



Living God Newsletter

Sunday Worship
9:30 AM

3200 Horseshoe Pike
Honey Brook, PA 19344
Phone: 610-273-9383
www.livinggodchurch.org

Volume 23, Number 1

January, February, March 2012

Go forth with the gospel!

†Loving God

†Growing with Christ

†Welcoming All



EPIPHANY WORSHIP SERVICE, 7:30pm

Join us on Friday, January 6th, to celebrate the revelation of Christ.



Sign up and view information and upcoming events at LGLC.

LGLC Council Members

President- Mary Wallett
Vice President Doug Thompson
Secretary-Janet Krackov
Luther Gates
Stephen Lamos
Chris Mauchline
Jerilynne Santors
Douglas Thompson
Bob Williams
Lin Williams

Church Staff

Pastor Richard Moore
Office Manager Donna Lewis
Music Director Angela Zoltek

Treasurer- Patty DeLong
Contribution Recorder- Linda Hume
Nursery Room Attendant-Bethany King
Nursery Room Attendant Subs.
Megan Furlong and Kelsey Thompson

REMINDER- Please submit your newsletter articles to living_god@verizon.net by the **15th of March** for the printing of the Apr, May, Jun. 2012 newsletter. Thank you

Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 8, 2012



LGLC will hold the annual congregational meeting January 8th following the morning service. If you have questions that can be addressed prior to the budget meeting please direct them to Mary Wallett (council President) or Patty DeLong (church treasurer). Their contact information is listed below. Otherwise, come to the budget meeting and participate as a voting member of the congregation

Mary Wallett, Council President 610-384-2056
mawallett@gmail.com
Patty DeLong, Church Treasurer 610-273-9677
psaut70@aol.com

Ash Wednesday Service February 22, at 7:30pm

Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter.

Quarterly Pot Luck Lunch – LGLC will host the next quarterly pot luck lunch on **Sunday, March 11th** following church service. A sign up sheet will be posted for those who wish to attend.

Shrove Tuesday Feb. 21st, 5:00—7:30pm The menu is pancakes, sausage, applesauce and donuts. **Adults \$5, Children \$2, Family \$12. Sign up and invite a friend.**

OUTREACH TEAM NEWS

Aid for Friends Cooking Night's-The following dates have been scheduled for AFF cooking nights. **Tues., Jan17, Feb. 28, Mar. 20.** We will begin at 7pm. If you would like to help please contact the office at 610-273-9383

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE



Please refer to the church website www.livinggodchurch.org to view the church calendar.

2010 REPORTS DUE—Reports for the 2012 Annual Report are needed. Please email your report to living_god@verizon.net **no later than March 26th**. The congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, May 20th at 11:00am. Copies of the 2012 Annual Report will be available on Sunday, May 6th. If you have any questions please call me at 610-273-9383.

EDUCATION TEAM NEWS

Wed. Night Soup & Adult Bible Study 6:30—8pm
Lent is often experienced as a season of reflection, looking inward, and soul-searching. **Starting Wed, March 25 — April 1st**. There is a sign up sheet for anyone interested in providing soup and bread for all to share.

First Communion Classes- Children in the fifth grade, and those children believed ready for Holy Communion by their parents, are invited to attend two classes prior to receiving their First Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday. Classes will be held on Mar25 & April 1 following the morning service. Please contact Pastor Moore for more information pastor@livinggodchurch.org.

SUPPORT TEAM NEWS

Building and Grounds Meetings-The Building & Grounds Team will hold their next monthly meetings on **Tuesday, Jan. 17, Feb. 21, and Mar. 20 at 7:30pm**. All are welcome to attend the meeting. If you have any questions about the team please contact Barry Buzzard at 610-273-2371.

Have You Completed a Pledge Card for 2012?

Pledge cards are located at the back of the church next to the yellow box. Please fill out a card and place the portion marked 'Unified Plan for Giving' in the box. Thank you.

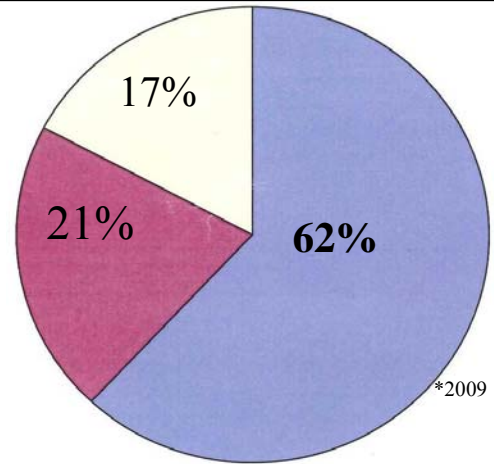


I answer God's call to be a steward of all that I am and have. As part of my response, I will give _____% of my annual income to Christ's mission. Of this percentage, I will give \$ _____ per week through my local congregation. I understand that this pledge can be revised if necessary.

Signature(s) _____

Keep this portion of the card with your offering envelopes as a reminder of your plan for giving.

STEWARDSHIP TEAM NEWS



- † 62% of our church's income is given by only 39 members.
- † 17% of our church's income is all that's given by the others, more than 100 members.
- † 21% is the gap between the member giving and the expenses. This is what we have to make up each year by anonymous gifts, and various fund raising efforts.

WE CAN DO BETTER

It's Pledge Drive Time

Our Annual Stewardship Campaign challenges all of us to increase our giving, and close the gap between our income and our expenses.

If your giving is less than \$100/ month then challenge yourself by making that your goal for 2012.

Together we can close the gap!

Unified Plan for Giving

As members of the body of Christ, and so that others may know God's love, I/we plan to give \$ _____ per week to Christ's mission through my local congregation.

Name(s) _____

Phone _____

Return this portion of the card



Xmas or Christmas?

If you're like me you cringe whenever you see "Christmas" abbreviated "Xmas". Whenever I see this my knee-jerk reaction is to assume that this is a secular attempt to remove the religious tradition from Christmas, or take Christ out of Christmas. So I did a little Googling, and quickly I found my way to Wikipedia which had much to offer. It turns out, for those of you who are like me, there's something interesting we could learn about Xmas.

The notion that Xmas is an attempt to take Christ out of Christmas is actually nothing more than a common misconception. It originated as handwriting abbreviations for the typical pronunciation of Christmas. The "mas" part is from the Latin-derived Old English word for "Mass", while the "X" comes from the Greek letter Chi, which is the first letter of the Greek word Χριστός, translated as "Christ". Therefore rendering the more direct definition Christ's Mass, or Christmas, or X mas. The word "Christ" and its compounds, including "Christmas", have been abbreviated in English for at least the past 1,000 years, long before the modern "Xmas" was commonly used. "Christ" was often written as "XP" or just "X" as far back as AD 1021. This X and P arose as the uppercase forms of the Greek letters χ and ρ used in ancient abbreviations for Χριστός (Christ), and are still widely seen in many Eastern Orthodox icons depicting Jesus Christ. The labarum, an amalgamation of the two Greek letters rendered as ☩, is a symbol often used to represent Christ in Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox Christian Churches. The Oxford English Dictionary cites usages of "X" or "XP" for "Christ" as early as 1485. The terms "Xpian" and "Xtian" have also been used for "Christian". The dictionary further cites usage of "Xtianity" for "Christianity" from 1634. In ancient Christian art, χ and χρ are abbreviations for Christ's name. In many manuscripts of the New Testament and icons, X is an abbreviation for Christ. So, it seems the truth is that "Xmas" has more to do with traditional orthodoxy than we thought. It seems using X for Christ dates back farther than anything even remotely connected to secularism.

Nevertheless, the use of Xmas in place of Christmas is still a source of much disagreement among Christians. The influence of pop culture and secularism upon our faith leaves Christians wary of anything that might even remotely hint of the removal of Christ from Christmas. We live in times when perceptions are most of the truth. The person driving down the road reading a sign out in front of a building that reads Xmas instead of Christmas perceives in that moment what they have been taught to perceive. Chances are, they are unfamiliar with the traditions mentioned in the previous paragraph. So, even knowing the truth about X and Xmas, we have a call to be vigilant with our precious gospel message, and the way we communicate as a church, and as Christians. Even aware of the truth about Xmas, it behooves us as Christians to not leave anything to chance as we announce and share in the miracle of this holy day.

So, to you I wish a Merry Xmas, or Merry Christmas! Either way, they both point to Christ, the light of the world. But, to others who have not read this, I will be wishing a Merry Christmas, and inviting to our Christmas worship services...just to be sure there's no misunderstanding about the real reason for this holiday.

May your home be blessed with peace, comfort, and joy like that of the first Noel,

+Pastor Rich

Living God Lutheran Church

3200 Horseshoe Pike
Honey Brook, Pennsylvania 19344

Office Hours

Tues., Wed., Thu.,
9AM to 4PM

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Honey Brook, PA
Permit #444

Or current resident



Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia

Worship Times for Christmas Eve

3:00 pm

Traditional service, candle lighting,

7:00 pm

Traditional service, children's message,
candle lighting, and choir

10:00 pm

Traditional service, candle lighting and choir

Christmas Morning

9:30am

New Year's Day

9:30am

