Cross Ties

Monthly newsletter of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church 3204 Hixson Pike, Chattanooga, TN 37415 church@cocluth.com ~ 423-877-7447 ~ www.cocluth.com

January

2020



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.





FROM THE PASTOR...

Thoughts for the New Year

As we start this new year, I wonder if you've considered the distinction between these three related words. So, I'll ask it this way: what's the difference in your mind between being... #1 organized, #2 unorganized, or #3 disorganized? Is one of these better than another for you? It seems to me that people fall into one of these categories, and each thinks theirs is the "right way." Each camp even comes to pride themselves as the best way everyone ought to be. Yet if every group has a way of finding what they want in speedy fashion – whether in neatly filed folders in a file cabinet, or organized stacks on a desk or tables, or segmented clutter – who's to say that everyone should do things my way. If it works for you, that's all that really counts, right?

So what about your plans for these coming 12 months? As we grapple with the agonies of our annual "planning binge" and the realities of promises—made and promises—broken, those thoughts should remind us of the ONE whose Word is <u>always</u> steadfast and sure! Despite our steadfast desire to do better and follow through on those New Year resolutions... no matter how well conceived... how earnestly desired... how seriously decided upon... how well intentioned... they almost always wind up on the scrap heap of "best-laid-plans." And thanks be to God that our eternal destiny does not depend on how well <u>we</u> follow through, or don't! That's what forgiveness is all about and why the New Testament constantly speaks of God's mercy and grace. Our Triune God is steadfast and faithful to His Word in each and every new year (and that will never change.)

Yet there is one final truth to remember: His faithfulness has enormous power for the NOW of our existence. Let us never doubt that. Although our Heavenly Home depends on Christ alone, this life has a strong connection to eternal life. The Holy Spirit calls us to live our new life right now, not in some far-off time and place. He promises to guide and direct and prosper that newness of life that hearkens back to our Baptism. By His power and indwelling within us, we can give a strong witness for our Lord, as we provide a glimpse into heaven and a picture of our Savior for this world's weary and jaded travelers in 2020.

May God bless you richly this year!

~Pastor Hildebrandt



The 2020 Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Semi-Annual Planning Meeting for our Cross of Christ group will be held January 11, 10:00 a.m. in the library. All church ladies congregation are encouraged to join us. We meet twice a year (January and September) to plan our year's numerous volunteer activities. This is a great way to get to know our ladies of the congregation better and a small (or large) way for you to get involved. If you have any questions, call Eunice Timm (423-624-2588). Hope to see you there!

LWML QUILTING Tuesday mornings in Fellowship Hall 9:30-11:30 A.M. - Join us! The quilters will resume quilting again on January 7th, 2020.

BCA Dates to Remember:

Jan. 6 - School resumes from Christmas break

Jan. 8 - Reports cards available Jan. 20 - School and childcare closed in observance MLK Day

Jan. 23 – Open House for Prospective Students,



"Crazy Christmas Sweater Day" with Mrs. McCall and her 3rd grade class

Thank You...

Members of Cross of Christ: Thank you for your prayers, cards, calls, food and words of encouragement during my recuperation. And a special thank you to Pastor Hildebrandt for his faithful hospital visits and shut-in Communion. We are blessed to be part of such a loving and caring body of Christ.

~ Pat Stehr

Many thanks to the countless servants who gave of their time and talents throughout this Christmas Season, from the Advent Supper and Service assistants, to the church decorators, poinsettia purchasers, and countless musicians who edified worship with their talents.

The staff at Cross of Christ would like to thank our congregation for the Staff Holiday Gift given to each of us on New Year's Eve. We appreciate the blessings you have given us and your support year around.

Many thanks to all who have given us their "critters". They will be going to new homes and new people who will love the "critters"

and give them comfort. (We will continue this ministry for as long as "critters" are *dropped off.*)

Church Website & Facebook Page If you have updates/info for our Facebook page or website, please email detailed info to secretary@cocluth.com and updates will be taken care of by our webmasters. Thanks!

If you purchased a poinsettia over Christmas for the altar, please don't forget to take it home! Any plant let after this Sunday, January 12th, will be given away or disposed of in this best manner possible.

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#### **FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:**

\*\*January 20th\*\*

Please send articles & information to: rachel.schlie@outlook.com

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## FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY WILL HOLD ANOTHER SESSION!!

Due to popular demand, FPU is back! Never worry about money again with Financial Peace University (FPU)! It's the proven plan to help you master budgeting, beat debt, and live the life of your dreams! Through nine (9) lessons rooted in biblical wisdom, your FPU group will learn from Dave Ramsey and his team of financial experts. FPU includes your member workbook and other exclusive online benefits through a free year of Financial Peace Membership.

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church is again offering this class to the community. (We graduated 14 people in November.) Tell your family, co-workers, neighbors, and friends about the class and have them join you! We need 10 people to hold a session. The nine (9) week class will start Friday, January 24th at 7 p.m. The class cost has been discounted to only \$93.00 (normal cost is \$130). The 2019 rebate has been extended to 2020!!! Those attending every class will be issued a full rebate at the conclusion of the classes. (Makeup classes will be offered, if needed.)

The class is taught by Larry & Judy Zehnder, Certified Instructors of the program, who have taught the class previously (5 other times). The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board, or contact Judy or Larry (875-3529), or the church office (877-7447) to register. **Registration deadline is January 17<sup>th</sup>!** 

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

## HOW TO MAKE YOUR INVESTMENTS DO MORE

The Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is a nonprofit religious organization of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod that provides exceptional investment opportunities while using the invested funds to carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout our country and beyond. Cross of Christ has several participants who are getting an exceptional return on their funds while benefiting the Synod. The following opportunities are specially formulated for new investors as well as those who have participated in the past.

#### **Gold Tier StewardAccount:**

This new StewardAccount is for deposits of \$50,000 and above that you want to keep accessible and flexible. Interest rates are tiered based on the balance and range from 2.125% to 2.500%. This account can only be opened with new money.

#### ConnectPLUS:

New investors, including congregations, can earn a premium interest rate of 3.00% on this two-year fixed-rate term note. ConnectPLUS is available for deposits of \$500 to \$50,000.

#### **PartnerPLUS:**

This fixed-rate term note is available for either two-years (2.50%) or four years (3.00%). These rates are available for deposits of \$500 to \$50,000. Deposits must be new money . Investors may open multiple accounts.

#### 5-Year Jumbo Term Note:

This new five-year term note earns a premium rate 0f 3.00% for deposits of \$100,000 and above. Deposits can be new or existing money. Investors may open multiple accounts.

For more information about these investment opportunities visit **lcef.org** or contact Paul Reaves at paul.reaves@lcef.org or call him at: 901 395-7051. Larry Zehnder also has brochures on each of these funds if you want more direct information.

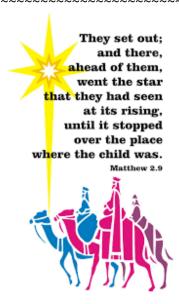
Offering Offering are not the

Offering envelope boxes for 2020 are available on the pew in the narthex. Look for your name on the box top and please take home with you. If you do not see a box labeled for you, please let Barbara

Wyatt know (423-309-5286) or the church office and one will be made for you.



Sanctuary decorated for Christmas!



#### **Cross of Christ Reads!**

We will meet on **January 16**, at **6:00 p.m**. at the **Timm house**. We will discuss the book, "A Girl of the Limberlost" by Gene Stratton-Porter. We will start our gathering with a taco soup supper. Eunice will make the taco soup, please bring something to go with it. We are meeting at the Timms because Eunice has the movie which we will watch and compare with the book. The Timm address is: 4010 Belvoir Dr., East Ridge (near Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and BCA).

You may want to make arrangements to carpool from the church. Questions, call Eunice: 423 624 2588

#### **BIBLES & BREWS**

This Young Adult Bible Study 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

#### 2020 Altar Flowers

The flower chart is up on the bulletin board for you to purchase flowers for the altar. Cost is \$25 per Sunday. Please sign your name and fill out the "in memory of" or "in honor of" line. Money can be placed in your designated offering envelope, or mark on your check memo "flower fund". Contact Sherry Reed with any questions.

### **LWML Hygiene Kit Collection**

#### Collecting NEW and UNUSED:

- Travel size shampoo
- Travel size conditioner
- Travel size soap
- Travel size lotion
- Travel size toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Nail clippers
- Disposable razor
- Wide-tooth comb
- Packs of purse-size Kleenex
- Individually wrapped handi-wipes
- Snack size Ziploc bags
- Sandwich size Ziploc bags
- Gallon size Ziploc bags
  - \*Please no travel size mouthwash

Hygiene kits are delivered to the Chattanooga Community Kitchen for distribution to our homeless.

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("In the Spotlight" will feature a condensed shoutout about a different resource or auxiliary of the LCMS each month)

"Bringing Christ to the Nations – and the Nations to the Church." If you've ever tuned in the radio to The Lutheran Hour, then you've most likely heard their well-versed mission statement. So who are they? What exactly do they do? What are they a part of? Read on for a bit of history on their organization and to learn about this official auxiliary of the LCMS.

About Them

- Official Organization Name:
 The International Lutheran Laymen's League (Int'l LLL)
 - Ministry of the Organization:
 Lutheran Hour Ministries
 (LHM)
 - Flagship Ministry of LHM: The Lutheran Hour (TLH)
- LHM is a "trusted resource in global media that equips and engages a vibrant volunteer base to passionately proclaim the Gospel to more than 125 million people worldwide each week."
- Headquarters in St. Louis, MO
- The Int'l LLL today has ministry centers located in over 30 countries, staffed almost entirely by nationals of the countries where it operates.
- The Int'l LLL uses radio & TV
 programming, the Internet, dramas,
 music, Bible Correspondence Courses,
 printed materials and other culturally
 relevant programs/venues to share
 Christ in and around their countries.

History

- 1917: a group of 12 LCMS men met to successfully settle the church's debt of \$100,000 thus formed the Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL).
- 1930: the first radio program is broadcast and continues today (it's the WORLD'S oldest continually broadcast,

- Christ-centered radio program). It's called The Lutheran Hour (TLH).
- <u>1940</u>: TLH broadcasts in Spanish; LLL opens its first international ministry center in the Philippines.
- <u>1952</u> LLL is televised with "This is the Life" and "On Main Street"
- 1992: The Lutheran Hour's popularity takes the face as LLL's media outreach.

LHM Resources for You

- The Lutheran Hour message is broadcast every Sunday on three local Chattanooga stations:
 - 10:00 a.m. KAWZ FM (88.5) 11:00 a.m. WLMR FM (103.3) 11:00 a.m. WLMR AM (1450)
- Daily Devotions sent directly to your email to read or listen to
- Kids' Booklets a variety books for kids from "Sharing Your Faith" to "Learning to Pray" to the Easter Story & more
- Free video-based Bible studies

Visit **www.lutheranhour.org** to learn more about their rich history, their many and various areas of outreach, and access their resources for your personal use.

For Fun!

Catch the Lutheran Hour float, themed "The Power of Hope", on TV Jan. 1st in the annual New Year's Day Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA! It's the longest running (and currently only) religious float in the Tournament of Roses parade, appearing since 1951. The float is a project of the Southern California District of the Int'l LLL. Its purpose is "to provide a Gospel witness to millions of viewers along the parade route and in some 150 countries worldwide." The parade will be broadcast live at 11:00 a.m. EST on ABC, NCB and The Hallmark Channel.



Information for this article found on the official website for Lutheran Hour Ministries

SERVING AT CHATTANOOGA COMMUNITY KITCHEN (CCK)

What a great opportunity to serve Christ by serving our homeless community. We meet at the church at 10:15-10:30 and carpool to CCK. Set up for serving occurs from 10:45 to 11:30. Serving occurs from 11:30 to 12:30. We finish at 12:30 on the dot!! Nothing is needed except yourself! (Aprons and name tags are provided. We are asked to wear "closed toe shoes".)

2020 Schedule (all are Wednesday's) January 22nd, March 25th, May 27th, July 22nd, Sept. 23rd, and November 25th

We need 5 to 6 servers each time we serve. Contact Arlene Vickers to volunteer for this ministry, by text or leave her a msg. (410-897-2121).



Ladies Birthday Lunch Celebrating
JANUARY/FEBRUARY Birthdays...
We will be gathering on
January 25th, 11:30 a.m. at
"Formosa" (5425 Hwy. 153 North – Hixson)

January/February Birthdays

Arlene McCarty, Jamie Mofsky, Karen Miller, Ronnie Smits, Eunice Timm, and Monica Witherby

Co-hostesses for this month are Joni Rennhack and Barbara Conn. All women of the congregation are invited to our bi-monthly Ladies Birthday Lunch. Start something new 2020! Sign-up on the bulletin board, so we know how many to plan for seating. We hope you can attend and join in the fun fellowship we always have fellowshipping, laughing and eating together! Questions, please call Jamie Mofsky (774-1033) or the church office.

Join us to celebrate the Chinese New Year!

MEN... Brad Mofsky is inviting the men of the congregation to join him at the newly remodeling Moe's (just down the street). Please text Brad and let him know you will be attending (706-996-6616).

Helping the Homeless with Clothes

Cross of Christ will again be collecting warm clothing and blankets (used or new) for the homeless this winter. (Plus, we are also collecting clothes from any season, along with household items for those who are now able to find shelter. Household items need to be in good shape please.) Bring any of these items you would like to donate to the church and place them under or by the table near the church office. These items will be distributed through the Chattanooga Community Kitchen (CCK) Thrift Store. If you have any large non-clothing items you would like to donate to the Thrift Store, please take them directly to the CCK at 727 E. 11th Street, Chattanooga. Thank you so much for your compassion and help for the homeless in our community.

~Arlene Vickers

Please consider donating your used clothing towards the homeless. Winter items (jackets, hats, gloves...) along with all other articles of clothing (any season) are needed in all sizes.

Other possible donations needed are **blankets & pillows**, **sleeping bags and vinyl tarps**.

Items can be left under the table by the church office where they will be picked up and distributed to those in need. Thank you for your help!

SNACK PACKS – On Wednesday, January 29th (4:00 p.m.) we will be packing Snack Packs for students at Rivermont Elementary, just up the road. These snack packs provide at least one meal for students over the weekend in disadvantaged homes. It takes less than an hour, so be here promptly at 4pm, as the more helping hands, the quicker the task is completed. Looking forward to seeing you!

Please correct your calendars for Future Packing Dates To Mark On Your Calendar. The dates should be Wednesday... Jan. 29th, Feb. 26th, March 25th and April 29th.

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

Email: church@cocluth.com Office: 423-877-7447 Info. Line: 423-648-0995 FAX: 423-870-2990 www.cocluth.com

Administrative Specialist - Lorilynn Baier

THOUGHTS FOR 2020



Every morning lean thine arms awhile Upon the windowsill of heaven And gaze upon thy Lord. Then, with the vision in thy heart, Turn strong to meet thy day. ~Thomas Blake

A SACRED PARTNERSHIP

Bible scholar William Barclay notes that John the Baptist was "startled and unwilling" when Jesus asked to be baptized. evangelist thought *he* needed The what Jesus could give, not the reverse!

We are pros at taking our needs to God — indeed he invites this: "Call on me in the day of trouble" (Psalm 50:15). But God also comes to us with needs: "Mortal, I am sending you" (Ezekiel 2:3, NRSV); "Go ... make disciples" (Matthew 28:19); "Carry each other's burdens" (Galatians 6:2, NIV).

Apparently, God prefers partnership to acting solo. From the beginning, God has invited people to name the animals, tend the garden, welcome strangers, build the tabernacle, proclaim his word, ensure justice and mercy, share his love.

What does God need from you, as Jesus needed baptism from John? Salvation is God's alone to accomplish, but then he calls us to share work with him, for the world's sake. So we echo Jesus: "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this" (Matthew 3:15, NIV).

~Heidi Mann

Thank you Rachel Schlie for jumping in and together January putting the newsletter. It is definitely a team effort by all the members of the congregation to get you the information and then to get it pulled together for publication. ~Lorilynn

JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

ALTAR GUILD

Eloise Bartlett and Barbara Wyatt

ACOLYTES, Sunday, 9 a.m.

Zachary Land 12th: Nathan Pugh 19th: Zachary Land 26th: Chloe Doebler

ELDERS

Saturday, 6:00 0.m. Scott Brewster

Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Byron Brakenhoff and David Hook

GREETERS, Saturday, 6 p.m.

Scott Brewster 4th:

11th: All Our Saturday Evening Members

18th: Donna Wachholz

25th: All Our Saturday Evening Members

GREETERS, Sunday, 9 a.m.

5th: Pat & John Stehr 12th: Maria & Tony Pessini 19th: Eunice & Bob Timm 26th: Schlie Family

READERS

(Saturday) (Sunday)

4th: Scott Brewster 5th: John Stehr 11th: Lorilynn Baier 12th: Tony Pessini 18th: Mark Wachholz 19th: Jane/John Rudat 25th: Sylvia Hildebrandt 26th: Dave Hook

USHERS

Saturday, 6 p.m. Scott Brewster

Sunday, 9 a.m.

Marc Flippin, Zachary Land & Ray Veldman

A SENSE OF SECURITY...

I'm sure most of you are aware of the unfortunate incidents in Texas and New York two Sundays ago. Both were directed at people of faith. My purpose in bringing this to your attention is to remind everyone how diligent we must be during this time in our lives, dealing with people with drastically different philosophies and radical behaviors. Bad things can happen to good people. I can't stress enough to everyone how important it is that we all remain focused on not only the "unusual" actions going on around us, but we must also be aware of what we might normally consider "usual". It is all too easy to be lulled into a false sense of security with everyday habitual habits.

Several folks have asked me, "Do we have a security team?" As most of you know, the answer is YES. There are a few members on the team who are armed on Sundays, just to give us a leg up of potential challenges to our community. All are properly licensed and do maintain their skills. (If you have not given the church office a copy of your carry permit, please do that as soon as possible. We maintain a file for our insurance company and the police, in the event we ever experience an incident. Speak with Lorilynn if you have any questions.)

It is truly disturbing that we have to take such precautions, but threats do exist and can present themselves anywhere and at any time, including right here at Cross of Christ. You must **always** be vigilant about your surroundings no matter where you are. It just might make the difference of staying safe.

~Tony Pessini

WE NEED YOUR HELP...

It has recently been brought to our attention that our hymnal ribbons are not being treated correctly. The ribbons are not to be braided, unraveled or stripped into frayed pieces. When we buy hymnals, we pay a few cents more to have these ribbons inserted into our hymnals, in order for our members to mark sections to use during the worship services. Lately, we have had to cut out ribbons that have been destroyed or deemed unusable for use by our members. Please help us keep our hymnals in good condition for use by both members and visitors alike. Thank you.

The Adventure Continues!!

Our dear friend, former member, and former church/community counselor Regena Kressenberg, has been accepted and will be leaving (and beginning her lifetime dream of being a missionary) for Kampala Uganda sometime between March and June of 2020. She needs to raise \$20,000.00 as her estimated budget. We'd like to help her. The quilts in the Narthex were made and donated by Regina to our quilters. Our quilters have decided to turn around and sell them for \$75.00 and then return ALL the proceeds to Regena for her adventure.

If you'd rather give a donation, this Sunday in the bulletin, there will be a handout detailing her new adventure to serve as a counselor and an Africa Inland Missionary. (Handout's are also available on the quilt rack.) Pick up an extra, no pickup two, and share this ministry!

All support must be in by April 29th and checks must be made payable to **Africa Inland Missions** (please <u>do not</u> put Regena's name on the check <u>nor</u> in the memo area). All checks must be mailed to Regena, for her to turn in with her additional paperwork. Any support in addition to the quilts, will help us share in the mission for the Kingdom. If you have further questions, please contact Eunice Timm (624-2588) or call and talk to Regina directly at 423-903-2231 before she leaves.

Our LWML members are no longer making Advent Calendars and thought you may need some missing pieces, a piece or two to refresh your calendar, or possibly you can find enough pieces to start a calendar for someone! Items will be available to view and gather starting this Saturday, January 11th. You will find the items in the Library, where they have already been sorted, plus there are red bags available to carry your items away. Please help your yourself, as Monday, February 3rd will be the last day items will be available. On February 4th anything left will be given to the Salvation Army. instructions and patterns will also be available.) Check it out this weekend!!





Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 *NEW YEAR'S DAY* ~OFFICE CLOSED~	2 ~OFFICE CLOSED~	3 CHURCH OFFICE OPEN	4 6 pm Worship w/Holy Communion
5 *9 am Worship w/Holy Communion *10:15 am Bible Class & Sunday School *7 pm Bell Choir	*EPIPHANY* *10 am Pastor at Nursing Home Bible Study *7 pm Boy Scouts	7 *9:30 am Quilters	8 *7 pm Adult Choir	9 *6:30 pm Crossways *8 pm Bibles & Brews	10	*10 am LWML Annual Planning Meeting (CoC Library – see article) *6 pm Worship
*9 am Worship *10:15 am Bible Class & Sunday School *7 pm Bell Choir	*10 am Nursing Home Bible Study *7 pm Elders Mtg. *7 pm Boy Scouts	14 *9:30 am Quilters	15 *7 pm Adult Choir	*6-8 pm CoC Reads! (at Eunice Timm's – see article) *6:30 pm Crossways *8 pm Bibles & Brews	*FPU Classes Registration Deadline (see article)	18 *6 pm Worship w/Holy Communion
*9 am Worship w/Holy Communion *10:15 am Bible Class & Sunday School *7 pm Bell Choir	*MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY* *10 am Nursing Home Bible Study *7 pm Boy Scouts NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	*9:30 am Quilters	*10:15 am Serving at Chattanooga Community Kitchen (see article) *7 pm Adult Choir	*6:30 pm Crossways *8 pm Bibles & Brews	24 *7 pm FPU Class Begins (see article)	*11:30 am Ladies Birthday Lunch at Formosa (see article) *6 pm Worship
26 *9 am Worship *10:15 am Bible Class & Sunday School	*10 am Nursing Home Bible Study *7 pm Boy Scouts	28 *9:30 am Quilters	*4 pm Pack Snack Packs (see article) *7 pm Adult Choir	*6:30 pm Crossways *8 pm Bibles & Brews	Fellowship Hall Reserved for Wedding Rehearsal Dinner *7 pm FPU Class	