

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

September 2025 Newsletter



NEW 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.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will start back up on September 7th at 9:45 am. We look forward to seeing you!

WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF SOMEONE WHO CAN ACCOMPANY THE KIDS BY PLAYING PIANO, GUITAR, ETC. PLEASE TALK TO KELLY WALZ OR LET THE OFFICE KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP OUT.



There will be a **MANDATORY MEETING** for all confirmation students and their parents **Sunday, September 7th at 9:45 am** during the Sunday School hour.

ACOLYTE TRAINING for all 4th Grade through Confirmation students and their parents will be **Sunday, September 14th at 9:45 am** in the sanctuary with Pastor Phil. Thank you to MiKayla Schulz (8:30) and William Ward (11) for offering to acolyte on September 7th and Owen VanDenBoom (8:30) and the Edie girls (11) for covering the 14th.



Inside This Issue

STAFF/COUNCIL CONTACT	PAGE 1
UPDATES/EVENTS	PAGE 2
FROM PASTOR/COUNCIL PRESIDENT	PAGE 3
EVENTS	PAGE 4
YOUTH	PAGE 5
UCCS/GOOD SAMARITAN/MISC.	PAGE 6
COUNCIL MINUTES	PAGE 7&10
WORSHIP & MUSIC MINUTES	PAGE 12
SPECIAL FUNDS REPORTS	PAGE 8&13
GENERAL FUND REPORTS	PAGE 9&14
ATTENDANCE	PAGE 11
WORSHIP ASSISTANTS/BIRTHDAYS/	PAGE 15



MARK YOUR CALENDAR and SAVE THE DATE!

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
PICNIC/RALLY DAY
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th
11:30 AM WITH LUNCH STARTING AT NOON**

Set up for this event will be Saturday, September 6th at 9 am

ENJOY A FUN DAY OF FOOD, GAMES, and FELLOWSHIP!!

Provided: Kern's Bratwurst, Hot Dogs, Potato Salad, & Baked Beans
Ice Cream & Drinks

Free Will Offering

Sign up to Bring a Dish to Pass or Dessert
Sign up to **HELP**: set up, help in the kitchen, help with games, clean up

Questions? Call Trista Jeske-Yax
989-714-5996

Happy September, Christ Lutheran Church!

As we prepare for Rally Day and kick off the fall schedule, I would like to thank you for my first summer here in Michigan. No one told me it was going to be this hot, though...

I also want to thank you for walking through the Gospel of Mark with me this summer! I love Mark's Gospel, and I hope that love rubbed off a little bit. I pray that our time reading and studying the story of Jesus has been helpful, informative, and fruitful in deepening our knowledge and love of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Perhaps we could do something similar next summer with a different book of the Bible.

As the busyness of fall picks up in these coming weeks, let us remember how much Jesus loves us and how we can reflect his love to others and ourselves.

God Bless, Pastor Phil

Happy Fall!

I'm sure you are liking this weather, cooler days and nights, just as I am enjoying it. Fall is in the air and harvest has started!

Thank you for your patience with the AC install. It will be this fall when they install it. They must coordinate with the electrician. Meanwhile the snowplowing is secured for this winter. Nick Costello will do it for us again this year. He did an awesome job last season!

The furnace had a malfunction this past month but is all set for the winter as well. We are trying to complete the parking lot striping but on the back half, if you noticed, the grass was growing in the cracks right where we need to paint. Dave S. has sprayed it and once it is ready we will get out there and paint the stripes.

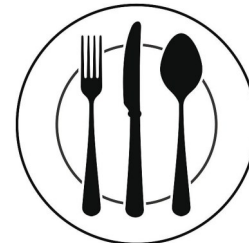
Special Thank You to Alex Squanda for changing the lights to LED's! He is nearing the end of this task too! It will be interesting to see the savings on the light bill! There are still several florescent bulbs available at **no charge**. They are 48" long and three different wattages. You can see Deb in the office or me and we will show them to you and help load them!

Hope to see you all on Rally Day! God has certainly blessed us with you!

Sandy

Adult Sunday School

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL will start **Sunday, September 21st at 9:45 am**. Why not stay after the early service or come before the contemporary. It's a great way to spend your time while you are waiting for your children during their Sunday School hour!



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 during the last month at our personal visits, but I would like to get to know even more of you! A sign-up calendar for September 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 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

FaithCircle

FAITH CIRCLE will meet **Monday, September 8th** at **10 am**. Come and join us in the Bible study of "Busyness, Finding God in the Whirlwind". We will hear the invitation to draw the strength we need for the day from God.



CLCW will meet on **September 8th** at **11 am**.



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

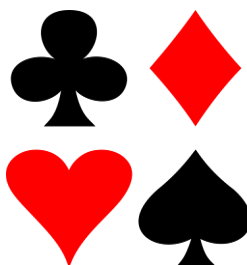


WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - All Women of the Congregation are welcome to come join us on **Thursday, September 11th** from **7 - 8 pm** as we begin a new study, "**God's Reluctant Leaders - The Biblical Stories of Jonah, Gideon, and Moses**". Jonah, Gideon and Moses are three examples of people who creatively 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 1 – Reluctance to God's Call - Jonah
Through His Word and by the power of the Spirit, God can and does create faith within His human creatures. In doing so God widens our eyes to remind us that He has bigger plans for us than we might imagine. Like Johan, even though we may not understand or agree with God's plan, God makes sure that His work is done in the world.



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.



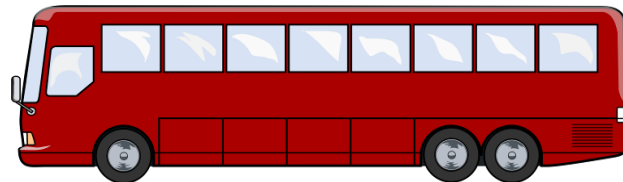
EUCHRE FUN GAMES - Mark your calendar and bring your family and friends for some fall fellowship and fun on the following dates: September 13 and 27; October 11 and 25; November 8 and 22 – **NOTE: The time for all dates will be at 3 pm.**



HANDBELL CHOIR will have their first practice on **Wednesday, September 17th** at **5 pm** in the sanctuary.



CHOIR PRACTICE will be starting in October. Watch the bulletin and October newsletter for updates.



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 for 2025!

September 9: Soaring Eagle Day Trip
October 8-10, 2025: 2-night stay at the Island Resort and Casino in Harris. On day one we will stop in Mackinaw City at the Odawa Casino before crossing the bridge and traveling across beautiful US-2 to the Island Resort and Casino for your 2-night stay.

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



Our Daily Bread
Ministries™

OUR DAILY BREAD DEVOTIONALS for the fall months are available in the basket in the lounge area. This includes the large print version.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

BUTTER BRAID ORDERS will be taken starting **September 7th**. Help support our youth!



YOUTH & FAMILY - Saturday, September 13th:
Putt-Putt Golf at Alpine Golf in Birch Run at 10 am.
We will meet at Alpine Golf.

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY for youth in grades 7th through 12th grade will start beginning **Sunday, September 14th** from **6 - 8:30 pm** at Christ Lutheran Church. Dinner will be provided. Please come and invite your friends to join us!



7TH - 12TH GRADE YOUTH - Friday, September 19th: Airborne Adventure Park Glow Night. We will meet at church at 6 pm to carpool over. **Deadline to sign up is September 7th** so that Kelly can get group pricing, tickets and waivers out to each family. Sign-up on the bulletin board at church and on Facebook.

VBS VOLUNTEER TRAINING: Anyone 18 and older interested in helping out with VBS next year will need to be certified. Training will be held on Saturday, October 4th from 10 - 2 at St. Elizabeth's. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board along with a sheet with the registration link information. When registering please select Saginaw, MI (Diocese) from the drop down menu and then select the session you want to sign up for. You will have to create an account. Here is the link to register: https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg_list2.cfm?theme=0. There is no cost to attend.





UCCS COLLECTION FOR SEPTEMBER &

OCTOBER: Canned items - soup, pasta sauce (no glass please), fruit. Rice and pasta side dish boxes/pouches, brownie mix, boxed potatoes, mac & cheese, pudding & Jello.



FREE FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS - 48" long, 28, 32 and 40 watt, some new in box. We also have the tankless hot water for sale. If you know anyone who might be interested in any of the bulbs or water heater, let Sandy or the office know.



GOOD SAMARITAN RESCUE MISSION OF BAY

CITY has a need for the following items: underwear (M,L) and t-shirts (XL and up) for men, body wash for men, hair products/brushes for women, chapstick, adult size hoodies, diapers (size 6,7), towels, adult bicycles. Pantry needs are: mayonnaise, coffee (regular), oatmeal, cornmeal mix, drink mix. Youth shelter needs are phone chargers and men's deodorant. Items can be placed in the tote under the coat rack (except the bicycles - let Deb know if you have one to donate).

Thank You

Thank you for donating to Our Rescue. We are grateful for your generosity in support of the fight against sex trafficking and child exploitation.

Dear members and Pastor Phil,

We recently moved to Holland, MI. I just want to thank you for the 45 years our family spent at Christ Lutheran Church. Kris was a baby and Todd was 5 when we became members of this wonderful church family. During the many years we spent here, I was involved in so many different things. I started teaching Sunday School and doing Bible School. Our Faith Circle Ladies are amazing women and we accomplished so many things. Our children liked all the fun things they were able to be involved in.

Most of all, I want to thank you for all the prayers you prayed for me when I had a stroke in 2023 and all the visits from Pastor Mark and Judy. I really believe in the power of prayer and you helped to have God give me a second chance. My final job the past 2.5 years was being on church council as a representative of the Ministry of Education working with Dave. The rest of the counsel were strong women and men who helped make decisions to help our church and its members.

I will miss you all and wish Pastor Phil well in the ministry at Christ Lutheran Church. God bless all of you. Our family was so blessed to be part of this wonderful congregation.

Love you all,

Shirley Grabowski

Christ Lutheran Church of Reese Michigan
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, June 16, 2025

Present: David Abraham, Chris Bublitz, Lora DeLong, Mary Felske, Sandy Schafsnitz, Jen Shores, Kelly Walz, and John Ward

Excused: Trista Jeske-Yax, Irene Weiss and Pastor Phil

Opened in Prayer: Sandy opened in prayer at 7 pm

1. Monthly Reports

- a. **Secretary Minutes:** A motion was made by David Abraham to accept the minutes with the amendments, supported by Mary Felske, and was carried to accept the minutes.
- b. **General Fund Report:** A motion was made by Jen Shores to accept, supported by Lora DeLong, and was carried to accept the report.
- c. **Special Funds Report:** A motion was made by Jen Shores to accept, supported by Lora DeLong, and was carried to accept the report.
- d. **Office/Pastor's Report:** N/A

2. Unfinished Business

- a. **Air Conditioning in the Fellowship Hall:** Sandy Schafsnitz will announce that we will have a meeting two weeks from her announcing it on Sunday morning. Due to quote deadlines and 4th of July weekend the approval vote will be on June 29th.
- b. **Striping the Parking Lot:** Not finished quite yet. Kelly will get with Cooper Shores and Zachary Walz to see if they can finish up once Alex gets more paint.
- c. **LED Lights:** We will need 250 more bulbs. The quote for the office light bulbs was misquoted and ended up being \$246.40 for the office lights. John Ward will check and see if his office could use the old fluorescent lights.
- d. **Loons Tickets:** Congregational Life will pay for half of the tickets and Youth & Family will pay for the other half of the tickets. Kelly will get with Deb to get a check from Youth & Family.
- e. **Choir Robes:** There is quite a large cost for shipping the Choir Robes. Sandy suggested taking them to the Orphan Grain Train instead. Lora will check into this.

3. New Business

- a. **Portable AC Unit:** a portable AC unit for the Narthex would cost roughly \$200-\$300. Mary suggested possibly getting a Vet Discount at Ollie's. Sandy will look into this.
- b. **Weeds in the Rocks:** Tony DeLong has offered to spray the weeds if he will get reimbursed for the weed killer. Council agreed that he would be reimbursed.
- c. **Bells:** David Abraham will now make the bells ring at noon and 8pm as to not interfere with church services, choir practice or meetings.

4. Ministry Reports

- a. **Ministry of Youth and Family:** Jen reported that the Bible Study/Game Night for Seniors and College Students is going well. VBS will start next week. Garden is growing and still in need of volunteers to help weed throughout the summer. Deb Heinzman has offered to take over as treasurer for Jen Shores.
- b. **Ministry of Property:** N/A
- c. **Ministry of Worship and Music:** N/A
- d. **Outreach and Congregational Life:** N/A
- e. **Ministry of Education:** N/A
- f. **Ministry of Communication:** Dave to reprogram bells

5. We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer at 7:50pm.

6. No meeting for July.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Walz, Secretary

Christ Lutheran Church of Reese Michigan
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, August 18, 2025

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

Excused: John Ward

Opened in Prayer: Pastor Phil opened in prayer at 7:07 pm

1. Monthly Reports

- a. **Secretary Minutes:** A motion was made by Jen Shores to accept the minutes with the correction from Tong DeLong to Tony DeLong, supported by Lora DeLong and was carried to accept the minutes.
- b. **General Fund Report:** A motion was made by Jen Shores to accept, supported by Lora DeLong, and was carried to accept the report.
- c. **Special Funds Report:** A motion was made by Jen Shores to accept, supported by Lora DeLong, and was carried to accept the report.
- d. **Office/Pastor's Report:** Pastor made 2 hospital visits, visited various shut-ins on rotations, Young Adult Bible Study ended last night, but will start up a 7th-12th Grade Youth Bible Study on September 14th. Pastor held the funeral for Richard Mossner on Wednesday. Pastor had questions on his Call Letter and Compensation Package and wondered if the Life Insurance amount could be switched to Long-term Disability, Sandy said that he can move it wherever he wanted. Also, with his auto allowance could it rollover to his lease? The paid vacation days do not rollover to the next year. Pastor wondered about a Sabbatical every 5 years for spiritual renewal, as long as he gave enough notice. Sandy said that she will look into it and Pastor will look into grants as well. Pastor was wondering about starting an Adult Bible Study in between services or if it should be a night of the week class. If it was in between services, he would most likely start on September 21st. Pastor also wondered why confirmed youth could not vote and asked if it was in the by-laws and if it had always been this way. He also asked what age we do First Communion and would like to do it early.

2. Unfinished Business

- a. **Air Conditioning in the Fellowship Hall:** Sandy Schafsnitz said it is on hold until the contractors schedule frees up.
- b. **LED Light progress:** Alex will fix the sensors in the restrooms. We do have some fluorescent bulbs if anyone would like them.
- c. **Striping the Parking Lot:** Not finished quite yet. The parking was just sprayed for weeds and Sandy asked if Cooper and Kyden could hold off a few more weeks to finish striping the parking lot.
- d. **Choir Robes:** There is quite a large cost for shipping the Choir Robes. Sandy suggested taking them to the Orphan Grain Train instead. Lora checked into this and the Orphan Grain Train said it could be a while before they get sent out, but it is the cheapest route. So, we will stick with taking them there.

3. New Business

- a. **AA Picnic:** The picnic will be held on September 15th at the church. Council agreed to let them have it here.
- b. **GFI Outlets:** Carter DeLong has offered to replace these in the kitchen. reimbursed for the weed killer. Council agreed that he would be reimbursed. Irene suggested replacing the counter tops at the same time, being they are falling apart. Jen Shores suggested checking out Larsens in Bay City and will check into the cost. She will just need measurements.
- c. **Transfer in Alvira Coulthard:** Mary made a motion to accept the transfer, Robbie supported and the motion was accepted.

4. Ministry Reports

- a. **Ministry of Youth and Family:** Jen paid the balance for the Loons night. Kelly asked if we could get a debit card Youth & Family so that she did not have to use hers to wait to be reimbursed.

- b. **Ministry of Property:** N/A
 - c. **Ministry of Worship and Music:** The service time for first service will change to 8:30am and Sunday School will change to 9:45am on Sunday, September 7th.
 - d. **Outreach and Congregational Life:** Euchre will be held twice a month at 3pm. We will be doing Kerns brats for Rally Day and Trista will plan for 110 people.
 - e. **Ministry of Education:** No cell phones or electronic devices will be allowed to use during Sunday School and Catechism Class time. They will need to be put in the electronics box when entering the classroom. There will be some Confirmation Class changes. Parents and youth will be required to sign their books before class. This is to help hold the youth accountable for getting their work done before class. In addition to the 25 Community Service hours, the Confirmands will be required to pick from one of the following: take sermon notes 2x a month, work an additional 5 Community Service hours, work with Pastor to prepare a lesson and teach a class, and/or memorize a 1 Bible verse per month and recite it to Pastor. Robbie also asked Jen Shores to look through the handbook and suggest changes. All teachers should be background checked yearly through iChat and Central Registry. iChat does have a background check for youth as well.
 - f. **Ministry of Communication:** Dave changed the bells to noon and 8pm.
5. We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.
6. Next meeting will be Monday, September 15th.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Walz, Secretary

ATTENDANCE

August	9 am Sunday	11 am Sunday	Wednesday
3	45	5	
6			19
10	68	4	
13			16
17	62	5	
20			16
24	52	4	
27			17
31	37	3	

Worship and Music Meeting July 27th, 2025

Present: Deva, Irene, Robbie, Phyllis, Pastor Philip

Pastor Philip started the meeting at 6:40 pm with a prayer

Services:

- Had discussion to change the Sunday services to 8:30 and keep 11:00, have Sunday School be from 9:45 to 10:45. Robbie said the longer Sunday School time would be great so that the teachers have more time with the kids. Teachers have expressed they would like more time.

Education Meeting:

- We updated the Parent Handbook, Family Student Information page and the Acolyte Duties. We will share with the Sunday School Teachers at the Education meeting 08/11/2025
- Robbie will go over the Acolyte duties September 14th during the Sunday School time
- Pastor Philip will talk to the kids and parents about the importance of being an Acolyte

New Fabric:

- The material used for draping of the cross here at church are getting old and faded. Deva is looking into the cost to replace the fabric.
- Suggestion was made to shorten up some of the fabric that we drape on the cross. Deva will measure what would be needed and bring the cost to the next meeting.
- Pastor Philip said he would use white & black for Holy Week and use the paraments and banners that we already have for the other services.

Robes:

- Pastor Philip didn't have a use for Pastor Ed's robes so he found a place that would take Clergy and Acolyte robes. The Orphan Gain Train will take the adult choir robes.

Ecumenical Service:

- Talked about having an Ecumenical service with the other churches in Reese. Pastor Philip would like to do this. He wants to reach out to the other churches about possibly doing this Wednesday, before Thanksgiving. Many of the pastors in Reese are new to the area.
- Talked about how in the past the churches rotated who hosted the service.
- Pastor Philip suggested to have an outside service in the Spring. Deva suggested the National Day of Prayer.

Other:

- Pastor Philip said that the processional cross will only be used for special occasion.
- Advent to offer a 4:00 and 7:00 service with a meal 5-6:30. A free will donation to be donated to a local charity.
- Need Clarification of what the copy right charges are for that Diane K. (brought to us from council) talked about at the last meeting for taping the services 5 minutes before the hour.
- Deva has some prayer request cards that she will be putting in the back by the collection plate for people to use.

Next meeting – October 13, 2025, at 6:30pm

Adjourned 7:50 with prayer from Deva

Submitted by Robbie Oldenburg, secretary

Worship Assistants for September

DATE	LECTOR	COMMUNION SETUP	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	COMMUNION CLEANUP 9 AM/11 AM	USHER TEAM
Sept. 7	Phyllis Felske	Kathy Bublitz	Sandy Schafsnitz/ Phyllis Felske	Kevin Felske/ Amanda & John Ward	1
Sept. 14	Kelly VanDenBoom	Nancy Clauss	Nancy Clauss/ Denise Felske	Renae Kamin/ Jill VanOchten	2
Sept. 21	Jen Shores	Kathy Bublitz	Denise Felske/ Sandy Schafsnitz	Irene Weiss/ Ernie Rowe	3
Sept. 28	Renee Zimmer	Dale Bremer	Sandy Schafsnitz/ Nancy Clauss	Kelly VanDenBoom/ Amanda & John Ward	4



September Birthdays

3 Victoria Bender
 7 Mary Ann Garrison – over 80
 10 Ruth Ann Zurvalec – over 80
 11 Linda Babechenko
 12 Henry Keyes
 16 Niklas Babechenko
 17 Tony DeLong
 19 Julie Torrez
 22 Fred Keyes – over 80
 Holly Briggs
 24 Jaye Weiss – over 80
 27 Jeff Stuart
 30 Jean Felske – over 80



September Anniversaries

8	Tony & Lora DeLong	2001
11	Tom & Carol Magnus	1971
	Jeff & Jeanette Stuart	1993
15	Dale & Gail Campbell	1962
	Rick & Renee Zimmer	1978
17	Andrew & Danielle Jasman	2022



Funerals

Richard Mossner Jr., age 99, passed away on August 15th. His funeral service was held on August 20th at Christ Lutheran Church with Pastor Phil Bromhal officiating. Burial is at Blumfield Township Cemetery.