

## CLC Weekly Update - January 8, 2023 In-Person Worship

# on January 8th at 9:30AM WORSHIP WITH US Baptism of Our Lord

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43 Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

Pastor Erin Evans preaching

Christ Lutheran Church 917 Evergreen Avenue, Millvale, PA 15209 Phone 412-821-4300 ~ Fax 412-693-9742 CLC Website: https://www.clcmillvale.com/

Youtube: clcmillvale Twitter: ChristMillvale Facebook and Instagram: #CLCMillvale Email to: ChristLutheran917@gmail.com

Visit Us at CLCMillvale.com



In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

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Thank you to all for the the lovely cards, delicious snacks, and thoughtful gifts this Christmas season.

Thank you for caring for me and my family! It is so appreciated!

Pastor Erin

## 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.



### **Our Council Members for 2023**

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

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Sunday STEAM is our "one room school house" model teaching kids PreK - 6th grade bible stories and incorporating STEAM lessons to go with the theme for the day. Main teachers cover basics and provide consistency, along with special guest teachers covering things in their field or area of interest. We do science experiments, hands-on projects, and cover all things "STEAM" (Science, Truth, Engineering, Art, and Music). **Come have hands-on fun every Sunday at 8:30am.** 

# FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS NEEDED: CANNED FRUIT





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

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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!



### 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.



Let Christmas Blossom Throughout the Year!

## **Cold December Flies Away**

Joseph Imhoff

The Christmas hymn of the title in very symbolic poetic language describes the meaning of the arrival of the Christ child as the blooming of a rose, red, sweetly perfumed in love's own garden! It alludes to past expectations and to the future April's crowning glory. Being a Catalonian carol, the autonomous region in Spain, Barcelona its capitol, the words are evocative of the lush gardens found in the region.

The second stanza begins with the expectation of the people, the time commemorated as Advent over the first four weeks of the Church year but having lasted for over a thousand as prophets told us and kings such as David expected. And many think the commercial anticipation of the holidays starting in July is too long! When all seems lost in night there comes the sun whose golden light brings unending joy, the Son beloved of heaven.

The story of the carol does not end there, the bud continues to grow spreading throughout the world, it's beauty lives, in the flow'r it lives spreading in heav'nly brightness! It has driven away the coldness of December replacing it with warmth and light, could it be a never ending Christmas spirit?

Some may think the Christmas season ends Christmas Day. I saw stores on the 26th with nary a sign of Christmas but showing the red and pink for St. Valentine's Day and one with green for St. Patrick's Day. Some neighbors across the street turned their lights off the day after New Years!

The Christmas Season continues within the Church; January 1st it celebrated the naming of Jesus. On the 6th is the Epiphany, the day set aside for the arrival and adoration of Jesus by the Magi, my three Wise Men are sitting off to the side of the manger until the appropriate time.

Lastly, on Sunday, January 8th, the Church will celebrate the Baptism of our Lord by John the Baptist in the Jordan River at about thirty years of age. My, how quickly that baby has grown!

December has flown away but the legacy produced is still growing and ready to blossom in this New Year!  $\sim$ 

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### **Baptism of Our Lord**

It was a relatively common scene: a first-century Palestinian man waiting on the banks of the Jordan River for his turn to be baptized. And yet there was something different about this time, this place, this man. This time God would enter into the waters of God's own creation.

This story gives us a glimpse of how God enters fully into this life with us. God enters into our earthbound, created existence of river banks and dusty earth, rushing water and cloud-spotted skies. Jesus enters into our time-bound realities of life and death too, not shying away from the hard parts of being human. In these mysterious waters of baptism, Jesus immerses himself in pain and sin, sickness and death. And then Jesus emerges from the depths into new life—a life rooted in his identity as the Beloved One, the one sent by God to bring all of creation into renewed relationship with God and one another.

Jesus' baptism is just the beginning of his earthly ministry. From here, he will enter the wilderness, call his disciples, preach and teach and heal. He will disrupt the status quo, scandalize the authorities, and challenge his most loyal followers in his mission to offer the world a glimpse of the kingdom of God.

At its core, this is an Epiphany story. It reveals to us who Jesus is: Beloved. Sent by God. The one in whom God is pleased from the very beginning. The one in whom God is made known to the world. And this story reveals to us something else as well. It has the power to remind us who we are, as we too are swept up in these life-giving waters. We too emerge as a new creation made whole in Christ. May we hear God's words to us too: "This is my child the beloved, with whom I am well pleased." ~



#### Upcoming Commemorations

#### Adrian of Canterbury, teacher, died around 710 (TFF) Monday, January 9, 2023

African by birth, Adrian (or Hadrian) worked with Theodore, archbishop of Canterbury, in developing the church in England. He was director of a school at which church leaders were trained.



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. 令

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