



December 2014

Sharing
God's
Abundant
Love

Share
the warmth
of the true
Christmas
message with us.

Christmas Eve
Worship Services



5:30 pm | Family Worship

8:00 pm | Candlelight & Carols

Spread the word. Ask your friends and neighbors to join us on Christmas Eve. Cards are available in the narthex for your distribution.

Christmas Gathering:

Once again Bob and Mary Milley are opening their home to us for a holiday celebration. The date is Saturday December 13th at 5:30. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Please see Mary if you'd like to bring your favorite holiday dish.

Pastor's Perspective

The Thanksgiving turkey is now history. It is the day after the national feast. One of our children is upstairs with their children and it reminds me of when I had young children. Time seems to march on. I am reminded that I am in, what some people call, the twilight time of my life.

As the church year ended last week, and this coming Sunday is the First Sunday in Advent, we are starting a new church year. It is our New Years' Eve and we start all over again. I become reflective on the ministry the Lord has called me to do in the life of the church.

I have pastored small churches and large churches with a staff. I have pastored growing churches and I have staffed declining churches. I have even closed a church (which I never thought I would do!). I have observed that growing churches have more first communion classes and baptism than funerals.

I look optimistically at the future of Community Of Love Lutheran Church. Two weeks ago four of our young people received their first communion. This past Sunday we had the baptism of Caroline James Marra. I have not had a funeral to officiate at. And no one is at death's door.

The new church year and the New Year is an exciting time for us. The Congregational Profile is being completed. This will be sent to the Deans of our synod and onto the national church. There it will be placed in the national data base. The church council has appointed a six person Call Committee.

So, from that perspective, the future looks good! God has blessed us, and will continue to bless us as we remain faithful. Pray for your church. Pray for your Call Committee. Pray for the person who will be the next pastor of Community of Love Lutheran Church.

I believe God has already chosen a pastor for our church! And I think that is good news!

Yours in Christ,

Christian Ed Update

On Sunday, November 23rd, four children took their First Communion. They are Philip Blum, Jessica Repetz, Charles Mattison and Morgan Mattison. We welcome you as you join with us at the Lord's Table.

Who Is That Man Behind The Camera?

It's time again folks to update our Church Photo Board. Mike Brandt will be bringing in his camera and setting up to take photos of you and your family after the worship service. He will be lurking, er...waiting patiently for all of you, each and every Sunday, until he has taken everyone's picture. So come to Church and bring your "Sunday-Best Smile"!



Editor's Note from "The Twelve Days of Christmas" Illustrated by Jan Brett

The twelve days of Christmas—the days linking Christmas on December 25th and the Epiphany on January 6th (when the three Magi offered the first Christmas presents—gold, frankincense, and myrrh) were declared a festal tide (religious holiday) by the Council of Tours in 567. Since then it has been a time when noble and peasant alike put work aside and enjoy the extended holiday of feasting, celebration, and sharing with others. It was considered bad luck to enter someone's house empty-handed.

The ancient counting song named for this religious holiday is actually quite pagan in tone and is the only carol we know that celebrates, in the form of a list, the Christmas tradition of gift giving. It is said to date back to a thirteenth century manuscript in the Library of Trinity College, Cambridge, England. The carol appeared in print for the first time in a children's book entitled, "Mirth Without Mischief", published in London about 1780.

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" became very popular as a game song—usually played at a large gathering of children and adults on the twelfth day night, just before eating of mince pie. With the company seated all around the room, the leader of the game began by singing the first day lines, which were then repeated by each of the company in turn. Then the first day lines were repeated with the addition of the second day lines by the leader, and this was repeated by all in turn. This continued until all the lines of the twelve days were repeated by everyone. If anyone missed a line, they would have to forfeit something of theirs to the group.

Although not mentioned in the editor's note, if you're looking for a wonderful recipe for Mince Pie, check out our Community of Love Cookbook, page 74.

Help Wanted

The list of Nursery volunteers has decreased. Have you ever considered doing this job? Just think, you can go down stairs for about 20 minutes on a Sunday during the sermon and supervise the children. This is a nice time to read them a story. Presently those on the list are assigned about one Sunday a month. The more volunteers we have means even less frequent assignments. Please prayerfully consider helping out with this important job.

If you are interested, please speak to Nancy Kelly, 610 255-0165 or e-mail collviick@AOL.com.

Thank you.

HOLIDAY GIFT WRAPPING EVENT

It's not too late! You can still bring all those nifty gifts you bought on Black Friday and Cyber Monday to be wrapped by our team of dedicated paper specialists! Just drive on over to the Church and bring your gifts to the Fellowship Hall. For a very reasonable fee they will be lovingly wrapped for you. No worries, no cares... easy-peasie-lemon-squeezie!

Proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards the Church basement floor project.

Tis the Season

Music Worship Notes

In this Advent season of hope and expectation, the whole world awaits the coming of the Savior. The second Sunday in Advent is December 7th, and our Traditional-style service will include the children singing and presenting their Advent program. What a perfect way to stir up our hearts to prepare the way of the Lord!

Join us for the third Sunday in Advent at the Blended service as John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

The fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21st, will be a service of lessons and carols as we hear from Mary the good news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in." And during the Adult Sunday School time on the 21st, we will be hanging the greens to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas Eve. (Rest assured that hanging greens will not give you green sleeves. ☺) We always appreciate everyone's help!

We will have two Christmas Eve services that celebrate God's greatest gift, who comes to us as a baby in a manger. Our 5:30 PM service is family focused while at 8:00 we celebrate with our traditional candlelight service.

And on December 28th, we will have another service of lessons and carols, so if you didn't get to sing your favorite carol during December, you'll have another chance!

We hope we will be seeing you throughout this special season!

Birthdays *December & January*

John Pollich	12/04	Lisa Deeves	12/26	Loren Luke	01/10
Tom Repetz	12/09	Kathryn Brandt	12/28	Katherine Milley	01/13
Ralph Petersen	12/10	Janis Walker	12/29	Donna Hollowniczky	01/17
Lauren Graham	12/11	Doris Petersen	01/02	Kelly Mattson	01/21
Paul Jann	12/12	Robert Schottin	01/04	Mary Milley	01/23
Sophia Santinelli	12/13	Lili Troyan	01/04	Lori Craven	01/30
Jack Hoffert	12/16	Richard Anderson	01/05	Samantha Pollich	01/30
Joyce Vasques	12/16	Krystal Cordivano	01/06	William McHugh	01/31
Brad Petersen	12/18	Jon Plystak	01/09		
Rebecca Deeves	12/21	Debbie Bradley	01/10		

Adoption Meeting - Matters of the Heart

Matters of the Heart will hold its next quarterly meeting on Sunday, December 14th at 2 p.m. in the church office of Community of Love Lutheran Church. Our topic this month will be "Holidays in Adoption".

Matters of the Heart is a discussion group for people whose lives have been touched and connected by adoption. The meeting is free and open to all adult adoptees, adoptive parents and birth parents, as well as the families that support them. It is our intention to offer a safe and compassionate setting for those in post-adoption. The meeting will be led by Amanda Woolston, MSW and Linda Hettinger. For more information please contact Linda Hettinger via e-mail at homeyg.65gmail.com or leave a message at the church office at 610-998-0282

Make a *Special Gift* to the Church

As our improvement project progresses, we will have some items for which you might want to donate the purchase price.

- 2 Bathroom Faucets
- Blinds for Sanctuary, Narthex, Sacristries, Bath Rooms, and Crying Room/Information Center

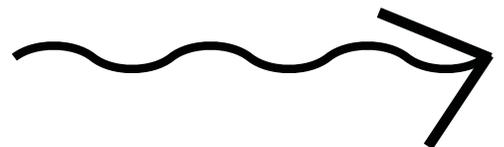
We will make the actual purchase for you. Simply donate the necessary funds. If you have questions, please contact Doris Petersen dcpetersen@verizon.net.

Mark Your Calendar:

There will be no Sunday School on December 28th.

Hey, Kids!

Go to the last page and see if you can find the hidden pictures on the Christmas drawing of Jesus in a manger.





MS150 Bike to the Bay 2014: Thank You for your Support!

On September 20 & 21, about 1,300 cyclists took to the back roads of Lower Delaware once again for the annual MS150 Bike-to-the-Bay. As many of you know, Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is a disease that affects the central nervous system; mostly the onset occurs in people between 20-40 years old. Tom and Chris rode again this year for Team Pure Protein.

Thank you for your prayers for nice weather! Overall, the weather was good except again for the Lower Delaware winds. And a *special thank you* for your donations! Chris and I were able to raise **\$1000** to help those less fortunate. So far, the entire event raised over \$640,000. Below are a few photos from the ride...enjoy!
From Tom & Chris Plystak, MS150 Bike to the Bay cyclists for Team Pure Protein



Team Pure Protein photo shoot



A long line of riders getting ready to "saddle up" Sat. morning



Tranquil late summer scene along the route



"Uncle Ted's" in Milton; favorite rest stop. Scrapple sandwich anyone?



At the Saturday Finish Line...Delaware Seashore State Park



Hidden Pictures



Find 3 stars, 2 bells, 1 angel, 3 crosses, 1 staff, and 2 candles hidden in the manger.