



**WE INVITE YOU  
TO OUR CELEBRATION WORSHIP**

10:30 am

Join us Sunday as we celebrate and give thanks for Pastor Marv and Trish and their 27 years of ministry at CELC.



An Appreciation Reception will follow in Luther Hall.

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**Beyond All Expectations--  
Love**

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall*

*name him Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14*

The sign of Immanuel was a sign bound up in a child's name. The child's name represents a holy incarnation of "God with us." The good news comes in spite of the waywardness of kings and God's people - God hasn't abandoned them. Amid real-world problems and political intrigue, God is present.

Although Isaiah's original prophecy had an immediate context, the New Testament writers saw within this prophecy of birth and other similar references in Isaiah (9:6, for one) that God had a larger sign in mind - the ultimate sign of God's presence, peace and love revealed in Jesus. Even Isaiah would have found it hard to imagine that God's ultimate sign for all of creation would be God's own coming in the person of a helpless child. The gospel writers saw Isaiah's old sign, updated it and made it visible to the whole world. Question is, are we still seeing the sign?

Have you considered the meaning of "God with us" in the midst of a world darkened by death and violence? Are we bearing the love of Christ in our daily interactions with people who are being lured by many other signs? Who are we really trusting to love us - technology, politicians or anything or anyone else? Are we looking for new ways to tell an old story so that those for whom Christmas is just a nostalgic evening can begin to see Jesus' birth as a loving relationship that really matters?

**In This Issue**

Beyond All Expectations--Love  
Choir Concert

**Quick Links**

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**Upcoming Events**

Christmas Choir Concert  
December 18, 5:00 pm

Pastor Marv's Farewell Sunday  
December 19, 10:30 am

Christmas Eve Worship  
December 24  
7:00 pm Family Service  
11:00 pm Traditional Service

Service of Lessons and Carols  
December 26, 10:30 am

**Christ Lutheran Church**  
8011 Old Georgetown Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
301-652-5160



A faith community welcoming all to a place where you can connect with God and people--offering service to others as a sign of God's love

**Sunday Worship:**

Praise: 9:15 am  
Traditional 11:15 am  
New Worship Service:  
Sunday Evening 5:00 pm

**Staff Listing**

Saturday, December 18, CELC's Choir will offer An Evening of Christmas Musical Delight. This free concert begins at 5:00 pm. A reception follows the concert.



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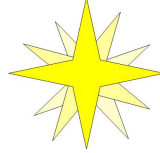
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Florence Heacock--Small Groups Minister  
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## Guiding Star Child Development Center

We have openings!  
301-229-3004 or 301-656-9003



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