



*Join Us for Advent at*



**CLC Weekly Update - In-Person Worship**

**December 17 at 9:30AM**

# **WORSHIP WITH US**

## **Third Sunday of Advent**

**First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

**Luke 1:46b-55**

**Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

**Gospel: John 1:1-8**



**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/>**

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**Visit Us at [CLCMillvale.com](https://www.clcmillvale.com)**



In the neighborhood...  
For good.

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



John  
came  
to testify  
to the  
light

JOHN 1:8



“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party. ~

**There is no Sunday School Dec. 24 or Dec. 31**

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# ADVENT

**Sunday December 3rd: 1st Sunday of Advent 9:30am**

Congregational Annual Meeting at 10:30am

& Adult Advent Series to follow

**Sunday December 10th: 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:30am**

Adult Advent Series at 10:30am

**Sunday December 17th: 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:30am**

Adult Advent Series at 10:30am

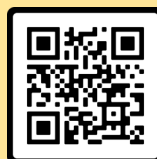
**Sunday December 24th: 4th Sunday of Advent 9:30am**

*No Sunday School or Adult Advent Series*



**SUNDAY  
DEC. 24TH:  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
WORSHIP AT  
7:00PM**

***Use this QR CODE  
to give online and do  
your part!***



**SCAN ME**

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## Advent Adult Education

Many of us know the story of Jesus' birth by heart. We grew up hearing the Nativity story, with Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the magi, the donkey, the angel choir, and the stable and manger. Perhaps we have heard the story so many times now that some of the wonder has worn off.

This, then, is a great time to take a step back and explore the story as if we are hearing it for the first time!

Seminarian Lindsie will be leading an adult Sunday discussion series based on Amy-Jill Levine's *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent*, in which we will explore the gospel stories of Christmas. **We will meet at 10:30AM** (following the 9:30 Worship Service) **on December 17th.**

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## Staff Update

We announced at the Congregational Meeting on December 3rd that our Director of Music and Liturgy, Ed Kapsha, had submitted his resignation effective December 31. Our staff support committee will be meeting soon to begin the process of hiring a new church musician. Please keep Ed in your prayers and wish him well in his next ministry. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Erin or Pat Bauer, chair of the Worship and Music committee.

## CALL COMMITTEE NEWS

We also announced at the Congregational Meeting that the Call Committee has been given the profiles of 2 pastoral candidates to interview. Please keep the committee and candidates in your prayers as they plan and discern.



## COUNCIL NEWS

Welcome our new council members elected at our Congregational Meeting on December 3rd: *Pat Bauer, Morgan Boyd, Tina Galioto, and Jackie Marfisi.*

We give thanks for those out-going council members who have faithfully served and continue to serve the church: *Diane Curry, Tim Komoroski, Becky Nyren.*

Our council is a two year term with monthly meetings. Please consider this possibility in serving and leading your church!

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### Third Sunday of Advent

## Patterns of Grace

People who sew often use patterns to guide their creations. To make a skirt, suit, or quilt of a certain size, one cuts out the pattern, pins it to fabric, and then cuts along the pattern to get pieces of cloth that are the right sizes and shapes to be sewn together.

In today's gospel reading we find a pattern that is repeated throughout the biblical narrative: a person of faith does something that draws the attention of others, which gives them an opportunity to share the story of their faith. The prophets often performed public actions that led to them speaking the word of the Lord. It is not surprising that the conspicuous work of John the Baptist at the Jordan River caused the priests and Levites to wonder if he was "the prophet."

Early in the Gospel of John we are told that John the Baptist was a witness who would testify to the light that is Jesus. John's answer to the religious leaders' queries continues with the language of testimony, as he confesses that he is not the Messiah. We see the pattern at work here: John's actions are a proclamation all their own, but those actions draw others' attention, and that gives him an opportunity to testify, to share his story of God's way.

This pattern keeps going with us today as God continues to stitch grace into the world. Whose actions of faith have drawn your attention? How have their stories of faith been a comfort or challenge to you? Our actions need not be as ambitious as baptizing a whole community in the river for people to take notice. Our following the way of Jesus will draw people's attention, and their curiosity then gives us an opportunity to testify, to share our stories of transformation, faith, hope, and love. ~

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## This Week at CLC:



### Sunday

December 17 -

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

8:30am Sunday School

CLC Sunday Worship Service at 9:30am

12-3pm Toy Giveaway

### Monday

**December 18** - 9:30 to 11:30am FOOD PANTRY

3:30-7:30pm Violin

5-6pm TOPS CLUB, 6-7pm Tai Chi

**5-7pm Toy Giveaway**, 6:30-8pm ESL Tutoring

7-9pm Pain Clinic

### Tuesday

**December 19** - 9am to 3pm 412 Food Rescue

5:30-8:30pm Violin, 6pm ESL Tutoring Library

### Wednesday

**December 20** - 4-8pm Anchorpoint Community Counseling, 5-7pm FOOD PANTRY

7-8pm Choir Practice, 6:30-8pm ESL Tutoring

### Thursday

**December 21** - 6:30-7:30pm Boy Scouts Pack 162, 6pm ESL Tutoring Library

### Friday

**December 22** - 9:30 to 11:30am FOOD PANTRY

7pm NA meets in the Library

### Saturday

**December 23** - 9am AA meets in the Library

7pm NA meets in the Library

### Sunday

**December 24** - **4th Sunday of Advent**

**Christmas Eve**

**There is no Sunday School Dec. 24 or Dec. 31**

CLC Sunday Worship Service at 9:30am

**7pm Christmas Eve Worship**



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## CLC FOOD PANTRY

Donations are requested for

**Spaghetti  
and  
Spaghetti Sauce**



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

**LOST:** Prescription Men's Reading Glasses, Dark Frame, left in church or Toddler Sunday School Room on Sunday, 11/26.

### In case of emergency....

**Did you know** we have an emergency defibrillator? It's on the wall, near the office and food pantry check-in table.

**Did you know** we have Narcan available? With the first aid kits in the narthex and in the office too!



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John Came to Testify: John the Baptist from western facade of Cathédrale Notre Dame de Reims, France. Photo copyright Catherine Leblanc Getty Images Plus via Getty Images. Used by permission.

Patterns of Grace: human-hands-open-palm-up-worship jcomp Freepik.com

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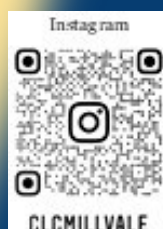
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**ONLINE  
GIVING**



SCAN ME



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