

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



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## *Church Staff and Church Council*

### **STAFF**

Pastor: Mark Gerisch  
Office Staff: Deb Heinzman

### **HOME PHONE#**

989.550.4267  
989.868.3608

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Superintendent: Robbie Oldenburg  
Treasurer: Ann Bublitz

989.928.9838  
989.693.6418

### **CHURCH COUNCIL**

President	David Sigelko	989.751.5891
V. President:	Rick Zimmer	989.868.4915
Secretary:	Sue Kolak	989.737.7392
Gen. Treasurer:	Mary Felske	989.737-4043
Spec. Funds Treasurer:	Dennis Felske	989.863-8888
Congregation Life	Sandra Schafsnitz	989.996-0399
Communication	Tom Janson	989.239.5100
Education	Shirley Grabowski	989.868.3580
Property	John Ward	989.245-3672
Worship & Music	Diane Kuhne	810.358.0242
Youth & Family	Lora DeLong	989.529.5396

### **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.

Church Phone #989.868.3281

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# Christ Lutheran Church

## January 2024 Newsletter



### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Sunday - 9 am Worship**  
**10 am Sunday School**  
**11 am Contemporary Worship**  
**Wednesday - 4 pm - Worship**

Communion is celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and following Wednesdays of the month. Please remember to fill out your communion card and place it in the offering plate.



The Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 21st** after the 9 am worship service. There will be no Sunday School or 11 am Contemporary Worship Service that morning. A movie will be shown for the children. Offices up for election are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Special Funds Treasurer, and the Ministries of Communication, Youth & Family, and Congregational Life. (Youth and Family and Congregational Life are open due to Sandra Schafsnitz and Lora DeLong running for other positions.) **Reports are due in to the office no later than January 15th.**



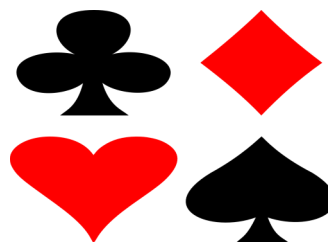
On Sunday, **February 18th**, Pastor Mark Neumann and his wife, Sue, will be here. They currently reside in Montana. He will be delivering the message that morning. A coffee and donut hour will follow the 9 am worship service. Please plan on attending.

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**Monday, January 8th at 10 am** your help is needed to take the Christmas decorations and trees down.



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



**ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE SUPPER** - **Wednesday, January 10th** from 4:30 - 7 pm at the Reese Fire Hall. \$8 adults, \$5 for ages 4-12, under 4 free.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy New Year! It's 2024 and we not only have our normal 365 days to live for Christ this year, we have an additional day because of February 29<sup>th</sup>! What does God want us to do with our lives this year? It's actually quite simple because Jesus told us exactly what the two most important commandments are for our daily living:

**Matthew 22:37-40**

**Jesus replied: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.**

**Simply put: Love God, Love Others.**

As we move forward into the new year, let's all strive to keep those two commandments at the forefront of our minds and live our faith each day. By doing so we will fulfill His command in the New Testament:

**Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven.** We will be leading others to salvation through our love. Blessings for your new year!

Love in Christ,

Pastor Mark & Judy

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## **YOUTH EVENTS**



**7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth**

**Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>** – Laser Tag at Stardust. We will meet at church at **6 pm** and carpool over.

**Community Service Project**

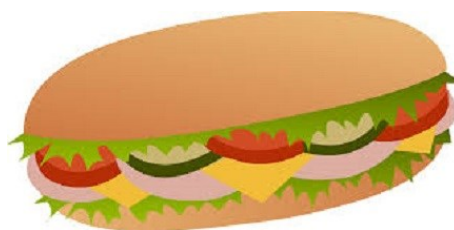
**Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>** – No Sew Blankets at **2 pm** in the Fellowship Hall.



**Youth & Family**

**Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>** – 1pm Gelly Ball – If your child is interested in going, please let Kelly know by January 14<sup>th</sup>. The kids will shoot gelly balls at targets not at each other. May need parents help to shoot at targets if really little. Should be a lot of fun!

**SUPER BOWL SUB FUNDRAISER** - Watch for order forms in the bulletin and on the bulletin boards later in the month.





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



**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** - All Women of the Congregation are welcome to come join us on **Thursday, January 11th, 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 7 – Joy in Giving:** The reason people are willing to live generously is not a matter of surplus. People's motives for giving come from something deeper. It is an expression of gratitude and faith!



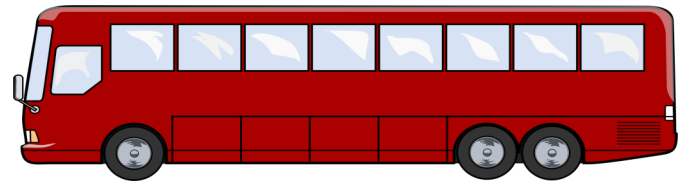
**SEW FOR FAITH** meets on **Wednesdays** from **9:30 - 11:30 am**. Everyone is invited to come - you do not need to sew. Our project for 2024 is making quilts for Wellspring. Funds were provided for supplies by a grant from Thrivent. Thank you Linda Babechenko for applying for the grant.



**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. Anyone is welcome to join us as we are looking for substitute ringers.



**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!

**January 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>** Travel to Brimley, Bay Mills Casino; Kewadin, Sault Ste. Marie (overnight); Kewadin, St. Ignace

**February 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>** Travel to Traverse City, Turtle Creek; Petoskey, Odawa Casino (overnight)

**Soaring Eagle Day Trip** - Second Tuesday of The Month - **February 13<sup>th</sup>** (No January Trip)

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

**The ARK Encounter** - September 15-17, 2024

**Memphis – Graceland Tour** - October 5-9, 2024

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

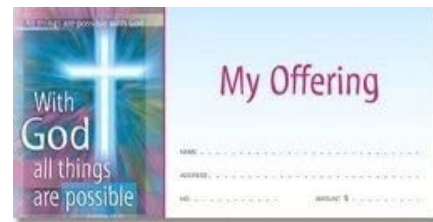


**GOOD SAMARITAN RESCUE MISSION OF BAY CITY, whose Vision Statement is:** Compelled by the love of God to equip the hurting and homeless of Mid-Michigan through guidance and Godly care that leads our guests toward God-honoring, sustainable solutions and permanent housing" has a need for the following items (place items in box under the coat rack): Kleenex, OTC Meds: Ibuprofen, Tylenol, Cough/Cold, etc., laundry bags, twin sheets - deep pocket, shaving cream - men, deodorant - women, long johns - men & women (S-4x), winter boots - men. Pantry needs are: oatmeal, spaghetti sauce, Miracle Whip/Hellmanns, ranch & Italian dressings, beef & chicken broth. Youth shelter needs are: hoodies - men (M,L), sweat pants - men (M,L), phone chargers.





James Mueller passed away on December 13th. His service was held on December 21st at Christ Lutheran Church with Pastor Mark Gerisch officiating. Inurnment is in Blumfield Township Cemetery.



**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** will be available mid-month. Also, if you did not get your new offering envelopes for this year, let Deb in the office know.

## Thank You

Dear Christ Lutheran Congregation,

There are not enough words to express how blessed our family is to have a church family like you. Thank you so much for all of the wonderful gifts you have bestowed on our family. It truly made for a very special Christmas, one that we will never forget. May you all have a very blessed and amazing new year.

With Much Love,  
The Christmas Family

Thank you for all the prayers during my health scare. My eyes did not have any vision loss and I'm doing well. I am truly blessed with a great church family and I appreciate all of you.

Robbie Oldenburg

Thank you for the Christmas bonus from church council. I really appreciate the thoughtfulness.

Deb Heinzman

Thank you for your donation to the United Theological College of the West Indies in Jamaica. I send you my personal thanks for your continued support of the work of this ecumenical seminary. May God continue to bless your ministry at Christ Lutheran Church.

Siincerely,  
David Kuck

We are so grateful to our friends at Christ Lutheran Church for your continuing partnership with us. Your support helps Samaritas to empower the people we serve, enabling them to overcome the challenges of trauma, hopelessness, poverty and social isolation. Again, we say thank you!

David Morin, CEO

I am grateful for your gift to Good Samaritan Rescue Mission. Your support makes the Rescue Mission a place of healing for individuals struggling with homelessness. Thank you again, and God bless.

Dan Streeter, CEO



Looking ahead - Lent will start with Ash Wednesday on February 14th. Holy Week will start with Palm Sunday on March 24th; Maundy Thursday, March 28th; Good Friday, March 29th; and Easter Sunday, March 31st.

**Christ Lutheran Church of Reese Michigan**  
**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**(Tuesday) December 19, 2023**

Opening Devotion/Prayer – Pastor Mark

Attendance: David Sigelko, Pastor Mark, Lora DeLong, Sue Kolak, Sandy Schafsnitz, Rick Zimmer, Mary Felske, Dennis Felske, Diane Kuhne

Excused: Shirley Grabowski, Tom Janson

Absent: John Ward

1. Monthly Reports

- a. Secretary Minutes: A motion was made by Sandy Schafsnitz, supported by Diane Kuhne and was carried to accept the minutes.
- b. General Fund Report: A motion was made by Lora DeLong, supported by Diane Kuhne and was carried to accept the report.
- c. Special/Funds Treasurer Report: A motion was made by Rick Zimmer, supported by Lora DeLong and was carried to accept the report.
- d. Office/Pastor's Report: Pastor Mark said its been very busy, and that he really doesn't have anything to report.

2. Unfinished Business

- a. Call Committee Report: A gentleman from Montana has inquired about the position. He has family in Michigan and is anxious to live closer to them. He is in the process of sending his resume.
- b. New church sign update: A motion was made by Diane Kuhne, supported by Sandy Schafsnitz and was carried to have two people approve what is put on the sign. It was stated that the sign will not be rented.
- c. Nominating Committee Report: Committee is still looking to fill key positions. Dave asked everyone to be sure to watch their emails because this will need to be approved at a later date via email.
- d. Council Meetings: Will discuss at next meeting whether it's necessary to have everyone in Ministry positions attend every meeting when some of the committees only meet several times during the year.

3. New Business

- a. Approve Annual Meeting Ballot: Will need to approve via email.
- b. Approve 2024 Budget: A motion was made by Diane Kuhne, supported by Lora DeLong and was carried to accept the adjusted 2024 budget.
- c. Hall Rental: Council will revisit the cost of Fellowship Hall rental as compared to other churches at next meeting.
- d. Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2024. All reports should be in for Dec a week prior to the meeting.

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: The new microphone is in as was approved prior, otherwise, nothing to report.

5. A motion was made by Mary Felske, supported by Rick Zimmer and was carried to close the meeting at 6:55 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Kolak, Secretary

## Worship Assistants for January 2024

DATE	LECTORS	COMMUNION SET UP	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	USHER TEAMS
January 7	Renee Zimmer	Nancy Clauss		1
January 14	Diane Osantowski	N/A		2
January 21	Kelly Walz	Nancy Clauss		3
January 28	Kelly VanDenBoom	N/A		1



### January Birthdays

- 1 Mariann Montgomery
- 9 Sawyer Hoffmann
- 10 Bob DeLong
- Alvin Mielens - 92
- Aaron Abraham
- 11 Sarah Hoffmann
- MiKayla Schultz
- 12 Rose Stedry
- 15 Gary Brecht
- 17 Remington Chant
- 18 Roberta Oldenburg
- 20 Teagan Zimmer
- 26 Marcy Bublitz – 94
- Diane Osantowski
- 29 Nathaniel Stuart
- 31 Heidi Stuart



### January Anniversaries

6	Jeff & Nancy Barrett	2001
10	Curt & Ann Bublitz	1987
26	Chris & Kathy Bublitz	1980

### **Church & Sunday School Attendance**

December	Sunday 9 am	Sunday 11 am	Wednesday	Sunday School
3	57	10		13
6			36	
10	61	10		12
13			34	
17	80	N/A		13
20			33	
24	79	4pm-100	7pm-37	N/A
25	16			
31	38	11		N/A