

Christ Lutheran Church
1928 S. Reese Road
Reese, MI 48757-9718



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Church Staff and Church Council

STAFF

Pastor: Phil Bromhal
Office Staff: Deb Heinzman

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989.868.3608

CHURCH COUNCIL

President	Sandy Schafsnitz	989.996.0399
V. President:	Dale Bremer	989.928-6624
Secretary:	Joanne Connelly	989-863-0295
Gen. Treasurer:	Mary Felske	989.737-4043
Spec. Funds Treasurer:	Chris Bublitz	989.659.3211
Congregation Life	Trista Jeske-Yax	989.714.5996
Communication	David Abraham	989.274.6181
Education	Nancy Clauss	989-415-7046
Property	John Ward	989.245-3672
Worship & Music	Irene Weiss	989.529.5517
Youth & Family	Jen Shores	989.225.3999

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent: Robbie Oldenburg
Treasurer: Ann Bublitz

989.928.9838
989.693.6418

In an effort to conserve on the use of paper and postage, we are offering to send the newsletter out via e-mail. Please e-mail the office with your current email information. If you no longer desire to receive this newsletter please email or call the church office. Thank you.

Church Phone #989.868.3281

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Christ Lutheran Church

February 2026 Newsletter



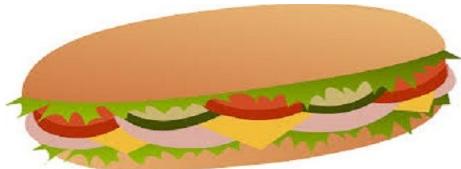
WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday - 8:30 am Traditional Worship
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11 am Contemporary Worship

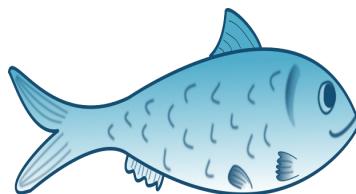
Wednesday - 4 pm Midweek Worship

Communion is celebrated at every worship service.

Ash Wednesday is February 18th. There will be 2 services - one at 4 and the other at 6:30 pm. The following Wednesdays there will only be 1 service at 4 pm.



SUB SANDWICH ORDERS for Super Bowl Sunday are being taken now through **Wednesday, February 4th**. Sandwiches will be available for pickup **Sunday, February 8th** between services. Cost is \$8. Order forms are available on the bulletin boards or call the church office. Thank you for supporting our youth!



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH FISH FRY

Friday, March 20th from 4 - 7 pm or until sold out. On the menu this year is fried pollack, baked cod, au gratin potatoes, French fries, coleslaw, green beans, rolls, and cookies. Take out will be available. Cost is \$13 for adults, \$6 for ages 5 - 12 and 4 and under are free. **A lot of help will be needed, especially in the dining area. We will also be needing cookies. Sign up sheets are posted.**

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Each Wednesday after the 4 pm Lenten service, meals will be served with funds provided by a Thrivent Grant. Desserts will be needed along with help to clean up after the meals. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. Please consider donating a dessert or helping to clean up. Many hands are needed! A free will donation will be accepted and given to a local organization.

WE LOOKING FOR READERS FOR LENTSERVICES! Would you like to help with our Lent Services this spring? Each Wednesday Lenten service will be a time to guide us to the Cross of Jesus. Each week, the service will guide us to a different aspect of Jesus' attitude when he made his way to the cross. And we are looking for five people to help by reading the sermon each week. All the sermons have been written and prepared; you just need to read them during the service. Pastor Phil is asking each reader to write a short reflection on the week's topic from their own life: 1-2 minutes. If you would like to be a part of the preaching team for Lent Services, talk to Pastor Phil.

Greetings Christ Lutheran,

2026 has begun with a lot of snow. As this is my first winter here in Michigan, I can say confidently that I am ready for Spring. But, alas, it will remain winter for a little longer. I pray I can stay in the moment instead of focusing on some future and miss what is right in front of me. Thankfully, we have Christ's love to warm us up. And February means that Lent will begin soon. And Lent leads us to the Cross. And the Cross leads us to the empty Tomb! And the empty Tomb leads us to praise and thanksgiving. But the tomb is already empty, so we can give thanks and praise the Lord now as we remember Jesus' journey to the Cross. Let this Lenten season be a time of sacrifice and reflection on Jesus' sacrifice for you, whether that is giving up a favorite treat or perhaps an activity (TV, social media, etc.) that takes up time that could be spent with the Lord in prayer. Or maybe you take on something for the season of Lent, like daily prayer time. A friend of mine suggested a devotional book called 'Why Pray?' by John DeVries, and I will spend the 40 days of Lent reading and praying through it myself. I pray we each take some time to ask the Lord what Lenten practice we should participate in this year.

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Phil

Blessings to you!

January, I thought February was supposed to be the coldest month. I hope you are all staying warm and fed.

Thank you all that came to the Congregational meeting. In the past few years that I have been with the council I learn more every week and the best part, we need each other to keep things floating. We all appreciate the questions, thoughts, and understanding. Nothing flows without the power of God leading us daily.

Nick has salt again! The price has doubled but we need it. So, a little extra in the offering plate will be much appreciated. I pray for less snow and ice - we have another couple months to go!

Stay well and warm!

Sandy



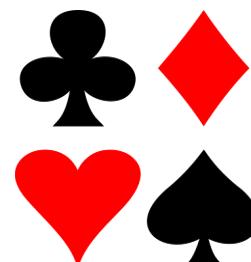
HAVE YOU HAD A CHANCE TO HANG OUT WITH PASTOR PHIL?

A sign up calendar for February is available on the bulletin board where you can choose a date to invite me over for a visit and we can get to know each other better!

Choose a date and a time of day - if you'd like to have me over for dinner, lunch, or just a chat, please make a note about that on the calendar. If, for whatever reason, you'd like to meet outside of your home, mark that on the calendar as well, and we can discuss alternatives. Or you can call the office to sign up over the phone. I am looking forward to it!

Adult Sunday School

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL meets at 9:45 am in the meeting room. Please feel free to join each week for a deeper study of God's word.



EUCHRE FUN GAMES - Mark your calendar and bring your family and friends for fellowship and fun on the following dates: **February 14 & 28, March 14 & 28, April 11 & 25, and May 9 & 30.** Start time is 3 pm.

education

EDUCATION COMMITTEE will meet on **Monday, February 9th at 6:30 pm.**

FaithCircle

FAITH CIRCLE will meet on **Monday, February 2nd at 10 am.** We are starting a new Bible study entitled "Angels". Please consider joining us. Books are provided.

JOY CIRCLE

JOY CIRCLE will meet on **Thursday, February 12th at 6:30 pm.** All women of the church are welcome.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - All Women of the Congregation are welcome to join us on **Thursday, February 12th** from **7 - 8 pm** as we continue the study, **"God's Reluctant Leaders - The Biblical Stories of Jonah, Gideon, and Moses"**. Jonah, Gideon and Moses are three examples of people who creatively attempted to escape the call God made to them. Overwhelmed by their own fear, insecurity, and skepticism, they would have turned God down. But God overcame their reluctance, by proving Himself faithful to His Word and by shaping their lives with the Holy Spirit. By making these ordinary people His servants, God eventually formed them into the leaders He had called them to be. It is my prayer that as you read about God's call in their lives, you may be reminded of God's call in your life as well.

Session 5 – Asking For A Sign - Gideon

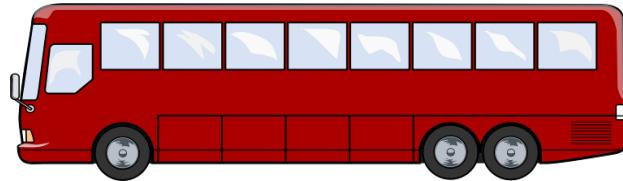
Once again, we see God's calling met with reluctance, as Gideon offered excuses for why he was not capable or prepared to lead God's people. But the angel reiterated God's promise: "I will be with you," and assured Gideon that with the Lord's power, nothing would be able to stop him. Like Gideon, we often need reassurances. That is why God comes to us again and again, to declare His Word of grace in our lives – not to demand faith as a condition, but to create it within us by His own power.



SEW FOR FAITH meets on **Wednesdays** from **9:30 - 11:30 am.** Come and join us for fellowship and help with our current projects. You don't need to know how to sew.



HANDBELL CHOIR PRACTICES are **Wednesdays at 5 pm.**



LET'S GO COACHIN' - The Ministry of Congregational Life invites you, your family, and friends to join other members of Christ Lutheran Church for fun and fellowship on one of Renee Cragg's trips! **February 21 & 22, 2026:** Traveling to Kewadin, Sault Ste Marie; Bay Mills Casino, Brimley (Overnight); Odawa, Mackinaw City.

March 21 & 22, 2026: Traveling to Kewadin, Sault Ste Marie; Bay Mills Casino, Brimley (overnight); Odawa, Mackinaw City.

August 5-17, 2026 – Big Sky Montana

October 7-12, 2026 – Fall in Love With Nashville

RENEE'S TRAVEL LLC 989-325-0408. SEE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE BULLETIN BOARD.



GOOD SAMARITAN RESCUE MISSION OF BAY CITY needs list will be printed in the bulletin. Items can be placed in the tote under the coat rack. Thank you!

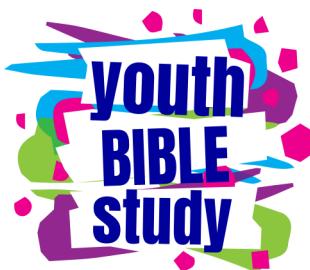
YOUTH ACTIVITIES

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT - Saturday, February 7th at 2 pm: **Stuffing Socks for the homeless.** If you would like to donate we are in need of crew socks, men's and women's shavers, snacks such as cheese & crackers, meat sticks, fruit snacks, soap, wash-cloths, toothbrushes, toothpaste.



SUNDAY SCHOOL YOUTH will be playing bells at the 8:30 am service **February 8th.**

YOUTH & FAMILY AND 7TH-12TH GRADE YOUTH -
February 28th: We will be going to Snow Snake Hill to go tubing. If you are interested in going, please let Kelly know by Sunday, Feb. 15th so that she can order tickets. It's about 1.5 hours away, so I will need some drivers and we can carpool with each other.



YOUTH BIBLE STUDY for youth in grades 7th through 12th grade meets on **Sundays** from **6 - 8:30 pm** at Christ Lutheran Church. Dinner is provided. Please come and invite your friends to join us for food, games and Bible study.

FEBRUARY ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

February 1	Owen VanDenBoom	Charlee Meyer
February 8	MiKayla Schulz	Alaina Edie
February 15	Deake Yax	Krissa Cunningham
February 22	Harper Bauer	Alissa Edie

Christ Lutheran Church of Reese Michigan
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 19, 2026

Present: Dale Bremer, Chris Bublitz, Joanne Connelly, Mary Felske, Trista Jeske-Yax, Sandy Schafsnitz, Jen Shores, Kelly Walz, Irene Weiss, John Ward and Pastor Phil

Excused: Nancy Clauss, David Abraham, Robbie Oldenburg and Lora DeLong

Opened in Prayer: Pastor Phil opened in prayer at 7:00 pm

1. Monthly Reports

- a. **Secretary Minutes:** A motion was made by Trista to accept the minutes, supported by Mary Felske, and was carried to accept the minutes.
- b. **General Fund Report:** Total revenue will show up in January statement. (\$5,500 went in savings and should have gone in checking, but we are leaving it there for now) A motion was made by Jen Shores to accept, supported by Irene Weiss and was carried to accept the report.
- c. **Special Funds Report:** Chris put \$16,575.00 in General Fund. It was not found until January and Chris put it in the year end books. Sandy and Chris renewed the CDs that were matured for 5 more months. The \$2,000 in interest did not move to the checking account. It will be moved in May. A motion was made by Mary Felske to accept, supported by Irene Weiss, and was carried to accept the report.
- d. **Office/Pastor's Report:** Christmas Eve and Christmas Services went well. Pastor was sick when he got back from vacation. He is feeling better and will start seeing shut-ins again.

2. Unfinished Business: N/A

3. New Business

- a. **Pay for Organists When Church is Cancelled:** Irene made a motion to pay the organists when the church service is cancelled, supported by Jen Shores, and the motion was carried.
- b. **When Do We Cancel Church:** We will cancel if there is a power outage and when the public school is cancelled for evening events.
- c. **Martin Luther King Day Falls the Day After Congregational Meeting:** The question was asked if we could move the Annual Congregational Meeting to the 4th Sunday being the meeting is usually the weekend of MLK Day. Jen Shores made a motion to change the Annual Meeting to the 4th Sunday of 2027 and to change the by-laws. Trista Jeske-Yax supported and the motion was carried.
- d. **Calendar of Events and Committee Member List:** Sandy Schafsnitz and Joanne Connelly will work on putting together a Calendar of Yearly functions that need to happen so that they are not missed. A list of Committees and its members will also be put together.

4. Ministry Reports

- a. **Ministry of Youth and Family:** Youth & Family went to SeaLife at Great Lakes Crossing and the 7th-12th Grade Youth will be going to SpringHill this weekend. We have 7 youth attending this year.
- b. **Ministry of Property:** N/A
- c. **Ministry of Worship and Music:**
 - i. We will be getting a new Nativity Set and new Angel Tree.
 - ii. Christmas decorations are usually taken down at 10am the Monday after the New Year. It was asked if the youth could do it the Second Sunday of January instead.
 - iii. Pastor said to keep the American Flags where they are now.
- iv. It was asked if the choir might lead songs that are new to help the Congregation catch on to the tune.
- d. **Outreach and Congregational Life:** Trista said there were 8 tables for Euchre.
- e. **Ministry of Education:** N/A
- f. **Ministry of Communication:** N/A. Pastor says the bells normally play at 12pm and 8pm, but he has changed them on Sundays to play at 1pm and 8pm.

5. Installation of Church Council will be on Sunday, January 25th at both services.

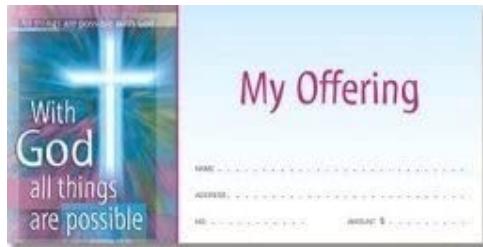
6. Irene Weiss made a motion to close the meeting, Trista Jeske-Yax supported and the motion was carried. We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer at 8:43 p.m.

7. Next meeting is February 16th.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Walz, Secretary

ATTENDANCE

	8:30 am Sunday	11 am Sunday	Wednesday	Sunday School
Jan. 4	41	10		N/A
Jan. 7			18	
Jan. 11	40	13		15/10
Jan. 14			10	
Jan. 18	Annual Meeting	9:30 am	67	N/A
Jan. 21			11	
Jan. 25	54	9		15/13
Jan. 28			21	



2025 GIVING STATEMENTS are available for pick up on the table in the lounge.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available for pick up in the lounge. If you do not see your name and would like a set, let the office know.

Want to make an offering online? Scan this QR code for an alternative way to give. This will take you to the church's Vanco website to make your offering. To connect your online offering to your giving statement, make sure to log in or set up an account before completing the gift.



Thank You

On behalf of the families we serve at Underground Railroad, we want to express our deepest gratitude for your generous support this holiday season. Your thoughtful contributions have made a meaningful impact to those we serve, reminding them they are not alone in the difficult journey.

Karen Sova, Development Director

Thank you for all the tags you took off the Christmas Tree for the foster family and Underground Railroad. The items you purchased and donations you made to the family, Underground Railroad and Rescue Mission were delivered and very appreciated by those who received them. We are so proud of the kindness our congregation shows to those in need.

Joy Circle/CLCW

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On behalf of the United Theological College of the West Indies, I thank you for your contribution towards the college's finances.

May God continue to bless your ministry.

Karen Durent-McSweeney (Rev. Dr.)
Interim President/Dean, UTCWI

Worship Assistants for February

DATE	LECTOR	COMMUNION SETUP	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	COMMUNION CLEANUP 8:30 AM/11 AM	USHER TEAM
Feb. 1	Kelly Walz	Ellen Schultz	Nancy Clauss/ Denise Felske	Irene Weiss/ Jill VanOchten	4
Feb. 8	Diane Osantowski	Kathy Bublitz	Denise Felske/ Sandy Schafsnitz	Renae Kamin/ Ward Family	1
Feb. 15	Kelly VanDenBoom	Dale Bremer	Sandy Schafsnitz/ Nancy Clauss	Kelly VanDenBoom/ Jill VanOchten	2
Feb. 22	Jen Shores	Lora & Makenna DeLong	Nancy Clauss/ Denise Felske	Kevin Felske/ Ward Family	3



February Birthdays

- 6 Marsha Woolever
- Paul Walz
- 8 Kevin Felske
- 11 Judy Lucynski - over 80
- Mike Connelly
- 12 Karen Schorge - over 80
- 14 Gary Haske - over 80
- Debbie Bittner
- 15 Alaina Edie
- 16 John Ward
- 18 Jill Lynch
- 19 Irene Weiss
- 20 Lori Dirker
- 21 Makenna DeLong
- 22 Beck Shores
- Cooper Shores
- 23 Isaac Zimmer
- 25 Alvira Coulthard - 90th
- Mary Felske
- 29 Gail Campbell – over 80



February Anniversaries

8	Bryan & Kristine Bauer	1992
25	Tom & Ann Janson	1989



We would like to thank Pastor Phil for his texts, calls, prayers and visits to the hospital. Thank you to everyone who sent a card, text, email or called to check on us. Ted is recovering from two surgeries on his right elbow from a staph infection. He is recovering at home now. Blessings to you for all your kindness.

Ted and Denise Felske



Over 150 hats, mittens, scarves, and socks were put on the mitten tree. The items were delivered to 3 different places: Good Samaritan Rescue Mission, the Dream Center and the Underground Railroad. Thank you!