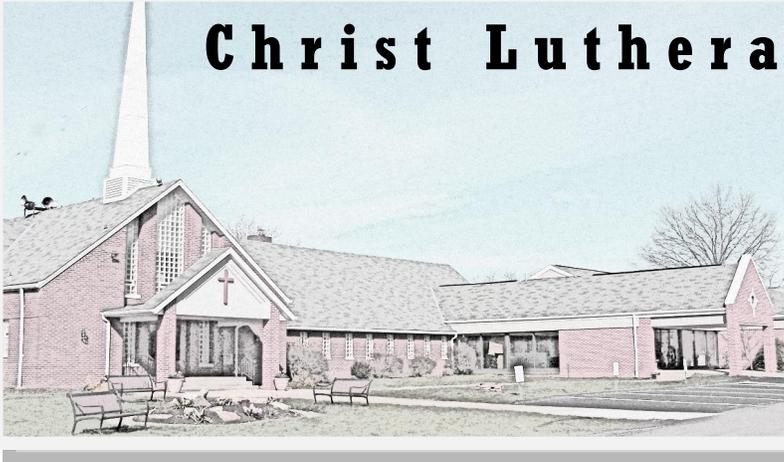


# Christ Lutheran Lamplighter



Christ Lutheran Church  
400 Barclay Avenue  
Forest Hills, Pennsylvania 15221

**February 2021**

## Contact Information

Phone: 412-271-7173

Fax: 412-271-4921

Web: [www.christlutheranfhs.org](http://www.christlutheranfhs.org)

Youtube: Christ Lutheran Forest Hills PA

Facebook: Christ Lutheran Church

## Staff

**Pastor-The Reverend Ronald Breight**  
[pastor@christlutheranfhs.org](mailto:pastor@christlutheranfhs.org)

**Pastor Emeritus-The Reverend**  
Reholma McCants

**Assistant to Pastor**  
Barb Mitchell  
[assistant@christlutheranfhs.org](mailto:assistant@christlutheranfhs.org)

**Office Assistant**  
Theresa Frankiewicz  
[officeassist@christlutheranfhs.org](mailto:officeassist@christlutheranfhs.org)

## Officers and Committees

**President Jim Law**

**Vice President Neil Ackerman**

**Treasurer Steve Stern**

**Secretary Barb Mitchell**

**Financial Secretary Dee Law**

**Elders Cal Eggers, Glenn Filler,**  
John Crawford, and Al Dick

**Trustees Frank Elaschat, Howard**  
Lehman, John Sourbeer

**Education Kathy Sourbeer, Gloria**  
Stern, Pat Lenhardt

**Finance Cal Eggers**

**Outreach Ruth Hirko, Jonathan**  
Breight, Melissa Elaschat, Linda Kern

**Endowment Committee Cal Eggers,**  
Neil Ackerman, Glenn Filler

## Loving in Lent

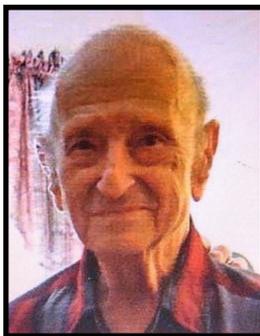
February 17, 2021 is Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of the fish fry season. Um, I mean Lent. The “purple” season is a powerful one and brings with it features from a host of different traditions and ethnicities. Pretzels, for instance, were invented for use during Lent, being made of unleavened bread and formed into the shape of praying hands. Other food-based Lenten traditions like paczki’s are quite delicious. And that’s the thing. Which is more promoted in our society today, Ash Wednesday or Mardi Gras? Fasting or taking it to excess in the days before Ash Wednesday? I would hate to give an honest answer to the question! Christmas easily becomes all about Santa. Easter has been given its very own bunny. I wouldn’t mind having a bunny and especially the chocolate it sneaks into the house, but I would rather have Easter. Would we rather have Lent than everything else that has developed around it? I think a lot of us would answer that one, “Yes.” But how? Simple. Think of Lent as an opportunity to express God’s love. To yourself. That’s right. All the disciplines developed by the spiritual masters who have gone before us were not cooked up because they wanted people to have low self-esteem, empty wallets, hunger pains, and sore knees. They are there to give us the opportunity to experience more of God’s love for ourselves. At least that is why they should be there. Repentance helps knock down those walls we build between ourselves, other people, and God. Who in their right mind does not want that? Helping the less fortunate WILL give you a greater sense of gratitude in your own life. That’s a good thing. Giving up certain foods and/or going without food for 18 or 24 hours or more WILL provide us with a deeper spiritual life. Millions of people say they want more spirituality. Well, there you go. And prayer, well, you know, prayer is prayer – the most fundamental work any Christian performs. The more of it, the better. The more we pray, the more we have the awareness of the presence of God in our lives and the greater the blessing we will receive. People can’t be forced to want that, but many, many people do have that desire. So, as we get back to working, managing our households, being entertained, avoiding the virus, and worrying about politics, in other words, as we get back to being “busy,” stop right there and make the decision to use the time and opportunity God provides you and do something for yourself – engage in the practices of Lent. You will be a happier and better person for it. Oh, and don’t forget to enjoy the pretzels and fish fries along way!

In the fellowship of Christ,

Pastor Ron Breight

# News from the Flock

## Deaths



**Charles "Chuck" Koenig**, age 96, passed away on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at Concordia-Monroeville.

He was born August 11, 1924 in North Braddock, PA and was the son of the late Charles and Matilda (Karl) Koenig.

Charles served in the Navy during World War II and worked 40 years as an engineer at Westinghouse developing switch gear equipment.

Charles married Mildred Mae Harvey April 18, 1949 and were happily married for 64 years. They resided in Monroeville. He is survived by his son, Charles R. Koenig of Murrysville and niece, Donna Harvey Schlegel of Rock Hill, SC.

Charles was a life long member of Christ Lutheran Church in Forest Hills since its founding in 1931.

After retirement he and Mildred enjoyed traveling. Charles also enjoyed shooting Skeet.

A memorial service will be held for him in the spring and he is buried next to his wife, who preceded him in death, in the West Newton Cemetery.

**Harry Robotzen , 92**, went to his heavenly home on December 9, 2020. Beloved husband of Betty for 62 years; loving father of Susan and the late David Robotzen. A private graveside service was held at Restland Memorial Park with US Army funeral honors. A future memorial service is being planned.



**Ellen Linhart**, our former principal and teacher, went to be with her Lord on December 14, 2020. She is survived by her husband, Ron.



**Peter Fisher** , age 82, passed away at home on January 20, 2021 after a 14 month battle with cancer. He is survived by his loving wife of almost 60 years Barbara Anna (Grau). He is also survived by his children Kirk Peter (Sondra Vernau) and Kirsten Laurel Fisher-Price (Allen Price), and numerous grandchildren. Peter is a former President of Christ Lutheran. His funeral was held on January 22, 2021.

## New Members

We are pleased to welcome by letter of transfer The **Reverend Reholma McCants and his wife Johnnie** on December 20, 2020.

We welcome **Rick Kern** to our congregation by Profession of Faith on January 10, 2020. He is the husband of Linda Kern. Rick has volunteered to become a lector.



Our own, **Jonathan Breight**, is the proud owner of his first home in Penn Hills. Congratulations to Jonathan for taking that big leap.



**Voter's Meeting**  
**February 14 , 2021**  
**11:30 am**

As always, if you have any news that you are willing to share, please email or give it to **Kathy Sourbeer**, ksourbeer@aol.com or send it directly to **Theresa Frankiewicz** at officeassist@christlutheranfhn.org.

**ALTAR GUILD** –They change the altar parameters, prepare and set up for Holy Communion, launder the Communion napkins, etc. Contact Ruth Hirko for more information and about volunteering.

**HOTEL TOILETRY ITEMS**-The Sunshine Kitchen distributes hotel toiletry items to people who are in need and come to the Sunshine Kitchen. There is a bin in the library for donations or see Dee Law for more information.



**BOX TOPS EDUCATION** The Box Tops for Education is gradually being phased out and your grocery bill is now being scanned for Box Tops items that you have purchased. There is a bin in the library for the Box Tops for Education. Give Lois Frerking your grocery receipt to scan. Monies collected goes to Redeemer Lutheran Church school. See Lois for more information.



**PORTALS OF PRAYER**– The little devotional booklet gives comfort, joy and peace as people read them daily. They are on the table in the library. If you know of an organization who may benefit by the use of them, contact Ruth Hirko for more information.

**SHUT-IN CARD MINISTRY** – It is not too late to sign up to send cards to our shut-ins. You will get a list of shut-ins, suggested mailing schedule, and prayer petition notices. Our shut-ins enjoy getting mail from church members. Contact Joyce Purucker for more information.

**RECYCLING**-The following items are being collected for Lutheran Women Missionary Guild fundraiser: Ink Jet cartridges, laser jet cartridges, cameras and video cameras, camcorders, cell phones, smart watches, game consoles, video games, pagers, MP3 Players, Ipads, Ipods e-book readers, tablets, Kindles, PDAs laptops, GPS devices, radar detectors, lithium batteries and chargers. There is a flyer on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board, and the box is in the library. See Linda Breight for more details.



**STAMPS** – Remember to slit open the bottom of the envelope, cut the envelope in half and give the canceled stamps to Lois Frerking or put them in the box in the library. These stamps enable the Canadian Bible Society to raise funds to purchase Bibles for prisoners and foreign missions to get Bibles in their native language.



**TELEPHONE & E-MAIL COMMITTEE** – If you know a member's new address, phone or e-mail address, please give it to Barb Mitchell or Rosalie Filler. If you move or change information, please remember to notify the office.



**GREETING CARDS**– If you have used greeting cards laying around the house and don't know what to do with them, bring them to church or give them to Susan Robotzen. She will take them to Concordia Cabot where they will be "reused" to make new greeting cards.

**PRAYER SHAWL/LAP ROBE MINISTRY**– Do you know someone who would enjoy receiving a prayer shawl or lap robe. They are crocheted and knitted by church members. Several people have received them and they reported that they felt comfort. See Linda Breight.

**MITE BOXES**-If you notice a variety of small boxes beside the big LWML MITE box in the narthex, please take one and fill it with your loose change. This change helps to fund all of the various projects that the LWML supports. Their goal is to raise two million dollars. Please help if you are able.



**HELPING HANDS** – As the saying goes, "Many hands make light work." This goes for the people who arrange and help at funeral luncheons, special celebrations, etc. Contact Rosalie Filler for more information. Hopefully, we will be able to offer this service again.



**ALTAR FLOWERS** – Flowers are the music of the ground. From earth's lips spoken without sound." -Edwain Curran (Flower quotes). There are a variety of dates on the flower chart in the Narthex. You can honor someone's memory, birthday, anniversary, special occasion, etc. The cost is \$30. If someone want to share a date, an additional vase is available for \$20. Payment is due when flowers are placed on the altar.

**FEBRUARY MISSION GRANT**-Detroit has experienced economic disaster and leads the nation with 57.3% of their children living in poverty without food or opportunity. Camp Restore Detroit provides a safe nurturing Christ-centered place for these children, their families, and other adults. This camp provides a place for the children to come and learn about God's love as they participate in art, theatre, and music classes and receive homework help while receiving assistance with basic educational and developmental skills. Additionally, adults are offered parenting, finance, and resume building classes. This grant will fund the renovation of two previously abandoned houses into community outreach centers, along with the house furnishings and outreach materials.



WHEREAS, Christ has charged us in His Holy Word to share the Gospel and minister to the poor; and  
WHEREAS, Detroit has experienced economic disaster, leading the nation with 57.3% of the children living in poverty without food or opportunity; and  
WHEREAS, Camp Restore Detroit has found a need within the community to provide a safe, nurturing Christ Centered place for these children, their families, and other adults to come where children can learn about God's love as they participate in art, theater, and music classes, and receive homework help while receiving assistance with basic educational development, while parents and other adults will have additional opportunities to

participate in classes on subjects such as parenting, finances, resume building as well as joining small groups; and

WHEREAS, with much renovation, there is an opportunity to use previously abandoned houses to fulfill this need; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the delegates gathered at the 2019 Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention in Mobile, Alabama, vote the sum of \$100,000 to help fund Restoring Hope for Detroit Children and Families.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPOTLIGHT

### ROSA J. YOUNG

Rosa J. Young was awarded an honorary doctorate by Concordia Theological Seminary during their commencement service in May 1961. She was both the first woman and the first African-American to be honored in this way by the Lutheran Church. Young led a life of service, accomplished so much to the Glory of God, and enabled others to do the same, including the following:

- She taught more than 2,000 students, impacting their lives forever with her faith and her belief in the importance of education, at a time when education for children of sharecroppers was limited.
- Many of her students entered the Holy Ministry or became parochial school teachers at her urging, impacting many others with their fidelity to her vision.

She wrote her autobiography, *Light in the Dark Belt*, bringing her life story to the reader.

- She was influential in the founding of the Alabama Lutheran Academy and College in Selma, Ala., aimed at training students to become teachers and preparing young men to continue their education at seminary.
- That educational institution, now known as Concordia College Alabama, continues to provide affordable college education to young men and women.
- Many of her students moved north during the Great Migration and founded churches, which extended her ministry throughout the country.

Learn more

The [Encyclopedia of Alabama](#) provides an overview of Rosa J. Young's history and ministry.



Rosa J. Young.

## Important Dates in FEBRUARY 2021

Please check your email and Church website for updates on cancellations.

[www.christlutheranfh.org](http://www.christlutheranfh.org)

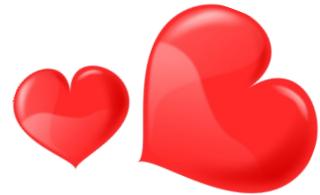
February 2nd-Groundhog Day

**February 14th-Voters' Meeting 11:30am**

February 14th-Valentine's Day

February 17th-Ash Wednesday (Service at 7pm)

February 24th-Lenten Service 4pm new time



There will be Wednesday Lenten Services every Wednesday at 4pm

Financial Snapshot July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020	Actual	Budgeted
Offerings and other Income	\$120,752	\$124,384
Missions	\$1,268	\$2,250
Staff	\$45,789	\$53,275
Operations	\$63,066	\$57,043
Total Expenses	\$110,123	\$112,568
<b>Net Gain/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$10,629.</b>	<b>\$11,816</b>

As shown above, offerings have been somewhat behind budget for the fiscal year so far. We are thankful that many of our members have been worshipping safely in person at Christ Lutheran and that others, while worshipping from home, have been making their contributions by mail. We encourage all members who are sheltering in place to continue their faithful financial stewardship and mail your tithes and gifts to the church office to the attention of "Financial Secretary."

### Church Service Times

Sunday

8:45am Adult Bible Study Groups

Sunday- 10 am Divine Service



### Bible Studies

Wednesday

10:30 am Ladies' Bible Study

Saturday

7:45am Men's Bible Study

Sunday

8:45am Adult Bible Study Groups

# Addresses for our Shut-Ins

Paul Bruner  
615 Horizon View Drive  
Penn Hills, PA 15235

Marty Hornak  
Room 208  
3522 Rt. 130  
Irwin, PA 15642

Lorraine Giebel  
134 Marwood Road  
Room 2129  
Cabot, PA 16023

Flo Kost  
508 Marion Avenue  
Apt. 2  
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

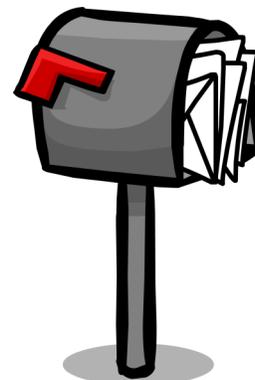
Fran Giesey  
310 Pennoak Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15235

James & Ann Tubbs  
41 Central Avenue  
N. Versailles, PA 15137-1101

Geraldine Hildebrand  
Concordia of the South Hills  
1300 Bower Hills Road  
Room 341  
Pittsburgh, PA 15243

Lauretta Critchlow  
Juniper Village at Forest  
Hills  
107 Fall Run Road  
Apt. 233  
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

Shut-ins wishing to be added to the pastoral visitation schedule please call the church office at 412-271-7173.



John Hoblak  
1735 Pennsylvania Ave.  
West Mifflin, PA 15122

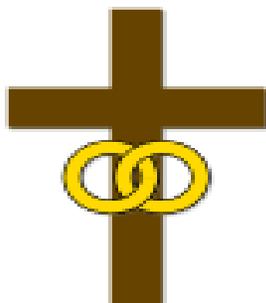
## February Prayer Petition

"I love those who love Me, and those who seek Me find Me." Proverbs 8:17

# Celebrating in February

## Anniversaries

- 2/12 Jim and Charlene Schorr
- 2/14 Tammy and Kevin Donaldson
- 2/14 Frank and Melissa Elaschat
- 2/17 Michael and Barbara Lis



## Birthdays

- 2/1 Kathleen Kaclik
- 2/1 Tatia O'Connor
- 2/6 Nancy Stephens
- 2/6 Parker Hanley
- 2/7 Barbara Simmons
- 2/8 Ryder Giovanetti
- 2/12 Audrey Marvenko
- 2/13 Tristen Slaczka
- 2/14 Donna Goralzick
- 2/21 Sonny Breeger
- 2/21 John Hoblak
- 2/21 Howard Lehman
- 2/21 Barbara Lis
- 2/24 Robin Schoenthal
- 2/27 Suzanna Lydon-George
- 2/27 Jayne Orbell

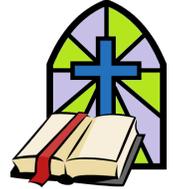




# Serving Christ in February 2021

## Altar Guild

February: Ruth Hirko



	Worship Assistant	Acolyte	Lector
7-Feb	Cal Eggers		Tammy Donaldson
14-Feb	Neil Ackerman		Darlene James
17-Feb	Cal Eggers		
21-Feb	Steve Stern		Gloria Stern
28-Feb	Eric Hoblak		Barb Mitchell

Please contact the church office at 412-271-7173 if you cannot fulfill the duty to which you have been assigned or if you could volunteer to fill in on any of the blank dates. If you are able to volunteer for any of these services, please let Theresa know either by calling the church office or via email at [officeassist@christlutheranfh.org](mailto:officeassist@christlutheranfh.org). Thank you for your service.

## HOME COMMUNION

Many of our members have not received communion for a long time because of Covid-19. Therefore, we have begun making **Home Communion Packages** available after all Sunday communion services beginning January 17, 2021.

- The Communion Packages are only for use by church members who are institutionalized or remain home on Sundays because of the virus.
- These packages will contain individually wrapped wafers and wine that have been included in the celebration of the Lord's Supper during the regular worship service at church, along with instructions on how to use these elements.
- These packages will be available for pickup at the church office Mondays through Fridays from 9-12.
- Packages will also be delivered to family and friends by church members who are attending services.
- If you cannot come to the church office and have no one to bring you a package, please call the church office at (412) 271-7173 so arrangements can be made to get a package delivered to you. Our desire is to get a package to everyone who desires one.

**CHURCH ATTENDANCE**-Attendance at Sunday services hit a total of 61 on October 4. Social distancing rules are being followed. Seating is in every other pew. New protocols have been established for touchless Communion. Recession is done in an orderly fashion from the back of the church to the front. Please feel free to join us, but please wear your mask.

If you are reading this newsletter in **black and white**, please consider giving us an email address so that we can send you the newsletter in living color. This saves on postage and you get the newsletter much faster. This newsletter can also be viewed on the website at:

[www.christlutheranfh.org](http://www.christlutheranfh.org)



## Church

## Decorating

2020



Thanks to all who helped!!!



Sunday bulletins, news, puzzles, and sermons are available on our website

[www.christlutheranfh.org](http://www.christlutheranfh.org).

Video recordings of our weekly services can be viewed on our You Tube channel,

**Christ Lutheran Forest Hills Pa.**



## Cookie Packing

Members of the Women's Service Guild spent a morning packing cookies for shut ins. Thanks to all who donated cookies for this special project. Helpers include: Dee Law, Gloria Stern, Tammy Donaldson, Kathy Sourbeer, Janice Polidora and Donna Madaras.



## Christmas Decorating

The altar looked beautiful again this year adorned with the poinsettias. Dee Law and Rosalie Filleer decorated this year and after the Christmas service the extra flowers were taken to some of our shut ins.





## Socially Distanced Santa

When Santa visited Shanny the Nanny's Daycare this year, he had to do it through the window. This did not dampen the children's spirit.

Pray that next year, the youngsters can have the true Santa experience.



### 2020 Christmas Card List

Judy Chick

Georgia Hanley

Jim and Dee Law

Women's Choice Network

Court Pest Control

Cathy Ertman

Sonshine Community Ministries

Susan Robotzen

Linda and Pauline Kuenzi

Lauretta Critchlow

Kathrine Mastrocola

John and Kathy Sourbeer

Donna Madaras

Barbara Mitchell

Gerry Hildebrand

Redeemer Lutheran School

Janice, Jim, Justin & Ryan Polidora

Gloria & Steve Ster

Barb Urban

Kathy & Dave Kaclik

