

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



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Church Staff and Church Council

STAFF

		HOME PHONE#
Pastor:	Phil Bromhal	240-405-2729
Office Staff:	Deb Heinzman	989.868.3608

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent:	Robbie Oldenburg	989.928.9838
Treasurer:	Ann Bublitz	989.693.6418

CHURCH COUNCIL

		HOME PHONE#
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:	Chris Bublitz	989.659.3211
Congregation Life	Trista Jeske-Yax	989.714.5996
Communication	David Abraham	989.274.6181
Education	Robbie Oldenburg	989-928-9838
Property	John Ward	989.245-3672
Worship & Music	Irene Weiss	989.529.5517
Youth & Family	Jen Shores	989.225.3999

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

December 2025 Newsletter



ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Wednesday - 4 & 7pm - Advent Worship

There is no contemporary service on December 21st due to the Children's Christmas Program.

Christmas Eve Worship Services - 4 & 7pm
Christmas Day Worship - 10am

Communion is celebrated at every worship service.



WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERVICES will be held at 4 and 7pm on December 3rd (Hope), 10th (Peace) and 17th (Joy).

ADVENT MEALS will be served again between the Advent services. The meal will be held after the early service and be served until 6:30pm. Help is needed for cleanup after the meal. A Thrivent grant is being used to purchase the food. A free will donation will be accepted and given to a local organization.

Children's Worship Bulletins™

Children's bulletins are now available each Sunday. Crayons will be provided but please return them each week after the service.

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This year's **Sunday School Christmas Program** is called "The Origins of the Christmas Tree". It will be performed during the Sunday School time on **Sunday, December 21st** followed by a cookie reception in the Fellowship Hall. **Parents - please see the practice schedule on the Youth page of this newsletter.**



COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT - Saturday, Dec. 20th – Cookies and caroling: we will meet in the Fellowship Hall at noon to decorate Christmas cookies and grab a bite to eat before going caroling to the shut-ins at around 1pm. Please consider joining us in this ministry.

I pray you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving, enjoying meals with loved ones, and giving thanks to our Lord. November flew by with plenty of fun events here at Christ Lutheran, plus two Baptisms! What a blessing it is to celebrate the sacrament of baptism. Praise the Lord. He has given us all a lot to be thankful for indeed. Now, as we enter into the time of Advent, we turn our attention to Christmas and the celebration of our Savior Jesus' birthday! Advent means to arrive, so we celebrate the arrival of Jesus, who took on flesh to live fully as a human while remaining fully God. The greatest arrival ever. As we celebrate this Advent and remember how Jesus arrived over 2,000 years ago, we are also waiting for Advent. Jesus' second Advent. When he arrives again, Advent is a time of preparation. You will hear me say this several times this month: Do not despair, But prepare For the King's arrival.

Amen.

Pastor Phil

Blessings to each of you! We are in the final month of the year; however this is a glorious month! Happy Birthday Jesus! While we are all busy getting decorations up and gifts bought, we should stop each day and thank Him for all we can do and all He has done for us. I feel each winter I devote more time to reading my Bible while I am inside. Maybe God planned it this way?? Lots going on behind the scenes, so to speak. The Chimes are functioning again. A new unit was purchased and part of the Advent offerings will be split to help cover the cost. The boiler unit is ordered and will be installed. A special thank you for all you do, from picking up a piece of paper, raking, mowing, planting, and spraying just to name a few things. Now I will share my goal for the past year - to meet one new friend each month. I met that goal and exceeded it. You are part of that! Thank you!

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas!!

Sandy

RightNow Media, a Christian Ministry, provides thousands of digital resources to over 25,000 churches around the country, and **on December 14th**, we will be one of them too. You will receive an email with a free login to their website/app where you can find bible study lessons, devotions, kid TV shows, and more. And it has been given to you as a Christmas gift from Christ Lutheran! Pastor Phil has used this resource for years, and it has been a great blessing to the ministries he has been involved in, so we are excited to share this with you. This is a helpful resource, but not an obligation. If you are uninterested, let Pastor Phil or Deb know before December 7th, and you will not receive an introductory email from RightNow Media on December 14th.

Adult Sunday School

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL will meet on December 7th and 14th at 9:45am. Please feel free to join each week for a deeper study of God's word.



Who's coming to dinner? Or lunch? Or tea time? Or game time? It's the Pastor!

I have enjoyed getting to know some of you already and look forward to meeting more of you. A sign up calendar for December 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! Pastor Phil



JOY CIRCLE will meet on **Thursday, December 11th at 6:30pm.** All women of the church are welcome.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - All Women of the Congregation are welcome to come join us on **Thursday, December 11th** from **7 - 8pm** 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. Written by: Rev. Lisa Lewton

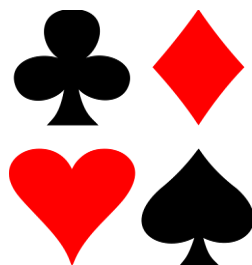
Session 4 – Protecting God - Jonah

As Christians we see many people run to God only when they want something; and thus take advantage of God. A common response among believers is to try to protect God. God is not bound by our sensibilities, or by any need to be protected. God refuses to be restricted in His grace and mercy. Try as we may, there is nothing we can do to keep God from being the God that Jonah knew all along, "a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love."

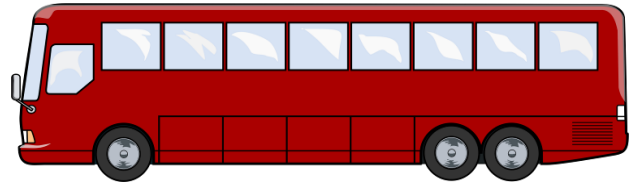


SEW FOR FAITH meets on **Wednesdays** from **9:30 - 11:30am.** Come and join us for fellowship and help with our current projects. You don't need to know how to sew.

EUCHRE FUN GAMES will return **January 10th at 3pm.** Mark your calendar and bring your family and friends for fellowship and fun on the following dates: **January 24, February 14 & 28, March 14 & 28, April 11 & 25, and May 9 & 30.**



HANDBELL CHOIR PRACTICES for December are **Wednesday, December 10th and 17th at 5pm.**



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!

December 9, 2025: Soaring Eagle Day Trip

January 17 & 18, 2026: Traveling to Bay Mills Casino, Brimley; Kewadin, Sault St. Marie (overnight); Odawa, Mackinaw City.

January 17 & 18, 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.

Thank You

Thanks so much for all the help at the Harvest Dinner, both on Saturday and Sunday. I could never do it without you. The dishes of desserts, vegetables and salads were greatly appreciated. The young people who helped set up for the dinner and those who served take outs were wonderful to see. God's blessings to all of you.

Mary Felske

Thank you to everyone who donated items and helped pack the Christmas Totes. Also, thank you to everyone who donated and purchased baked goods and for supporting our youth.

Kelly Walz

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Sunday School Christmas Program Practices & Christmas Program

Saturday, December 6th: 10:30am - 12pm in Sanctuary – Please sign your child in/out

Sunday, December 7th: 9:45am - 10:45am – Please sign your child in/out

Saturday, December 13th: 10:30am - 12pm in Sanctuary – Please sign your child in/out

Sunday, December 14th: 9:45am - 10:45am – Please sign your child in/out

Saturday, December 20th: 10:30am - 12pm in Sanctuary – Please sign your child in/out

Sunday, December 21st: 9:45am: Sunday School Christmas Program - Each Family is asked to bring 1 dozen cookies.



YOUTH & FAMILY AND 7TH - 12TH GRADE YOUTH -
Saturday, December 6th: Living Nativity at Bay Shore Camp – We will meet in the church parking lot at 4pm to car pool over to Bay Shore.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN SING & PLAY BELLS

Sunday, December 14th: Kids will sing "Go Now In Peace" at the 8:30am service.

Sunday, December 21st: Kids will play bells at 8:30am service with the adult Handbell Choir.



YOUTH BIBLE STUDY for youth in grades 7th through 12th grade will meet on **Sunday, December 7 & 14** from **6 - 8:30pm** at Christ Lutheran Church. Dinner is provided. Please come and invite your friends to join us for food, games and Bible study.

DECEMBER ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

December 7	Annabelle Walz	Charlee Meyer
December 14	Deake Yax	Alyssa Edie
December 21	Laine Yax	Christmas Program
December 24	MiKayla Schulz 4pm	Edie Family 7pm
December 25	Yax Family 10am	
December 28	Owen VanDenBoom	William Ward



UCCS COLLECTION FOR NOVEMBER: Cereal, oatmeal, jello & pudding, mac & cheese, rice & pasta side dish boxes/pouches, jam & jelly, canned fruit. **CUT OFF DATE FOR FOOD DONATIONS IS DECEMBER 7TH.** Please donate only what is listed as these items are the most needed **AND make sure expiration dates are NOT before January 2026.** A distribution of food for those in need will be on **Saturday, December 13th, 10am - noon** at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church. Signs will be posted at the parking lot entrance. There are a limited amount of bags to be distributed on a first come first serve basis, one family per household.



TOYS FOR TOTS collection ends December 5th. Toys must be new and unwrapped.



GOOD SAMARITAN RESCUE MISSION OF BAY CITY has the following needs for Christmas 2025: Christmas dinner needs: mixed vegetables, canned corn, green beans, whole buffet hams, beef broth, Ritz crackers, pecans, salad dressings, Hellman's mayo (real mayo), coffee. Youth (5-12 years): baby dolls, bigger cars, play sets (vet, doctor, dentist, kitchen, etc.), fidget toys, water bottles, sippy cups. Youth (13-18): body care gift sets, fast food gift cards, Walmart gift cards, fidget toys, headphones, ear buds, chargers, travel water bottles, men's and women's T-shirts and hoodies (size M,L). Women: gift cards, body care gift sets, manicure sets, sweats, 1X and larger clothing, slippers, gloves, winter boots, winter coats (M - 3X). Men: gift cards, after shave, shampoo & body wash sets, manicure sets, belts, wallets, sweats, hoodies, boots, winter coats. We are also in need of large Christmas gift bags, wrapping paper, scissors and tape. **Items are needed by December 12th** and can be placed in the tote under the coat rack. Thank you!



BLESS A FAMILY

This year the Joy Circle will be adopting a family from the area that has been referred to us by the Department of Health and Human Services. We are also supporting the Underground Railroad Giving Tree which is for items most often requested by families staying in shelter and will be provided to those families who enter shelter very close to the Christmas Holiday. Be watching for the tree with tags to go up in the back of the church. If you take a tag and purchase an item(s), please attach the tag to the item(s) and place it in the Church Office by **Wednesday, December 17th.** If you want to make a monetary donation and let someone else shop, please put the money in an envelope and note "Joy Circle Bless A Family" on the envelope and give to Denise Felske or Linda Babechenko.



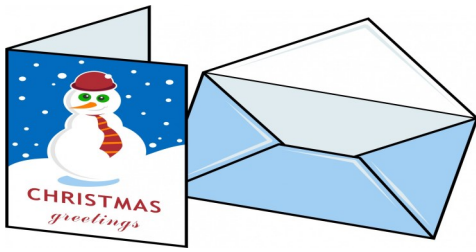
THE MITTEN TREE is up and is ready for your donations of hats, scarves, mittens, etc.



Thank you to everyone who ordered poinsettias. Just a reminder that they can be taken home after the Christmas Day service.

OUR DAILY BREAD DEVOTIONALS for December through February and large print for January through March are available in the basket in the lounge area.





Let us pray for and remember our members who are homebound or in a health care facility. They appreciate receiving greeting cards during the Christmas season and throughout the year.

Aaron Abraham
7900 E. Holland Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48601

Mary Ann Garrison
PO Box 143
Reese, MI 48757

Irene Ramsden
1510 Kern Rd
Reese, MI 48757

Joyce (Jaye) Weiss
Covenant Glen
1040 Covenant Dr.
Frankenmuth, MI 48734

Stewart Yockey
1786 Daley Dr.
Reese, MI 48757-9204

Dorothy Watkins
66 Pinegrove Dr.
Frankenmuth, MI 48734

Ralph & Marcy Bublitz
Heritage Hill Apt. 26
1430 Cleaver Rd.
Caro, MI 48723

Al & Bernie Mielens
6086 W. Darbee Rd.
Fairgrove, MI 48733-9756

Laura Smith
3540 Knight Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48601-9649

Herb Stedry, Jr.
2220 S. VanBuren Rd.
Reese, MI 48757-9230

Ruth Zurvalec
2950 Harnish Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48601-9444

PRAYER CHAIN

If you are a member of the Prayer Chain:

Whenever you are asked to pray for another, please write down the information and read it back so that it is passed on as accurately as possible.

After you receive a call, take a moment to have your private prayer with God before contacting the next person on your list.

Keeping each call brief will enable the chain to move quickly.

If you cannot reach the next person on the list, please continue calling until the prayer request is received by another. Later make an effort to reach the person you missed.

If You wish to use the Prayer Chain:

You can call the church office or anyone on the prayer chain list to request a specific need for prayer for yourself or another.

Prayers are often requested for personal needs, such as during illness, bereavement, needs of the congregation, community etc.

If you request prayers for another person, be sure to ask that person's permission and mention others *will* be praying for *him/her*. In a *very* personal matter ask that person what information can be given.

Remember the Prayer Chain may be used by anyone. **If you would like to be a member of the Prayer Chain, we would welcome having you add your name to the list.** Please contact the church office.

Christ Lutheran Church of Reese Michigan
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, November 17, 2025

Present: David Abraham, Chris Bubnitz, Lora DeLong, Mary Felske, Trista Jeske-Yax, Robbie Oldenburg, Sandy Schafsnitz, Jen Shores, Kelly Walz, Irene Weiss John Ward and Pastor Phil

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

1. Monthly Reports

- a. **Secretary Minutes:** A motion was made by Jen Shores to accept the minutes, supported by Mary Felske, and was carried to accept the minutes.
- b. **General Fund Report:** A motion was made by Lora DeLong to accept, supported by Jen Shores and was carried to accept the report.
- c. **Special Funds Report:** A motion was made by Jen Shores to accept, supported by Robbie Oldenburg, and was carried to accept the report.
- d. **Office/Pastor's Report:** He had his first baptism two weeks ago, made regular visits to the shut-ins, will have another baptism at the end of the month, says Adult Bible Study is going well and he enjoys the Bible Study with the youth.

2. Unfinished Business: N/A

3. New Business

- a. **Right Now Ministries:** Pastor had a meeting with Right Now Media, and he would like to get a subscription with unlimited logins for the whole church. It is a digital ministry with many Bible Studies, Devotionals, and Kids Show Programming. He currently uses the Bible Studies for the youth, Young Adults and Adult Bible Study Groups. There are additional materials, and they are easy to use. It could possibly be used for VBS materials as well. It's \$89.99 a month for unlimited access. If we pay up front, we will only pay for 11 months. We could set up a meeting to show people how to use it. We could also put something in the bulletin on how to use it. The price will be locked in for 5 years. Jen asked if they sell our email addresses and they do not. If we want to cancel, they just need a 30-day notice. Some questions to ask are, Can you tell how many are using it? If we load our videos, do we have to worry about licensing. Can we remove some content if it doesn't pertain to the Lutheran Faith? Pastor said he could remove some content, but it is cross-denominational. Jen Shores made a motion to purchase the subscription. Robbie Oldenburg supported and the motion would pass.
- b. **Emergency Fund:** Dale Bremer is wondering if we could change the amount we give out to people in need of assistance from \$300 to \$500 due to the increasing cost of living. It has been \$300 since Pastor Ferne was here. The Emergency Fund Committee currently consists of three people. They have had as many as 6 people apply a year. The money for the fund comes from contributions from the congregation. The party applying for assistance must fill out an application and provide proof that they are in need. They also must live in the Reese School District. The committee then does research and decides if they will help or not. They have turned people down in the past. If assistance is provided, a committee member writes a check out to the organization with the delinquent bill, or they follow a person to the gas station and fill up their vehicle. We currently have \$1,250 in the fund. This is only a one-time thing, and the requesting party cannot apply again. Jen Shores made a motion to increase the amount to \$500, Irene Weiss supported and the motion was carried.
- c. **Advent Money:** Irene Weiss made a motion to split the money between the Emergency Fund, UCCS and new Chimes that are needed for our church. Robbie Oldenburg supported and the motion was carried.
- d. **Pat Ryan is requesting a transfer to Peace Lutheran in Gaylord:** The Church Council wishes her well.
- e. **Chimes:** There are two options for the chimes. Ours cannot be repaired. New chimes will cost between \$500 and \$600. A refurbish chime – similar to our current chime, is \$250 plus shipping. Jen Shores made a motion to purchase the new chimes and use some of the Advent money to help offset the cost. Robbie Oldenburg supported and the motion was carried.

f. Dean Boiler: Modular Unit 4 is not working and will cost \$3,400.76 to fix. The funds will need to come from the Building Fund

g. Cameras for other Entrances: The camera is \$500. We will table this for now.

4. Ministry Reports

a. Ministry of Youth and Family: We had a nice turn out for the King of Kings Movie/Game Night. The 7th-12th Grade Youth will be going to Painterly Pottery on Saturday, and 100 Christmas Totes were packaged and donated to the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission and The Great Lakes Bay Dream Center.

b. Ministry of Property: N/A

c. Ministry of Worship and Music: Irene said the Children's Bulletins will start up again on November 30th. She also asked if the Contemporary Service could also be changed to a traditional Service or include a traditional song for the older people that cannot get up in time for the 8:30am service.

d. Outreach and Congregational Life: Trista said there will be one more Euchre tournament (this weekend) before the end of the year. All veterans received a pin or a patch, a flag and a doughnut reception. Trista and Kelly are looking into doing a Spirit Game for the Congregation.

e. Ministry of Education: Jen Shores is still working on the Safety Booklet. The next Education Committee Meeting will be Feb 9th at 6:30p.m. Robbie asked if Pastor could do a Bible Study before the 4pm service on Wednesday and he said that he would think about it.

f. Ministry of Communication: N/A

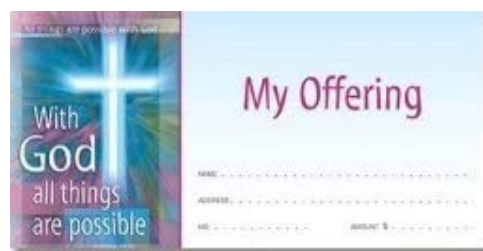
5. We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer at 8:57 p.m.

6. Next meeting is December 15th.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Walz, Secretary

ATTENDANCE

Nov.	9 am	11 am	Wednesday	Sunday School
2	62	31		20
5			18	
9	66	31		19
12			20	
16	56	13		16
19			16	
23	69	14		19
26			24	
30	32	14		N/A



2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES will be available soon for pick up in the lounge area. 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.



Worship Assistants for December

DATE	LECTOR	COMMUNION SETUP	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	COMMUNION CLEANUP 9 AM/11 AM	USHER TEAM
Dec. 7	Kelly VanDenBoom	Nancy Clauss	Denise Felske/ Sandy Schafsnitz	Kevin Felske/ Jill VanOchten	2
Dec. 14	Jen Shores	Dale Bremer	Sandy Schafsnitz/ Nancy Clauss	Irene Weiss/ Ward Family	3
Dec. 21	Renee Zimmer	Lora & Makenna DeLong	Sandy Schafsnitz/ Denise Felske	Kelly VanDenBoom/ Christmas Program	4
Dec. 24	Diane Osantowski/ Jen Shores	Nancy Clauss	Sandy Schafsnitz/ Nancy Clauss	Irene Weiss/ Renae Kamin	1/2
Dec. 25	Renee Zimmer	Nancy Clauss	Sandy Schafsnitz/	Kevin Felske	3
Dec. 28	Diane Osantowski	Ellen Schultz	Sandy Schafsnitz/ Nancy Clauss	Kelly VanDenBoom/ Ward Family	4



December Birthdays

- 2 Alex Squanda
- 3 Alissa Edie
- 4 David Abraham
- 6 Bev Kowalski
- Piper Bauer
- 7 Carter DeLong
- 8 Christopher Bublitz
- Charlee Meyer
- 9 Herb Stedry, Jr. - 80th
- 10 Harper Bauer
- 11 Cash Bauer
- 15 Logan Matthews
- 16 Adam Bauer
- 17 Jennifer Shores
- 19 Curtis Bublitz
- 20 Lynn Achenbach – over 80
- 23 Carol Magnus
- Deake Yax
- 24 Katie Bauer
- 26 Annabelle Walz
- 31 Renee Cragg



December Anniversaries

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|------|
| 18 | John & Julie Redwanz | 1999 |
| 20 | Al & Bernie Mielens | 1952 |
| 29 | Bud & Karen Schorge | 1957 |



Willow Dalton Snider was baptized November 9th. She is the daughter of Haylee Kussro and Jerry Snider. Her sponsors are Leland Kussro, Lexus Schalk, Matt Buss and Christy Mullins.

Lucas Norman Lefler was baptized November 30th. He is the son of Adam and Tori Lefler. His sponsors are Dan and Tiffany Reynolds.