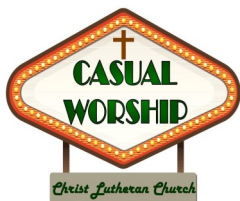


CHRIST'S COMMUNIQUE

Issue: 645 February 2025



9am Casual Worship



We have moved inside for the colder months of the year! We will have a projector screen up in the FSH, & Live Streaming on FB & later on our website.

Together@10



1st Sunday of the Month

INTERGENERATIONAL!
All Together fun, food, fellowship and learning in the FSH @10am.

3rd Sunday of the Month

*3yrs-5th grade: downstairs in the C/Room,
Youth: MS & HS Youth Lounge upstairs,
Adult: Parlor*

11am Traditional

Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary



PASTOR CINDY'S NOTE

When asked what is the greatest commandment, Jesus said: “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Our website (christlutheranroanoke.org) boldly proclaims this is who we are: “The body of Christ ALIVE, Loving God, Loving Neighbor.”

We love God by loving our neighbors in all kinds of ways through the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church – Family Promise, Social Club, Habitat for Humanity, RAM House, Green Team, God’s Work Our Hands, and so many more... I’m excited about some new ways we have the opportunity to serve even more people in our community this year too!

Christ Lutheran will be part of a 5-congregation Virginia Synod cohort participating in the ELCA’s *Congregations Lead Initiative*. “Through the Congregations Lead Initiative, the ELCA is equipping and inspiring congregations with innovation and design-thinking tools to spark a renewal of congregational ministry and community partnerships to create adaptable, relevant, and resilient faith communities.” Through the initiative, we will have the opportunity to develop a new ministry project based on the needs of our local community with the support of the other Virginia Synod congregations and the ELCA Innovation Lab staff. Thanks to Diane, Sue and Leah for leading this project at Christ Lutheran. Watch for updates throughout the year!

On February 18 at 1pm a renewed Social Ministry Team will have our first meeting. The Team will take the lead on our support of the Lucy Addison Middle School Food Pantry and consider other new projects to serve our community. Please let me know if you are interested in being part of this group (even if you can’t be there on 2/18). How blessed we are to serve God and others together!

In Peace and Hope,
Pastor Cindy

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



A poster for a bowling event. On the left is a circular logo with a star and a heart. The background shows bowling pins on a lane. Text is overlaid on the image.

Roanoke Area Lutheran Youth

BOWLING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16
4:00-6:00PM
Lee-Hi Lanes

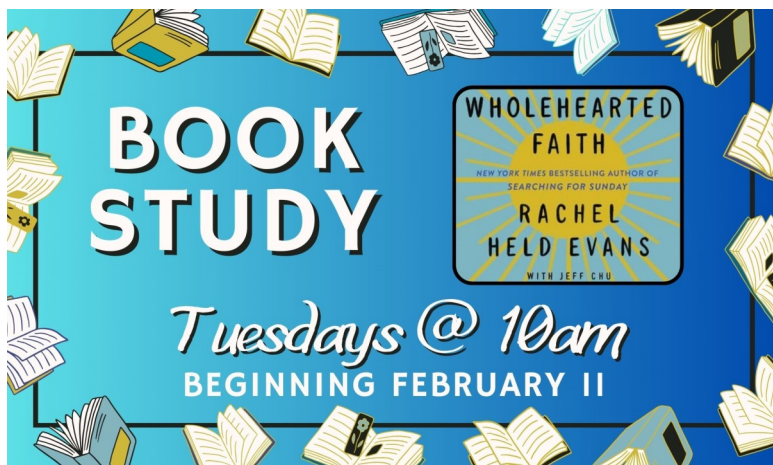
Confirmation at Christ @ 3:00pm



TOGETHER@10 SUNDAY SCHOOL

1st Sunday of the Month (Feb 2): INTERGENERATIONAL GATHERING! Meeting in the FSH @10am. **Candlemas Celebration** - Come, learn about this ancient Christian tradition that takes place on February 2 (Presentation of Our Lord). Candle crafts, good food, and fun together are all on the agenda!

3rd Sunday of the Month (Feb 16): 3yrs-5th grade: Downstairs in the C/Room, **Youth:** MS & HS Youth Lounge upstairs, **Adult:** Parlor



A poster for a book study. It features a blue background with illustrations of books and papers. The text is white and yellow.

BOOK STUDY

WHOLEHEARTED FAITH
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF SEARCHING FOR SUNDAY
RACHEL HELD EVANS
WITH JEFF CHU

Tuesdays @ 10am
BEGINNING FEBRUARY 11

Join Pastor Cindy to study a new book starting
(NEW STARTING DATE)
Tuesday, Feb. 11 @ 10am in the parlor.



A pink poster with yellow text and a heart icon.

SECRET PAL REVEALING PARTY

February 23

Bring a dish to share and a Thank you note or gift for your adult Secret Pal. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall @ 12 noon.

MORE GATHERINGS. . .



FAMILY PROMISE

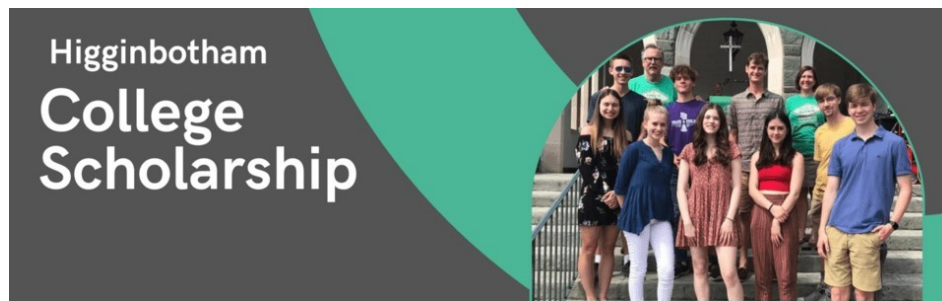
We will be serving Family Promise families the week of **Feb. 9-15** at the Alexa House. Exact days will be determined as time draws near. We need volunteers to provide meals, serve/host dinner, stay overnight, provide breakfast items, and beverages. Contact Georgia to volunteer or for more information.



SOCIAL MINISTRY TEAM

Are you interested caring for others in our community? Do you have ideas about new serving ministries? Do you just want to find out what "Social Ministry" is about? Come to the first meeting of the renewed Social Ministry Team - **Tuesday, February 18 at 1:00pm.**

JERRY HIGGINBOTHAM MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



The scholarship award may be used for any legitimate higher education expenses, including but not limited to, tuition and/or books. Scholarships may be awarded each year to returning students, as long as they are enrolled as a full-time student in an undergraduate, graduate, or technical degree program. Payment of this scholarship will be made in the form of a check co-payable to the recipient and the approved school. This scholarship program does not cover higher education expenses for those students that are pursuing a ministerial degree at a seminary as there is a separate scholarship fund for that purpose – Ministerial Scholarship Fund.

The Jerry Higginbotham Memorial Scholarship was established by Jerry Higginbotham, and now is designated in his memory. Questions contact Julie .

**The new 2025 Application & Guidelines are available on our website: christlutheranroanoke.org
click: current members**

There is a applications for First Time Applicants, & a separate application for Returning Student Application.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 14, 2025

ON GOING MINISTRIES AT CLC



MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: Mondays at **10:30am** meeting in the FSH. All are welcome to join this group.

CHOIR REHEARSAL: join us on Wednesdays @ 7:30pm in the Choir room. New singers are always welcome!



HANDY FOLK GROUP: Join the women & men that make up this wonderful group of people that take care of our church building. Friday **Feb. 7**, at 8am they will meet at Famous Anthony's at Oak Grove Mall for breakfast then some maintenance work on church property. Contact George if you have questions.



SOCIAL CLUB: Christ Lutheran Social Club meets on Thursday nights, **Jan 6**, and **Jan 20**, @ 5pm at CLC. If you would like to help serve meals or drive the bus to pick up our members, please let Wanda & Greg know if you are able to volunteer.

CHURCH COUNCIL: will meet Tuesday, **Feb. 11**. Meetings are the 2ND Tuesday of the month in the Fellowship Hall @ 7pm. Please let Chip know if you are unable to attend this meeting.



GREEN TEAM: Join us in the Parlor on Wednesday, **Feb. 12** @ 1pm. Davey, of Star City Compost, will discuss how to be ambassadors for his business at our February meeting.

Our mission remains the same: *"As good stewards of the earth, it is our mission to educate, act and advocate for a future where our children and grandchildren can live and thrive."* **1)** clean dry egg shells, **2)** Tabs for The Ronald McDonald House, **3)** Soft plastics can be left in the cloak closet, **4)** Reusable grocery bags are available for purchase \$2 each. If you are interested in joining the **"Green Team,"** contact Gudrun.

YARN N PRAYER: Gathering will be on Wednesday, **Feb. 19** @ 3:30pm in the parlor. If you are able to knit or crochet a blanket, please let us know! Contact Rita for more info.



RAM LUNCHES: this faithful group continues to make lunches for RAM House the last Friday of each month, **Feb. 28**. Contact Kathy & Steve for volunteer opportunities.



NOAH'S LANDING PRESCHOOL

It's time to register for the 2025-2026 school year! We have had a great year so far with lots of memorable events. A visit from the firefighters, after school programs Soccer Shots and Bricks 4 Kidz as well as our Christmas program are some of the fun activities in which the children have participated.

Registration for Noah's & Christ Lutheran families begins Monday, January 20th and for the general public on Monday, February 3rd.

Noah's Landing Preschool offers classes for ages 12months—5years (Pre-K). You can make an appointment to visit our classrooms and see our teachers and students in action. Check out our website at noahslandingpreschool.org or call Diana Pilat at 540-982-2254 to get a registration form or if you have any question.



PRAYERS & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



PRAYERS FOR :

01.19- Ron, Georgia (Martha's granddaughter), Charlie (Betty's Brother), Isabelle & family (complications with birth), Kyle

01.12- Victims of fires in CA, Carson, Terry

12.22- Don Sommardahl, Debbie, Becky, Genevieve, Bill, Robert,

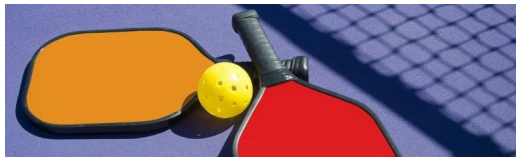
12.15- Elizabeth, Patti, Eva, Ron, Katie, Brandon Oaks accident, birth of Alex (mother Maria)

12.8- Sherry, Bob, Robin

Families of: 1/5- Erika, 1/19- Carolyn

CLC PICKLE BALL CLUB

Would you like to join us one Sunday?
During the winter months we will meet at the
Tanglewood Mall Y, Sunday afternoons @
2pm, Feb. 9 & 23. If you don't have a
membership to the Y, one of us can sign you in
as a guest, just give us a heads up!
RSVP to Shelley.



Blood Drive

Christ Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall
2011 Brandon Avenue S.W.
Roanoke, VA 24015

Wednesday, February 26, 2025
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!

- 1st- Carol, Laurel Brynn, Claire
- 2nd- Misha, Ashleigh
- 3rd- Jo,
- 4th- Barak
- 5th- Cathye
- 7th- Chad, Aleks
- 8th- Alex
- 10th- Betsy, Isaiah
- 11th- Mary Catherine
- 13th- Landon,
- 14th- Charles
- 15th- Martha, Julie, Chris
- 16th- Alex, & Mary Beth,
- 18th- Tripp, Melissa
- 19th- Kyle, 20th- Rindy
- 22nd- Stephen, Tim, Carly
- 24th- Micah Keyser
- 28th- Linda



SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS FEBRUARY

Feb. 2- Presentation of Our Lord:

Mal 3:1-4, Ps 84, Heb 2:14-18,
Luke 2:22-40

Feb. 9- 5th Sunday after Epiphany:

Isa 63:1-8, Ps 138, 1 Cor 15:1-11,
Luke 5:1-11

Feb. 16- 6th Sunday after Epiphany:

Jer 17:5-10, Ps 1, 1 Cor 15:12-30,
Luke 6:17-26

Feb. 23- 7th Sunday after Epiphany:

Gen 45:3-11, 15, Ps 37:1-11, 39-40,
1 Cor 15:35-38, 42-50, Luke 6:27-38

FINANCIAL REPORT

Committee Members serving all, or a portion of 2024, included: Pastor Dave Skole, Pastor Cindy Keyser, Donna, Diana, Joyce, Tom, Tom, Judy, Cheri, and Jim. Council Representatives were Chip and Mark.

Activity highlights are below:

- Cheri became the Church Treasurer and joined the finance committee this year upon the retirement of Judy from this role.
- In January the committee met with representatives of Wells Fargo to review our investment portfolio. One result of the meeting was that \$150,000.00 was transferred from our stock fund to a mutual fund holding Treasury bonds. This was done for the purpose of diversification and ensuring there would be a less volatile fund available to make a withdrawal from whenever it was needed.
- The portfolio otherwise remains invested in blue chip stocks that provide a high dividend from financially strong companies so that those dividends can be expected to continue. Those dividends did remain stable during the year.
- The investment fund balance as of December 31, 2024 was \$1,900,933, up from \$1,720,584 on January 1, 2024. This includes all withdrawals and new funds that were received. A breakdown of the individual fund balances is attached.
- The 2022 audit had resulted in some questions that were not answered until January 2024. Recommendations for going forward were noted and are to be implemented. One of these was that those individuals serving on the committee make a three-year commitment so that one person rotates off annually and that another rotates on. Another dealt with retention of receipts.
- The 2023 audit was also completed and an audit letter was approved by the committee and subsequently by church council.
- A new copier was researched and subsequently leased for the church office. The office copier is now in use by Noah's Landing and the one Noah's Landing was using was donated to RAM House.
- Two Pastor's Discretionary Funds have been renamed and a description of each has been provided as follows: "Reaching Out to Lift Up" which is to help with refugee resettlement and other issues concerning poor and unemployed. Also "Members Helping Members" is used to support members of the church with financial grants that may be paid back whenever possible.
- In April there were 11 scholarships of \$1,000 apiece that were approved by Church Council for student members of the congregation attending college. The money for this came from the Jerry Higginbotham Memorial Scholarship Fund.
- A newer version of the finance module in the Shepherd's Staff software was installed and has required some new learning, but there are some improvements as to what is available.
- The congregation was kept apprised of the church budget, income, and expenses throughout the year via the Communique. The end of the year did see its typical uptick in giving. In December income was \$80,288. Still there was deficit of \$72,436 which was covered using reserve and investment funds. As of December 31st:

2024 Annual Budget	2024 Annual Income	2024 Annual Expenses
\$570,998.00	\$523,773	\$596,209

The church budget for **2025** is as follows:

Benevolence:	\$61,500
Worship:	\$11,065
Evangelism:	\$1,300
Stewardship:	\$575
Social Concerns:	\$1,400
Parish Education:	\$2,500
Youth:	\$3,200
Administration:	\$38,050
Staff Benefits:	\$223,507
Plant Operations:	\$65,737
Noah's Landing:	\$72,002
GRAND TOTAL:	\$480,836

The Finance Committee is commended for its diligent work throughout the year, not just at budget time. I thank you for your hard work and for the support of all of the members of the congregation!

Jim,
Finance Committee Chair

LOOKING TOWARDS MARCH!

SHROVE TUESDAY

Tuesday **March 4**, 6pm for Pancakes and Bingo.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday **March 5**, 7pm in the sanctuary.
Live streaming worship on Facebook.



Lent Soup on Wednesday Nights

6pm Soup & Bread Dinner
7pm Holden Evening Prayer Worship
7:30pm Book Study



EACH WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

- 9am Sunday Casual Worship & Facebook Live Streaming
 - 11am Sunday Traditional Worship
- Adult Bible Study Monday mornings @ 10:30am
- Book Study Tuesday mornings 10am
- Choir rehearsal Wed. nights at 7:30pm in the choir room



FOLLOW US ON

CHRISTLUTHERANROANOKE

www.christlutheranroanoke.org

Newsletter can be found on our website.

STAFF OF CHRIST LUTHERAN

Pastor: Rev. Cynthia Keyser
(O) 982-8334 ext#13, (C) 524-8430.
pastorcindy@christlutheranroanoke.org

Church Office Administrator: Fiona Schulz
(O) 982-8334 ext#10.
secretary@christlutheranroanoke.org

Organist/Dir. Music: Nancy Delaney
(H) 597-3189.

New Song Music: Kim Mucha
(C) 529-5456

Director, Noah's Landing: Diana Pilat
(O) 982-2254, noahslandingpreschool.org

Treasurer: Cheri Keller
(O) 982-8334 ext#14,
treasurer@christlutheranroanoke.org

Financial Secretary: Joyce Noell
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financialsecretary@christlutheranroanoke.org

Good news especially for:

Christ Communique
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
2011 Brandon Avenue, SW
Roanoke, Virginia 24015

Non-Profit
Organization
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Roanoke,
Virginia
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