

# Cross of Christ

Crossties

December 2019



## Our Mission Statement

To know Jesus Christ as Lord and make Him known.

## Our Vision Statement

We are committed to reaching out to the local community and supporting world-wide ministries, as we embrace and nurture current and new brothers and sisters with our Savior's own forgiveness and love.

## Statement of Faith

Cross of Christ is a congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. We accept and teach the inspired word of God from the Bible.



Cross of Christ Lutheran Church  
3204 Hixson Pike  
Chattanooga, TN 37415  
✠ Pastor Barry Hildebrandt

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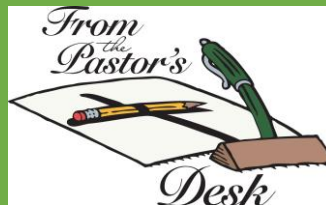
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Administrative Specialist – Lorilynn Baier



## "ADVENT ACCENTS"

We are now into the season of Advent – a time of waiting and preparation, hope and expectation – which the Christian Church has observed since at least the sixth century. We, and other churches around the globe, begin a new church year with this four-week time of coming-to or arriving (derived from the Latin word "adventus"), awaiting both the arrival of Jesus' birth and His Second Coming.

Therefore, in our Sunday morning and Wednesday evening services, our hymns, readings, and messages reflect this "in-between period" in the Church's history. Now obviously, if it were not for Christ's death and resurrection, as was foreshadowed by the first Gospel reading of the season, there would be no reason to celebrate Advent. Nor would the birth of a little boy in a stable in Bethlehem have been recorded or conveyed so much significance. But the fact is that Jesus' life, death, and final victory over the grave have changed history and countless lives forever. Accordingly, we risk losing the special meaning of this season of preparation if we fail to consider the nature and meaning of various Advent practices or if we move too quickly into a Christmas-focused on gifts and presents.

Take for example the Advent wreath with its evergreen branches, symbolizing to us as Christians, the never-failing love of God for us and the ever-lasting life found in Jesus Christ. Often the evergreen wreath is interspersed with springs of holly, whose thorny leaves and blood red berries provide a somber foreshadowing of our Savior's Passion, even as we move during this time toward the joyous celebration of His birth. (If you are interested in more history and details on Advent traditions, please pick up a copy of HISTORY, CUSTOMS, & USE OF THE ADVENT WREATH from the Usher's hutch in the Narthex.) The wreath's shape points us to God's eternal nature, without beginning or end. Finally, the four candles remind us, in order, of the four weeks of preparation: the "Prophecy Candle" underscoring all the Old Testament prophecies of Messiah's arrival; the "Bethlehem Candle" pointing us to the place of Jesus' birth; the pink "Shepherd Candle" reflecting the joy in the hearts of the shepherds as they heard the good news of the Savior's birth; and the "Angel Candle" heralding this historic event and hinting at their return on the Last Day, when the King of Kings will come again.

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So let us come together throughout these coming days for Advent-focused worship on Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays, along with fellowship time with our brothers and sisters in the faith as we share a meal on Wednesday evenings... all of which is intended to focus our attention on the spiritual preparation of our hearts and minds as we await our Lord's Birth and Return.

God's blessings to all of you as we journey through this wonderful season!

~ Pastor Hildebrandt



DECORATE  
the Church



**We will be decorating the church and trimming the Christmas Tree this Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.** We hope that you plan to join us, as the more helpers we have the quicker the project will be accomplished. Poinsettias will be arriving on Saturday, so we hope to accomplish all Christmas decorating before we leave on Friday evening.

We have lights to string, stars to hang, tree to trim with Chrismon's, wreathes to hang, windows to decorate, a Nativity set to put up, and much, much more.

All members, young and old, teens – young adults – older adults, are invited to join us in the annual event!

### Calling All (acoustical) Guitarists at Cross of Christ



Recall last year at the Christmas Eve Service... the lights were dimmed, you walked up to the front of the church with your fellow guitarists as individual candles were being lit down each pew. Once all were in place, you all strummed together the intro chords for "Silent Night", and the congregation sang the three verses of this beautiful carol, accompanied only by you.

Please help make this beautiful worship moment happen again this Christmas Eve, by sharing your musical gifts with our congregation.

Contact Judy Zehnder for further details.



**A Favorite Picture Of Many...**

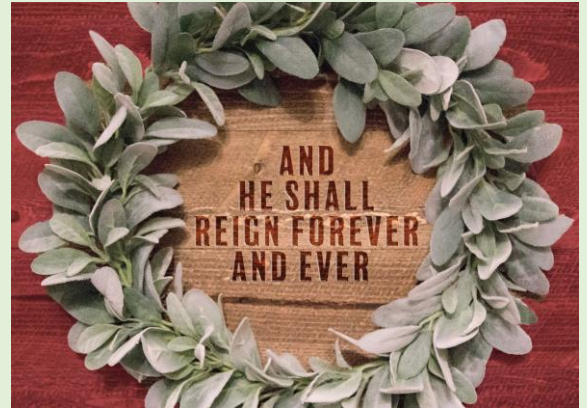
Christmas  
is *how*  
soon?



## CROSS OF CHRIST – DECEMBER 2019



**COMING ATTRACTION...** Advent, which marks the beginning of the church year, is “the first gleam of Christmas,” writes W.E. Sangster. “It heralds the entrance of the Divine into human history; it is heaven descending to earth; it is a great event casting its brilliance before it.” Sangster adds: “It is as though a trumpeter had taken his stand upon the turrets of time and announced the coming of the King. ‘Get ready,’ he seems to say. ‘Get ready. He is coming!’”



### CHURCH NOTICES

- **WE NEED YOU AS A GREETER!** - We are signing up Greeters for 2020. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you are willing to be a greet at our Saturday evening or Sunday morning service. You are the first face that a visitor or a member sees when they come in! We want to continue to make everyone feel welcome to Cross of Christ when the step inside our doors, both visitors and our members. You can greet as many times a month or as many months as you want, we are very flexible. *Currently we are signing up to GREET for the months of January thru June.* Contact the church office if you have any questions about being a greeter.
- **WE ARE IN NEED READERS FOR 2020...** for ‘The Old Testament Lesson’ and ‘The Epistle Lesson’ (at each service)... *Can you read a magazine? Have you read your pizza box instructions?* Then you are qualified to read the scripture readings. It’s not hard and you’re in a friendly audience. We also welcome our high school youth to sign up (*maybe you can even get speech credit!*). The 2020 sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. You can read as many times a month or as many months as you want, we are very flexible. *Currently we are signing up to read January thru June.* (All readers will receive a copy of the scripture readings prior to that weekend’s service for review and practice.) We will be putting together a sub list for both services; would you be willing to be on it? Contact the church office if you have any questions about being a greeter.
- **THANKSGIVING BASKETS** – 21 families received Thanksgiving baskets this year. Thank you to all who gave items to fill these baskets. We gave any extra items that were donated to the Chattanooga Food Bank (*see article and pics elsewhere*).
- **COMMITTEE CHAIRS...** please put together your 2020 calendars and schedules for Elders, Greeters, Kitchen Helpers, Readers, and Ushers. *We are asking for the calendars/schedules to be turned into the church office no later than December 23<sup>rd</sup>.* (Thank you Altar Guild, Kitchen Angels, and Organist for your 2020 schedules.)



### PERFECT AS IS

Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that he gave his only Son. The only requirement is to believe in him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life.

~ Corrie ten Boom



# CROSS OF CHRIST – DECEMBER 2019

## CHATTANOOGA COMMUNITY KITCHEN

### ~~ FAST DAY ~~

Cross of Christ is a member church of the Board of the Chattanooga Community Kitchen (CCK) (*this is the organization to which we send the hygiene kits we assemble for the homeless*). As a Board member church, we are highly encouraged to support activities of the CCK to help the homeless in our community. **The largest and most important annual fundraising activity for the CCK is 'Fast Day', which began in 1989, with the idea that those wanting to help our area's homeless should fast for one meal and donate whatever they would have spent on that meal to the CCK.** Since then the concept of 'Fast Day' has grown to become an opportunity for churches, individuals and businesses to donate whatever they can afford to the ministry and mission of the CCK any time of year, but particularly in October, November and December.

**THINK IT'S TOO LATE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ANNUAL 'Fast-day Event' SPONSORED BY THE CHATTANOOGA COMMUNITY KITCHEN (CCK)??** *Well, you would be wrong, as this annual fundraiser goes through December!* **Can you give the amount you would have spent by skipping a meal or maybe a day's worth of meals? Going to Subway for lunch amounts to around \$7.00 for one person.** If each family in our church gave \$7.00, our donation would amount to \$784.00 or if each member in our church gave \$7.00, our donation would amount to over \$1,500. **Think of what that money could do for CCK!**

David Costellow, Director of Community Engagement at CCK was present on November 17<sup>th</sup> at Pastor's Bible Class. David noted that all donations benefit homeless men, women and children in the Chattanooga area who are in need of food, shelter, clothing and other necessities of life and your donation is tax-deductible. *A handout & envelope will be available this weekend (December 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>) at our worship services.* More gift envelopes for CCK are available on the back table in the Narthex.

**As their poster notes... It's worth giving up a meal...**

...for a person experiencing homelessness, your gift is one many can't live without. They are hungry and have no place to go. Your gift, no matter how small, is added in with many others from the community and used at the Chattanooga Community Kitchen, which means for someone...

- 3 nutritious meals a day
- Shelter from the heat and cold
- Shower and laundry facilities
- Clothing, shoes and other personal belongings
- Permanent, stable housing
- Job training and placement
- Foot care services and medical care access
- Love and human contact.

**With the season of giving upon us, can you spare \$7.00 - \$10.00 - \$20.00 or more to support Chattanooga Community Kitchen help a homeless person? Thank you in advance for your consideration of a gift to CCK. You can give to CCK any time during the year!**



This awesome group served lunch to 162 homeless folks at the CCK on Thanksgiving Eve. We were fortunate to have 8 volunteer servers that day, as everyone was needed. The cold weather is bringing more and more people to CCK for meals.

Pictured are (L. to R.) Mary Keel, Betty Riddle, Kelly Fant, Arlene Vickers, Tony Pessini, Jane and John Rudat, and Tim Dupuis. Thank you all for taking the time to serve others in our community.

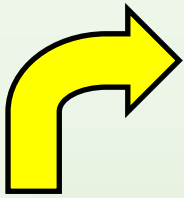
Please contact Arlene Vickers to help in 2020 with this Outreach Project. All that is required is the ability to dish up food and smile!



**DO YOU HAVE A... Jacket, Hat, Coat, Scarf, Gloves, Socks or Shoes to keep you warm on these cold days and nights when you go outdoors?** You are a very fortunate person! Many of our homeless neighbors do not. The homeless in our community are in need of the items noted in the headline above and winter clothing items to layer (sweaters, long sleeve shirts, jeans/pants). Any size will be accepted as a donation, except they do not need anything for babies or toddlers. Blankets & pillows, sleeping bags, and vinyl tarps are also a welcome donation.

**ALSO...** If you have something in your closet or drawers that you are not wearing (it's too small or too big) or you get a new coat for Christmas, please think about donating your old items to our homeless neighbors who desperately need warm (new or used) items for their head, hands, feet, and body. **Socks and underwear are an extreme need at this time!** Donations can be brought to the church and left under the table located in front of the church office, where they will be picked up and distributed to the homeless. Thank you in advance for your donations!

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### STEWARDSHIP CORNER

#### END OF YEAR TAX IDEAS... GIVE A LASTING GIFT!

The Lord has truly blessed us beyond comprehension. Continuing the mission of our Christian Faith, by our weekly contributions to Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, definitely assists us with our responsibility to go out into all the world and share that eternal life gospel! We want to be sure our Church's presence in Chattanooga will continue to fund missions at home and abroad. There are several ways to ensure this can happen.

Cross of Christ has a special account that is used to support the day-to-day operations of the church, which is provided by members who want to save on their state and federal taxes by making a gift of appreciated securities directly to the church. This account is referred to as the LPL Account. Members will receive an immediate income tax deduction for the value of the security on the date of transfer, no matter what was originally paid for them with the benefit of PAYING NO CAPITAL GAINS TAX. Appreciated securities would include stocks, bonds, or mutual fund shares that you have owned for more than one year. Contact Lorilynn in the church office if you would like to gift some stock funds.

In our retirement years, we begin thinking about those Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA's) that many folks have set up years ago for our "golden years"! Before you make arrangements for IRA withdrawals, discover how you and Cross of Christ can benefit from the IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER. This way of support to the church is an easy and convenient way to make a gift from one of your major assets. It is excluded from your gross income, as a tax-free rollover and counts toward your required minimum distribution. The requirements are that you are at least 70 1/2 years old at the time of the gift and the transfer must go directly from your IRA to Cross of Christ Lutheran Church.

Another easy and simple way to carry on the church's mission and ministry is to consider leaving the Church in your Will. By remembering Cross of Christ in your Will or the other mentioned estate plans above, you could receive important tax benefits while supporting the work of the church, and leaving a legacy of providing the gospel message to future generations, through our local and foreign missions. Please consult with a tax professional or broker on these suggestions or call the church office and we will arrange for additional professional assistance.

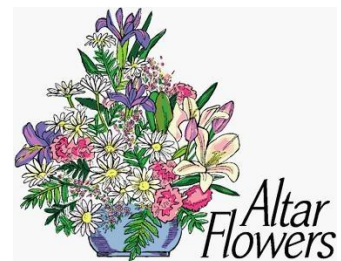
~Larry Zehnder, Congregational President

#### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you to all who put together a shoebox or gave a monetary contribution towards this project! **We were able to put together "50" shoeboxes**, which were delivered to the local collection point and merged with all those collected in the Chattanooga area.



**50 Christmas Child Shoeboxes!**



#### THE "2020" FLOWER CHART HAS BEEN POSTED!!

It's time to pick your month and date(s) to beautify the Sanctuary. Pick as many dates as you'd like and note your name and "In Memory of xxx" or In Honor of xxx". The cost of a flower bouquet is \$25.00 per Sunday. Use your "2020 Flower Fund" envelopes from your 2020 Offering Envelopes box and put on the memo line of your check "altar flowers" (or just note on your check "altar flowers" and drop in the offering basket). If you have any questions, please contact Sherry Reed.



## CROSS OF CHRIST – DECEMBER 2019

### HYGIENE KITS FOR THE HOMELESS

Traveling over the holidays?? Please continue to drop toiletries collected on your vacations, business trips, etc.... in our collection box located by the church office. Remember that the items need to be 'not used'. (We are also unable to use mouthwash bottles, due to possible alcohol ingredients.)

If you have forgotten what we collect, here is a brief run-down of the list or pick up the small size list to put in your purse or wallet:

**Travel Sized:** shampoo, conditioner, soap, lotion, toothpaste

**Other Needs:** Disposable razors, wide-tooth combs, toothbrushes, nail clippers, individually wrapped handi-wipes, & purse-size Kleenex packs

**CoC Packing Needs:** Snack-size, Sandwich-size, and Gallon-size Ziploc bags

We will also accept monetary donations, as we run into having a short supply of some items. *Especially at this time of the year when we add chap-stick, cough drops, and warm socks to the kits.* (You can put in the memo area of your check "Hygiene Kits"). **NOTE: We will have another packing party in February, watch for more details after the first of the year. Plan to join us!! Thank you for all you do for our homeless community!!**



**HYGIENE KITS** - A special thanks to all who donated to and helped pack the hygiene kits for the homeless on November 12, 2019. A small but mighty group packed 100 kits in 40 minutes. The hygiene kits were blessed during the weekend services November 16 - 17 and are now at the Chattanooga Community Kitchen for the homeless to use while showering. Your support of this ministry is always greatly appreciated! ~Joni Rennhack



**ELECTRONIC GIVING... DOES MY DONATION HAVE ANY FEES TAKEN OUT, AS I WANT MY CHURCH TO GET 100% OF THE FUNDS??** *This is a frequent question we have been getting after we introduced Vanco Solutions to our members for electronic giving.* There is no charge to you, the giver of a donation, regardless if it is a one-time special gift or a recurring monthly donation. Vanco does not deduct a user fee from your donation. 100% of your donation goes to the church! (The church does get charged a minor monthly fee, but that fee is a budgeted amount and is very minimal in price.) *Unfortunately, at this time we are unable to accept credit cards deductions, as there is a considerable charge for this service to the church.*

When using Vanco Solutions, you won't have to remember if you donated last week or last month, especially helpful if you are traveling. Why not, you may be asking... because electronic donations/gifts to the church are automatically taken care of for you. It's three (3) easy steps... Step 1) Select where you want your funds taken from (your checking or savings account); Step 2) Decide on the frequency of your donation (weekly and you name the day, or monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> or the 15<sup>th</sup>); and Step 3) Where do you want to designate your donation to be credited toward (or you can divide your donation among different areas – i.e. part to the General Operating Fund, part to the Building Fund, part to Missions, etc...)

Forms are on the table in the back of the Narthex. You can drop off your completed form (in a sealed envelope) at the church office, mail it to the church office (Attn: Barbara Wyatt) or hand it directly to Barbara. Should you have

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## "THANK YOU!"

If you have never delivered a Thanksgiving Basket to someone the week of Thanksgiving, you have missed the grateful words shared, the smiles, the hugs, and sometimes tears, of those with little or nothing to provide to their loved ones for a Thanksgiving meal.

*Let me give you a taste of an experience...Imagine someone knocking at your door holding a turkey, with another person right behind them with a gallon of milk, loaf of bread, dozen eggs, pie shells, butter, and a 5 lb. bag of potatoes. Just when you have gotten over that shock, another person comes in with a sack filled with cans of green beans, corn, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie mix. Then another bag contains peanut butter and grape jelly, cornbread mix, boxes of jello, cake mix plus frosting and vegetable oil. But wait, another person appears with a sack containing bath soap, dish soap, laundry soap, and toilet paper. The joy is overwhelming. We often hear shouts of joy, thanks, praise and prayer being said for our kindness.*

That is just a taste of the emotions you see when the baskets are delivered to our neighbors that need some assistance at this time of the year. Thank you to all who brought items for the Thanksgiving Baskets, who gave us a \$250.00 Thrivent card to buy the turkeys, milk, bread, and other fresh items, to those that helped sort and pack, and last, but definitely not least, to those who delivered these baskets.

We, at Cross of Christ, are so richly blessed to be able to share what God has given us with others in our community in the way of a simple Thanksgiving Basket. But to those we deliver it to, **it is not just a Thanksgiving Basket.** It's food for their children in the way of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, it's milk for cereal and those toddlers who are still using sippy cups, it's a traditional meal to be shared with loved ones or friends, left-overs for more meals and so much more; it's a kind church and congregation remembering them.

As always, your kindness and generosity has been a wonderful blessing and a witness of Christ's love to those who received one of these baskets for their Thanksgiving gathering.

*2 Corinthians 9:11 NIV* *You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*

Lord God, Heavenly Father, To each family that received a bountiful basket of food, watch over them and bless their comings and goings. Let them know that they are not alone and that others are praying for them. Help them to not be afraid, but instead to reach out to Jesus or to those here on earth who will gladly share the story of Jesus love and the message of forgiveness with them. Let them know they are loved. Amen.



## Cross of Christ Reads!

Dear Readers,

Our book club "Cross of Christ Reads!" will **"NOT"** be meeting during the month of December. We will get together again on **January 16, 2019** from 6-8pm at Panera Bread Company in Hixson.

Our book of the month for January is 'The Girl of Limberlost' by Gene Stratton-Porter. For your information, the books we have chosen for February and March are: February 'Flight Girls' by Noelle Salazar and March 'The Witch of Blackbird Pond' by Elizabeth George Speare. Please join us anytime!

Curl up and read a good book over the holidays! Questions... contact Sylvia Hildebrandt.

## NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENT!!

**Rachel Schlie will be the new newsletter coordinator starting with the January edition.** If you have any articles, reports, pictures, etc... for the monthly newsletter (due on the 20th of every month at noon), please send them to Rachel Schlie at her email address: [rachel.schlie@outlook.com](mailto:rachel.schlie@outlook.com) (If you forget and send to the church office, no problem, as Lorilynn will forward it to Rachel.) Thank you Rachel for stepping up and volunteering to assist me with this monthly activity.

### DEADLINE FOR JANUARY NEWSLETTER...

**NEWSLETTER ITEMS...** articles, reports, pictures, etc... need to be in to Rachel by **Friday, December 20th at noon.** Please continue to submit photographs for the newsletter by email, as pictures are greatly appreciated by all, especially our homebound. Let's all work together and make this an easy transition for Rachel.



**Dry & Canned Food Collected For Thanksgiving Baskets.**



## CROSS OF CHRIST – DECEMBER 2019



The Young Adult Bible Study, **Bibles & Brews**, meets **every Thursday at 8:00 p.m.**

at the **Terminal Brewhouse** for Christian fellowship, encouragement in the Word of God, and a good brew!

**We welcome young adults from across the city!**

If you are interested or know of a young adult who would enjoy this time of fellowship, follow us on Facebook to get the latest updates on the group. Questions... Nyssa Hunt (991-5891) or Pastor.

### CHURCH WEBSITE & FACEBOOK PAGE...

If you have any updates for our website or Facebook page, please send detailed info. to [secretary@cocluth.com](mailto:secretary@cocluth.com) and they will be taken care of by our webmasters. Thank you!



### **Raquel Wilson and Family – New Habitat Home Owners!**

At the Dedication Ceremony, Larry Zehnder accepted a beautiful plaque of a house drawn and colored by one of Raquel's children. On the plaque is the following... **"In recognition of your support of the Wilson Family Home – 2019 Thrivent Faith House. From Habitat for Humanity of Greater Chattanooga Area and Thrivent."** Thank you to everyone who helped make Raquel's dream come true!

(The white plaque can be seen in the Library on one of the shelves.)

**NEW FPU CLASS STARTING JANUARY 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm!!**  
**\$93 Rebate Offer Continues Into 2020!**  
**Contact Judy & Larry Zehnder to register.**



### **FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY GRADS**

On Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 14 people received their certificates from *Financial Peace University* (FPU) after nine (9) weeks of classes put together by Dave Ramsey and his team. FPU is Biblically-based wisdom, common sense, and encouragement for budgeting, dumping debt, increasing savings, and strategies for insurance, investing and retirement planning.

Leaders for the course were seasoned instructors Judy & Larry Zehnder. Pictures are (back row) Cassy Englert, Nathan & Alison Pugh; (front row) Teresa Hasting, Kathy Dolloff, Karen & Bill Wilson and Judy Zehnder. Not pictured are Alex Arwood, Martha Fishburn, Kevin Lewis, Jamie & Brad Mofsky, Eric Rodrigues, and Lorilynn Baier.



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### SNACK PACKS

Rivermont Snack Packs is an Outreach Project for Cross of Christ, with many parts and many helpers; starting with picking up and setting up of food stuffs in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday; in preparation for packing on Wednesday; and delivery to Rivermont School early Thursday morning. This academic year we are packing 75 Snack Packs each month.

We want to thank all those who help with this monthly project. From the people that get the food, to those that help setup, to the baggers, to those that deliver the bags to the school, thank you!! All are deserving of our gratitude and prayers of blessing for being our Lord's hands in His service, to those who are so very special to Him, the little children.

*The following is the schedule of **Snack Packing dates in 2020** for those who want to look ahead and place the dates on your calendars. All packings occur on a Wednesday and starts at 4pm (and usually are done by 4:45). Volunteer helpers are greatly needed and appreciated each and every time we get together!!*

**January 31 – February 28 – March 27**

**NO April Packing –**

**May 1 (last time for this school year)**



Our December Snack Packers for Rivermont Elementary. (L. to R.) Autumn Clifton, Arlene Vickers, Kelly Fant, Jane Rudat, Joan Bartlett, Barbara Wyatt, and John Rudat. 75 Snack Packs in less than 30 minutes. Way To Go!! Your help was greatly appreciated!! Thank you.



### QUILTING - FELLOWSHIP HALL TUESDAY MORNINGS

**9:30-11:30 A.M. - JOIN US!**

**The quilters will resume quilting again on January 7<sup>th</sup> after taking a well-deserved Christmas break.**

**The congregation would like to thank the quilters for all their hard work and the beautiful quilts made throughout the year. We especially want to thank you for the Christmas quilts. They were beautiful!!**

### Lutheran World Relief CARE-VAN Drive 2019

At this year's Lutheran World Relief CARE-VAN ingathering the Mid-South District had seven drop sites collecting handmade quilts, school kits, personal care kits, baby care kits, fabric kits and boxes of soap, the weekend of Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our drop sites included Christus Victor, Knoxville, TN; Cross of Christ, Chattanooga, TN; Our Savior, Nashville, TN; Immanuel, Memphis, TN; First, Fort Smith, AR; Grace, Little Rock, AR; and Salem, Springdale, AR.

At the time of this report (11/20/2019), the top three quilt-producing congregations that dropped off their work at an LWR CARE-VAN ingathering site were Zion Lutheran Church, Alexander, AR (192 quilts); First Lutheran, Chattanooga, TN (106 quilts) and St. Paul, Wartburg, TN (103 quilts). A total of 1,643 quilts (270 were from several area ELCA congregations) were donated.

To date we had 43 congregations participate (3 ELCA), collecting over \$4,000 for shipping costs. We also collected 1,222 personal care kits, 171 fabric kits, 731 school kits, 104 baby care kits, 16 fleece blankets and 12 boxes of soap. The CARE-VAN loaded up with 525 boxes (weighing approximately 10,300 pounds!) of offerings from District congregations for Lutheran World Relief. Way to go Mid-South District!

Many of the congregations' efforts are coordinated by LWML groups and longstanding quilting groups in the congregations. They participate in this effort to share the love of Christ in a personal way. The tireless efforts of those who share their talents and the generous contributions of many make this a successful ingathering.

Thank you to all who participated in this year's annual LWR CARE-VAN drive!

Julie Tyler

Mid-South District CARE-VAN Coordinator

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### 2019 Ladies Christmas Brunch Excellent Food! Great Company!



Each of our table hostesses shared their personal Christmas tableware or created a special winter wonderland on her table. The hostess then shared with everyone what made their table special to them. (Consider being a hostess next year, it's fun and you can let your artistic side out for others to see!) Our Annual Ladies Brunch is a great way to kick off the Christmas season, along with celebrating our November and December Birthdays of our Lunch Bunch. Thank you to everyone who provided food, decorations, and helped with setup and take down. For our Outreach Project, we collected 100+ books that were taken to 'Toys for Tots' for area children. Thank you to everyone who contributed books!



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**2020 Offering Envelopes** – Your box of 2020 weekly and special contribution envelopes will be available on the back pew in the Narthex beginning December 28<sup>th</sup>. Please look for your name on the box top and take it home with you to use on a weekly basis, special holidays, flower fund, etc... Pull the envelopes out and thumb through them when you get home and see all the special envelopes we have put together for your convenience. If you do not see a box labeled for you, please let Barbara Wyatt know (423-309-5286) or the church office. You will then have a labeled box ready and waiting for you the following week! Thank you.

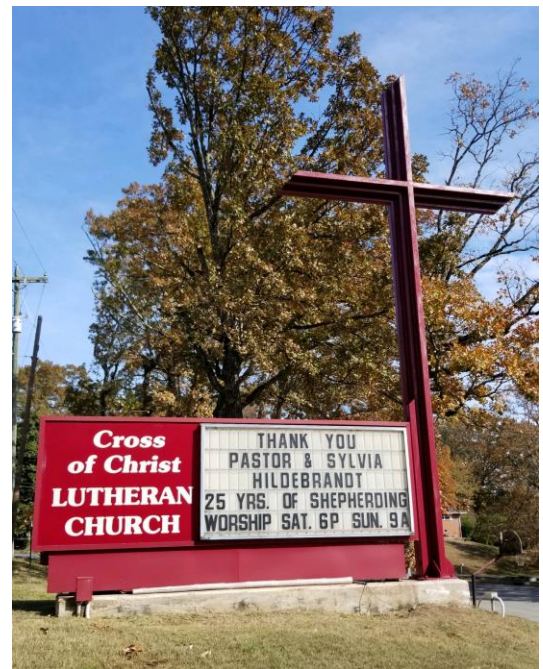


First Things First is a wonderful resource for... Couples - Dating, Engaged, or Married; Families - Parents and Fathers; and for Organizations - Churches, Schools, Corporate. There are classes and fun events for all those groups mentioned above, plus articles to help you through many of life's circumstances. (Examples... 10 Sanity-Saving Tips for Holiday Gatherings; 8 Must-Have Conversation for Couples; How To Not Let Kids Hijack Your Marriage; How To Help Your Child Through The Teen Years; How to Help Boys Thrive; etc...) and you can also find items by topic. It's all right here in our back yard or should I say our downtown!! Take some time in the near future to check out their website and resources, along with classes and events they offer at the following website... **FIRSTTHINGS.ORG**

(Side Note... For anyone who remembers Chris Ownby (Youth Leader at Good Shepherd), he has moved back to Chattanooga with his wife and two daughters, and is now working at First Things First!)



Our Sunday School children are hoping to provide a little something special to our Christmas Eve Service. Anyone interested in participating is asked to talk to Sylvia Hildebrandt or Rachel Schlie.



November 10<sup>th</sup> was a special day for our congregation, as we had a surprise celebration for the 25 years of having Pastor Barry Hildebrandt shepherd the flock at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church. We are so grateful for the everything he has taught us, blessed us with, and carried us through. May God continue to walk with him as he witnesses to us and the community.

# CROSS OF CHRIST – DECEMBER 2019

## Facility Improvements Update

The following building improvement expenditures were authorized by the Voters' Assembly at the September 2018 meeting, exactly as noted (some changes & plans to move forward were made at later Voters' meetings). Here's an update of where we stand (items crossed out have been completed)...

1. **Gutter Guards:** ~~up to \$5500 for leaf guards to be installed on the back of the church building~~ **(COMPLETED)**
2. **Window Reglazing:** ~~up to \$5760 to scrape rust, reglaze, seal and paint, as applicable, all windows except those in the Sanctuary~~ **(COMPLETED)**
3. **Interior Electrical Work:** ~~up to \$6000 to correct electrical issues in the Sanctuary, Narthex, Back Stairwell and Kitchen~~ **(COMPLETED)**
4. **Architectural Services:** ~~\$1200 to pay the architect for designing handicap accessibility improvements~~ **(COMPLETED)**
5. **Tree Work:** ~~up to \$2500 to evaluate trees on the church property and remove any dead limbs, etc.~~ **(COMPLETED)**
6. **Handicap Accessible Bathrooms/Repurposing Spaces:** up to \$25,000 for 2 handicap accessible "family bathrooms" (1 per floor) and for expenses associated with moving Pastor's Bible Class **(BATHROOMS ARE COMPLETED and USEABLE! Contractors working on the final punch list items.)**
7. **Lift for Handicap Accessibility:** begin a fundraising campaign for up to \$84,500 to install an interior lift between the floors, with main floor access location in the corridor near Ms. Hamilton's Room and Pastor's Office and ground floor access in the nursery, adjacent to the kitchen on the ground floor (Fundraising Campaign to begin in early 2019) **(LIFT IS COMPLETED and USEABLE AS OF LAST WEEKEND! Contractors working on the final punch list items.)**

The contractors are striving to complete their final punch list items by the end of the year! **Adult Sunday School will begin meeting in the Fellowship Hall starting January 5<sup>th</sup>.** We will be asking for volunteers in January, to help with some deep cleaning projects (especially of toys and wiping down books in the Nursery and Mrs. Hamilton's room), painting walls in the Nursery, moving furniture back to their respective rooms and other small tasks to complete the rooms and return classrooms back to normal. (There have been many pictures taken throughout these projects and they will eventually be put into a scrap book for everyone to check out.)

**Thank you to everyone who has been helping with our projects this past year.**

**The end is in sight and it looks good!**

### BCA DATES TO REMEMBER...

Dec. 17 – Ugly Christmas Sweater Day

Dec. 17 - Christmas program - 7 p.m.

@ Good Shepherd Lutheran

Dec. 18 - 11 a.m. Dismissal/End 2nd quarter

Dec. 19 - Jan. 3 - Christmas Break

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!**

### BCA's float for the East Ridge Christmas Parade!!

Congratulations to the BCA PTL and families/students who took part in the annual East Ridge Christmas parade! BCA was awarded 2nd place in the Educational Float Category, with a prize of \$200 for our efforts!





# CROSS OF CHRIST – DECEMBER 2019



## Cross of Christ Lutheran Church 2019 Christmas Schedule

423-877-7447

3204 Hixson Pike – Chattanooga, TN 37415

website – cocluth.com

### DECEMBER 1 (Sunday)

Morning Worship w/Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School/Bible Class 10:15 a.m.

### DECEMBER 4 (Wednesday)

Advent Meal (*LWML Hosts*) 6:00 p.m.  
Advent Service 7:00 p.m.

### DECEMBER 7 (Saturday)

Saturday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

### DECEMBER 8 (Sunday)

Morning Worship 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 a.m.  
Quarterly Voters' Meeting 11:30 a.m.

### DECEMBER 11 (Wednesday)

Advent Meal (*Church Council Hosts*) 6:00 p.m.  
Advent Service 7:00 p.m.

### DECEMBER 13 (Friday)

Christmas Caroling 5:15 p.m.

### DECEMBER 14 (Saturday)

Ladies Christmas Brunch 10:00 a.m.  
(*open to all ladies & their guests, please sign up*)  
Worship Service w/Holy Communion 6:00 p.m.

### DECEMBER 15 (Sunday)

Morning Worship w/Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 a.m.  
Advent Choral Festival (*at First Lutheran*) 3:00 p.m.

### DECEMBER 18 (Wednesday)

Advent Meal (*Pastor's S.S. Class Hosts*) 6:00 p.m.  
Advent Service 7:00 p.m.

### DECEMBER 20 (Friday)

Decorate the Church & Property 6:30 p.m.

### DECEMBER 21 (Saturday)

Saturday Worship Service 6:00 p.m.

### DECEMBER 22 (Sunday)

Morning Worship 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 a.m.

### DECEMBER 24 (Tuesday) (Christmas Eve)

Candlelight Service  
w/Holy Communion 7:00 p.m.

### DECEMBER 25 (Wednesday) (Christmas Day)

Christmas Carol Service 10:00 a.m.

### DECEMBER 28 (Saturday)

Saturday Evening Worship  
w/Holy Communion 6:00 p.m.

### DECEMBER 29 (Sunday)

Morning Worship w/Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 a.m.

### DECEMBER 31 (Tuesday) (New Year's Eve)

New Year's Eve Service  
w/Holy Communion 7:00 p.m.

**\*\* 2020 \*\***

### JANUARY 1 (Wednesday) (New Year's Day)

**NO** New Year's Day Service

### JANUARY 4 (Saturday)

Worship Service w/Holy Communion 6:00 p.m.

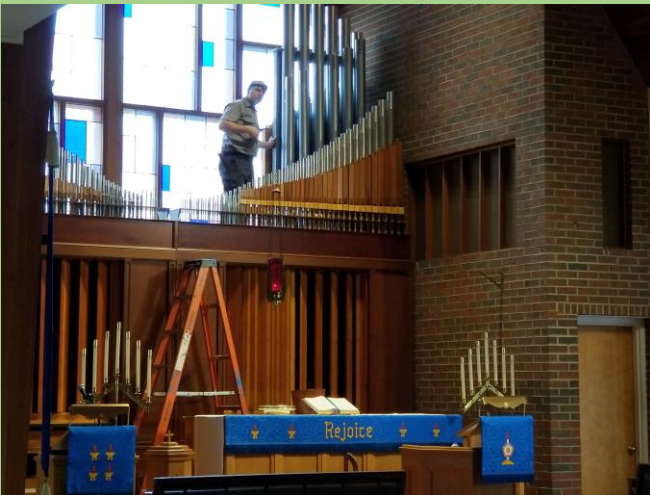
### JANUARY 5 (Sunday)

Morning Worship w/Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 a.m.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\***

*Limited/varied church office hours between  
December 23<sup>rd</sup> thru January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please call before  
coming to the church office during these days.*

# CROSS OF CHRIST – DECEMBER 2019



Ever wonder how they tune the pipes for our beautiful organ music. The whole front of the church comes apart twice a year for tuning!!



## "Be Born In Us Today"

In 1865, Phillips Brooks, an Episcopal preacher from Boston, went on a Holy Land pilgrimage. Riding horseback from Jerusalem to Bethlehem for Christmas Eve worship at the Church of the Nativity was so moving that he wrote "O Little Town of Bethlehem." The hymn's final stanza addresses the town's most famous newborn:

O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel!



## DECEMBER WORSHIP MINISTRY

### Acolytes (Sunday Morning 9:00 a.m. Service)

Sunday, 01	Zachary Land	
Sunday, 08	Nathan Pugh	
Sunday, 15	Zachary Land	
Sunday, 22	Nathan Pugh	
Tuesday, 24	Zachary Land	(Christmas Eve)
Wednesday, 25	Chloe Doeblner	(Christmas Day)
Sunday, 29	Nathan Pugh	
Tuesday, 31	Zachary Land	(New Year's Eve)

### Altar Guild

Sherry Reed and Carmen Autry

### Elders

#### **Saturday Evening 6:00 p.m. Service**

Scott Brewster

#### **Sunday Morning 9:00 a.m. & Special Services**

Tony Pessini & Bob Timm

### Greeters

#### **Saturday 6:00 p.m. Service**

07	Jamie Mofsky
14	Rhonda & Joel Duncan
21	Jamie & Brad Mofsky
28	Donna & Mark Wachholz

#### **Sunday 9:00 a.m. Service**

01	Patricia & John Stehr
08	Maria & Tony Pessini
15	Monica & Mike Witherby
22	Alison & Nathan Pugh
29	Bonnie Woodward-Wright

### Greeters - Special Services

12-24	7:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve	Cara & Dave Welsh
12-25	10:00 a.m. - Christmas Day	Natalie & Matt Doeblner
12-31	7:00 p.m. - New Year's Eve	Barbara & Dennis Conn

### Readers

#### **(Saturday 6:00 p.m.)**

07	Sylvia Hildebrandt
14	Rhonda Duncan
21	Jamie Mofsky
28	Mark Wachholz

#### **(Sunday 9:00 a.m.)**

01	John Stehr
08	Judy Zehnder
15	Natalie Doeblner
22	Jane & John Rudat
29	Nyssa Hunt

### Ushers

#### **Saturday 6:00 p.m. Service**

Scott Brewster

#### **Sunday 9:00 a.m. Service**

Marc Flippin, Dennis Conn, Barbara Conn, Zachary Land

### Ushers - Special Services

12-24	7:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve	All Weekend Ushers
12-25	10:00 a.m. - Christmas Day	All Weekend Ushers
12-31	7:00 p.m. - New Year's Eve	All Weekend Ushers



# CROSS OF CHRIST – DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9 am Worship w/Holy Communion <i>(Bring LWML Mites to Church Service)</i> 10:15 am Sunday School / Bible Class 7 pm Bell Choir (Poinsettia Deadline)	<b>2</b> 10 am Pastor's Bible Study at Nursing Home 7 pm Scouts	<b>3</b> "NO" Quilting	<b>4</b> 4 pm Snack Packs for Riverside Elementary 6 pm Advent Dinner (LWML) 7 pm Advent Service 8 pm Adult Choir	<b>5</b> 6:30 pm Crossways 8 pm Bibles & Brews	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 6 pm Worship Service <i>(Bring LWML Mites to Church Service)</i>
<b>8</b> 9 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School / Bible Class 11:15 am Quarterly Voters' Meeting 7 pm Bell Choir	<b>9</b> 10 am Pastor at Nursing Home "NO" Elders Mtg. "NO" Scouts	<b>10</b> "NO" Quilting	<b>11</b> 6 pm Advent Dinner (Church Council) 7 pm Advent Service 8 pm Adult Choir <u>(Ladies Brunch Deadline)</u>	<b>12</b> "NO" Crossways 8 pm Bibles & Brews	<b>13</b> Fellowship Hall Closed All Day For Decorating	<b>14</b> 10 am Ladies Christmas Brunch 6 pm Worship w/ Holy Communion
<b>15</b> 9 am Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:15 am Sunday School / Bible Class 3 pm Choral Concert at First Lutheran 7 pm Bell Choir	<b>16</b> 10 am Pastor at Nursing Home "NO" Scouts	<b>17</b> "NO" Quilting	<b>18</b> 6 pm Advent Dinner (Elders) 7 pm Advent Service 8 pm Adult Choir	<b>19</b> "NO" CoC Reads! "NO" Crossways 8 pm Bibles & Brews	<b>20</b> 5 pm Newsletter Deadline 6:30 pm Decorate the Church	<b>21</b> <i>WINTER BEGINS</i> 6 pm Worship Service
<b>22</b> 9 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School / Bible Class 7 pm Bell Choir	<b>23</b> CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 10 am Pastor at Nursing Home "NO" Scouts	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> ~OFFICE CLOSED~ 7 pm Christmas Eve Service w/Holy Communion	<b>25 Christmas Day</b> ~OFFICE CLOSED~ 10 am Christmas Day Service of Carols	<b>26</b> ~OFFICE CLOSED~ 8 pm Bibles & Brews	<b>27</b> CHURCH OFFICE OPEN	<b>28</b> 6 pm Worship w/Holy Communion
<b>29</b> 9 am Worship w/Holy Communion 10:15 am Sunday School / Bible Class 7 pm Bell Choir	<b>30</b> CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 10 am Pastor at Nursing Home "NO" Scouts	<b>31 New Year's Eve</b> ~OFFICE CLOSED~ 7 pm New Year's Eve Service w/Holy Communion	<b>1 New Year's Day</b> ~OFFICE CLOSED~	<b>2</b> ~OFFICE CLOSED~	<b>3</b> CHURCH OFFICE OPEN	<b>4</b> 6 pm Worship w/Holy Communion

