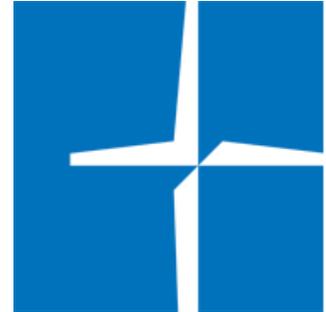


# CLARION



## The Word Became Flesh

The dictionary defines “advent” as “the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event.” We anticipate the advent of Jesus with special worship opportunities centering on the theme:

**The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.**

*(John 1:14)*

The MESSAGE paraphrase of the same verse helps us understand the reality that the Lord of All Creation humbled himself to become one with humanity, when he says: **“The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.”**

God’s biggest promise to us in the introduction to the gospel of John is: “You have my word!” A Word desperately needed in the turbulent times when Christ was born, and the chaotic, conflict-ridden world we live in today.

This year, Christmas Eve falls on Sunday, so a unique schedule has been developed to help you welcome the Prince of Peace to your heart:

- The Fourth “Sunday of Advent” - **Saturday, Dec. 23** – 5pm and **Sunday, Dec 24** – 9am
- identical services, waiting for the arrival of the Savior
- Special “Advent” message by Professor Ben Haupt, from Concordia Seminary
- NOTE: only one Sunday morning service – 9am
- No Connections or Sunday School classes on Sun. Dec. 24

**Christmas Eve Worship Services** – our “normal schedule” will be offered, with services at 12 noon, 3 pm, 5 pm and 10 pm – see details and descriptions on page 2.

Finally, prayerfully consider inviting someone you are “sent” to, to join you during worship, or for conversation in your home over a meal or cup of coffee. Hearts that are far from God are often the most open to hearing His voice during the Christmas season. Is there someone God has placed in your life, where you might play a part in giving a gift of eternal value this year?

*“How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous Gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.”*



### Mark your calendars

- 12/1,2,3 Song for Christmas
- 12/2 Breakfast with Santa
- 12/2 Life Team to Lemay Care Center
- 12/9 Cookie Walk
- 12/10 Children's Christmas Program
- 12/24 Sunday morning worship one service 9 am**
- 1/8 Leadership forum
- 1/26-27 Women's Retreat
- 2/11 Handbells and Chocolates
- 4/ 7&8 Go! St. Louis

## get an email from pastor jeff

Sign up for email updates from Pastor Jeff at the bottom of our home page - cmstl.org. Emails come about every other week and give you resources, links to interesting articles, and important church information. You can also opt in for Reliant updates from Pastor Bobby

## clarion

Christ Memorial Lutheran Church  
5252 S. Lindbergh Blvd.  
Saint Louis, MO 63126  
(314) 631-0304

The Clarion is published ten times a year for members, family, and friends of Christ Memorial Lutheran Church.

All copy (in Microsoft Word) is due the second Tuesday of each month. Please attach to an email or deliver an electronic copy to the church office.

Email to:

clarion@cmstl.org

Next deadline: January 9

Susan Senechal, Editor

# »advent & Christmas worship schedule

**WEDNESDAYS**—December 6 and 13 @ **Christ Memorial**

**Family worship—5:15 pm** Especially for families with younger children, these casual services feature children's object lessons, special music from children's choirs, and child-friendly videos. Music led by piano and guitar.

**Soup supper served from 5:30-6:45**

**Advent Vespers --7 pm** a reflective more formal worship, with a message for adults. Music led by organ.

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**WEDNESDAY** —December 20 @ **CRAVE** (3500 Caroline St., 63104)  
*(no service or meal at Christ Memorial)*

*Catered Dinner served continuously from 5:30-6:45  
Free Will offering to defray costs*

**Advent Worship—7 pm**

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## CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING WORSHIP

**Sunday December 24 — 9 am Traditional Worship** *(please note there is only one service this Sunday morning, the 4th Sunday in Advent)*

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## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

**12:00 noon—Traditional Worship**

Music led by organ, special music from a vocal ensemble

**3 pm —Family Worship Celebration**

A casual, interactive experience designed for families with younger children. Special music by Praise Kids and Youth Praise Team, and a drama from PK players. A mix of contemporary and traditional music led in a variety of ways.

**5 and 10 pm —Christmas Eve "Festival Worship"**

Identical services with music led by choir and orchestra, organ, and piano. Seating is generally more available at the 10 pm service.

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**CHRISTMAS DAY —Monday, December 25**

**10 am** at Christ Memorial *(note no service at Reliant)*

A blend of Christmas songs and carols.

Normal Weekend schedule resumes December 30 & 31

**NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP —5 pm Sunday, December 31**

## »children's connections: sunday school update

After an exciting fall exploring the Book of Genesis, we hope that our children, parents and youth are encouraged by our new format and opportunities for learning and growth. We continue to be blessed through the ministries with Children and Families and our goal of multigenerational relationships and wanted to share a few examples!

Our "veteran" teachers (many with 20+ years experience leading Sunday School) have welcomed dozens of new children into our programs and worked hard to pace together in a shared scope and sequence. They continue to pour into not only the children in their classes but raising up new generations of leaders as well.

7th Graders Bella C. and Grace H. have been assisting in the Kindergarten class. With the coaching and encouragement of the leaders, these young leaders have been able to engage fully in sharing Bible Stories with these younger students!

MacKenzie B. alongside several other Sr. High School helpers, has been leading the 3-year old Connections class. These youth are offering shepherding, teaching and care to a busy group of 10-15 little ones each week! We are blessed by seeing our youth lead.

If you are interested in learning more about our Children's Connections: Sunday School or assisting with our Children's ministries, please reach out to our Sunday School Superintendent, Wilma Griffith (Wilma.griffith@cmstl.org)

## »children's christmas program

Our Sunday School children will present our annual Christmas program on December 10 at 4 pm. Please join us for a telling of the Christmas story and singing traditional Christmas hymns. Children from age 2 - 6th grade are welcomed to participate and will receive more information during Connections in December.

## »cookie walk

I can smell those cookies baking, can't you? Many, cookies will be needed to fill our gym with cookies for our annual cookie walk. If you like baking and decorating Christmas cookies, this is your chance to shine. Just bake several dozen or many dozens and bring them to the gym any time after 8 am on Friday December 8 for set-up. Fancy, decorated cookies are especially appreciated.

Then, just call your friends and relatives and bring them to the cookie sale from 8 am -12 noon on Saturday, December 9. you'll be the hit of the Christmas season when you serve your lovely trays filled with scrumptious cookies of every kind. Cookies sell for just \$9.00 per pound.

We will again have our Christmas treasure sale. Look for lovely decorations for your house or that last minute gift you forgot.

Questions? Call Joyce Holtmann at (314) 200-9885 or Ruth Killian at (636) 221-8050. Let's make this the best cookie walk ever!

**Family Musical Theater Presents:**

## A Song For Christmas

Friday & Saturday **Dec 1 & 2 at 7 pm**  
Sunday **Dec 3 at 2 pm**

at Christ Memorial Lutheran Church - 5252 S. Lindbergh Blvd.  
hosted by Christ Memorial Productions

**Details at [FamilyMusicalTheater.org](http://FamilyMusicalTheater.org)**

Free general Admission with a freewill offering  
Proceeds to benefit: Humanitri  
*learn more at [Humanitri.org](http://Humanitri.org)*

 **Christ Memorial invites you to attend**

## Christmas Breakfast with Santa

**Sat. Dec. 2, 2017**

**8:30 - 9:30- Breakfast Served**

**9:30-11:30- Music, Activities,  
Photos with Santa  
& the Nativity**

(bring your own camera)  
**\$3 / Person — \$10 max / Family**

See "Events" at [CMStL.org](http://CMStL.org) for additional  
information and to Register by Nov. 30!

Christ Memorial  
5252 S. Lindbergh Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63126

### 3 d's book club

Join us in the Family Room at church on the third Thursday of the month for a short devotion, a lively discussion about both Christian and secular books, and a homemade dessert. Please call Robbin Oehler at (314)843-7865 to join. **NO COST to participants.** Books are checked out to the leader from St. Louis County Library.

December 21 Christmas Party **at the Oehler's** 6:30 pm (7457 Capilia Drive 63123) Celebrate Christmas with friends, library workers and other 3D members by enjoying hors d'oeuvres, homemade desserts and frozen yogurt. Please RSVP to [314-843-7865](tel:314-843-7865) by Dec 17. I will be handing out **Mistletoe Promise** by Richard Paul Evan to members of the 3D.

January 18, 2018 Discuss **Mistletoe Promise** by Richard Paul Evan Alone and distrustful after a bitter divorce, Elise surprises herself by accepting a proposition from a man who lives in her building that they pretend to be a couple for the weeks preceding the Christmas holiday. Enjoy Pie Crust Cookies regular and gluten free.

## »new member bios

**TRAVIS BESEL** transferred from Timothy Lutheran Church in the city where he was a teacher for Word of Life the past six years. He did so to embark on a new ministry for our Reliant Church, where he was offered a one-year contract for Outreach Ministry on the SLU campus and the neighborhoods around the Crave Coffee House. He also works 20 hours per week at the Coffee House. He married Lee Harmon on November 10. We wish them God's richest blessings!

**BRUCE & NANCY BEAVER** transferred from Abiding Savior and regularly attend the 9:00 service. Bruce grew up in Hannibal, Mo., and Nancy is a native St. Louisan. Bruce is a retired High School principal and math teacher (at Riverview Gardens & LHSS); Nancy also worked for the Riverview School District. They winter in Arizona from October-April each year. They are proud parents of six children and eleven grandchildren.

**MARK CAMPANO** joined us through the Rite of Confirmation following private instruction from Rev. Dennis Schmidt. A college graduate, he also served in the US Military. Since coming to Christ Memorial, he primarily attends our 5:00 service on Saturday.

**LES & PAT DELUNAS** transferred from Abiding Savior Lutheran Church and regularly attend the 9:00 service. Les & Pat have been married for 46 years and have 3 children, and 4 grandchildren.

**JULIE HAKE** joined us through Confirmation and regularly attends the 10:45 service. She and Brian have been married for 12 years and have 2 sons, Brett (11) and Liam (6). She attended UMSL and is an RN at Washington University.

**TOM HOUGH** came to our Reliant Church through a friend, so he transferred his membership from Immanuel Lutheran, Olivette. He attended the University of Illinois; and works for the Carrollton Bank.

**MARION KLUEPFEL** joins us through a transfer from Immanuel Lutheran in Barnhart, MO. She grew up in Michigan but came to St. Louis when the family she worked for moved here. She was later married and had three children (1 adopted) and now travels to visit them throughout the year. She counts as good friend, Pastor Dennis & Jane Schmidt and primarily attends the 9:00 service.

**STEPHEN KREIENKAMP** transferred his membership from Concordia Lutheran, Kirkwood, and joins his wife of three years, Lauren (Thorburg) who has been a member here since her baptism in 1990. Stephen is a graduate of CCLS, LHSS, Mizzou and is employed by the St. Louis Zoo in the River's Edge area with elephants, rhinos and hippos. Lauren has been our VBS director for 2 years and works at Camp Wartburg.

**EARL & PEGGIE OTTO**, transferred their membership from Abiding Savior, and regularly attend the 9:00 service. They've been married for 45 years and have one daughter, son-in-law and three grandkids. Peggie is a retired speech pathologist.

**JAMES SCHMIDT** joined us through Confirmation at Reliant. He grew up in TX before moving to Webster Groves. He attended Kirkwood High School, graduated from Mizzou, and is a teacher at Parkway West Middle School. He is married to Sarah and has three children, Samuel (6), Cora (4) and Dylan (18 mos).

*(continued on page 5)*

## »garden club donates tree

On October 24 Pastor Bill dedicated a tree donated by the Mehlville Garden Club. The tree, a Downy serviceberry, is planted in the green space bordering the basketball court adjacent to the Family Room. The Mehlville Garden Club has been affiliated with Christ Memorial for many years. The church has provided meeting space for the club, and the club has been involved in maintaining the church gardens. For more information on the club, you can contact Christ Memorial and Mehlville Garden Club member Lois Floro.



## »new members *(continued from page 4)*

**MARK & MAUREEN TELLE** transferred their membership from Salem Lutheran Church. They are both St. Louis natives who have been married 27 years and have two sons, Elliott & Evan. The boys both attended Salem Lutheran School and Lutheran High South; Elliott is currently a student at Mizzou and Evan attends Missouri State. Mark & Maureen are both retired and primarily attend the 5:00 service.

**IRENE ULSAKER** came to us from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and regularly attends the 9:00 service. She found Christ Memorial looking on-line and has been an LCMS member since 1974. She has 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 6 great-granddaughters and is retired.

**CAROL WOHR** came to us through Reaffirmation of Faith. She is a native St. Louisan and grew up at Emmaus Lutheran Church. Carol joins her sisters, Linda Orsega & Mary Woehr here at Christ Memorial; and is a friend whom Jerry Scheuermann has known for a long time. She resides at the Missouri Orthopedically Disabled Horizon apartments.

## life team event a success

The Life Team would like to thank everyone for their jewelry donations in November and coming out to shop and support the Monarch Jewelry Christmas Boutique. We sold over \$7000 in jewelry. All the proceeds from this event go to the Crisis Aid International Refugee House here in St Louis.

Everyone who shopped at this event invested in the future of a girl being rescued from human trafficking. If you would like to continue supporting this ministry you can visit their website at [monarchjewelry.org](http://monarchjewelry.org).

Watch the inTouch about our upcoming visit to Lemay Community Center on December 2 and Sanctity of Life Sunday in January.

## handbells and chocolates

Save the date for this special event on Sunday, February 11, 2018 at 2 pm

## attendance report

### october 2017

Week One 700  
Week Two 608  
Week Three 646  
Week Four 632  
Week Five 782  
Average per Week 674

### october 2016

Week One 673  
Week Two 613  
Week Three 649  
Week Four 612  
Week Five 669  
Average per Week 643

## Portals of Prayer is now an App.

Look online or in  
your App Store!



## »in the mail

So many “Thank You’s” in the mail in the last several weeks as a result of ongoing ministry efforts and especially the Loved + Sent Servant Event. Here are some:

“I wanted to thank you and your fellowship of believers for sending [friends] to build a wall and install a door in our facility which improves space utilization for us. They also got some cleaning and yard work done for us. What a blessing. This 36 manhours allows us to spend more of our time ministering. 2016 was another breakthrough year. We saw 193 new clients (up from 109 in 2015). Of the 123 moms who came through the door considering abortion, 113 made a decision for life! On behalf of the unborn, David Altis, **the Pregnancy Help Center of South County**”

“We would like to thank all who have generously donated to the **Trinity Soulard** collection. Thanks to you, we were able to hand out 7 kits for ladies and 60 kits for men at the Loved/Sent Servant Event Oct. 7. The kits contained toiletries, personal care items, socks, washcloths, snacks and various other items. We thank you for your generosity and can assure you that the homeless served by the Trinity Soulard soup kitchen are most appreciative for gifts received. God’s blessings to you, **the Soulard Crew**”

“What an honor it was to be with Christ Memorial and Reliant in unified worship Oct. 8. thank you, so much, for the opportunity. And for your Loved + Sent teams and financial contribution in October—we are tremendously grateful! Thrilled to be in ministry together! **The Humanitri Family**”

“Thank you for the many delicious cookies you delivered to us. We’ve all enjoyed them. We are forever grateful for your continued support. Thank you again for taking time to visit us. **Police Officers, Affton Precinct**”

“Thank You” is a simple phrase, but still, it’s meant to show that we appreciate your kindness. We just wanted you to know. Chief Stephen Dodge, **Sunset Hills Police Department.**”

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## »women’s retreat is seaside escape

You’re invited to a SeaSide Escape Women’s Retreat at Christ Memorial Friday evening, Jan. 26th and Saturday, Jan. 27th from 8:30 am until 3 pm.

As you experience this peaceful getaway, you’ll be restored and refreshed in your relationship with the friends around you and with Jesus.

Cost is just \$30 and includes all meals and materials. Teens and guests are welcome! Leave your registration form in the commons in January. Have questions? Contact Donna Wilkinson at tgbonkers@att.net.

## »christ memorial child care center to welcome additional infants

We are so excited to announce that CMCCC has been approved to add an additional infant room. We are happy to have the opportunity to serve more families at the center!

CMCCC is hiring! Full time infant room lead teacher and full time infant room assistant. Associates Degree in Education or equivalent is required for the lead position. Experience in childcare is recommended for the assistant. Please email [missy.meyer@cmstl.org](mailto:missy.meyer@cmstl.org) or contact 314-631-0992 if interested or with any questions.



## »impacting children and youth with Christ

Each month we have several activities for youth and children. Our goal is to show them what it means to be Loved + Sent. The next generation needs to know the message of the Gospel and adults need to help share it.

Here are some of the activities we did this fall:

- Children's Messages
- Sunday Morning Connections
- Reformation Walk
- SR High Spolu
- Confirmation Fall Series and Small Groups
- JR High Retreat
- JR High at Bud Dome and Skyzone
- SR High District Youth Gathering
- SR High Concordia Chicago Visit
- Lunch Visits at Green Park and Lutheran South
- Desserts and drinks for Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Lutheran South.

Thank you to everyone who helped make these events possible. Impacting children and youth with Christ is an ongoing effort that happens through relationships. Christ wants to use you!

Please pray for the next generation, especially ones you know by name. You are challenged to reach out to a child or youth you know this week and ask them, "how are you doing?" Thank you for your help in making a difference! May the Holy Spirit continue to do mighty things in their hearts!

### stewardship update

Current Fiscal Year  
July 1, 2017 through  
October 31, 2017

### spending YTD

Actual Spending  
\$477,391

Actual Giving  
\$425,395

Budget Giving  
\$469,406

### giving YTD

2016-2017 \$436,357

2017-2018 \$425,295



## »are you up for a challenge?



Every year the Christ Memorial Health Center (CMHC) encourages individuals to participate in the **Go! St. Louis Marathon & Family Fitness Weekend**. And every year you think that it might be fun, but you never get around to joining. Well, NOW is the time! This year, the CMHC would like to have 100 participants, so you are important to us!

**WHAT** is the Go! St. Louis Marathon and Family Fitness Weekend? This event is a weekend-long event that encourages everyone to make the effort to be healthy. Exercise is critical to your body, strengthening bones and muscles, and even improving circulation of blood to the brain.

**WHEN** is the Go! St. Louis Marathon and Family Fitness Weekend? April 7th & 8th, 2018. The 5K, Mature Mile, and the Read, Right and Run event are all on Saturday, April 7. The marathon, half marathon, marathon relay and 7K events are all on Sunday, April 8.

**WHERE** is the Go! St. Louis Marathon and Family Fitness Weekend? The shorter events will all be held Saturday in Forest Park. The longer Sunday events will be held downtown, with plenty of fun activities and bands to make the experience even more fun. In fact, the course on Sunday even has you running (OR WALKING) over the bridge into Illinois, which is a fun experience in its own right.

**WHY** get involved? This is a fun way to get the whole family involved in being healthy, regardless of age or physical capabilities. It is also a great way to encourage someone who wants to be healthier, but lacks the motivation! Have them join you, so they can 'catch the spirit!' Another reason to join the Go! St. Louis Marathon and Family Fitness Weekend is to help our Health Center raise funds to help with operating costs. Last year we raised over \$15,000 by having individuals and corporations sponsor our Health Center.

**HOW** do I get involved?? Register NOW because the price is better now! Because CMHC is an official Go! For a Cause Charity, Christ Memorial members and friends are qualified for a significant discount. To register and receive this discount, visit the website at [gostlouis.enmotive.com/](http://gostlouis.enmotive.com/) and then click on and choose the specific event, add the information requested and when you arrive at the payment page, click "USE COUPON". On the next screen type in CMHC18. This code will register you as a member of the CMHC team and secure your discount. Register soon before the prices go up (January 1, 2018). The lowest price is available through 11/15/17, and the next price break end 12/31/17.

Are you up for the challenge? Are you willing to try to be healthier? Are you willing to help the Christ Memorial Health Center? If so, register today! If you have any questions, please ask any of the CMHC staff (Carolyn Crisler, Lisa Cunningham, Donna Wilkinson, or Chris Wilson).