



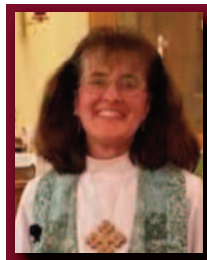
Christ Lutheran Church
115 Church St.
Duncannon, PA 17020
717.834.3140
www.clcduncannon.org

Community Aid # - 10119



February 2025

The Herald



Pastor's Reflection

WHO IS THIS JESUS

The season of Epiphany begins with the celebration of the Magi's arrival in Bethlehem. They had followed the celestial light that had appeared in the sky and guided them. They studied the ancient texts which told them this light was important, that it heralded a new age. The possibilities were so profound, the sign so sure, they could not ignore it. They needed to know who is coming, and the star came to rest over Bethlehem of Judea. There they found a young family with a newborn baby, and they told the parents they had followed a star to find a king, and they bowed down to pay him homage. The signs revealed this tiny, new baby is the promised one!

The season of Epiphany ends on the Sunday before Lent with a grand mountaintop vision in which Jesus is revealed by God to be the Beloved Son, and Jesus is transfigured – surrounded by a great, glorious, all-encompassing light. The glory of the Lord revealed to three of Jesus's disciples – Peter, James, and John. They are terrified. They have witnessed a miracle. They have heard the voice of God. They have seen the realms of heaven and earth mingle together – Elijah and Moses speak to Jesus. They have witnessed Jesus's divinity radiating from his body in ways they have never seen before, leaving them without sense or words. This is what happens when we encounter the living God. All is transformed around us.

Jesus invites us into this transformation. But transformation is not always easy. In fact, sometimes it is terrifying, just like it was for the apostles on that mountain. Peter, James, and John witnessed something they couldn't imagine and certainly did not know what to do after – at least not right away. The season of Epiphany is about revelation, specifically a revelation of who Jesus is, but it calls us back even further and into the witness of our scripture which also reveals to us who Jesus is. Jesus is the incarnate Word – the Word of God made flesh. He came to live and dwell among us for a time – a blessing and a miracle and a gift of Love sent by God – for the sake of our salvation and the restoration of all that God has made. As our communion liturgy offers, "Jesus came as the God we can see so that we might love the God whom we cannot see." Jesus came down to earth to live among us so that he, himself, could teach us what it means to love and worship God alone, what it means to love and care for our neighbors. The Holy Spirit filled Jesus with power and proclamation so that he would call us all into the communion of the Holy Spirit, joined forever by God's love sacrificed by the blood of Jesus at the cross for us. When we learn who Jesus is, we learn who we are and who we are meant to be.

We join together in worship

continued on next page

President's Paragraph

Here we are, already one month into 2025. It doesn't seem possible; wasn't it just yesterday we were celebrating Christmas? We took down our holiday decorations and now we're getting ready for Lent and Easter. Time goes by so fast. Who knows what this new year might have in store for us as individuals, and as a church. It's a big unknown, but whatever it is, it will be here before we know it.

Does time rush us or do we rush time? When we were kids time couldn't move fast enough; as adults the days and weeks seems to speed by. Winter has not let up its cold grip yet, however, I'm sure many of us have already begun making summer vacation plans. We are always rushing ahead. Some things never change, even if we want change. Notably me being elected as church council president....again! I digress.

That's for another newsletter.

Despite only being one month into the new year, I can tell you that your church is busy.

The new council has been installed and is excited to get started. Committees are hard at work. The fundraising committee met and have already scheduled events for the entire year. Unfortunately, we must now depend on fundraisers to supplement our budget. Again, some things never change - like our finances. It seems our church budget is like a dog chasing his tail, we never seem to catch up to it. But we keep trying.

The property committee had an impromptu meeting and discussed their plans for 2025. It's a new year but some of the same challenges remain for the property committee. Mainly the furnace replacement and the

belfry repairs. These are just two items that the property committee and council will have on their plates right away this year.



Bill Brookhart
Council President

We don't know what lies ahead in 2025, but the new year is going to give us many opportunities to be involved and connected as a church. Pick a committee and jump in, new members are always welcome. Please do not be shy about stepping up to the challenge. Age or gender are no excuse. Just ask the Pastor if you would like to become more involved. The time is now. We all have talents and treasures. Its time to share them!

See ya Sunday!
Bill

Pastor's Reflection

continued from previous page
every Sunday to remember our baptism, to come to the table where we take the body and blood of Jesus Christ into ourselves in remembrance of his life, death, and resurrection glory. In worship we are strengthened and shaped to be faithful disciples who live the gospel out into the world. Each one of us is the body of Christ – each one gifted with a purpose – large or small, simple or profound – no gift is greater than another as Paul teaches the early Corinthian believers. We are called to live

and love in such a way that Jesus Christ is made known to others by our witness and our lives. In our baptism, a candle is lit to reflect Christ's light in the world, and we are commissioned to be bearers of that light for all to see. This is a gift and a responsibility.

We are always saint and sinner. We will not be perfect in our witness, and Jesus knew that. He saw it everyday in his own close friends and students. Yet, he calls us anyway for the sake of a world in need of being transformed; a world in need of being renewed and

reborn as the good Creation God always intended. We are called to live in hope for the restoration of all things. Sometimes that might seem like a fanciful dream – too good to be true – but our faith tells us that God sent the Beloved Son into the world for this purpose, and we believe in this truth revealed in the manger, on the mountain, at the cross, and in the empty tomb. Come and see *who is this Jesus*.

Amen.

Sunday School/Bible Study - One In the Same

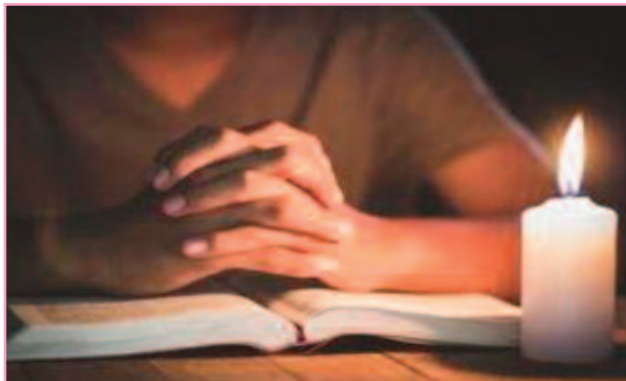
Most of us grew up attending Sunday school. We have fond memories of singing those fun songs and our teachers using the flannel boards as visual aids to present the lessons. Then we got older and Sunday School became less fun. If you were raised in a Lutheran church, you were most likely confirmed as a teenager and then breathed a sigh of relief that you could “take a break”, which meant for many, occasional Sunday school attendance, if at all.

Over the decades attendance in mainline churches has declined. Out of necessity the church has changed. It has had to adapt to cultural changes to remain relevant. There is a shift towards more contemporary worship styles, an increased digital presence, a focus on social issues.

We all know worship attendance at CLC has declined, and the pandemic didn't help. Sunday School had taken a hit even before the pandemic.

However, there are some great reasons to attend Sunday School/ Bible Study:

1. Of course it's important to our faith formation. We never stop learning and the Bible always has new and surprising things to teach us.
2. Did you ever wish you could raise your hand and ask a question during the pastor's sermon? Or maybe just say out loud “Seriously? **That's** in the Bible?”
3. Sunday School provides an interactive learning experience. It offers the opportunity for discussion and questioning. There's no need to be uncomfortable in a smaller group.
4. You get to learn from the pastor as well as each other. You have the opportunity to get to know people a little better as you come to care for them.
5. And believe me, with Pastor Jenn teaching, it's never boring!



The group at CLC has been studying the Book of Genesis, although we did take a break from that during Advent. We read the stories of the birth of Jesus from Matthew and Luke and had a lot of discussion on the differences as we focused on Mary.

In our study of Genesis, the primary book source has been *Genesis for Normal People, A Guide to the Most Controversial, Misunderstood and Abused Book of the Bible* by Pete Enns and Jared Byes.

Everyone has input into what we study and every-

one is welcome!

Mt. Zion Contract Update

Christ Lutheran Church will continue to contract out 25% (10 hours per week) of Pastor Jennifer's time to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Boiling Springs during 2025.

The relationship continues to be a positive one, meeting the financial needs of Christ Lutheran Church while providing pastoral support and worship leadership for Mt. Zion.

During 2025, Mt. Zion will enter into the Call Process through the synod to begin searching for a called pastor who will serve them and another Cumberland County church. We offer our prayers to them as they begin this process.

You will see worship time updates that will be required during Lent and Holy Week in this newsletter. Be sure to mark your calendar!





...Protestant Sunday School was founded in 18th century England by a gentleman named Robert Raikes for children of factory workers. The children worked in the factories themselves.

The first organized and documented Sunday school in the United States was founded in Ephrata, Lancaster County in the mid-1700's by an immigrant from Germany, Ludwig Höcker, who created Sunday school for the impoverished children of the area.

...the Lutheran church understands the scriptures to be the inspired word of God, written by humans, yet through the power of the Holy Spirit revealing God to us. It is a living word which has the ability to speak wisdom, truth, and guidance to people across the ages through interpretation, discernment, and study. Our scriptures are an ancient text, written by ancient peoples across many centuries. There are no "original" copies of any of the texts from our Bibles. The oldest exist-

Lenten Series

Using a curriculum created by the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA and the International Bonhoeffer Society, we will study Lessons from Dietrich Bonhoeffer *In a House Divided and a World on Fire*.

- ✦ Lesson 1 - Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Life
- ✦ Lesson 2- It's About the Neighbor
- ✦ Lesson 3 - Faith is Worldly
- ✦ Lesson 4 - Taking a Stand
- ✦ Lesson 5- Reading Bonhoeffer Today
- ✦ Lesson 6 - Life Together

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945) was a German Lutheran pastor, professor, and public theologian who actively resisted Adolf Hitler and the Nazi regime. He was a prolific writer and a

ing, complete version of the Hebrew Bible dates from 1000 CE and is called the Leningrad Codex. It resides in St. Petersburg, Russia. The oldest copy of the New Testament dates from the 300s CE and is located in four separate archives.

...Martin Luther once described the Holy Scriptures as the cradle that holds the infant Jesus. With this imagery, he imagines the Bible opening for us, offering the revelation of Jesus, Word of God, present at the Creation and as the incarnate God made flesh. Luther was deeply concerned about the limited understanding of the Bible that existed in the various churches he encountered which is why he made it a priority to translate the biblical texts from their original languages (from Hebrew for the Old Testament; from Greek for the New Testament) into German so that all people would be able to read the Bible (at that time, this was strictly forbidden by the Catholic church). This was one of the important reforms brought into the Protestant church). He also encouraged education for all children - boys and girls - so that they could read the scriptures for themselves.



college and seminary professor before being silenced by the Nazis for teaching against the regime's fascist ideology and hate, especially against the Jewish people. Bonhoeffer's theology was grounded in Christ's teaching of the Sermon on the Mount. He took his faith seriously and believed that he was called to resist the destruction of Germany by Hitler along with resistance to the complicity and subjugation of the German Lutheran Church to Nazism and its hate-fueled teachings that were completely counter to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Bonhoeffer asked, "Who is Christ for us today?" It was a necessary question in 1930s and 1940s Germany. It is a meaningful question still for us today.

Join us at 7:00 on Sunday evenings, via Zoom, beginning Sunday, March 9.

Fundraising Committee Update

In 2024, the fundraising committee really took off and had many events throughout the year to help build our current fund. Some of the events ranged from sub fundraisers, to meals at the church like the pasta extravaganza, to apple dumplings at pioneer days, the Christmas bazaar, and many other ones that occurred as well.

Together, these fundraising events generated a total of \$8,721.83 for the church's current fund.

Much time and effort went into making each event a success. The committee would like to continue to thank everyone who has helped with these events in any way, from donating food, to donating their time, and also to everyone who came out and purchased a ticket or food at our fundraisers. Continued help from each of you makes a world of difference.

As always, if you think of any ideas that may be worth a try please let Becky Yohe or Terry Kuhn know.

Looking forward in 2025, here is a list of what is being planned:

Feb. 15 – Ham and Green Bean meal with rolls, applesauce, coleslaw, and dessert, \$10 a ticket

Feb. 9 - Pizza and Sub sale

Mar. 15 – Pasta Extravaganza, \$12 a ticket

Apr. – Pie/Whoopie Pie sale around Easter

Apr 26 - Hiker Meal Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

May 4 or 17 – Paint night shooting

May - Pizza and sub sale (date TBD)

June 10 – Harshbergers

June – Yard Sale (date TBD)

July – sub sale

Aug. 26 – Harshbergers

Sept. – Apple Dumplings at pioneer days (date TBD)

Oct. – Oktoberfest (date TBD)

Nov. – Pumpkin rolls (date TBD)

Dec. – Bazaar (date TBD)

All year fundraisers: Karns gift cards fundraiser continues all year as will Hersheypark once details are finalized.

Some dates are yet to be determined and others are subject to change if necessary. Continue to watch the bulletin and our website calendar of events for more information.



Transforming Ministry Program

Several members of CLC – Lisa Dubay, Sue Landis, Charlene Lentvorsky, Sue Masser, Shaina Stanton, and Pastor Jennifer – have been participating in a Lower Susquehanna Synod (LSS) program entitled *Transforming Ministry*. They have met every-other-month since September with two other churches from the Lancaster area. The sessions are led by Pastor Richard Jorgensen, LSS Director of Evangelical Mission. The

church is experiencing a season of change, as any institution does. The Holy Spirit moves and guides God's people in every age, and through this program we seek to learn new methods and skills to listen and learn where God is calling the church in the 21st century. We seek to grow in faithful discipleship and learn how we might share this information with the CLC congregation. Check out information about the Giving to God monthly seminar to join us in these conversations!

AED/CPR Refresher Class

We are planning to offer an AED/CPR Training Refresher course. It is available to everyone. If you are interested, please let us know.

Black History Month - Encountering New Voices

We will gather each Wednesday during February for a weekly educational opportunity to engage in study and dialogue for Black History Month. We will meet in person at 7:00 in the Sunday School room. This year, we will learn about important and influential voices from the Civil Rights era who may not be as well known. We will watch three documentaries along with an accompanying book study.

The schedule will be as follows:

Wednesday, February 5 -
Documentary: *I Am Not Your Negro* - based on the book by James Baldwin

Wednesday, February 12 -
Documentary: *The Evers* - based on the life of Medgar Evers

Wednesday, February 19 -
Documentary: *Malcom X - Make it Plain*

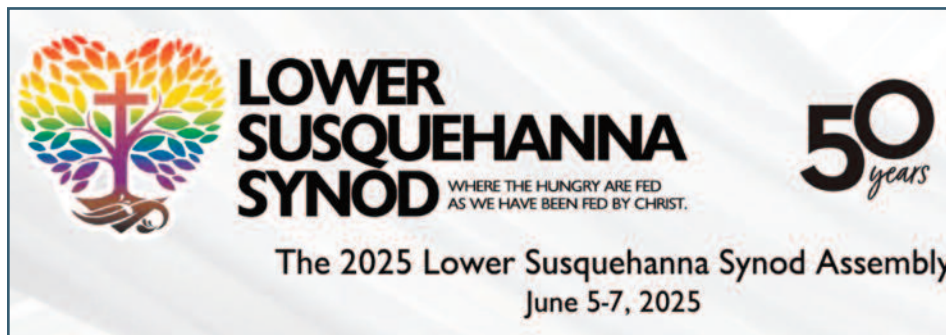
Wednesday, February 26 -
Final Discussions and overview of *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman (1899-1981). "Thurman was the first black dean of Boston University's Marsh Chapel, and he became a spiritual advisor to Martin Luther King, Jr." This book was originally published in 1949. In this book, Thurman interprets



the ministry of Jesus through the lens of the oppressed. It is a perspective on theology and biblical studies that still holds value today.

These important conversations and opportunities to learn more about the struggles of the black community for safety, security, equality and civil rights in America help us to learn from historical events in order to better understand our own times and respond faithfully to our call to witness for justice today. Jesus calls us to seek out and support those who are cast aside and oppressed - to be a light into darkness. Learning about the struggles of our neighbors are ways in which we can grow in discipleship and mercy.

Friends and family are welcome!



SYNOD COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!

The Lower Susquehanna Synod asks for confirmed members of congregations in the synod to prayerfully consider running for election to a variety of open positions. Elections will be held at the 2025 Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly to be held June 5-7.

The open positions include:

- ✝ Synod Secretary
- ✝ Synod Treasurer
- ✝ Synod Council – Lay Man

- ✝ Synod Council – Layperson any gender
- ✝ Synod Council – Young Adult
- ✝ Synod Council – Youth
- ✝ Committee on Discipline

More information can be found here: <https://www.lss-elca.org/synod-assembly/nominations/>

Additionally, Cindy and Bill are our delegates to the Assembly.



A special thank you to all who have used your Thrivent relationship to obtain funds for activities and events at Christ Lutheran Church. We appreciate YOU!

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

Your church council has started a new year with some new faces and some who are completing their original term. Some have even elected to continue with a second term.

Council is off to a busy start and anticipates a busy year. Ernie was gracious enough to provide a financial overview to the council at the January meeting. This served as a refresher for some but also as a first time exposure for others.

The Community Outreach Committee recommended that 25% of the money the church receives from Community Aid from our donations be given to the committee for continued use in our local community. In 2024, CLC received residuals totaling \$333.17. Council agreed that each January funds will be allotted to the committee. The amount that the committee will use in 2025 is \$83.29.

Approval was given to the Worship and Music committee to change times for various Easter services to accommodate Mt. Zion's community service. See details in this newsletter and on our web site. An additional time change was also approved which will allow Pastor Jenn to attend their anniversary celebration in June.

Shaina has volunteered to conduct Servsafe training in advance of our hiker meal season. If you are interested in attending, please let Pastor Jenn or Shaina know.



2025 Church Council

Front row: Becky Meisel, Clyde Tota, Velma Wittlinger, Pastor Jenn, Sandy Hoover, and Shaina Stanton. Middle row: Joe Kistler, Sue Landis, Charlene Lentvorsky, Terry Kuhn, and Brianne Chubb. Back row: Kendra Masser and Bill Brookhart.

One of the biggest challenges CLC will face this year is the replacement of our current furnace. Council gave approval for a taskforce to be formed to gather all of the necessary documentation and pricing so that we receive are fiscally responsible in choosing a vendor. Sue Landis will be drafting a Request for Proposal to be sent to various vendors.

Where Did Your Noisy Offering Go?

One Sunday every month, CLC collects your loose change, and, sometimes even bills are



placed in the jar at the back of the church.

Do you always know or remember who the recipients of these collections will be? Well, if you are one of the few who

may need a reminder, here it is.

CLC collected \$786 in 2024 and distributed it to seven different organizations: Loads of Love, Neighbor Helping Neighbor Food Bank, Lutheran Camping Corporation, Lutheran Disaster Response, Perry County Literacy Council, Little Food Pantry, and for first aid kits.

These are all great causes and helped with the huge need in our community and abroad. Please continue to place your change in the jar in 2025 as there is always a worthy beneficiary.

He is Risen! Share the News With a Card

Shirley Hoffman
Messiah Lifeways
100 Mt. Allen Drive
Asper Hall #45W
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Pat Dallago
Promedica of Sinking Spring
3000 Windmill Road
Sinking Spring, PA 19608

Karen Ersoz
P.O. Box 67
New Buffalo, PA 17069

Sarah Jane Hickoff
115 High St
Duncannon, PA 17020

Pastor Irene Dussaq
4 Suzanne Drive
Duncannon, PA 17020

Joanne Speis
**Stonebridge Health &
Rehabilitation Center**
102 Chandra Drive, Room 36
Duncannon, PA 17020

Charlotte Dyer
49 Inglenook Road
Halifax, PA 17032

Millie & Jerry Bell
Transitions at Allens Cove
25 Cove Road
Duncannon, PA 17020

Cathy Cavanaugh
202 Park Drive
Marysville, PA 17053

Ron & Nancy Moore
21 Thomas Drive
Duncannon, PA 17020

Memorial Blanket Project 2025

A new year has begun for the Memorial Blanket Project. The Philadelphia blanket installation was a great success in 2024. It was presented in front of Independence Hall on December 21, the Longest Night of the Year and Homelessness Awareness Day. As we are surrounded this winter by the bitter cold, we remember that homelessness and housing insecurity remain real and desperate issues for too many of our neighbors.

As we learned from our guest speakers in November, the largest segment of growth in housing insecurity is from our senior population over age 65. We pray for a day when all have safe and secure housing.

The Memorial Blanket Projects continues to

raise awareness in 2025. This year, the blanket installation will take place in Denver, CO. Find out more here: <https://memorialblanket.org/>

If you would like to make a blanket, they request the following

sizes: Because they lay out the blankets in a grid format – it is easiest if they are all the same length. That length is 80 inches. Widths may vary, but they recommend 45 inches wide for individual blankets and 60 inches for family blankets.



Financial Statement

Christ Lutheran Church Financial Summary As of December 31 2024

For the full year of 2024, our Current Fund income is \$148,289, which is \$13,791 greater than 2023. For the full year of 2024, our total Current Fund expense is \$135,456, which is \$4,807 less than 2023. Combined, this amounts to a \$18,597 improvement over 2023.

For 2024, the bottom line is: CLC's Current Fund finished the year with a net income (profit) of \$12,824.

Our total assets are currently \$79,849, which is \$12,027 greater than a year ago. Our Current Fund Balance is a positive \$22,338, which is \$12,824 greater than December, 2023.

Overall, 2024 was a positive year for CLC's financial position. We should be very thankful for the improvements over the past year. Several reasons for improvement are:

- Monthly payments from Mt. Zion, Boiling Springs for 25% share of our Pastor's compensation expense (\$17,054)
- Fundraising Income from Pioneer Days, Sandwich Sales, Harshbarger's ,Tastefully Simple, Pampered Chef, Bazaar, etc. (\$8,722)
- Contributions into the Current Fund for Memorial gifts (\$5,195)

It is important to understand that these 3 items total \$30,971, and without these income items in 2024, our Current Fund would have incurred a loss of \$18,147.

Our planned budget for 2025 assumes that we will continue to share our Pastor at least 25% through 2025, therefore we pray that God has other plans for CLC once Mt. Zion calls their own Pastor, which might be during 2025 or later.

Summary of Income and Expenses

	2024 December YTD	2024 Expense Budget	Over (Under) Budget
Total Current Fund Income	\$ 148,289	\$ 132,060	\$ 16,229
Total Current Fund Expense	\$ 135,465	\$ 132,060	\$ 3,405
Net Income (Loss) - Current Fund	\$ 12,824	\$ -	\$ 12,824

Summary of Assets

	Dec. 31, 2024	Dec. 31, 2023	YOY Change
Checking - Members 1st	17,759	3,395	
Savings - Members 1st	2,082	2,006	
Money Market - Members 1st	10,131	28,068	
Mission Investment Accounts	49,877	34,353	
Total Assets	79,849	67,822	12,027

Remembering the Words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King



“We need leaders not in love with money but in love with justice.
Not in love with publicity but in love with humanity.”

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

“I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.”

“Giving Up Something”

Why do some people “give something up for Lent”?

“Giving something up” for Lent is not a requirement. Rather it is an opportunity to engage in a spiritual discipline, or to say it another way, to seek out intentional time to grow in faith.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and comprises approximately 40 days (more including Sundays) which is intended to reflect the time that Jesus spent in the wilderness after his baptism (Read the story in Matthew 4:1-11) when he fasts for 40 days and experiences a time of testing by the Tempter (from the Hebrew word *ha satan*).

As part of our church tradition, we recognize Lent to be a time of preparation and intentional formation so that we are ready in body, mind, and spirit for the coming of Holy Week. If you would like to consider some possible Lenten disciplines, here are some ideas:

- ☞ Pick a gospel and read for 10 minutes a day
- ☞ Go for a walk outside each day – doesn’t matter how

long

☞ Each week, send a note or visit a friend or family member you haven’t seen in a while

☞ Keep a gratitude journal – write three things you are grateful for each day

☞ Say a prayer every day for a different person

☞ Read a book about faith, Jesus, the Bible (or any book!)

☞ Set aside a dollar a day

and then donate it to the charity of your choice

☞ Fasting and other food-related disciplines

The possibilities are endless, but the intention is the same. Commit, as best as you can, to try something that will help prepare your heart and mind for Holy Week, and then come to church, hear the stories, seek Jesus, and journey to the cross, wait and watch.



Indian Mobile Mission

Silvia Webb THANKS everyone in Christ Lutheran for all the prayers and support for Indian Mobile Mission and the sponsoring of the two Navajo children, Kailyn Tallsalt and Theo JY Chee.

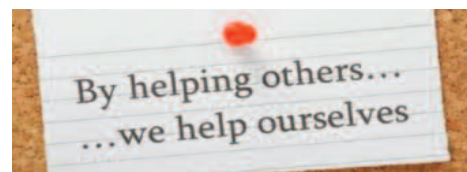
Christ Lutheran gave a donation of \$160 for Kailyn and Theo's Christmas gifts.

In addition, there was a cookie fundraiser in December to support the Navajo children for 2025. Enough money was raised from the cookie auction to pay the monthly support of the two children for all of 2025.

Again , THANK YOU everyone for giving Kailyn and Theo

a very Merry Christmas.

May we continue our prayers and support for the children, Silvia Webb, Silvia JR., and the Indian Mobile Mission.



Congregational Connections

Hello Allan and Shirley Imler

Busy, Blessed Grandparents!

Attending their grandchildren's sporting events has become a way of life for Shirley and Allan. They are very busy grandparents! A conversation with Shirley makes one feel exhausted as she relates how she and Allan travel from one sport to another, many times multiple events in the same day.

Justin, age 17, son of Barb and Adam, plays football and wrestles for Newport High School. Chris and Sophia, twins, age 15, are the son and daughter of Brian and Alicia Imler.

Chris plays football, baseball and wrestles for Newport High School, and is also on a travel baseball team.

Sophia plays field hockey for Newport and is on a travel team as well. She also plays basketball and soccer for Newport High.

Grant, age 10, also the son of Brian and Alicia, is in fifth grade at Newport. He is on the elementary wrestling team as well as a travel

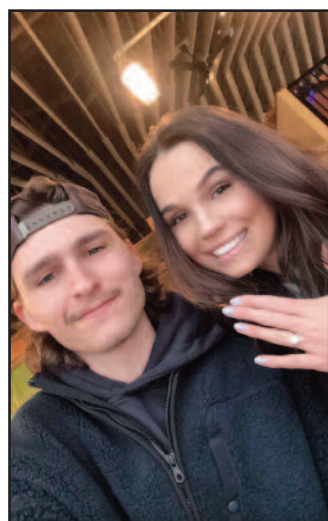


soccer team and two travel baseball teams.

Kind of makes your head spin, doesn't it? Shirley and Allan do their very best to follow all of these sporting events to see their grandkids play. They travel to Spooky Nook in Lancaster, In the Net in Palmyra, the Lions Den in McAllisterville, Northumberland county and more. They are always traveling somewhere!

The other four grandkids are out of high school/college and are leading their own lives.

continued on next page



Congratulations Rebecca & Gabe!

Rebecca and Gabe were engaged on December 29. They are planning an August 2026 wedding in Williamsport, which is where they met and a halfway point for both families. They live in Corning, NY.

What a blessing for their families and for this congregation. CLC has watched Rebecca grow up and we are so very happy for her. We pray God's

abundant blessing on Rebecca and Gabe's engagement and wedding. Blessings as well for Barbara and Adam.

Congratulations Jonathan & Lindsey

Jonathan and Lindsey were engaged on December 14. They are planning a July 2026 wedding.

What a blessing for their families and for this congregation. CLC has watched Jonathan grow up and we are so very happy for him.

We pray God's abundant blessing on Jonathan and Lindsey's engagement and wedding. Blessings as well for Charlene and Mike.





From collecting food for Harvest Home and pet donations to the Cookie Sale and Christmas Bazaar, to decorating the church and delivering toys for Toys for Tots, to visiting with our shut ins, to learning about homelessness in Perry County, CLC sure covers a lot of ground on a daily basis!

Busy, Blessed Grandparents

continued from previous page

Drew (Ann's son) and his wife Kayla live in Liverpool. They recently bought a vacation home in Aruba and are taking over Shirley and Allan's vacation home at the beach.

Brianne (Ann's daughter) and Lake live in Camp Hill and Brianne works for Dauphin County Children and Youth.

Evan (Barb & Adam's oldest son) is working

for BBEC Electrical Company. He takes classes two nights a week to become an electrician and volunteers with the Newport and Duncannon Fire Companies as well.

Rebecca (Barb & Adam's daughter) lives in Corning, New York. She has some news to share which you will read about in a separate article in this newsletter.

Shirley and Allan lead a busy life. In addition to everything else, they faithfully help at every AT Hiker meal and fellowship event. We are so very thankful they are a part of the CLC family!

Lutheran World Relief Quilts and Kits

We just received information from Lutheran World Relief about where the 2024 Quilts and Kits were sent to.

There were 689,814 Quilts and Kits donated in 2024. They were sent to 16 countries. The number of quilts made and donated totaled 370,818. These huge numbers reflect all the wonderful people with serving hearts and their faith in action. Lutheran World Relief has been serving our neighbors all over the world for 80 years.

We at Christ Lutheran made and donated 48 quilts to LWR in 2024. We are planning to continue our Quilt Ministry in 2025. We meet in the church basement on a Thursday afternoon at 1:00. Our start up date is Thursday, February 20, weather permitting.

We invite anyone who is able to come and help. We are always in need of cotton, or cotton blend fabric and donations of money to buy middles and backs for the quilts. Also, anyone



who would like to build one of the needed Kits can make them anytime this year. Directions for making these kits are posted on the bulletin board in the educational section of Christ Lutheran Church.

Good Samaritan

In the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), Jesus offers one of his most famous teachings. In it we hear the story of a Jewish man who is beaten and left for dead by unknown robbers. Two fellow Jews see him and walk on by without helping. A third man comes along – he is a Samaritan (a non-Jew) – and he stops to check on the man, helps him, and gives him aid in abundance. He cares for his wounds and seeks shelter for him where he can rest. The moral of the story is that the one who is a neighbor is the one who stops to help. Throughout Jesus's teachings, we find that there is no one whom we will encounter who is not our neighbor.

In support of that call and mission from Christ, for more than 85 years, Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service) has provided the resources, guidance, and community to help forge a way forward for New Americans. We are committed to helping people reimagine the possibilities while providing a soft

place to land. With more than 1,000 partners and 50,000 volunteers, we are the largest faith-based national nonprofit exclusively dedicated to helping restore a sense of home to immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees. Since 1939, we have built a legacy of compassion by walking alongside more than 750,000 new neighbors as they rebuild their lives in the United States.

Learn more about them here: <https://www.global-refuge.org/>



Throwback Gallery



Remember this plate from Christ Lutheran's 150th anniversary?



Terry Hoffman Kuhn looks surprised at the Mt. Airy Lodge Youth Retreat held in the Poconos on November 18, 1978.



Leah Schreffler and Jonathan Lentvorsky at the Easter Egg Hunt at CLC - 2010



Have you thought about going to camp? Perhaps you remember wonderful memories from your childhood. Perhaps you missed out on going to camp when you were a kid.

The Lutheran Camping Corporation of the Lower Susquehanna Synod offers a camp experience at Camp Nawakwa, located in Arendtsville, for campers 55 and older.

It will be held July 6-11, and the cost is \$485 per person. Gather up some friends and head outdoors with a week of opportunities for fellowship, Bible study, and connecting with Creation!

If you would like more information, please see Pastor Jenn.

Lower Susquehanna Synod's 2024 Generosity Appeal: Building Global Relationships

For a number of years, the Lower Susquehanna Synod has been in relationship with the Konde Diocese in Tanzania, part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. A Generosity Appeal has been launched to help build a new Lutheran hospital in Mbeya, Tanzania, as part of our commitment to the Konde Diocese and global Lutheran community. In many parts of the world, the question is not about insurance or prescriptions—it is simply, “Where can we go when we are ill?” Our companions in the Konde Diocese are working hard to answer that question by expanding healthcare access in their region. Your gift to this appeal will help complete and furnish this vital new hospital, filling crucial gaps in healthcare in Tanzania. Together, let’s make a life-changing impact and bring hope to

those in need. Bishop Jim Dunlop will be traveling to Tanzania along with other LSS members for the grand opening of the hospital in 2025. If you are interested in giving to this ministry, you may put an envelope in the CLC offering plate and mark it as LSS: Lutheran Hospital Generosity Campaign, or you can go here: <https://www.lss-elca.org/building-global-relationships-generosity-appeal/>



Worship & Music Committee - 2024 Summary

Last year was a busy, busy year for this committee. Lent arrived very early with Ash Wednesday being February 14. Midweek services were planned as well as Palm Sunday. Holy Week included Dinner Church, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services and culminated with Easter sunrise service followed by the worship service.

An Earth Day service was offered in April.

In May, CLC welcomed new members into our church family on Pentecost. The following Sunday, our graduates were honored.

An online prayer service to commemorate John the Baptist was held in June. Also in June, we held Mission Sunday. This day celebrated the ministries CLC supports. Speakers from Neighbor Helping Neighbor, Join Hands, and the Loads of Love laundry ministry attended and spoke about their

organizations.

Christmas came early and we held a Christmas in July service on the 24.

In August, outdoor worship and a picnic was held at the home of Charlene and Mike Lentvorsky.

October brought Ingathering Sunday (Blessing of the Quilts). An Indigenous People Remembrance service, and Reformation Sunday.

In November, on All Saints Sunday we remembered beloved members of this congregation whom we lost in 2024. Red Hymnal Sunday was held as well. Everyone loves singing the old hymns.

Advent arrived and with it a super busy time for this congrega-

tion. Midweek services were planned, as well as Family Advent Time, the Longest Night service, Christmas Eve Candlelight service and a Service of Lessons & Carols.



Social Ministry Committee Upcoming Activities

The Social Ministry Committee has started planning activities and events for 2025. Below is a list of planned and potential things to add to your calendar:

FEBRUARY

- Collecting Ketchup for NHN food bank
- Checking to see if we can assist the fire family in Duncannon

MARCH

- Working with Perry County Literacy

He Made It the Whole Way!

Hey y'all! I was reviewing some of my notes from my Appalachian trail thru hike this past summer and found your email address. I was supposed to send you my photo on Mount Katahdin when I finished!

Not sure if you remember me. My name is Ryan De Priest, trail name Squeaky. I was in Duncannon on 7/17/24 and had a very nice spaghetti dinner with you folks. I think it may have been your last spaghetti dinner of the season? Maybe you had one more? Anyway, we had a very nice chat about the trail. I remember telling you guys about how I was spreading my brothers



Council and Office of the Aging to see how CLC may be able to help with their needs.

APRIL

- Lenten Project - Blessing Bags
Will collect until Holy Week Meal and then put together on April 16.

Activities for later months will be determined as time moves forward and needs are brought to light and officially established .

ashes in special locations as I hiked. The AT was his favorite place in the world and it quickly became one of mine as well. I really enjoyed our conversation and wanted to let you all know I finished! Here's a photo of me on 10/3/24 at the summit of Mount Katahdin.
God Bless



Special Note Regarding Easter Services

Ash Wednesday Service

March 5 – 5:30 pm
Midweek Lenten Services – 7:00 pm

Holy Week Services

Dinner Church
Wednesday, April 16 – 6:00 pm

Maundy Thursday Service
April 17 – 5:30 pm

Good Friday Service
Friday, April 18 – 7:00 pm

Easter Sunrise Service
April 20 – 7:00 am
Easter Worship – 8:30 am



Community Aid Donations

Christ Lutheran's Virtual Partner number is **10119**. Please be sure to include this number with all of your donations when you drop them off at a Community Aid store or drop off center. This ensures CLC will receive \$.13 per pound for funds given back to the church.

Items dropped off at local bins do not count as a CLC donation, even if you put our number on them since we are a virtual partner.



Together: Growing in Faith and Discipleship

Pastor Jenn will be facilitating a year-long study throughout 2025 which invites the congregation to meet once-per-month for study, discussion, and fellowship using the book *Giving to God: The Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life* by Mark Allan Powell.

We will meet after worship on the fourth Sunday of each month.

You might have noticed in our Stewardship snippets during 2024, the author began referring to "steward/disciples" which encourages us to see that our faith journey as disciples (students) of Jesus Christ is entirely connected to our life as stewards of God's Creation and all that has been

entrusted to us. God created humanity - all of us - to be participants in the care and stewardship of Creation including each other.

Jesus teaches us in the Parable of the Good Samaritan that following him looks like being a person who will go out of our way to help and to be abundantly generous in our care for a stranger. This applies to all aspects of our life. Rev. Dr. Powell makes the bold assertion that we are to give 100% of ourselves and all that we have to God. This might feel impossible - or even exaggerated. This study will help us to reflect on our faith journeys and our lives,

continued on next page

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 13 - Church Council Meeting

February 15 - Ham & Green Bean Fundraiser

Dinner - 4:00 - 6:00 pm

February 17 - Pizza/Sub Delivery

February 18 - Bible Study

February 19 - Documentary: *Malcolm X - Make it Plain* - 7:00 pm

February 23 - Giving to God study following worship service

February 25 - Bible Study

February 26 - *Jesus and the Disinherited* overview and discussion - 7:00 pm

March 3 - Book Club

March 4 - Community Lenten Breakfast at CLC - 9:30 am

March 4 - Bible Study

March 5 - Ash Wednesday Service - 5:30 pm

March 11 - Bible Study

March 12 - Mid-week Lenten Service - 7:00 pm

March 18 - Bible Study

March 19 - Mid-week Lenten Service - 7:00 pm

March 23 - Giving to God study following worship service

March 25 - Bible Study

March 26 - Mid-week Lenten Service - 7:00 pm

April 1 - Bible Study

April 2 - Mid-week Lenten Service - 7:00 pm

April 8 - Bible Study

April 9 - Mid-week Lenten Service - 7:00 pm

April 15 - Bible Study

April 16 - Dinner Church

April 17 - Maundy Thursday Service - 5:30 pm

April 18 - Good Friday Service - 7:00 pm

April 20 - Easter Sunrise Service - 7:00 am and regular Worship at 8:30 am

April 22 - Bible Study

April 25 - Giving to God study following worship service

April 26 - Hiker Meal Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

April 29 - Bible Study

Together: Growing in Faith and Discipleship

continued from previous page

together, as a community and as individuals. The hope is that we gain a deeper understanding of our faith and the mission of the church and our congregation.

Please prayerfully consider joining in this time of study, discussion, and contemplation. Together, we form the church, called by Christ into the world to proclaim the good news for the sake of the world!

Rev. Dr. Powell was a New Testament

professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Ohio and an exceptional biblical scholar and theologian. He retired in 2018. He is an ordained pastor in the ELCA.

Copies of the book are available for anyone who would like to participate in discussion or just read the book for a better understanding of what discipleship means.



Is Committee Participation Part of Your Calling?

Are you looking for opportunities to grow in faith and service at Christ Lutheran Church? Below are just a few ideas of where you can begin.

Building & Maintenance Committee

The function of the Building and Maintenance Committee is to maintain the upkeep of the building and the grounds. Updates to the building are done when needed and as funds are available. The lawn and flower beds are maintained throughout the summer. Everyone is welcome to join the Building and Maintenance Committee. Many hands make light work!!

Community Outreach Committee

The Community Outreach Committee focuses its efforts on reaching both CLC members and members of the greater Duncannon community through touch points with members (cards, phone calls, emails, in person visits, etc.) and through various community events. You will find our booth at almost all events and activities in Duncannon.

Faith Formation Committee

Our goal is to learn about the history and context of the text, and to discuss some of the themes that connect the readings. We meet to discuss ideas for other events and programs that can support building and enriching our community's faith through a variety of activities, programs, and studies. Please consider joining this committee. The more voices we have, the more ideas we bring!

Fellowship and Fundraising Committees

The Fellowship Committee is responsible for organizing events that bring the congregation together for fun activities, events, meals, and general time for fellowship with one another. This committee also works with the fundraiser committee to plan and conduct various events throughout the year.

Finance Committee

As good financial stewards, the Finance Committee closely monitors and manages the finances of Christ Lutheran Church. We review the monthly Treasurer's reports, discussing the financial results and trends. We compare income and expenses to our annual budget as well as prior year results, and explain all unusual transactions. A monthly report of the committee is submitted to the Council. In addition, the committee discusses other important financial matters such as: financial policies, procedures and controls; cash balances and investments; insurance matters; audit issues; and, ideas to reduce expenses as well as encourage greater contributions to the church.

Budget Committee

The Budget Committee generally meets once per year to prepare a draft annual budget which is submitted to the Congregational Council for preliminary review at their October meeting. The annual budget is adjusted and approved at the November Council meeting and presented to the Congregation at the annual Congregational Meeting in November.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee generally meets once per year to conduct a thorough review of the financial activity of our church. This includes a review of contributions and other income, expenses and disbursement procedures, bank accounts, payroll transactions and insurance. The objective is to ensure that our financial records are complete and accurate, and adequate financial controls are in place.

Mutual Ministry Committee

This committee is tasked with resolving issues that may arise and with completing annual staff evaluations.

continued on next page

Is Committee Participation Part of Your Calling?

continued from previous page

Newsletter/Communications/Technology Committee

The Newsletter/Communications/Technology Committee is responsible for the production of our quarterly newsletter, *The Herald*, as well as creating and maintaining the church website. We also create advertising and marketing materials as well as send press releases to the newspapers.

Social Ministry Committee

The Social Ministry Committee works to help people in the church and community by planning various projects. We provided food baskets at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. The committee works with Join Hands and Neighbors Helping Neighbors to collect various items needed throughout the year. We also pick other organizations that need items. We plan and serve meals after funerals, with a lot of help from the congregation.

Worship & Music Committee

The Worship and Music Committee works with the pastor and organist to plan music and worship services throughout the church year. As the liturgical year changes, so can the liturgy settings in the ELW. The committee works to engage the congregation in the beauty of the Lutheran liturgy in new settings as well as familiar ones.

If you are being called to serve any or many of these committees, please see Pastor Jenn or Bill Brookhart, council president for more information.

Wow! Website Growth Statistics

If you have not looked at the CLC web site, you should. There is a lot of great information on it. Plus, it is updated on a regular basis.

Have you seen the news feed on the home page? Have you checked out the pictures from ALL of the events and activities we had in 2024? Oh, and if you missed the 2023 pictures, you can still find them in the archives. Past newsletters are on the web too - just in case you remember reading it but dont remember when or where - check them out too.

We are now through two full years with an active and consistent web presence. In the chart below, you will see year-over-year activity statistics for 2023 vs 2024. While traffic and activity has not doubled, it is certainly close. This speaks to the fact that people are finding information that is relevant to their spiritual needs.

If you need help navigating the site, please contact Pastor Jenn direction or referral to a committee member.

2023			
	Views – 1,771	Visitors - 688	Views per Visitor – 2.57
2024			
	Views – 2,939	Visitors – 1,170	Views per Visitor – 2.51

December			
	Views – 219	Visitors - 74	Views per Visitor – 2.96
	Visits via search engines - 42		Visits via facebook - 0
Most visited pgs	Welcome – 94	Christian Ed - 36	Worship - 17 Calendar – 15
December 23 - highest traffic day			

Community Outreach Committee 2024 Recap

CONGREGATIONAL OUTREACH

Member contact continues on a monthly basis via mailings, emails, phone calls, and visits. The contact list has been established for 2025. January have been made, and February contacts are in process.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

A debriefing meeting was held in December to discuss activities completed in 2024 and to determine if and where changes will be made for 2025. It was determined that each event and activity that CLC participated in held value, and

none will be eliminated in 2025.

Toys collected throughout the year for the Toys for Tots program were delivered to the Marine Barracks in Harrisburg. A total of 55 toys were collected and made Christmas brighter for families in need.

MARKETING

Marketing pieces have been created for Lenten services as well as the community Lenten breakfast. Additionally, the materials needed to advertise the Hiker Meal fundraiser and season kickoff have been designed.

Congratulations Emma



Congratulations to Emma Campbell and her family. Emma was recently baptized at CLC.

Joined to Christ in the waters of

baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.



Pastor Jenn models the new stole she received as a Christmas gift. The stole was made by Sandy Hoover.

The Community is Invited to Our
LENTEN BREAKFAST

Tuesday, March 4
9:30 am

Christ Lutheran Church
115 Church St.
Duncannon

Join us for breakfast and a short devotional in preparation for Lent

A free will offering will be collected to benefit Loads of Love

In case of bad weather, a cancellation notice will be placed on the This Is Duncannon facebook page

This event is being hosted jointly by the Duncannon Presbyterian Church and Christ Lutheran Church

BREAKFAST MENU INCLUDES:

- EGG CASSEROLE
- SAUSAGE & CHEESE PINWHEELS
- SAUSAGE PATTIES
- BAKED OATMEAL
- FRUIT SALAD
- BAKED GOODS
- JUICES
- AND, OF COURSE, FASCHNAUTS!



The Essex Serpent - The Next Book Club Read

A *Washington Post* Notable Work of Fiction

- Winner of the British Book Awards Fiction Book of the Year and overall Book of the Year
- A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of The Year
- Waterstones Book of the Year
- Costa Book Award Finalist.

When Cora Seaborne's brilliant, domineering husband dies, she steps into her new life as a widow with as much relief as sadness: her marriage was an unhappy one, and she never suited the role of society wife. Seeking refuge in fresh air and open space, she leaves the metropolis for coastal Essex, accompanied by her inquisitive and obsessive eleven-year-old son, Francis, and the boy's nanny, Martha, her fiercely protective friend.

Once there, they hear rumors that after nearly three hundred years, the mythical Essex Serpent, a fearsome creature that once roamed the marshes, has returned. When a young man is mysteriously killed on New Year's Eve, the community's dread transforms to terror. Cora, a keen amateur naturalist with no patience for religion or superstition, is immediately enthralled, certain that what locals think is a magical sea beast may be a previously undiscovered species.

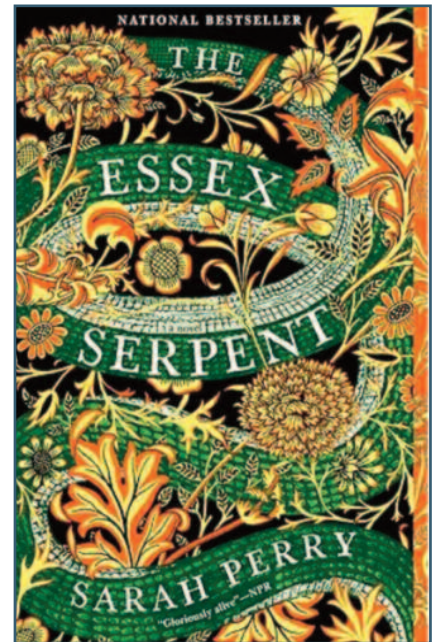
Eager to investigate, she is introduced to parish vicar William Ransome, who is equally suspicious of the rumors but for different reasons: a man of faith, he is convinced the alarming reports are caused by moral panic, a flight from the correct and righteous path. As Cora and William attempt to discover the truth about the Essex Serpent's existence, these seeming opposites find themselves inexorably drawn together in an intense relationship that will change both of them in ways entirely unexpected. And as they search for

answers, Cora's London past follows her to the coast, with striking consequences.

Told with exquisite grace and intelligence, *The Essex Serpent* masterfully explores questions of science and religion, skepticism and faith, but it is most of

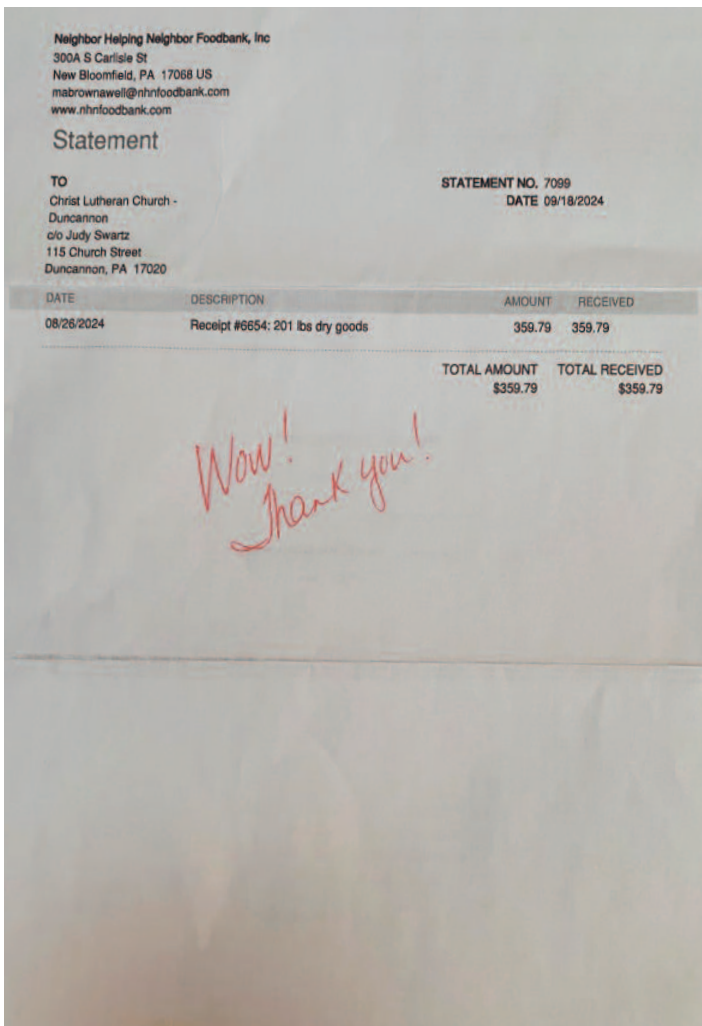
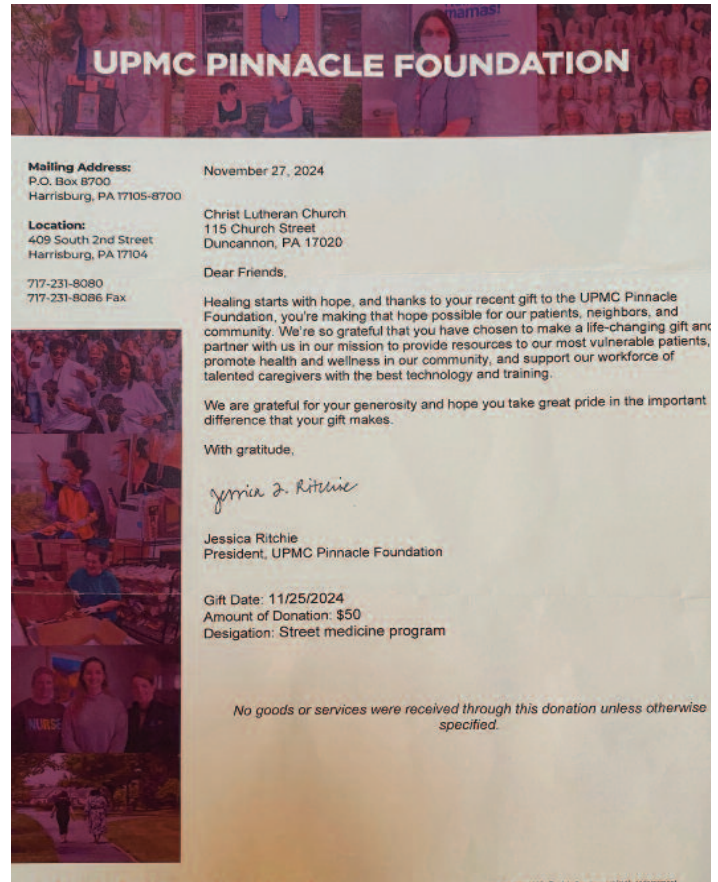
all a celebration of love, and the many different—and surprising—guises it can take.

Join us for this March read. Details and a link to purchase the book can be found on our web site: clcduncannon.org or reach out to Pastor Jenn for more information.



With the upcoming hiker meal season, we are in need of gallon jugs of water.

If you can help with a donation of water, we would appreciate it. And, thank you, in advance!



Dear Church Family,

I want to thank everyone for thinking of me and praying for me when I was in the PA State Police Academy. Sometimes it was just thinking about family and friends that got me through some of the tougher days. I'm almost two months into the job and I like it. Your continued prayers are much appreciated. Thank you everyone.

Sincerely,
Jonathan

