

# THE MESSENGER

## "Epiphany and New Year Blessings for Life in Christ in 2019!"

January 4, 2019

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## Epiphany and New Year Blessings for Life in Christ in 2019!

A New Year always reminds us of change and new beginnings. We may resolve to do certain things and/or set measurable goals for ourselves. Epiphany again assures us that Christ has come for us and for all nations, shining light into the darkness of our hearts and world in new times and places.

How do we understand the light of Christ for us and our world today? How can we better faithfully proclaim God's love and grace in Christ? How is God's grace transforming us and our communities?

While people may frequently talk and think about the decline of churches in the United States, I am still astounded that the birth of seemingly an ordinary man to an unwed mother over 2000 years ago continues to inspire, unite and change people all over the world. Of course, Jesus is much more than just an ordinary man, and even those who reject his divinity may seek to follow his exemplary life of service.

A community of disciples quickly formed around Jesus and continues in us today. We

read last Sunday that this community is called to distinctive living, frequently at odds with the culture surrounding it:

*As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:12-17)*

I shared the following reflection on community with the Council, and I pray it can also be helpful for all of us as we live in the grace of this Lutheran community of followers of Jesus in a New Year:

"Community ..... is about the experience of belonging. We are in community each time we find a place where we belong. The word "belong" has two meanings. First and foremost, to belong is to be related to and a part of something. It is membership, the experience of being at home in the broadest sense of the phrase. It is the opposite of thinking that wherever I am, I would be better off somewhere else. Or that I am still forever wandering looking for that place where I belong. The opposite of belonging is to feel isolated and always (all ways) on the margin, an outsider. To belong is to know, even in the middle of the night, that I am among friends..... The second meaning of the word "belong" has to do with being an owner. Something belongs to me. To belong to a community is to act as a creator and co-owner of that community. What I consider mine I will build and nurture. The work, then, is to seek in our communities a wider and deeper sense of emotional ownership; it means fostering among all of a community's citizens a sense of ownership and accountability." (From Community: The Structure of Belonging, by Peter Block)

May the light of Christ lead you in this New Year!

Pastor Paul

**Feast of the Epiphany- January 6, 2019**

**Sunday Study for all ages 8:45 a.m. (Confirmation class meets also. Adult Forum reads reflections by Franciscan Priest Richard Rohr on an evolving**

Christian faith.)

**FEAST OF EPIPHANY WORSHIP 10 a.m.**

**Fellowship Hour 11:15 a.m.**



**This Sunday's Gospel is Matthew 2:1-12**

Epiphany means "manifestation." On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi's adoration of the Christ child, Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God's grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst. (Sunday and Seasons.com)

*Prayer of the Day - O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

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**As we end the Christmas Season, may we continue to share the story of Emanuel, God with us, with family, friends and new generations.**



December Children's' Sermon

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## Hypothermia Prevention Program



Fairfax County Executive, Bryan Hill (right) and staff visiting the Hypothermia Prevention Program here this week! Thanks to all of you who gave so much time and energy to care for our neighbors in need.

## LEARNING COMMITTEE

### Sunday School and ELCA Good Gifts

Each Sunday morning, an offering is collected in the Sunday School classes. At the end of the calendar year, the elementary age students choose items from the ELCA Good Gifts to give to families in other parts of the world. This year we combined offerings from the past few years and were able to buy \$1400 worth of gifts. The children had a great time "shopping" and were pleased they were able to provide lots of wonderful gifts:

A family farm - including a cow, 2 goats, 12 chicks, 2 pigs, farm tools, and agricultural training and support; Honeybees; Rooster; Irrigation canal; Water filter; Community vegetable garden which includes good soil, drought-resistant seeds with tools and training; Farming tools; Fruit-tree seedling; Mosquito nets for a small village.

It's great that the children were able to see their offerings in action. As we enter 2019, it will be important to continue giving our offerings freely and with gratitude for all that we have been given.

## **Thank you!**

Thank you to our Sunday School children who took part in the Christmas program on December 16th. Special thanks to Lynda Falkenstein, Steve Beck, and Dana Candido for leading the children.

## **Preschool Registration Begins in January**

At the end of January, we will begin preschool registration for the 2019-2020 school year. Christ Lutheran Preschool offers morning classes for children 2 years - 4 years. Share the news with family and friends and invite them to come for a tour and see our teachers and their students in action! For more information contact Ginny Trygstad - 703-273-4094 and visit us on the web at [fairfaxchristlutheran.org](http://fairfaxchristlutheran.org) or on FB at [christlutheranpreschoolfairfax](https://www.facebook.com/christlutheranpreschoolfairfax).

## **Preschool Scholarship**

There is a preschool family in need of financial aid. The family is able to pay part of the tuition but in order for the child to remain at the preschool help is needed for the remainder of the tuition. The tuition is covered through January but we would like help with the February, March, April and May costs. If you are willing and able to offer \$135 for a month of tuition your donation would be very much appreciated. Checks should be made payable to Christ Lutheran Preschool and earmarked scholarship fund. Contact Jeff Kohne or Ginny Trygstad for more information. In advance, thank you!

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## **PLAN AHEAD! SAVE THE DATES!**

### **May 3-5, 2019**

We've already reserved May 3-5 at Mar-Lu-Ridge for the church retreat and work weekend. This is the time that we go to MLR to help them prepare for the upcoming summer season. We will be assigned jobs to do at the camp and with lots of help, we can get the work done quickly! We prepare our own meals, have time for devotions and worship, play games, explore the camp, and enjoy getting to know our church family members. If you are willing and able to work and want to have fun, plan to be part of this amazing weekend. Details will follow in the spring.

### **July 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st**

Our Summer Fun Nights are evenings of fun and fellowship as we enjoy all sorts of different activities. The activities for this summer are yet to be determined so if you have any ideas, please talk to June Bloedorn, the Learning Committee chair. We'll even put you in charge of one evening!

### **July 29th - August 2nd**

Vacation Bible School led by Mar-Lu-Ridge counselors is a special week of activities for elementary school age children. Watch for registration information in February.

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## SANCTUARY FLOWERS

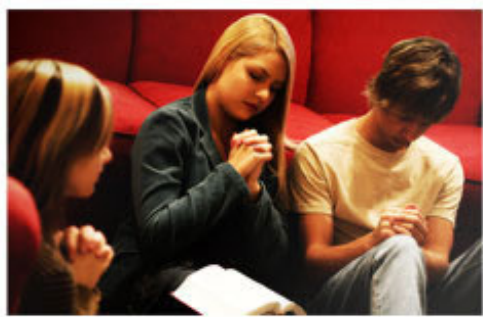
Sanctuary Flowers may be purchased weekly at a cost of \$50.00

Sign-up sheets are available at the Information Center, so sign-up early to commemorate your special occasions. Flowers may be taken home after the Sunday worship service. If the flowers are left at the church after Monday they will be shared with shut-ins.

## ETERNAL FLAME

The Eternal Flame is **available** and may be purchased monthly at a cost of \$45.00. Our 2019 sign-up poster has been placed at the Information Center.

## Join Our Monthly Prayer & Bible Study Tues., Jan. 15th at 6:15 pm



Please join our CELC prayer/Bible Study group every 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 6:15 p.m. in the Pastor's Office or Sanctuary.

## Prayer List

+ We Pray For Good Health and Healing +

Beverly and Robert L. Boulis, Jr., Rita Brice, Lois Culler, Alison Grohman, Luba Kakovitch, Alethea McCord (Joanne Clingenpeel's daughter), Linda Pippner, Luanne White (Karen Alfer's sister).

+ We Pray For The Homebound +

Evelyn Dise, & Betty Mangler.

Do you have prayer requests? Visit the Information Center and drop a request into the Prayer Box. Please contact the church office to share concerns or email the church office at [admin@fairfaxchristlutheran.org](mailto:admin@fairfaxchristlutheran.org)

## Prime Timers Meet Monthly on The First Wednesday at 9 a.m.

Prime Timers meet at First Watch Cafe (Fair City Mall) on the first Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM. No reservations are necessary.

## Men meet for Bible Study and Breakfast on Saturday, Jan. 12th at 8 a.m. Gary Keck leads next Saturday.

Our men meet together on Saturday, Jan. 12th at 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Please contact Allen Griffith at [griffith99@verizon.net](mailto:griffith99@verizon.net) with questions.

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### JAN. 25th Newsletter Deadline - Email Articles to Connie

The Deadline for articles to be included in the February issue of " *The Messenger*" is **January 25th**. If you prefer to receive " *The Messenger*" by post rather than email please email Connie at [admin@fairfaxchristlutheran.org](mailto:admin@fairfaxchristlutheran.org). Thank you.

### Church Office Closed for Holidays

The church office will be closed on **Monday, January 21th** for the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.

## ANNIVERSARIES FOR JANUARY



January 8 Everette & Marion Justus

## BIRTHDAYS FOR JANUARY



January 05 Dale Wilkowske  
January 06 Kathy Walker  
January 07 George Townsend  
January 09 Cliff Diehl  
January 12 Dan Walker  
January 13 Dick Alfors  
January 16 Judie Boerger  
January 20 Clara Bloedorn  
January 22 Eddie Hale  
January 28 Judy Olson  
January 28 Lily Townsend  
January 31 Emily Barber  
January 31 Olivia Mershon  
January 31 Johnny Short



## THOSE SERVING FOR JANUARY

### Jan. 6th 10 a.m. Service (Epiphany of Our Lord)

Acolyte - Eowyn Worst; Altar Guild - Phyllis Herrington;  
Assisting Minister - John Foster;  
Coffee Hour - Julie Christensen; Communion Assistant - Cliff Diehl;  
Counter - Ed Calabari; Greeter - Ginny Trygstad;  
Lector - Phyllis Herrington; Ushers - Susan Gould, Cory Madamma, Jacob & Zach Adams

### Jan. 13th 10 a.m. Service (Baptism of Our Lord)

Acolyte - **someone needed**; Altar Guild - Cliff Diehl;  
Assisting Minister - Phyllis Herrington;  
Coffee Hour - **someone needed**; Communion Assistant - **someone needed**;  
Counter - Ed Calabria; Greeter - **someone needed**;  
Lector - **someone needed**; Ushers - Mila Cobos, Steve Dorner, Ana & Sara Young.

### Jan. 20th 10 a.m. Service (Epiphany 2)

Acolyte - **someone needed**; Altar Guild - Susan Lemarie;  
Assisting Minister - **someone needed**;  
Coffee Hour - **someone needed**; Communion Assistant - Phyllis Herrington;  
Counter - Len Skoglund; Greeter - **someone needed**;  
Lector - **someone needed**; ; Ushers - John Munuo, Ginny Trgstad, Jim Pagenkopf, **one needed**.

### Jan. 27th 10 a.m. Service (Epiphany 3)

Acolyte - **someone needed**; Altar Guild - Joyce Skoglund;  
Assisting Minister - **someone needed**;  
Coffee Hour - **someone needed**; Communion Assistant - **someone needed**  
Counter - Phyllis Herrington; Greeter - **someone needed**;  
Lector - someone needed; Ushers - Mark & Karen Barber, **two needed**

**Sign up in the Information Center or email a staff member. Thank you for your service!**

## Pastor Collinson-Streng's Office Hours

Pastor Paul generally works Monday afternoon to Thursday evening at CELC, with Friday as his Sermon Day when he works from home, with Saturdays as his off day. In case of a pastoral emergency please contact him on his cell phone 410-258-7603.

## CHURCH WEBSITE CALENDAR

A complete listing of church activities can be found on our church calendar at our website [www.fairfaxchristlutheran.org](http://www.fairfaxchristlutheran.org)

Sun. JAN. 2019	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat

30 Hypothermia Week Begins  8:45am Adult Forum & Sunday School  10am Worship <b>Christmas 1</b>  11:15am Coffee Hour	31	1	2 9am Prime Timers	3	4	5
6 8:45am Adult Forum & Sunday School  10am Worship <b>Epiphany</b> Of Our Lord  11:15am Coffee Hour / Hypothermia Lesson Learned Meeting (Fellowship Hall)  11:15am Confirmation Planning Meeting (conference room)	7 7:30pm Bell Choir	8	9 3:30pm FACETS  TBA Learning Committee  5:30pm Confirmation Class  7:15pm Choir	10 7pm ESL Class	11	12 8am Men's Ministry Breakfast & Bible Study
13 8:45am Adult Forum & Sunday School  10am Worship - <b>Baptism of Our Lord</b>  11:15am Coffee Hour	14 6:30pm Worship Committee  7:30pm Bell Choir  7:30pm Property Committee	15 6:15pm Bible Study & Prayer Meeting  7pm Council	16 7:15pm Choir	17 11am WELCA  7pm ESL Class	18	19
20 8:45am Adult Forum & Sunday School  10am Worship <b>Epiphany 2</b>  11:15am Coffee Hour  11:15 Senior High Sunday School	21 Office Closed for MLK Jr. Holiday  7:30pm Bell Choir	22	23 7:15pm Choir	24 7pm ESL Class	25	26
27 8:45am Adult Forum & Sunday School  10am Worship Epiphany 3	28 7:30pm Bell Choir  7:pm Evangelism Committee	29	30 7:15pm Choir	31 7pm ESL Class	1	2

11:15am Coffee Hour						

## Council Members Phone Numbers

Mila Cobos  
milagros.cobos@gmail.com  
703-383-0290  
Secretary

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Vice President

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Dan Walker  
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703-273-2315

Tom Welsh  
[tomwelsh@esgi.com](mailto:tomwelsh@esgi.com)  
703-764-0301

## 2019 CONGREGATION COUNCIL OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

### President

Alton Miihlhouse  
[caalm85@gmail.com](mailto:caalm85@gmail.com)  
703-715-9117

### Vice President

Marilyn Short  
[marilyn.short@yahoo.com](mailto:marilyn.short@yahoo.com) 703-425-1973

### Secretary

Mila Cobos  
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703-383-0290

### Treasurer

Jeff Kohne  
[jeff.kohne@kwccpa.com](mailto:jeff.kohne@kwccpa.com)  
703-278-8058

### Financial Secretary

Ed Calabria  
[calabria@verizon.net](mailto:calabria@verizon.net)  
703-273-3898

### Trustee

Jeff Kohne  
[jeff.kohne@kwccpa.com](mailto:jeff.kohne@kwccpa.com)  
703-278-8058

### Trustee

Katie Ross Foster  
[kjr1775@gmail.com](mailto:kjr1775@gmail.com)  
703-359-1089

### Trustee

Robert Worst

## Parish Staff

Pastor:

Rev. Paul Collinson-Streng  
703-273-4094 ext. 22  
[pastor@fairfaxchristlutheran.org](mailto:pastor@fairfaxchristlutheran.org)

Director of Music Ministry:  
Steve Beck  
703-864-1952  
[steven.beck0703@gmail.com](mailto:steven.beck0703@gmail.com)

Director of Christ  
Commemorative Chimes:  
Annie Welsh  
[welsharianne@gmail.com](mailto:welsharianne@gmail.com)

Administrative Assistant:  
Connie Hepler  
703-273-4094 ext. 21  
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Director of Preschool and  
Congregation Life Ministry:  
Virginia A. Trygstad  
703-273-4094 ext. 28  
[preschool@fairfaxchristlutheran.org](mailto:preschool@fairfaxchristlutheran.org)

Custodian:  
Dennis Shifflett

## Preschool Staff

Preschool Director:  
Virginia A. Trygstad

Two-Year-Old Teacher:  
Dana Candido

Three-Year-Old Teacher:  
Tatiane Alves

Four-Year-Old Teacher:  
Judy Olson

Four-Year-Old Teacher:  
Lynda Falkenstein

[Robert.Worst@kpmlaw.com](mailto:Robert.Worst@kpmlaw.com)

703-273-4936

## 2019 PARISH COMMITTEES

*Meeting Dates*

*Chair & Council  
Representative*

### **COUNCIL**

*3rd Tue.  
at 7:00 pm*

### **Evangelism**

*4th Tues.  
at 7:00 pm*

**Fellowship**  
*(As Needed)*

**Finance**  
*(As Needed)*

### **Learning**

*2nd Wed.  
at 6:30 pm*

**Preschool**  
*(meets quarterly)*

### **Property**

*2nd Mon.  
at 7:30 pm*

**Service**  
*(As Needed)*

### **Worship**

*2nd Mon.  
at 6:30 pm*

*Chair: Chris Rossbach  
Council:*

*Chair: Melissa Moyer  
Council: John Foster*

*Chair: Monica Garrison  
Council: Jeff Kohne*

*Chair: June Bloedom  
Council: Marilyn Short*

*Chair: Mary Anne  
Rossbach  
Council: Jennifer Nau*

*Chair: Allen Griffith  
Council:*

*Chair: Phyllis  
Herrington  
Council: Mila Cobos*

*Chair Cliff Diehl  
Council: Alton  
Miihlhouse*

Connie Hepler, Church Administrator  
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INSTAGRAM: ChristLutheranFairfax


TWITTER: @CELChurch

WEBSITE: [www.fairfaxchristlutheran.org](http://www.fairfaxchristlutheran.org)

**THE  
MESSENGER**

**JANUARY 2019**

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