



# Children's Church News:

Kids Pre-K to 6th grade will be practicing for the Christmas Program Saturday Dec. 17th @ 4pm. Pizza will be served following the practice. The Christmas Program will be presented on Dec. 18th during service.



## Christmas Events:

**Nominate a Family:** Know someone that can use a helping hand this Christmas? Complete a form at the CLC welcome center and return it to our office asap the applicant must attend our December 11th service to receive their gift from the church.

**Christmas Caroling:** Wednesday Dec. 21st from 6-8p.m. Adults will be going to Woodhaven and The Extreme Teens will be going to the Trafford Highrise. For more information contact our office.

**Childrens Church:** Christmas Program Dec. 18th during service.

**Candle light Service:** Saturday Dec. 24th at 7pm.

**Christmas Day Service:** There will be regular service on December 25th, hope to see you there.

# Merry Christmas!

## Sign ups for Toys for Tots are as follows:

December 3rd from 4pm - 6pm

Pick up for Toys for Tots is only on Saturday December 17th from 12pm - 2pm, please come between these hours. Thank you.

There will be donation boxes in CLC's lobby for anyone interested in donating new toys to toys for tots. If you have any questions please contact our church office during normal business hours.

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
IRWIN, PA  
PERMIT NO. 39

< Mail Merge >  
Name  
Address  
City, State ZIP

Or Current Resident

Christian Life Church  
900 7th Street Extension  
Trafford, PA 15085

Matthew 1: 21, "And she will bring forth a son, and you shall call him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." NKJV

# December 2016 CLC Newsletter Merry Christmas!!



# A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR GARY SIMPSON

## "GOD WITH US"

“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel- which means, “God with us.” (Mt. 1:23)

It's amazing how a holiday can take on a life of its own. Cultural Christmas in America has grown both in scope and complexity. Not only do we have Black Friday we now have Cyber Monday, Small Business Saturday and endless sales and promotional events. I'm not complaining, it's just life in the twenty-first century. But I can't help but draw contrasts between the simple Christmases of my parent's generation and the over-abundance today. For Christians the message of Christ's birth is never lost in the mayhem of the season. We stay focused on that message in church. So, you can go ahead and enjoy all the traditions and celebrations and make great memories for your children and grandchildren. Memories of Christmases past stay with us and I have a lot of them. I remember my Father cutting pine boughs from a tree in our backyard and nailing them to the front porch. Then he strung big colored lights on them and when I say big I mean BIG.

There were no mini-lights in those days. We would pile into his '55 Chevy and drive to see the Town Hall tree all lit up and to Golden Hill Street in Bridgeport, Connecticut where we could look down on all the decorations on Lafayette Street. I remember my mother scraping together money to buy us presents, decorating the house and cooking. She worked hard to make Christmas special for us. We would go to my grandmother's house and were amazed at the perfection of her Christmas tree. She would hang each strand of tinsel individually. We called it patience and attention to detail back then. Today they call it Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. I remember the Teen years when the holiday changed from toys and treats to gifts of clothing and men's cologne. Later in our first Christmas together as husband and wife Renee' and I bought a live tree balled in burlap and put it in our tiny apartment in Pittsburgh.

Then we planted it in her parent's front yard where it remains to this day 42 years later. I recall making memories for our three children and starting our own traditions including a big breakfast of Pumpkin Pancakes and a toast with sparkling grape juice. Of course not all the memories are good ones. There were the first Christmases without my Dad, my sister and my Mother-in-Law. Christmas 2014 when Renee' had major cancer surgery the day before is one we would both like to forget. The wonderful truth I draw from all these memories good and bad is this: Emmanuel; God with us, was always with us in every moment of joy or sorrow. He will be with us this Christmas and in every one to come. Have a blessed Christmas and take time to be with Him and acknowledge Him as He is with you.



Gary & Renée Simpson,  
Lead Pastor & Wife

## Sunday Mornings

9:30am Sunday School & Kids Sunday School  
10:30am Worship Service & Kids Church  
Nursery & Pre-K available during service

## Wednesday Nights

7:00 pm Men's & Women's Grow Groups  
Extreme Youth(7th-12th) - Kids (birth-6th)  
The Pier for Young Adults (18-30)

## Location

900 7th Street Ext, Trafford, PA 15085  
412-856-4420 office hours Tues.- Fri. 9:00am -5:00pm  
clc@christianlife.net

## Need Prayer? Email prayer@christianlife.net

Lead Pastor Rev. Gary Simpson  
Children's Directors Mike & Jeanne Robinson  
Worship Leader Ryan Bradley

To Find your Growth Group, stop by the Welcome Desk, email info@christianlife.net, or call the office between Tuesday and Friday @ 412-856-4420 for more information. Thank you.

We are collecting chocolate this month for the local food bank if you would like to donate please feel free to drop them off in our lobby. Thank you for giving so generously! Many blessings!!!

## Upcoming Events

### Extreme Teen News:

The Extreme CLC teens are collecting 500 can goods for our local food bank. If you wish to contribute to this please give it to a teen or to Dave Helmstatder by Dec. 25th. Thank you for your support.

Teen Christmas party December 14th. All teens are welcome to attend. Hope to see you there.

Aftershock Bible Study @ The Helmstatder's on Saturday Nights. Date to be announced for Dec. Check the weekly bulletin.

### Children's Church News:

Children's christmas program is December 18th during regular service. Practice will be Dec.17th @ 4pm pizza to follow.

Movie Night: TBA, check weekly bulletin.

### BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

#### Birthdays

3rd - Jeff Warman	23rd - Gary Earhart
7th - Dave Helmstatder	Kayla Kunkle
8th - Gary Simpson	24th - Mike Wolski
Melanie Johns	26th - Russ Whiteside
17th - George Adamson	28th - Gary Earhart Jr.
Gretchen Laux	29th - Gillian Ritchie
20th - Roy Fink	Lissa Brown

#### Anniversaries:

10th - Robert & Charlene Hodder  
27th - Larry & Colleen Wilson



## Monthly Groups @ CLC!

**Hooked on Helping**, Crocheting group that will be meeting in the apartment Dec 1st and 15th. Any individual that is interested in learning and/or knows how to crochet is welcome! Learn a skill or help mentor others. Have a relaxing time of fellowship, charity, and encouragement!

**Extending Hands**, December 1st & 2nd. Feeds the homeless and needy in Pittsburgh. Come lend a hand to help prepare the food on Thursday and or serve it on Friday in Pittsburgh. All help is welcome.

**First Friday Worship & Prayer**, check bulletin for date and times. Everyone is welcome to come and join in worship and prayer!

**Word Seekers**, will be meeting at 7pm at the whiteside's on Dec. 9th.

**Womens Daylight Small Group**, will be meeting on December 1st in the CLC apartment under the leadership of Joyce Fink.

**Pack and Pray**, check weekly bulletin for dates and times. For more information please contact Jesse or Emily Simpson.

## CLC Growth Groups

**Women's Growth Group** - Meets every Wednesday night in classroom @ 7pm.

**Men's Growth Group** - Meets every Wednesday night in classroom @ 7pm.

**Wednesday Night Bible Study** - Meets every Wednesday night in the sanctuary @ 7pm.

**The Pier Growth Group for ages 18-30**, meets every Wednesday night in the upper room @ 7pm.

**The Family Circle Growth Group** meets December 10th @ The Lersch's house @7pm. Will be meeting monthly now. For more information please contact Dave or Diane Lersch!

### Keep us in your prayers...

Pastor Gary  
Renee Simpson  
Jen Powell  
Robin Oliver  
Lyle Stewart  
Julia Torockio  
Angie Traficante  
Jan Rothrauff  
Joan Mayak  
Cindy Taylor  
Ruth Smith  
Dawn Bertoluzzi  
Bob Giland  
Beth Ann Chandler  
Reva Holby  
Shirley Johnston  
Larry Wilson  
Colleen Wilson  
David Burns  
Rose Winslow  
Carol Castellano  
Dorothy Walker  
Elaine McVicker  
Larry George  
Rose Vinsick  
Kim Coyne  
Mike Libell  
Luther Ward  
Mike Asquino  
Joe Miller  
Jenifer Cole  
Matt Varchetto  
Emma Chichilla  
Mike Krepinovitch  
Mary Minor