

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



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## *Church Staff and Church Council*

### **STAFF**

		<b>HOME PHONE#</b>
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**

		<b>HOME PHONE#</b>
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

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

Church Fax #989.868.1505

Website: [www.clcreese.com](http://www.clcreese.com)

Email Address: [christlutheranchurchreese@gmail.com](mailto:christlutheranchurchreese@gmail.com)



# Christ Lutheran Church March 2026 Newsletter



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Sunday - 8:30 am Traditional Worship**  
**- 9:45 am Sunday School**  
**- 11 am Contemporary Worship**  
**Wednesday - 4 pm Lenten Worship**

**Communion is celebrated at every worship service.**

**Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on March 29th followed by Maundy Thursday on April 2nd. There will be two services that day - 4 & 7 pm. The 3rd - 5th grade students will be receiving First Communion at the 7 pm service. Good Friday, April 3rd, there will be services at 1 & 7 pm. Easter Sunday, April 5th, will be normal service times. There is no Sunday School that morning.**



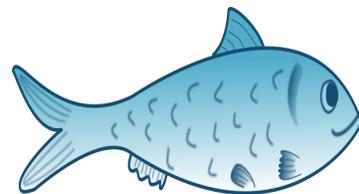
**ATTENTION PARENTS OF 3<sup>RD</sup> - 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS:** This year we will be instructing our 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Pastor Phil will hold classes on **Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>** during the Sunday School hour from 9:45 am to 10:45 am. Parents are invited to attend the class with their child. It will be your decision on whether you feel your child is ready to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The students will be recognized **Maundy Thursday, April 2nd**, at the **7 pm** service as receiving their First Communion. Family will be invited to come forward to commune with their child.

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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. A free will donation will be accepted and given to a local organization.



**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.**

Hello Christ Lutheran,

Lent is in full swing. During this time, let us look toward the Cross. The cross that Jesus hangs on, as well as the cross that Jesus told us to pick up daily. I have been thinking lately about denying oneself for Christ's sake. What does that look like? Jesus never said, "Do what makes you happy," but he did say to pick up your cross daily. To die to self and live for God. Lent is a perfect time to consider and ask: how is God asking me to die to self? One way to do that is to give up something for Lent. Maybe you have already given something up, or maybe you have not. Lent is 40 days long, but just because you did not start a fast (the act of giving something up for God) on Ash Wednesday does not mean you cannot start now. Consider. Ask. Respond.

Blessings,

Pastor Phil

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Happy Spring!

Some of the best days are coming very soon - day light savings time, fish fry, Palm Sunday - all this month. Spring cleaning is a time to clean out our hearts and minds and refresh them with the new beginnings and to grow spiritually when we go for walks and see the new growth sprouting.

Many of us have attended adult Sunday school. I have enjoyed it and have gotten to know more about each other and getting closer to my faith. Each session is unique, so if I miss a Sunday, it is okay. There are fresh faces each time, which is nice to see the interest! Please come and help us outgrow the conference room!

There is nothing to report as far as repairs or tasks, but please let me know if you notice anything so we give it attention. Thank you for all you do and being a part of our mission for Christ!

Blessings,

Sandy



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME** starts at 2 am March 8th. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed.



**EASTER FLOWER** order forms are on the bulletin boards. Price remains at \$15 per plant. **Order deadline is March 17<sup>th</sup>**. Please turn in cash or check with your order form. Plants can be taken home after the 11 am service Easter morning. Proceeds go to the Youth Fund.

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR ONE MORE READER FOR LENT SERVICES!** 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 need one more person to help by reading the sermon on March 18th. 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.

## *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.

# FaithCircle

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



**JOY CIRCLE** will meet on **Thursday, March 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, March 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 6 – Idols Among Us - Gideon**

God's first directive was for Gideon to take down the altar to Baal who was the pagan fertility god of the Canaanites, which he did and then took stones from it and made a new altar to the Lord. God had arranged for Gideon to stand forth as a leader in a small way before he sent him on to his greater mission. Perhaps for us as well, the small opportunities we have to be faithful are the ways that God trains us to be leaders in faith.



**WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE MEETING** is **Monday, March 9th** at **6 pm**.



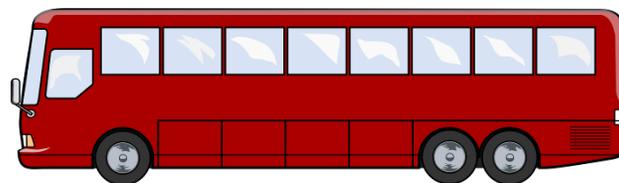
**SEW FOR FAITH** meets on **Wednesdays** from **9:30 - 11:30 am**. Come and join us for fellowship and help with our current projects. You don't need to know how to sew. **Thank you Bernie Mielens for the generous donation of fabric.**



**HANDBELL CHOIR PRACTICES** are **Wednesdays** at **5 pm**. We will not have practice on March 25th.



**EUCHRE FUN GAMES** - Mark your calendar and bring your family and friends for fellowship and fun on the following dates: **March 14 & 28, April 11 & 25, and May 9 & 30**. Start time is **3 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!  
**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  
**November 23-28, 2026:** Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
**NOTE: Due to lack of people signing up, the October 7-12, 2026, Nashville trip has been canceled.**

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

# YOUTH ACTIVITIES



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

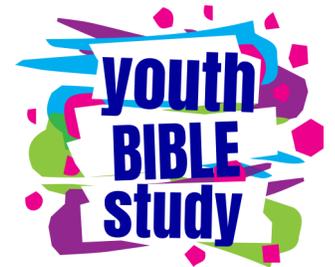


**COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT** - **Saturday, March 21st** at **2 pm** we will meet in the Fellowship Hall to make cards for the shut ins.



**YOUTH & FAMILY AND 7TH-12TH GRADE YOUTH** - **Saturday, March 21st** - Save the date to attend the Saginaw Spirit hockey game! Look for more details in the Sunday bulletin.

**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.



## MARCH ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

March 1	Logan Matthews	William Ward
March 8	Annabelle Walz	Alaina Edie
March 15	Owen VanDenBoom	Krissa Cunningham
March 22	Harper Bauer	Alissa Edie
March 29	Laine Yax	Charlee Meyer

## ATTENDANCE

	8:30 am Sunday	11 am Sunday	Wednesday	Sunday School
Feb. 1	50	6		14/7
Feb. 4			18	
Feb. 8	65	10		15/10
Feb. 11			17	
Feb. 15	49	8		8/11
Feb. 18	Ash	Wed.	48/31	
Feb. 22	63	8		13/11
Feb. 25			40	



### UCCS COLLECTION FOR MARCH & APRIL:

Paper products: paper towels, toilet paper, tissues  
 Cleaning products: laundry detergent, dish soap, cleaning supplies.



Each year, the community gives the homeless something most of us take for granted - BASIC HYGIENE ESSENTIALS. Hope & Care Totes are a vital part of the everyday life of Rescue Ministries' guests. Each family or individual checking in for emergency shelter receives a Hope & Care Tote filled with brand new, **full-size** (not travel size) hygiene products. Please help them meet the basic needs of those experiencing homelessness by donating these requested items: Body wash and shower puffs, bar soap, liquid hand soap, hand and body lotion, deodorant (men & women), shampoo and conditioner, hairbrushes and combs, shaving cream and razors (men & women), tissues, toothpaste and baby wipes. Place items in the tote under the coat rack.



Our Prayer Chain is made up of a group of ladies who have volunteered to pray for others whenever the needs are known. It is our hope that our prayer chain will be used often throughout the year. A request for prayers may be made by anyone for anyone by calling the office. Also, if you would like to be a member of the prayer chain, we would welcome adding your name to the list. Please contact the church office.



When a member of the congregation or a person in the immediate family (spouse, parent or child) of a Christ Lutheran Church member dies, a team of people offer to serve the meal on behalf of the church as an expression of our concern and sympathy for the family. Right now, we have 3 funeral dinner teams that work on a rotation basis. We would like to add more people to the teams or you can be a floater/sub. If this is something you would be interested in volunteering for, call the church office.

**Christ Lutheran Church of Reese Michigan**  
**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, February 17, 2026**

**Present:** Pastor Phil, Mary Felske, Irene Weiss, David Abraham, Sandy Schafnitz, Jennifer Shores, Chris Bublitz, Trista Jeske-Yax, Dale Bremer, John Ward, Nancy Clauss, Joanne Connelly

Opened in Prayer: Pastor Phil opened in prayer at 7:00 p.m.

1. Monthly Reports

- a. **Secretary Minutes:** A motion was made by Dale to accept the minutes, supported by Mary, and was carried to accept the minutes.
- b. **General Fund Report:** A motion was made by Jennifer to approve the report with the understanding that the transfer that needed to occur between special fund and general fund occurred mid-month and will be reflected in the February fund report, supported by Dale, and was carried to accept the report. An audit was completed February 3<sup>rd</sup> by Dale Bremer, Deva Weber, Hank & Diane Kuhne and no discrepancies were found.
- c. **Special Funds Report:** A motion was made by Jennifer to accept the report, supported by Irene, and carried to accept the report.
- d. **Office/Pastor's Report:**  
Pastor reported he has visited 6 shut-in members since our last council meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> communion classes will begin for students of 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Classes will be March 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> during Sunday Schools hrs.

2. Unfinished Business: John reported he has Hunter Seeger coming to clean the drains on the roof when the weather permits.

3. New Business

- a. **Lenten Offering:** After discussion Jennifer made a motion to donate the Lenten offering to the Tuscola Homeless Coalition, supported by Sandy and was carried to accept the motion.
- b. **Mission Donations:** A motion was made by Jennifer to table the distribution of our mission donations until next month, supported by Dave and the motion was carried.
- c. **Church Directory:** Dale reported he acquired information from three sources for a new Church Member Directory. It was decided to have further discussion next month.
- d. **Summer Services:** After discussion a motion was made by Dale, supported by Dave, and was carried to have one Sunday service for the summer months at 9:00 a.m. that will be a Traditional Service, except the last Sunday service each month will be a Contemporary service.

4. Ministry Reports

- a. **Ministry of Youth and Family:** Jennifer reported Spring Hill was a success with the youth. The youth will be going to Snow Snake Hill for tubing and sledding February 28<sup>th</sup>.
- b. **Ministry of Property:** Reported in Unfinished Business
- c. **Ministry of Worship and Music:** N/A
- d. **Outreach and Congregation Life:** Trista reported there were nine tables at the last Euchre and is going great.
- e. **Ministry of Education:**
  1. **Child Protection Policy:** Nancy reported Jennifer Shores suggested revisions to the present policy that was adopted in 2005. Jennifer will supply the council with the Child Protection Policy from the Michigan Department Human Services.
  2. **1<sup>st</sup> Communion:** Nancy reported it was decided to have 1<sup>st</sup> communion classes for students in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades. A letter will be sent to the parents with dates, time, and invitation to attend.
  3. **Vacation Bible School:** Kelly Waltz will coordinate with St. Elizabeth for date and time.
  4. **Confirmation:** Nancy reported the confirmation classes are going well.
  5. **Sunday School:** Nancy reported the classrooms are very cold.
- f. **Ministry of Communication:** N/A

Sandy adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m. and the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is March 16th at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanne Connelly, Secretary

## Worship Assistants for March

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



### March Birthdays

- 1 Darlene Mallory  
Deborah Heinzman  
Julie Redwanz
- 2 Michelle Yockey
- 3 Irene Ramsden – 93rd
- 5 Todd Schultz  
Kelly VanDenBoom
- 6 Ann Bublitz
- 7 Ralph Bublitz – 98th
- 12 Nancy Swanton
- 13 Jenna Donath  
Michael Briggs III
- 15 Sloane Hoffmann
- 16 Tom Magnus
- 18 David Sigelko  
Tom Lynch  
William Ward
- 19 Jan Histed
- 25 Laura Squanda
- 26 Marilyn “Jo” Achenbach – 88th
- 27 John Belger – 85th



### March Anniversaries

- |    |                        |      |
|----|------------------------|------|
| 2  | Ted & Denise Felske    | 1974 |
| 13 | Penny & Ernest Rowe    | 2021 |
| 16 | Rich & Nancy Sylvester | 1974 |

## *Thank You*

Thank you to the Weiss Family for the donation of a new Angel Tree Topper for the Angel Tree, in memory of Lester & Alice Weiss.

Thank you for supporting Hidden Harvest. We would not exist if it were not for organizations and people who care about those less fortunate. Since our beginning in June, 1994, Hidden Harvest has rescued more than 58 million pounds of nutritious food that would otherwise have gone to waste. This food is delivered free of charge to more than 160 charitable organizations helping those in need.

Putting good food to use,  
Samantha McKenzie  
President & CEO