



# THE DOVE

Sharing the Good News at CALC

December 2011

## FROM PASTOR LOHRMANN...

Have you noticed that Christ Ascension is a growing congregation? 30 people have joined the church in the past two years; new visitors and friends also join us for worship almost every week. Be sure to keep introducing yourself when you meet someone you don't know. That's a form of evangelism: sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others.

We are growing... but growing into what? I'm still not exactly sure, but it's exciting.

Whatever the future brings, the key word will be communion. This is one of those great New Testament words (*koinonia* in Greek) that is rich with meaning and possibility.

Communion happens in all these ways:

- Fellowship: getting to know each other
- Sharing: sharing who we are with God, the church, and the world
- Open and Accessible: being a place where all are welcome
- Participation: getting involved through worship, church events, and service
- Communion of Saints: belonging to God's people across time and space
- Holy Communion: sharing a meal of peace, forgiveness and fellowship

Church is about building communion in

many ways. Once when I was teaching about the Lord's Supper, someone noticed that we treat the bread and wine with respect. I answered that we treat the elements with respect because they are the body and blood of Christ. Then it hit me: in that same way, we are the body of Christ together! Since we honor Christ in the bread and wine, we should also honor the people around us, who are also part of Christ's body! In church, we practice this communion over and over, through worship, service and fellowship. It is a holy and beautiful thing.

Like I said, I'm not sure where communion will take us in the coming year, but it is exciting to me that we are on that path. Please think and pray about how God is calling you and this church to share it. There's always room for more growth and participation in God's Communion.

The Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always!

Pastor Martin Lohrmann



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### Ways to Celebrate Advent & Christmas

- Come to the Advent prayer services
- Enjoy the St. Nicholas Day Dinner & Advent Vespers
- Pick some charities to support this season
- Come to worship and hear the good news of Christ, Gods' Word made flesh

## ADVENT IS HERE!

On Wednesday evenings in Advent, join us at 7 pm for music, devotions and prayer. Worship will be Taizé style with time for meditation. Services will be held on Nov. 30, Dec. 14, and Dec. 21. **Please note** that there will be no service on Dec. 7. Join us instead on Tuesday, Dec. 6 for a St. Nicholas Day celebration and Advent Vespers.



## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### **Christmas Eve—Saturday, December 24**

5:00 p.m.—A service of Holy Communion, especially for families with small children.

7:00 p.m.—A service of Holy Communion, with candles and special music.

### **Christmas Day—Sunday, December 25**

10:30 a.m.—“In the beginning was the Word”

### **New Year’s Day—Sunday, January 1**

10:30 a.m.— Celebrating the Name of Jesus

### **Epiphany Day—Friday, January 6**

7:00 p.m. at LTSP (7301 Germantown Ave.)  
Sharing the light of Christ with our neighbor churches

### **Anniversary Book**

The Anniversary Book makes a perfect holiday gift for family and friends. This is a wonderful record of faith and action in Philadelphia over 150 years, including photographs and graphics, and about 60 “faith stories.” The cost is \$35/copy (3 for \$100)



## SAINT NICHOLAS DAY & ADVENT VESPERS

St. Nicholas was a Christian bishop who lived in Asia Minor in the 4th century. Over the centuries, he is remembered for his strong faith and his great generosity to those in need.

Come celebrate St. Nicholas Day on Tuesday, December 6. At 6 pm in Kimes Hall, we will enjoy an “Old World” style dinner, including sausages, German noodles, and apple cider. During that hour, there will be a fun activity for families and people of all ages.

Later that evening, we will move to the sanctuary to enjoy Advent Vespers, a service of lessons and carols, led by our choir and featuring carols from around the world.

To learn more or help volunteer, please contact Pastor Lohrmann.



## COMMUNITY EVENTS AT CALC...

**Holiday House Tour:** The 2011 Holiday House Tour, presented by the Chestnut Hill Community Association, is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 3. Registration for the tour will be held on December 3 (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) at Christ Ascension Lutheran Church (Kimes Hall). Wristbands, programs, and tour

maps will be available for pick up.

**A Dickens of a Christmas:** For the entire month of December, Chestnut Hill is transformed into a festive Victorian village with special holiday and Dickens performances along Germantown Avenue. At 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 18,

come to Christ Ascension to hear the dramatic reading of Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*. The event is free and open to all.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Sunday School News:

Sunday school is growing! This year we are learning about “people of faith”, and in December we will focus on the story of the Jesus and John the Baptist. Sara Calderón will be leading the children in stories and exciting activities. Please note that there is no Sunday school on December 25 or January 1. We will resume on January 8 with stories about the Disciples. Children ages 4-12 are invited to join us to learn about the Bible in fun and exciting ways! We hope to see you there!

**Youth Group and Adult Forum:** Gordon Lathrop will lead two weeks of study about the Lord’s Prayer on Dec. 4 and 11. On Dec. 18, we gather to discuss the first two chapters of Luke, which describe the coming of the promised messiah.

There will be no Sunday School or Adult Forum on Christmas Day or New Year’s Day, but there will be great learning and fellowship in worship on those days!

**Reminder:** *all youth—confirmed and not-yet-confirmed—are invited to join the Youth Group.*

## NEW MEMBERS

Christ Ascension welcomed many new members during 2011. If you haven’t yet, take the time to say hello and introduce yourself. You might also put names to faces by using the new church directory.

*Welcome to all!*

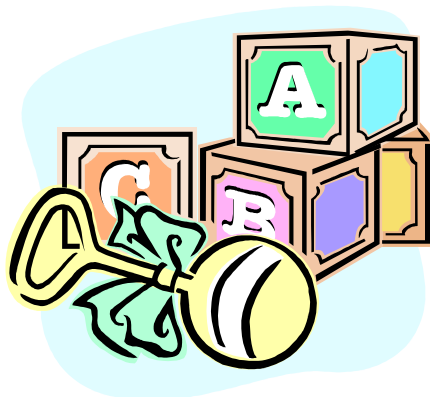
Gabriella Grace Hahn  
Linda and Michael Furia  
Marc Gray and Kristin Oxford Gray  
Sue Maska  
Joseph, Tracey, Joey, and Erica Schultz  
Douglas Marshall  
Beth and Gabriella Cammarata  
Kenneth Kunz  
Jim and Karen Rowley  
Katherine Reier  
John Wicks  
John Gore  
Helene Johnson

## NURSERY CARE DURING WORSHIP 1<sup>ST</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAYS

Christ Ascension is providing nursery care in the parish hall for children ages 1-4 years during the worship service on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday mornings of each month.

Emily Brown (a high school junior) is our regular caregiver. Additionally, the church nursery will be staffed by one adult church member volunteer and sometimes an additional youth volunteer.

As always, children are welcome to full participation in worship every Sunday. Parents are welcome to bring their children to the worship service for communion (or any other part of the service) even when using the nursery care. Please remember to sign your children in



and out of nursery care in the sign-in book. Thank you!

Please contact Carrie Lohrmann, the church nursery coordinator, at [carriehohrmann@gmail.com](mailto:carriehohrmann@gmail.com) for more information.

**GERMANTOWN AVENUE LUTHERAN PARISH**

**Germantown Avenue Lutheran Parish (GALP)**  
*God's Work, Our Avenue*

**GALP Calendar:**

Monthly meeting	December 20th, 7pm @ Christ Ascension
Epiphany Day Worship	January 6th, 7 pm @ LTSP Chapel
Congregation Visit	January 8th, 10:30 am @ Christ Ascension
Congregation Visit	January 22nd, 11:00 am @ St. Michael's
Guest Lecturer, David Beckmann	
<i>President, Bread for the World</i>	February 7th, 11:30 am @ LTSP
Congregation Visit	February 19th, 10 am @ Trinity

**Recurring Events—Check 'em out!**

Free Community Meal @ St. Michael's	Every Saturday 11-1
Rejoicing Spirits @ Trinity	Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat., 4pm

**PICK UP AND READ: BOOK DISCUSSION**

The next book discussion will be about *Create Dangerously—The Immigrant Artist at Work* by Edwidge Danticat. *Create Dangerously* is part memoir, part profiles of courageous people who stood up to oppression, and part meditation on being Haitian, the immigrant experience, the plight of the artist, and the nature of creativity. This is also the 2012 selection for "One Book, One Philadelphia."



The discussion date will be Thursday, January 26 at 7 p.m. at the home of Jean Hurd.

Thanks to Martha Reumann for hosting the October discussion of the book *Tattoos on the Heart* by Gregory Boyle



**PUTTING PLASTIC ON THE PARISH HALL WINDOWS... GOOD TIMES!**

The property committee is planning to put plastic over the parish hall windows to conserve energy and to have fun while working. If you'd like to help, contact Joe Schultz or Myron Hallock.

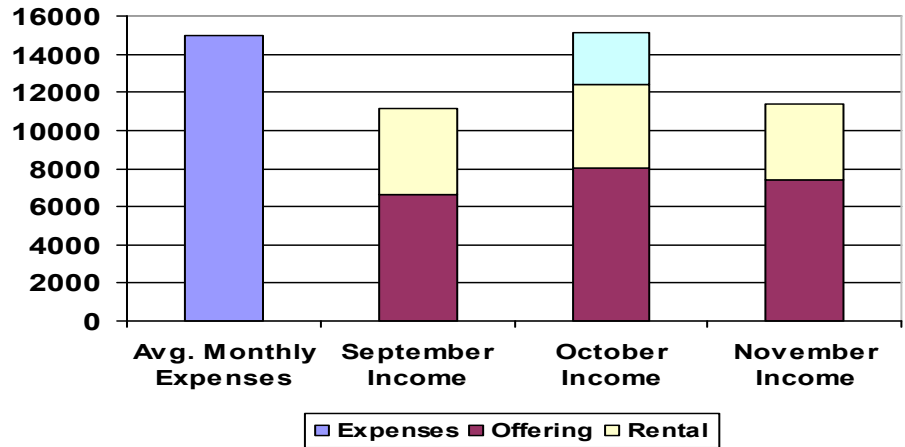
## FINANCIAL TIMES AT CALC....

Offerings to Christ Ascension fund ministries like worship, visitation, education, outreach, and community involvement. Please continue to pray about how you might support these ministries with your time, talents, and money.

Electronic giving is a great way to give your offerings, because it provides a consistent way to give. This helps the congregation meet its ongoing expenses. Please contact the church office for details and an enrollment form. Thank you!

*“God loves a cheerful giver”  
(2 Cor. 9:7)*

*Note: \$2,000 was transferred from savings to pay expenses last month.*



Avg. Monthly Expenses: \$15,000

Offering:

Rental Income:

Fundraising

	Sept	Oct	Nov
Offering:	\$6,623	\$8,024	\$7,406
Rental Income:	\$4,550	\$4,360	\$4,020
Fundraising		\$2,758	

## ANNIVERSARY FUND: THANK YOU!!!

The 150th Anniversary Fund Drive has come a close. It was a great success!

The congregation raised nearly \$45,000. Half of this money is set aside for property matters, including sanctuary accessibility, driveway renovations, and repair of a stained-glass window. To these ends, the church now has two approved designs for possible accessible entrances. The congregation can act on them anytime in the future. The stained-glass window in the new “music room” of the sanctuary was also repaired. Thanks to Margie Ayres, Jim Ansel, Drew Brown, Myron Hallock and Carrie Lohrmann for their work on these projects, and to John Bartlett and Ralph Wellington for organizing the Anniversary Fund Drive.

The rest of the money is set aside as savings, to be called upon to meet expenses not covered by weekly offerings. To this point about \$10,000 has been used. It would be nice to be able to preserve this money for future ministries, but for now it is helping us cover budget shortfalls.

The past four years have each brought major projects: repair of the masonry supporting the church bell, parish hall accessibility, roof repairs, the purchase of the pipe organ, and the anniversary fund. For 2012, let’s make meeting the budget our “project” for this 151st year! Thank you so much for your prayers, your giving, and your love of this congregation.



### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

- 5—Lori Olson
- 19—Mark Price, Peg Wellington
- 22—Richard Maurer
- 23—Emily Brown

*If we don't have your birthday information and you would like it listed, please contact the office.*

Thank you for your 2012 pledge to support the ministries here at Christ Ascension Lutheran Church!

If you haven't yet submitted your 2012 pledge, there is still time.

Pledge forms are available at church or via the office email.

## SILVER SPRINGS—MARTIN LUTHER SCHOOL

This year we will provide gifts and stocking stuffers to children in need at Silver Springs—Martin Luther School located in Plymouth Meeting. Below is a sample of requested gifts. *The full list is included as a flyer in this newsletter.*

### WISH GIFTS:

- Radio controlled cars or trucks (radio remote please; no wires)
- Basketballs and footballs
- Race track sets for Matchbox/Hot Wheels cars



- Novelty fleece blankets
- Jigsaw puzzles (100-1000 pieces)

### STOCKING STUFFERS:

- Washable markers
  - Journals
  - Plastic sunglasses
  - Football and baseball cards
  - Gloves (not mittens)
- A collection box is located in Kimes Hall.

*Deadline for gifts is Monday, December 5.*



## COMMITTEES FOR 2012

Christ Ascension relies on volunteers to do committee work and fill other important roles. Committees that have been especially active include Child Care, Property, Finance, and Hospitality. A Social Ministry committee is also starting to meet. Other chances to get involved include Elder Diner, Choir, and the Altar Guild. Other committees like Youth and Evangelism could also be reinvigorated.

The church constitution says that committee terms last one year. It's a way to keep our groups lively and give new people a chance to get involved. The annual meeting at the end of January is when we give thanks for all our committees have done and commission them for another year.

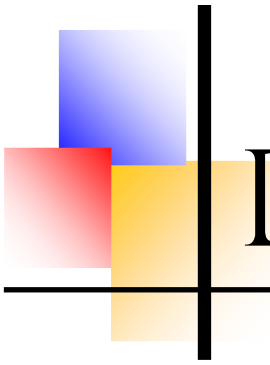
If you would like to get involved in these ministries, please contact council president Gordon Lathrop or Pastor Lohrmann.

## PARSONAGE


The church council is considering how the parsonage fits into the congregation's long term plans. Options include selling it, using it for church office space, and continuing to rent it. Please contact members of church council to share your thoughts. A time for open discussion is being planned.

Your church council members (through Jan. 2012):

Gordon Lathrop, president  
 Susan Marshall, vice-president  
 Barby Bartlett & Sara Calderón, secretaries  
 Jill Shaffer & Mark Price, treasurers  
 Emily Brown  
 Tiffany Johnson  
 Barbara Kaufman  
 Joe Schultz  
 Ralph Wellington

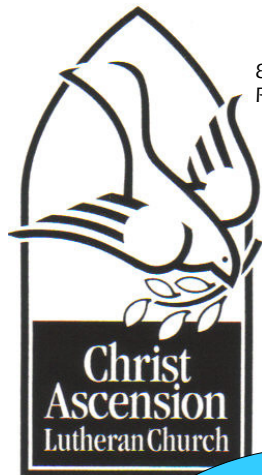


# DECEMBER 2011

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	2	3 9—5 Holiday House Tour Registration
4 9:00 Choir Practice 9:15 Christian Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship	5 12 noon Elder Diner 8:00 p.m. Hospitality Committee	6 6:00 p.m. St. Nicholas Day Dinner & Advent Worship	7	8 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	9	10 Child Care Event
11 9:00 Choir Practice 9:15 Christian Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship	12 12 noon Elder Diner 7:00 p.m. Church Council	13 6:00 p.m. Child Care Comm.	14 7 p.m. Advent Worship	15 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	16	17
18 9:00 Choir Practice 9:15 Christian Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 2 p.m. Dickens Reading	19 12 noon Elder Diner	20 7:00 p.m. GALP Meeting @ Christ Ascension	21 7 p.m. Advent Worship	22 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	23	24 5:00 & 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Services
 25 10:30 a.m. Worship	26	27	28	29 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	30	31

## Worship Assistants for December 2011 and January 2012

<b>Date</b>	<b>Worship Assistant</b>	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Altar Guild</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>
<b>Dec. 4</b>	Sue Maska	Brad Gow	Sara Calderon		Pam Ansel Celia O'Leary	Jake Schwartz	Farrell-Gow
<b>Dec. 11</b>	Amanda Joy Bernecker	Sue Maska	Gail Ramshaw		Jane Hallock	Ben Farrell	Martha Reumann
<b>Dec. 18</b>			Douglas Marshall		Sue Maska	Graeme Brown	
<b>Dec. 24</b>	Brad Gow		Sarah Farrell-Gow	Gordon Gerhart	Gordon Gerhart	Ben Farrell	
<b>Dec. 25</b>	Gail Ramshaw		Gordon Lathrop	Gordon Gerhart	Gordon Gerhart		
<b>Jan. 1</b>						Cameron Brown	
<b>Jan. 8</b>						Kate Maurer	
<b>Jan. 15</b>						Jake Schwartz	
<b>Jan. 22</b>						Graeme Brown	
<b>Jan. 29</b>						Cameron Brown	



**CHRIST ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

8300 Germantown Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19118

Pastor Martin J. Lohrmann  
Phone: 215-247-4233  
E-mail: office@christascension.org  
www.christascension.org

*A congregation of the ELCA*

**Make ChristAscension.org Your Home**

The congregation has a new website. By making it your homepage, you can see updated events and info. Visit us online at [www.christascension.org](http://www.christascension.org) and on facebook: Christ Ascension Lutheran Church – Chestnut Hill

**END OF YEAR REMINDERS**

- **Annual Reports:** All committee chairpersons should begin thinking about preparing an annual committee report for the Annual Congregation meeting. Committee 2011 end-of-year reports are due to the church office on or before January 9, 2012
- **2011 Contributions:** *The financial records of Christ Ascension Lutheran Church will close on December 31, 2011. In accordance with IRS rulings, all contributions to be credited to 2011 must be in the church office by December 31, 2011 or postmarked by December 31, 2010. Any monies received after that date will be considered contributions in 2012.*

**Christ Ascension:**  
***A Church United in Faith, Hope and Love***  
**Sunday Schedule:**

*Christian Education: 9:15 a.m.*  
*Holy Communion: 10:30 a.m.*

*Nursery care is available in the parish hall on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month*

**DECORATIONS & WORSHIP**



**ENHANCEMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS**

To order a poinsettia and/or contribute to decorations and worship enhancements, please complete the following order/contribution form.

Enclose is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_ for decorations and worship enhancements for the Christmas season.

This donation is given:

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I wish to pick up \_\_\_\_ poinsettia plant(s) after worship on Christmas Day.

\_\_\_\_ Please see that a shut-in or one of our members living in a care facility receives the plant(s) I purchased.

Please enclose \$8 per plant. Make checks payable to Christ Ascension Lutheran church and mail to 8300 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118 or place form in the church offering plate by December 18.