the holy communion, and from that source evangelism and social ministries would flow. He sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and Ukraine.

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Pastor Erin Evans: displays for CLC Weekly Updates, Heading Logo-In the Neighborhood, Food Pantry Updates, Sunday Steam, Christmas Day Service

From the Pastor's Desk: clipart446827

The Child was Called Jesus: SundaysandSeasons.com; Name of Jesus "Madonna and Child" stained glass, Church of St. Patrick, Edina, Minnesota. Photo copyright © Lucinda Naylor. Used by permission

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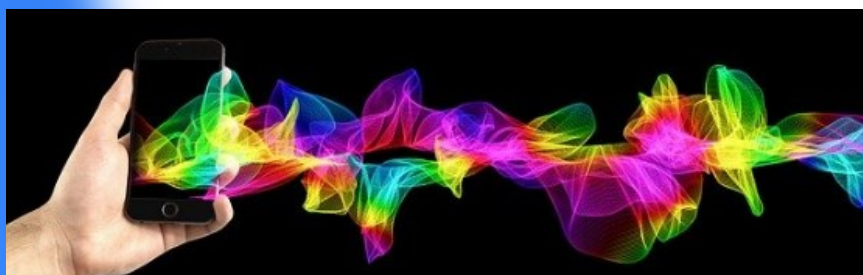
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