



# THE DOVE

## FROM PASTOR LOHRMANN...

Last year I kept a list of strange things that happened at church. It included:

- A windstorm blew out a stained-glass window in Kimes Hall
- A bat got into the sanctuary and hung over the head of Vicar Hahn while she preached
- A bird flew into church and took a bath in the font before leaving
- An earthquake and a hurricane!

Those were some strange animal or weather related moments. As a congregation, we also had other unexpected ups and downs, peaks and valleys. We mourned together and rejoiced together. We celebrated the congregation's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and are planning this new Year of our Lord 2012 as the fresh gift that it is.

A favorite saying I've learned is "Time is Grace." Because every day is a day with God, each new year and day and breath is a gift. God blesses us in our quiet and peaceful moments; God walks with us in the hard times, too. After all, our Lord is the God not just of glory and splendor but of the cross and the empty tomb.

I keep lists so that I can remember how grace has filled my life. I have my list of funny or strange things that I don't want

to forget. I also have a list of books that I read last year. We read some of them together, so that I remember people and not just pages.

And I keep a list of grace-filled moments. These are the times when the love and grace of God struck me in profound new ways. That list is just as unique and unexpected as the bird, bat, earthquake and hurricane that visited us last year. Those moments will live with me and with us for years to come. These are the real-life stories of grace in action that we carry with us and can share with others.

This new year, I am thankful for each one of you. I am thankful that we gather together for worship, Christian education, service and fellowship. I am thankful that the grace of God is so easy to see among you all. For this coming year, I pray to God that we might continue to be a church defined by faith, hope and love.

Time is grace. May God bless our grace-filled mission in this new year!

Pastor Martin Lohrmann



### Inside this issue:

Martin Luther King Celebrations	2
Christian Education	2
Family Movie and Service Project	3
GALP	4
Finance	5
New Year's Brunch	8
Congregation Annual Meeting	8

### Pastor's Goals for 2012

- Keep enjoying worship!
- Keep finding good ways for us to enjoy fellowship
- Provide new opportunities for youth and education
- Build on last year's good steps in stewardship

## THANK YOU FROM THE STAFF

We are very thankful for cards and gifts sent to us by the council and by many of you. Thank you for providing such a warm work environment and for being a great church to work and worship with!

Pastor Lohrmann, Linda Furia, Jessica Hahn, and Denise Hyson

### 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 January 8<sup>th</sup>, Larry Smith will lead a series about the Disciples. Then, in February, Amanda Joy Bernecker will lead the children in stories and exciting activities about Queen Esther. 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! Please note that there is no Sunday school on January 29<sup>th</sup> as we prepare for our annual meeting after worship.

**Youth Group and Adult Forum:** Our conversations in the coming weeks will revolve around the Apostles Creed, especially as taught in Martin Luther's Large Catechism. Come learn and talk about what we mean when we confess our faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

## MARTIN LUTHER KING CELEBRATIONS

**Family Movie and Service Project**, Sunday, January 15, 4-6 p.m. at LTSP. We'll make Valentines cards for shut-ins. See page 3 for more information.

**Interfaith Celebration**, Sunday, January 15, 3-5 p.m. Philly's District Attorney Seth Williams will be the keynote speaker at

the annual interfaith celebration hosted by the Neighborhood Interfaith Movement (NIM). It takes place at Janes United Methodist Church, 47 E. Haines Street.

**Clean-up at St. Michael's**, Monday, January 16. St.



Michael's Lutheran Church is a registered "Day of Service" site with the city to do some cleaning up in their neighborhood. They already have enough volunteers for their project, but they might still need yard tools. To help, email

[pastor\\_ingram@verizon.net](mailto:pastor_ingram@verizon.net)

## PICK UP AND READ: BOOK DISCUSSION



Our book discussion will be *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 take place on Thursday, January 26 at 7 p.m. at the home of Jean Hurd.



## Family, Faith, Film, & Fun: Movie & MLK Service Event

Enjoy a fun movie, pizza and fellowship while assembling cards for our homebound members of the Germantown Avenue Lutheran Parish community. We will gather on the LTSP Campus (7301 Germantown Ave.) at the Brossman Center at 4pm on Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. For more information, contact Jessica Hahn.

## NURSERY CARE DURING WORSHIP 3RD & 5TH SUNDAYS

This month, nursery care will be offered on the 3rd and 5th Sundays.

Otherwise, Christ Ascension provides 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. The church nursery is then also 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 re-



member 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.

## Miscellaneous News!

**The Lutheran**—The January 2012 issue is available for free at the back of the church.

**Volunteering at church**—Are you interested in joining a committee, worship team, etc.? Please speak with pastor or a Council member (Mark Price, Jill Shaffer, Tiffany Johnson, Ralph Wellington, Joe Schultz, Emily Brown, Barbara Bartlett, Gordon Lathrop, Sara Calderon, Susan Marshall, or Barbara Kaufman).

**New members—January 29**  
Are you interested in joining CALC, or know someone who is? Please speak with Pastor Martin Lohrmann.

**Pledges**—one donation + one communion per year = a member in good standing!

**Youth Gathering—July 18-22, 2012**  
The ELCA’s national youth gathering for high school students (going into 9th through 12th grade) will take place in New Orleans this summer.... see Pastor for more info.

## GERMANTOWN AVENUE LUTHERAN PARISH

### Germantown Avenue Lutheran Parish (GALP)

*God's Avenue, Our Hands*

Epiphany Day Worship	Fri. Jan. 6 <sup>th</sup> , 7pm @ LTSP Chapel
Epiphany Worship Series visit to Christ Ascension	Sun. Jan. 8 <sup>th</sup> , 10:30am
Family, Faith, Film & Fun: Movie and Service Event	Sun. Jan. 15 <sup>th</sup> , 4pm @ LTSP
MLK Day of Service <i>Register through Day of Service website</i>	Mon. Jan. 16 <sup>th</sup> , 9-3 @ St. Michael's
Monthly Meeting	Tues. Jan. 17 <sup>th</sup> , 7pm @ St. Michael's
Epiphany Worship Series visit to St. Michael's	Sun. Jan 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 11am
Book Discussion, <u>Create Dangerously</u> <i>Contact Christ Ascension for location</i>	Thu. Jan. 26 <sup>th</sup> , 7:30pm
Guest Lecturer, David Beckmann, <i>President Bread for the World</i>	Tues. Feb. 7, 11:30am @ LTSP
Epiphany Worship Series visit to Trinity	Sun. Feb. 19 <sup>th</sup> , 10am
SEPA Senior High Youth Gathering	Feb. 24 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup>
 Recurring Events:	
Free Community Meal (St. Michael's)	Every Saturday 11-1
Rejoicing Spirits @ Trinity	Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat., 4pm

### **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:**

Epiphany Day @ LTSP Chapel (7301 Germantown Ave.): Friday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, 7pm  
 \*\*Bring your Wise Men from your Nativity scene for this worship service  
 Worship with Christ Ascension: Sunday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am  
 Worship with St. Michael's (6671 Germantown Ave.): Sunday, Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 11am  
 Worship with Trinity (5300 Germantown Ave.): Sunday, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>, 10am

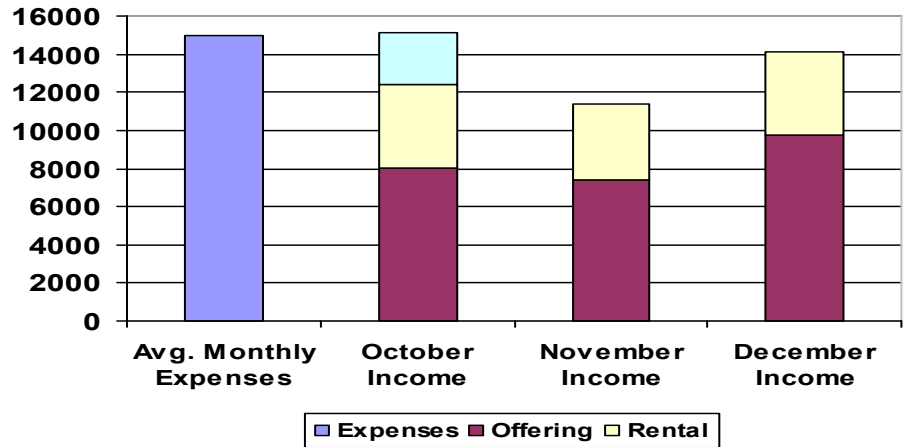
## FINANCIAL TIMES AT CALC....

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.

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: \$1,900 was transferred from savings to pay expenses last month.*



Avg. Monthly Expenses: \$15,000

Offering:

Rental Income:

Fundraising

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Offering:	\$8,024	\$7,406	\$9,793
Rental Income:	\$4,360	\$4,020	\$4,320
Fundraising	\$2,758		

## CHURCH ANNIVERSARY BOOK: FUNDRAISING SALE

As part of our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, the congregation published a book. It has received glowing reviews! That’s largely because you are the co-authors! Over 60 members and friends of the church reflected on what faith means to them. These faith stories are real treasures, as are the great pictures in the book. The church history itself focuses not just on buildings or pastors, but on the years of faith and mission to be found at Christ Church – Chestnut Hill, Ascension Lutheran Church in Mt. Airy, and (since 1993) our beloved Christ Ascension.

We have 45 books left. They can be purchased at the church office or at the Lutheran Seminary bookstore. They cost \$35 each or 3 for \$100. If we sell them all, it will make a nice fundraiser for the congregation. Please consider buying one or more for your family, for friends, or for anyone might be interested in learning more about your church. It’s a great piece of local history, personal testimony, and Christian witness. Thanks!



### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!

- 4 – Doug O’Leary
- 7 – Dianne Loufman
- 10 – Gabriella Cammarata
- 11 – Jean Hurd
- 14 – Gail Ramshaw
- 20 – Jane Strasbaugh
- 24 – Margie Ayres
- 30 – Annette Murray

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



# JANUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	6 7:00 p.m. <b>Epiphany Day</b> Worship @ LTSP Chapel	7
8 9:00 Choir Practice 9:15 Christian Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship <b>New Year's Brunch</b>	9 7:00 p.m. Church Council	10	11	12 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	13	14
15 9:00 Choir Practice 9:15 Christian Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship <b>4-6 p.m. Family Movie &amp; Service Project @ LTSP</b>	16 Clean Up at St. Michael's	17 6:30 p.m. Child Care Comm. 7:00 p.m. GALP Meeting @ St. Michaels	18	19 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	20	21
22 9:00 Choir Practice 9:15 Christian Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship	23	24	25	26 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting 7:00 p.m. Book Group	27	28
29 9:00 Choir Practice 9:15 Christian Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship <b>Annual Congregation Meeting</b>	30	31 8:00 p.m. Hospitality Committee				

## Worship Assistants for January and February 2012

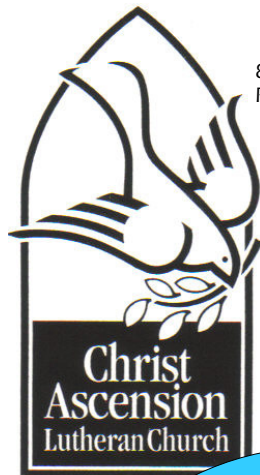
Date	Worship Assistant	Communion Assistant	Lector	Ushers	Altar Guild	Acolyte	Coffee Hour
Jan. 1	Gail Ramshaw		Gordon Lathrop			Cameron Brown	
Jan. 8						Kate Maurer	
Jan. 15	Amanda Joy Bernecker					Jake Schwartz	
Jan. 22						Graeme Brown	
Jan. 29	Gail Ramshaw		Beryl Evans			Cameron Brown	
Feb 5						Kate Maurer	
Feb 12						Jake Schwartz	
Feb 19						Graeme Brown	
Feb 26						Cameron Brown	

**Ushers are needed.**

**There will be training for worship assistants 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](mailto:gordonlathrop@verizon.net). Thank you! \*\*



## CHRIST ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*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

## CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

*Sunday, January 29, 2012  
Immediately following worship*

Important business includes electing council members, and approving a budget.

In the past, the congregation has enjoyed a soup lunch before the meeting starts. If you are interested in bringing a soup or helping plan the meal, please contact the church office.



**Ring in 2012**

**New Year's Brunch**

**January 8, 2012**

**11:30 a.m.**

**Following church service  
(All food will be provided)**