

Steeple Notes

Central Church, Huntington, NY
Where Jesus Is Lord and All Are Loved!
December 2024 – January 2025



Thanks Be to God and Looking Forward!

What a Thanksgiving Meal! The picture below shows the final clean-up crew on Thanksgiving Day. All in all, we served 90 in-house and another 30-plus takeaway and delivery meals. Many generous hands helped to put it all together, and we were blessed by the leadership of Mike Engelhart in the kitchen and Rachel and Chris Silvia in the front! Thank God for all who donated, volunteered and otherwise sacrificed to serve another fantastic meal to our Huntington community! Of about 80 pounds of turkey Mike made, NONE were left. Not a mouthful! All went out!

This brings us to our final month of 2024!

Looking back, we have so much to thank the Lord for this year!

God has grown us — We are regularly in the mid to high 90's in attendance every Sunday, as well as many more online. In fact, it would help us if everyone who joins us online could simply add a comment on how many are watching the service from their screen.



God has stretched us — We have now done two years of in-person Thanksgiving meals (resumed following Covid), three years of Alpha, and three years of *The Chosen* watch parties. Monday night Bible studies have also returned, and we are looking to do more! We are just about done putting finishing touches on a Christmas concert by our worship team on a weeknight in December! And early in 2025, *The Chosen* viewing parties will resume!

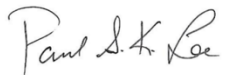
God has provided for us — Once again, your faithful giving has meant we are ending our financial year strongly. No final numbers yet, of course, but in any case, praise the Lord! Please continue to give faithfully and cheerfully!

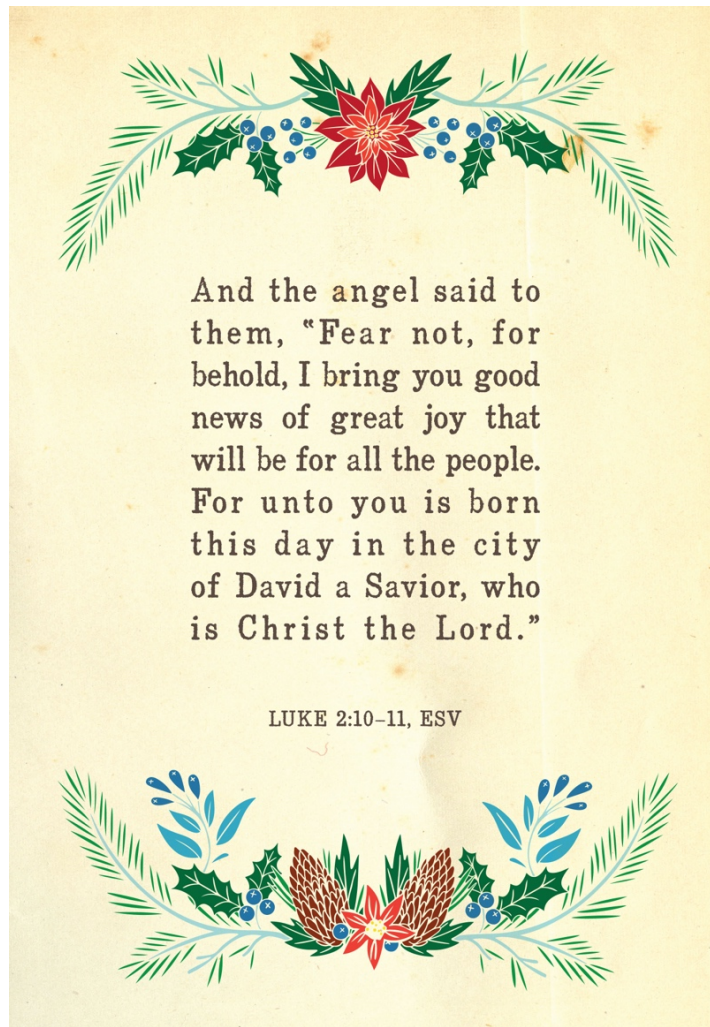
God is calling us — I am excited by the new leaders God is raising up at Central! Our Annual Meetings of the Congregation and Corporation will be December 8th following our Sunday worship service. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Finally, **God desires our service!** We have entered the **Advent Season**, and we will once again celebrate Jesus' birth at 6:30 PM at our **Christmas Eve** worship service! Invite a friend or two and join us! Truly, ***For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*** (Isaiah 9:6).

In the meantime, please continue to pray for one another, as well as for our church. Please pray for healing for our members undergoing illnesses, as well as for a favorable legal resolution concerning our property! And please pray for revival! Here in Huntington, on Long Island, and of course, at Central Church!

May the Lord bless you keep you!


Pastor Paul Lee





DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Phil Byler
- 06 Anne Hankinson
- 12 Jon Larson
- 15 Leevon Black
- 15 Maris Swanson
- 19 Rachel Silvia
- 25 Ted Folprecht
- 28 Trafford Watkins
- 28 Zach Grill

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 21 Derek & Julie Novinski
- 27 Bev & Dave Vandergoot

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 07 Sharon Lenardo
- 09 Liz Stuyvesant
- 12 Andrew Sutherland
- 13 Lucy Malm
- 14 Dave Vandergoot
- 14 Margaret Breland
- 14 Shakayah Boyle
- 15 Debra McCoy
- 16 Adela Dickson
- 17 Frank Marlow
- 18 Dottie Kannapin
- 20 Maggie Marlow
- 23 Foster Bradley
- 24 Nan Lee
- 26 Doris Agardi
- 27 Diane Garofola
- 29 Jacob Lee

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 05 Diane & Joseph Garofola



Our email prayer ministry is going strong! Send your prayer requests and praises to Linda Tengelsen, our Prayer Chain Coordinator, at

llteng@optonline.net (please type the letter L twice) and she will be happy to send your message to the prayer group. Updates on your concerns are also welcome.

December at a Glance

Tuesday – December 3

- 10:00 am – Board Meeting
- 11:00 am – Installation Luncheon

Tuesday – December 10

- 10:30 am – Christmas Luncheon

Looking Ahead to January

Tuesday – January 7

- 10:00 am – Board Meeting

Tuesday – January 14

- 10:00 am – Circle Meeting

Watch for more details in the Sunday bulletins!



Min Yao and Tina Hu's daughter Esther Yao Hu was born on October 10th in the afternoon, weighing 6.4 pounds. Both Tina and Esther are doing great – and Ephraim is very excited to have a baby sister! Min and Tina praise the Lord for His blessings and are



thankful for all the prayers from church. Please continue praying for Tina's recovery and for baby Esther's healthy growth.



Minutes of the Central Church Session Meeting on October 24, 2024:

- The meeting was scheduled to begin at 7:00 pm in the White room and on Zoom. All were present except for Elder Valerio who was excused. The agenda was approved. Pastor Paul opened the meeting at 7:05 and conducted a devotional based on the Gospel of Mark, chapter 13. Elder Garafola offered to sub for Elder Byler as the Elder on Call for November. The Clerk's report stated that 76 people took communion on October 6th. The September minutes were approved
- Action Items: Elder Valerio's request to use the Sanctuary from 3:00pm to 6:00 pm on March 23rd was approved. Elder Melillo agreed to continue serving on the Session for the year 2025, and Elders Melillo and Garafola will head up the Nominating Committee for 2025
- Pastor's Report: the December meeting of Session will take place Tuesday the 17th of December at 7:00 pm. Pastor Paul reported that the Alpha program is consistently having on average of four non-members attending
- Deacons: Doral Hardy will serve as the liaison for the board of Deacons while Elder Sutherland is out of town
- Trustees: Elder Garafola reported that there is an oil leak in the manse, which is being investigated by the Trustees
- Discipleship: Elder Paulsen reported that attendance in Kids Central has been low due to sports schedules and trusts that this situation will improve going into winter

- Youth Group: Attendance has improved but also needs to grow. There also is a need for more drivers for this ministry
- WCC: The second part of the Women's seminar was very successful
- Worship: Asked to look into a situation involving Sunday services
- Stewardship: We are currently running on a deficit and are hoping that the traditional 4th quarter bump will put us back in the black
- Personnel: Pastor Paul received pastoral performance reviews. The ECO establishment is opting out of all forms of health benefits for its pastors, so Rich is looking into what we can do for Pastor Paul going forward. He will let us know what he finds

Summary of the Central Church Session Meeting on November 26, 2024:

- Pastor Lee submitted a list of his activities
- Both the Congregation/Corporation (Dec. 8th) and February Budget meetings will take place in the Fellowship Hall
- Elder Paulsen has decided to step down, and we thank God for her service to the Lord
- Various boards and committees submitted their reports. Notably, the Stewardship Committee reports continued faithful and generous giving by our members
- For our Lord's Supper, both Elders and Deacons will participate in distributing the elements before worship starts
- The next Session meeting will be on December 17th, 2024, at 7:00 pm





Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Praise God for His Gifts and Grace!





 Over 120 meals were served!

Give Thanks
to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.
Psalm 107:1, NIV

december

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 - Advent 1 WORSHIP 10 AM BIBLE STUDY 11:30 AM NA GROUP 7 PM	2 OFFICE CLOSED ON MONDAYS	3 WCC BOARD MTG 10 WCC INSTALLATION LUNCHEON 11:00 AM MOMS IN PRAYER 3:45 PM	4 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM WORSHIP TEAM 7:00 PM YOUTH 7:30	5 STAFF 12 PM KIDS CENTRAL 4:30 PM DEACONS MTG. 7:00 PM	6	7 NA GROUP 9:00 AM
8 - Advent 2 WORSHIP 10 AM ANNUAL MTGS 11:15 AM NA GROUP 7 PM	9	10 WCC CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON 10:30 M.I.P. 3:45 PM WORSHIP COMM 7:30 PM	11 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM WORSHIP TEAM 7:00 PM YOUTH 7:30 PM	12 STAFF MEETING 12:00 PM	13	14 NA GROUP 9:00 AM
15 - Advent 3 WORSHIP 10 AM BIBLE STUDY 11:30 AM NA GROUP 7 PM	16	17 MOMS IN PRAYER 3:45 PM SESSION MTG. 7:00 PM	18 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM WORSHIP TEAM 7:00 PM YOUTH 7:30 PM TRUSTEES 7:30 PM	19 STAFF MEETING 12:00 PM	20	21 NA GROUP 9:00 AM
22 - Advent 4 WORSHIP 10 AM BIBLE STUDY 11:30 AM NA GROUP 7 PM	23	 Christmas Eve Service 6:30 PM	25  Merry Christmas	26	27	28 NA GROUP 9:00 AM
29 WORSHIP 10 AM BIBLE STUDY 11:30 AM NA GROUP 7 PM	30	 New Year's Eve				

january

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
OFFICE HOURS: TUES TO FRIDAY, 8 AM TO 1 PM			1 (Office closed) 	2 STAFF MEETING 12:00 PM	3	4 NA GROUP 9:00 AM
5 WORSHIP 10 AM BIBLE STUDY 11:30 AM NA GROUP 7 PM	6 OFFICE CLOSED ON MONDAYS	7 WCC BOARD MTG 10:00 AM MOMS IN PRAYER 3:45 PM DEACONS 7:00 PM	8 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM WORSHIP TEAM 7:00 PM YOUTH 7:30 PM	9 STAFF MEETING 12:00 PM KIDS CENTRAL 4:30 – 6:00 PM	10	11 NA GROUP 9:00 AM
12 WORSHIP 10 AM BIBLE STUDY 11:30 AM NA GROUP 7 PM	13	14 WCC CIRCLE 10AM MOMS IN PRAYER 3:45 PM WORSHIP COMM 7:30 PM	15 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM WORSHIP TEAM 7:00 PM YOUTH 7:30 PM	16 STAFF MEETING 12:00 PM KIDS CENTRAL 4:30 – 6:00 PM	17 STEEPLE NOTES ARTICLES DEADLINE	18 NA GROUP 9:00 AM
19 WORSHIP 10 AM BIBLE STUDY 11:30 AM NA GROUP 7 PM	20	21 MOMS IN PRAYER 3:45 PM	22 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM WORSHIP TEAM 7:00 PM YOUTH 7:30 PM	23 STAFF MEETING 12:00 PM KIDS CENTRAL 4:30 – 6:00 PM	24	25 NA GROUP 9:00 AM
26 WORSHIP 10 AM BIBLE STUDY 11:30 AM NA GROUP 7 PM	27 PASTOR PAUL AT ECO NATIONAL GATHERING, JAN. 27 - JAN. 30	28 MOMS IN PRAYER 3:45 PM SESSION MTG 7:00 PM	29 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM WORSHIP TEAM 7:00 PM YOUTH 7:30 PM	30 STAFF MEETING 12:00 PM KIDS CENTRAL 4:30 – 6:00 PM	31	 central church HUNTINGTON, NY