



Christ Ascension Lutheran Church

THE DOVE

Sharing the Good News at CALC

February 2012

FROM PASTOR LOHRMANN...

Last week I made a sign-up board that covers our Sunday ministries. These jobs help our worship and fellowship go smoothly. They are also a lot of fun and are good ways to get involved in church. The chart covers the weeks from now until Pentecost (May 27). These ministries are:

- Altar Guild
- Ushers
- Acolytes
- Worship Assistant
- Lector (reader)
- Communion Assistant
- Nursery Care
- Coffee Hour

Maybe you're asking yourself: "That's fine, Pastor, but what does altar guild do?" Or maybe you wonder if you have the right stuff to be an usher, lector, or worship assistant. Perhaps you would love to host coffee hour, but don't know how to make church coffee.

Good news! There are helpful answers to those questions. Under the leadership of Gordon Gerhart, the altar guild prepares the church for worship, including Holy Communion. Ushers ring the bell calling us to worship, collect offering, and help us get to communion in a relatively organized way. Gordon G., Bradley Gow, Jill Shaffer, Myron and Jane Hallock and others can provide simple guidance for being an usher.

Coffee hour is mostly about enjoying extra time for talking with each other. Hosts provide simple snacks that feed our conversations. Plenty of people—including Beryl Evans, Martha Reumann, the Browns, Hallocks, Ansels and O'Learys—would

gladly help a new host set up tables and give some tips about making coffee.

Leading worship is not just for pastors or seminary students! Worship is something that all baptized people share in. For worship assistants, Gail Ramshaw is holding training sessions about how to help lead worship; the next one will be on Feb. 5 after worship. After some instruction and practice, you will feel comfortable reading guiding the congregation through the service. It's the same with lectors and communion assistants. These are roles we can share. When we practice care for reading the lessons and distributing communion, we experience a new way of sharing God's love as a community.

I encourage everyone to try out some of these roles. For one thing, they are enjoyable. Maybe you'll discover that you prefer the "behind-the-scenes" work of altar guild. Or maybe you enjoy meeting people as an usher or hosting folks at coffee hour. I also encourage our high school and middle school students to get involved in these roles, too. At least once a month, it would be great to see youth in these leadership roles, as well as serving as acolytes.

As you'll see in this newsletter, we have holes to fill in the coming weeks. We don't lack for places to serve. I hope you all find something that appeals to you. Many thanks for all your service!

Pastor Martin Lohrmann



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Ways To Serve Your Church

- Be an usher or reader
- Serve as a communion or worship assistant
- Volunteer with our bi-monthly nursery care
- Host a coffee hour
- Share a new idea with pastor or the church council
- Most of all: enjoy the company of fellow Christians!

INSTALLATION OF 2012 COUNCIL

Worship on February 5 will conclude with the installation of our 2012 congregational council. Council members serving their third year are Sara Calderón, Barbara Kaufman, Susan Marshall, and Mark Price. Second year members are Emily Brown, Joe Schultz and Ralph Wellington. Newly elected council members are Pam Ansel, Myron Hallock, Richard Maurer and Katherine Reier. Please join us in giving thanks and praying for our new congregational leaders.



FEBRUARY 22 AT 12:30 AND 7:00

Ash Wednesday this year is February 22nd. Christ Ascension will hold worship with the imposition of ashes at 12:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. All are invited to come and prepare for the Lenten journey to the cross and resurrection of Holy Week.

Installation Service

The Reverend Dianne Loufman will be installed as Pastor of St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church

13th and Broom Streets
Wilmington, DE 19806

on Sunday, February 12, at 4 p.m.

Congratulations, Dianne!

GERMANY 2013

Pastor Lohrmann would like to lead a group tour to important sites for Reformation and religious history in Germany, probably in the spring or early summer of 2013. There is so much to see in central Europe that we have many options for places to visit. Two likely stops would be Berlin and Wittenberg. If you are interested, please let Pastor know. The group would also be open to interested family members, friends or churches beyond Christ Ascension.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School News:

Sunday School continues to focus on the theme "People of Faith". Beginning February 5th, Amanda Joy Bernecker will lead a series about Queen Esther. Then, in March, Sara Calderón will lead the children in stories and exciting activities about Mary and Martha. Children ages 4-12 are invited to join us as we learn about the Bible in fun and exciting ways! We hope to see you there!

Youth and Adults:

Adult forums and confirmation in February will focus on the church, especially our congregation's place as a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and of the local Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod. Bradley Gow will lead the adults and Pastor Lohrmann will lead the youth group.

BOOK OF THE BIBLE OF THE MONTH: AMOS

On the last Sunday of the month (Feb. 26), the youth and adult forum will discuss the Book of Amos. Amos is one of the earliest prophets whose words we have in the Bible. He was a shepherd whom God called to be a prophet in the 8th century B.C. You can read the book in advance or simply come and learn. From Amos we have the great lines: "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (5:24).



Souper Bowl of Caring

Over 20 years ago, a youth group decided to raise money for people who could not even have a bowl of soup while many people have parties on Super Bowl Sunday. Their efforts started the Souper Bowl of Caring. We will again participate. Youth will be in worship with a soup pot to collect donations to give to Philabundance, a great local food bank. Suggested donations start at \$1. Thank you for your contributions!



Comfy Chair Time

Transfiguration Sunday will kick off a new time for talking about worship after church. Pastor will be available to meet around the comfy chairs in the library section of the parish hall. Bring a coffee hour snack or drink and come talk about things that caught your ear or that you had a question about during worship. 15 or 20 minutes will probably be enough time to cover a couple interesting topics. Comfy Chair Time will take place all during Lent.

NURSERY CARE DURING WORSHIP 1ST & 3RD SUNDAYS

This month, nursery care will again be offered on the 1st and 3rd Sundays (Feb. 5 & 22).

Emily Brown (a high school junior) is our regular caregiver. The church nursery is then also staffed by one adult church member volunteer and sometimes an additional youth volunteer. Volunteers are also welcome to receive communion after the service.



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.

Please contact Carrie Lohrmann, the church nursery coordinator, at carrieloehrmann@gmail.com for more information.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Barbara Hecht

Sarah Killinger

Chuck & Brigitte Schultz

Synod Assembly: May 4 & 5

Christ Ascension gets to send 3 delegates to the SE Penn Synod Assembly: 1 female, 1 male and 1 youth/young adult. This is a good chance to meet other area Lutherans and learn about our synod and our church. See Pastor if you are interested.

GERMANTOWN AVENUE LUTHERAN PARISH

Germantown Avenue Lutheran Parish (GALP)

God's Avenue, Our Hands

Guest Lecturer, David Beckmann,

President Bread for the World

Epiphany Worship Series visit to Trinity

Monthly Meeting

SEPA Senior High Youth Gathering

Tues. Feb. 7, 11:30am @ LTSP

Sun. Feb. 19th, 10am

Tues. Feb. 28th, 7pm @ TBA

Feb. 24th-26th

Recurring Events:

Free Community Meal (St. Michael's)

Rejoicing Spirits @ Trinity

Every Saturday 11-1

Every 2nd Sat., 4pm

**Watch for more info about Thursday evening worship opportunities during Lent (March 1-29)

Worship with Germantown Avenue Lutheran Parish

Throughout the season of Epiphany, encounter the Living Christ with our brothers and sisters along Germantown Avenue. We will begin the season with a candlelight service on the LTSP campus for Epiphany. Then we will rotate to worship with each congregation and grow in knowledge of our partners in ministry in the community.

We invite you to join us as we rotate through each of the congregations on Sunday morning and learn how each of us experiences Christ in our worship. At the end of our rotation we will gather with those who committed to the experience to talk about how we experience Christ living in each of our worship communities and learn how we bring our own "gifts" just like the Wise Men, to Christ who lives richly on the Avenue.

For more information or for carpool options, contact Jessica Hahn.

Schedule:

Worship with Trinity (5300 Germantown Ave.): Sunday, Feb. 19th, 10am

**Other worship events were held in January including visits to the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Christ Ascension and St. Michael's.

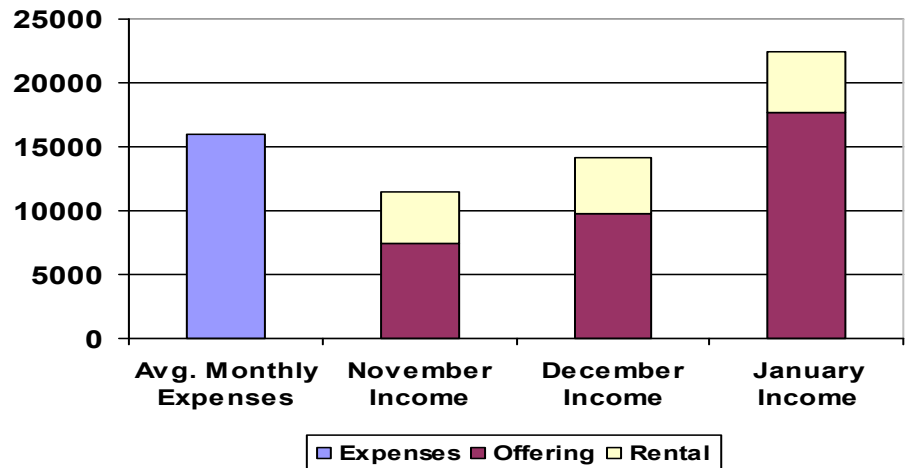
FINANCIAL TIMES AT CALC....

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 in 2012.

Please note that a couple large semi-annual offerings helped us meet expenses in January. These will not be repeated in February.

Electronic giving is a great way to make your offerings, because it provides a consistent donation. 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”



Avg. Monthly Expenses: \$16,000

Offering:

Rental Income:

Nov.

Dec.

Jan.

\$7,406

\$9,793

\$17,683

\$4,020

\$4,320

\$4,700

MUSIC NOTES



Lent begins at the end of this month, so this is the perfect time to join the choir singing music of the Lenten season. With practices on Sundays at 9 a.m., you don't even have to worry about freeing up a week night.

Another reason for joining the choir is stress and pain relief. Now what does that have to do with singing? I recently listened to an interview with Oliver Sachs. Dr. Sachs has written several books on brain function and the role of music. He and several pain centers are using "vocal therapy." They have found that singing reduces stress and relieves pain in patients with chronic pain and chemotherapy side effects.

So, singing with the choir has many beneficial results. Plus, the choir is a really nice bunch of people to sing with!

Linda Furia, Cantor

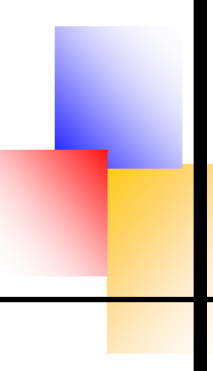


FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!

16— John Kahler

28— Erica Schultz

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



FEBRUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	3	4
5 9:00 Choir Practice 9:15 Christian Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship Souper Bowl of Caring <i>3 p.m. Rachel Levine</i> Concert	6	7	8 8 p.m. Hospitality Committee	9 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	10	11
12 9:00 Choir Practice 9:15 Christian Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship	13 7 p.m. Council	14	15	16 6:30 p.m. Child Care Comm. 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	17	18 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Kimes Hall In Use
19 9:00 Choir Practice 9:15 Christian Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Fastnachts & Comfy</i> <i>Chair Time</i>	20	21 7:00 p.m. GALP Meeting	22 12:30 p.m. & 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Services	23 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	24	25 12-5 p.m. Kimes Hall In Use
26 9:00 Choir Practice 9:15 Christian Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Comfy Chair Time</i>	27	28 8:00 p.m. Hospitality Committee	29			

Worship Assistants for January and February 2012

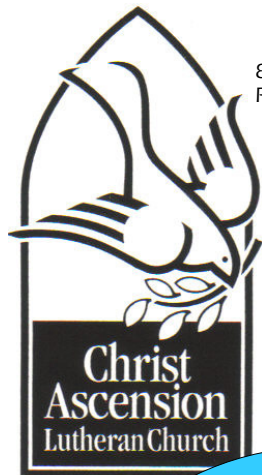
Date	Worship Assistant	Communion Assistant	Lector	Ushers	Altar Guild	Acolyte	Coffee Hour
Feb 5	Amanda Joy Bernecker		Richard Maurer		Pam Ansel Celia O'Leary		
Feb 12	Brad Gow		Irma Blum		Brad Gow	Jake Schwartz	Hallock
Feb 19			Douglas Marshall		Sue Maska	Graeme Brown	Gerhart
Feb 22	Gail Ramshaw						
Feb 26	Brad Gow		Beryl Evans		Jane Hallock	Cameron Brown	
Mar 4			Douglas Marshall			Cameron Brown	
Mar 11	Amanda Joy Bernecker					Kate Maurer	
Mar 18			Irma Blum			Jake Schwartz	
Mar 25						Graeme Brown	

Ushers are needed.

There will be worship assistants training in February.

** There are a number of slots to be filled. If you are willing and able to assist in one (or more) of these slots, please contact the church office, sign up via the chart posted in Kimes Hall, or email Gordon Lathrop:

gordonlathrop@verizon.net. Thank you! **



CHRIST ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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 and on facebook: Christ Ascension Lutheran Church – Chestnut Hill



February 22
12:30 & 7 p.m.



Fastnachts: A PA Dutch Specialty

After worship on Transfiguration Sunday (Feb. 19), Gordon Gerhart will host coffee hour featuring the Pennsylvania Dutch food that celebrates the coming of Lent: fastnachts. These are rich pastries that remind us that repentance and fasting are coming soon, starting with Ash Wednesday.