

Christ Lutheran Church
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Church Staff and Church Council

STAFF

Pastor: Mark Gerisch
Office Staff: Deb Heinzman

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SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent: Robbie Oldenburg
Treasurer: Ann Bublitz

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CHURCH COUNCIL

President	Sandy Schafsnitz	989.996.0399
V. President:	Lora DeLong	989.529.5396
Secretary:	Kelly Walz	989.239.6912
Gen. Treasurer:	Mary Felske	989.737-4043
Spec. Funds Treasurer:	Renee Zimmer	989.868.4915
Congregation Life	Trista Jeske-Yax	989.714.5996
Communication	David Abraham	989.274.6181
Education	Shirley Grabowski	989.868.3580
Property	John Ward	989.245-3672
Worship & Music	Diane Kuhne	810.358.0242
Youth & Family	Jen Shores	989.225.3999

HOME PHONE#

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.

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Christ Lutheran Church February 2024 Newsletter



Our Lenten journey begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14th. There will be 2 communion services: 4 & 7 pm. The following Wednesdays there will be one service at 4 pm. Our worship series is titled "The Hills of Lent" which is a Biblical journey to mountaintop experiences which all focus on the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus.

- Ash Wednesday, February 14th: Mount Moriah
- February 21st: Mount Sinai
- February 28th: Mount Carmel
- March 6th: Mount Zion
- March 13th: Mount Olive
- March 20th: Mount Calvary

Sundays during Lent we will focus on "Words that Last Forever". During the final hours of his life, Christ mapped out his way of suffering with seven famous last words - seven final phrases, remembered and recited throughout the ages. You may find that these last words have a lasting impact, even now. Those words are:

- Forgive! - February 18th
 - Paradise! - February 25th
 - Behold! - March 3rd
 - Forsaken! - March 10th
 - Thirst! - March 17th
 - Finished! - March 24th
 - For You! - Maundy Thursday
 - Hands! - Good Friday
 - Alleluia! - Easter Sunday
- Service times are at 9 & 11 am.

On Sunday, February 18th, Pastor Mark Neumann and his wife, Susan, will be here. He will be delivering the message. They currently reside in Montana. Pastor Neumann was born and raised in Detroit and still has family in that area, some of whom plan on attending worship that morning. A coffee and donut hour will follow the 9 am worship service. Please plan on attending.

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Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 14th, and each Wednesday during Lent, a meal will be served after the 4 pm service. Please join us each week to enjoy a good meal and great fellowship. A free will offering will be accepted with proceeds to be donated to the 1% Food Pantry for Veterans in our area. Desserts and kitchen help are needed. If you would like to donate a dessert or can help, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board. Food is being provided from a Thrivent grant.



INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL will take place **February 4th** at the **9 am** worship service. The council meeting is scheduled for **February 20th** at **6 pm**.



EDUCATION COMMITTEE will meet on **Monday, February 5th** at **6:30 pm**.

Dear Friends in Christ,

We all experience disappointments and losses and sometimes lose our focus. It's the morning after the NFC Championship game and I'm reflecting on the game. I'm bummed that the Lions will not be in the Super Bowl this year, but instead of dwelling on the loss I choose to put my focus on the amazing year they've had and I'm looking forward to next year.

On a more personal level, the month of December brought the passing of my brother-in-law and my sister and early January the loss of my best friend from my childhood. I feel the pain from the loss of having them here on earth, but I have chosen to focus on the joy they are now experiencing in Heaven. All three trusted in Jesus and lived their lives knowing that they would be spending eternity with their Savior.

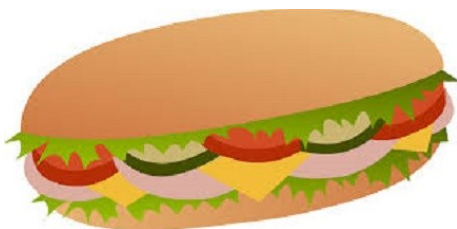
What will you focus on when you suffer loss or other challenges in life? Will you dwell on the past and be discouraged and depressed or will you celebrate the positives and move forward trusting God to walk with you each step of the way? Remember, just like the story "Footprints in the Sand", God will carry you through the losses and disappointments in life.

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

Love in Christ,

Pastor Mark & Judy

YOUTH EVENTS



SUB FUNDRAISER

Sunday, February 11th - Our Youth Group will be making subs at **8 am**. The subs will be available for pickup after each service. Order forms are on the back table and bulletin boards. Order deadline is **February 7th**. Thank you for supporting our Youth.

SUNDAY SCHOOL YOUTH SING

Sunday, February 11th - Our Sunday School children will be singing "I am Jesus Little Lamb" at the **9 am** service.



7TH - 12TH GRADE YOUTH

We will be going to the Vassar Movie Theatre to watch the 4th Session of the Chosen over the following dates:

Sunday, February 11th - Episodes 1-3. We will meet at church at 12:15 and ride over together. Movie starts at 1 pm.

Sunday, February 18th - Episodes 4-6. We will meet at church at 12:15 and ride over together. Movie starts at 1 pm.

Sunday, March 3rd - Episodes 7 & 8. We will meet at church at 12:15 and ride over together. Movie starts at 1 pm.



YOUTH & FAMILY

Saturday, February 17th - We will meet at church at 9:30 am to ride over to Memorial Park in Frankenmuth for sledding and hot cocoa.





FaithCircle

FAITH CIRCLE will meet on **Monday, February 5th**, at **10 am** for Bible Study. All women of the church are invited to join us in the interesting study of **“Women & Identity”** as we learn from women of the Bible.



Women's Ministry

2024 ANNUAL WOMENS' BOOKLETS are available in the basket in the lounge area.



JOY CIRCLE will meet on **Thursday, February 8th** at **6:30 pm**. All women of the church are welcome.



Women's Bible Study

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - All women of the congregation are welcome to come join us on **Thursday, February 8th, 7 - 8 pm**. We are doing the study **“To Be Rich in Giving – A Bible Study on the Blessing of Generosity”** which is a Bible study intellectually exploring the topic of stewardship and giving. On a deeper level, it is also an appeal to faith, meant to help participants recognize and understand the joy that comes from giving our lives in service to Christ. **Session 8 – Doing God's Work:** It's said that there is nothing more satisfying than a job well done. This is as true in life as it is in faith. To experience a sense of completion and fulfillment in our faith is one of the best gifts the Spirit gives. God wants our entire lives to be lived in His service, in trust and obedience.



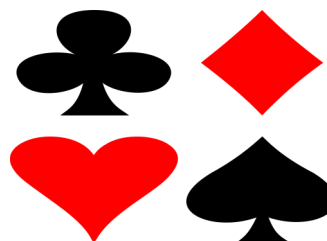
SEW FOR FAITH meets on **Wednesdays** from **9:30 - 11:30 am**. Everyone is invited to come - you do not need to sew. Our project for 2024 is making quilts for Wellspring.



CHOIR PRACTICE is on **Mondays** at **6 pm**. We are always looking for more voices. **Anyone is welcome to join us!**



HANDBELL CHOIR PRACTICE is on **Wednesdays** at **5 pm** in the sanctuary. **No practice February 7th and 14th.**



EUCHRE FUN NIGHTS - **February 10th** at **2 pm**. Bring your family and friends and enjoy an afternoon of fun and fellowship. Save these dates: **March 9th** at **2 pm** and **April 13th** and **May 11th** at **TBD**.



COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT **Saturday, February 17th** – We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at **2 pm** to Stuff Socks for the Homeless. **If you would like to donate to this ministry, we are in need of washcloths, bars of soap, toothpaste, small shampoos and conditioners, razors, small snacks such as fruit snacks, cheese and crackers, beef jerky or meat sticks.** Please feel free to call Kelly with any questions.

Volunteers are needed for cleaning the kitchen, **Saturday, February 24th** at **10 am**.



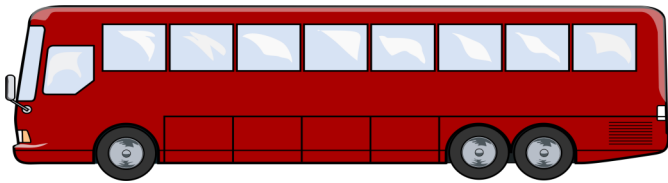
Thank You

Thank you to everyone that supported the UCCS Christmas Basket Program for 2023. A drive thru pick up was held this year which was highly successful. Packing was done for one hundred families. Eighty-four families participated in the pick-up, which provided food for over 300 people. Veteran's Affairs were also given bags for distribution to sixteen area veterans and their families.

Deva Weber

Judy and I would like to thank all of you for your generosity at Christmas. We are overwhelmed by your support and kindness of our ministry here. Thank you again and may God richly bless each of you in this new year.

Pastor Mark



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 in 2024!

February 10th & 11th - Travel to Turtle Creek, Traverse City; Odawa Casino, Petosky (overnight)

February 24th & 25th - Travel to Bay Mills Casino, Brimley; Kewadin, Sault Ste. Marie (overnight); Odawa, Mackinaw City

March 2nd & 3rd - Kewadin, Sault Ste. Marie; Bay Mills Casino, Brimley (overnight); Odawa, Mackinaw City

Soaring Eagle Day Trip - Second Tuesday of the month - **February 13th**

Wild West Adventure – Cody, Wyoming & Yellowstone - August 17 - 26, 2024

The Ark Encounter - Ark Encounter, Newport Aquarium, BB Riverboat Dinner Cruise, National Museum of the US Air Force - September 15 - 17, 2024

Memphis – Graceland Tour - October 5 - 9, 2024

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



GOOD SAMARITAN RESCUE MISSION OF BAY CITY, whose **Vision Statement** is: Compelled by the love of God to equip the hurting and homeless of Mid-Michigan through guidance and Godly care that leads our guests toward God-honoring, sustainable solutions and permanent housing” has a need for the following items (place items in the box under the coat rack): Kleenex, pants - men (28-32 waist), T-shirts (L,XL), twin sheets - deep pocket, baby wipes and diapers (size 4-7), baby bottles and sippy cups. Pantry needs are: beef and chicken broth, cream of chicken soup, Miracle Whip, oatmeal, and drink mixes. Youth shelter needs are: microwaveable mugs, body spray for teen girls and cologne for teen boys.



Christ Lutheran Church of Reese Michigan
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
(Tuesday) January 16, 2024

Opening Devotion/Prayer – Dave Sigelko

Attendance: David Sigelko, Lora DeLong, Sue Kolak, Sandy Schafsnitz, Rick Zimmer, Mary Felske, Dennis Felske, Tom Janson, Shirley Grabowski

Excused: John Ward, Diane Kuhne

1. Monthly Reports

- a. Secretary Minutes: A motion was made by Lora DeLong, supported by Dennis Felske and was carried to accept the minutes.
- b. General Fund Report: A motion was made by Tom Janson, supported by Rick Zimmer and was carried to accept the report.
- c. Special/Funds Treasurer Report: A motion was made by Lora DeLong, supported by Rick Zimmer and was carried to accept the report.
- d. Office/Pastor's Report: Pastor not here, nothing to report.

2. Unfinished Business

- a. Call Committee Report: Mary Felske updated council on Pastor Mark Neuman who is coming to visit February 16-18.
- b. Approval Ballot for Annual Meeting: A motion was made by Shirley Grabowski, supported by Sandy Schafsnitz and was carried approve the ballot.

3. New Business

- a. Hall Rental for Church Members: A motion was made by Sandy Schafsnitz, supported by Dennis Felske and was carried to reduce the hall rental fee for members to \$75.
- b. Look into combining some ministry teams: Since we have enough people to fill the slots it is not necessary to do this at this time.
- c. Date for installation of new Council: Dave will talk to Pastor Mark regarding this date.
- d. Treasurer to get Audit Team: Mary will take care of this.
- e. LCMC asking for more money: A motion was made by Rick Zimmer, supported by Tom Janson and was carried to send \$1,500 to the LCMC.
- f. A motion was made by Mary Felske, supported by Lora DeLong and was carried to transfer in new members: Tom and Vicke Raymond; and also former member Kevin Gaunt and his children Charles, Anna, and Wyatt from St. Petri, Toledo OH. We welcome them to our church.

4. Ministry Reports

- a. Ministry of Youth and Family: Nothing to report.
- b. Ministry of Property: Nothing to report.
- c. Ministry of Worship and Music: Nothing to report.
- d. Social Ministry, Outreach, and Congregational Life: Nothing to report.
- e. Ministry of Education: Nothing to report.
- f. Ministry of Communications: Nothing to report.

5. A motion was made by Shirley Grabowski, supported by Sandy Schafsnitz and was carried to close the meeting at 7:08 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Kolak, Secretary



Elorie Jo Cooper was baptized on January 14th. She was born on June 12th, 2023. Her parents are David and Casi (Schluckbier) Cooper. Sponsors are Jeanne Goodrow and Bartholomew Rittenberg.

Worship Assistants for February 2024

DATE	LECTORS	COMMUNION SET UP	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	USHER TEAMS
February 4	Renee Zimmer	Kathy Bublitz		2
February 11	Jen Shores	N/A		3
February 18	Diane Osantowski	Kathy Bublitz		1
February 25	Kelly Walz	N/A		2



February Birthdays

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



February Anniversaries

8	Bryan & Kristine Bauer	1992
21	David & Andrea Gunsell	2003
25	Tom & Ann Janson	1989

Church & Sunday School Attendance

January	Sunday 9 am	Sunday 11 am	Wednesday	Sunday School
3			18	
7	57	6		9
10			15	
14	34	27		6
17			12	
21	45	N/A		N/A
24			16	
28	75	10		17
31			19	