

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



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## Church Staff and Church Council

### STAFF

Pastor: Phil Bromhal  
Office Staff: Deb Heinzman

### HOME PHONE#

240-405-2729  
989.868.3608

### 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:	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

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent: Robbie Oldenburg  
Treasurer: Ann Bublitz

989.928.9838  
989.693.6418

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 2026 Newsletter



### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

**Wednesday** - 4 pm - Midweek Worship

Communion is celebrated at every worship service.

**DUE TO THE ANNUAL MEETING ON JANUARY 18TH, THERE IS NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR CONTEMPORARY SERVICE. THE 8:30 AM SERVICE WILL BE MOVED TO 9:30 AM FOLLOWED BY THE ANNUAL MEETING.**

# ANNUAL MEETING

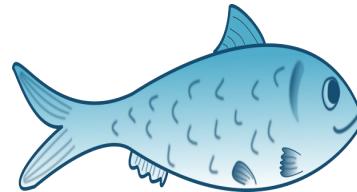
The Annual Meeting will be held on **SUNDAY, JANUARY 18TH AFTER THE 9:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE**. There will be no Sunday School or 11 am Contemporary Worship Service that morning. A movie will be shown for the children. Positions up for election are: Vice President, Secretary, and representatives for the Ministry of Congregational Life and Outreach, Education and Communication. If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please call the church office or talk to Sandy Schafsnitz or Lora DeLong. We will also be voting on the constitution and bylaws changes to allow absentee voting. Proposed changes are on the information sheet in the lounge area. **Reports are due in to the office no later than January 9th.**

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**EUCHRE FUN GAMES** return January 10th at 3 pm. 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.



**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH FISH FRY: Friday, March 20, 2026 from 4 - 7 pm.** Lots of help and cookies will be needed. Please plan on attending the planning meeting on **January 21st at 6:30 pm.**



**WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE MEETING** is Monday, January 12th at 6:30 pm.

Happy New Year, Christ Lutheran! 2026... Here we are. As I spent some time with family and friends at the end of December, I answered the question "how long have you been in Michigan?" several times. It has been nine months since being installed as Pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, and it has been a wonderful nine months getting to know you all and serving alongside you. I pray for many more ahead. And as I thought about the past nine months, I also realized this was my first time experiencing the Christmas season as a pastor, wow! It was a lot, but it was very, very good. I pray you all had time to thank Jesus for what He has done for you as we remember his birth and wait for his return.

I haven't made serious resolutions for a few years now, and I have rarely ever chosen a word for the coming year. But while I was away, I had dinner with some friends, and the word curiosity was brought up. And for some reason, the Holy Spirit highlighted that word for me. To be curious. Not sure what that will all entail, but I am coming into 2026 curious what the Lord will do within Christ Lutheran, and what he will do through Christ Lutheran. Maybe you will be curious about that as well. Happy New Year, once again! And may God bless you and this congregation. Amen.

Pastor Phil

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Happy New Year!

I'm glad to see 2025 come to an end - lots of repairs and replacements. The #4 boiler is still waiting for a module replacement, but that is not affecting the heating system. Snow removal is underway, but salt is another problem. Bulk salt is hard to get currently. Hopefully it will become available this season. I ask for your patience, we are doing the best we can. Please be careful in the parking lot.

We will be having the annual meeting in a few weeks. Items that will be discussed will be the absentee voting vote one more time. We have a few council positions available. We need you to consider being on the council. If you have questions on any of the positions you may call Lora Delong or myself, and we can help you.

God, keep us all safe as we venture out this winter.

Sandy

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#### **HAVE YOU HAD A CHANCE TO HANG OUT WITH PASTOR PHIL?**

A sign up calendar for January 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!

#### ***Adult Sunday School***

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL** will start back up on January 11th at 9:45 am. We will take a break on January 18th for the annual meeting and then meet again on January 25th. Please feel free to join each week for a deeper study of God's word.



Our Daily Bread  
Ministries™

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

# FaithCircle

**FAITH CIRCLE** and **CLCW** met on **Monday, January 5th at 10 am** to take down the Christmas decorations. Join the Faith Circle in February when we start a new Bible study entitled "Angels". Please consider joining us. Books are provided.



**JOY CIRCLE** will meet on **Thursday, January 8th 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 8th 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 4 – Protecting God - Jonah

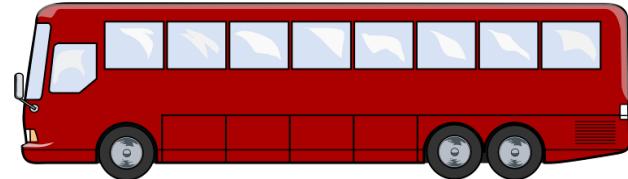
As Christians we see many people run to God only when they want something; and thus take advantage of God. A common response among believers is to try to protect God. God is not bound by our sensibilities, or by any need to be protected. God refuses to be restricted in His grace and mercy. Try as we 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.



**HANDBELL CHOIR PRACTICES** for January are **Wednesday, January 21 and 28 at 5 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!

**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.

**February 21 & 22, 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.**



## GOOD SAMARITAN RESCUE MISSION OF BAY CITY

**GOOD SAMARITAN RESCUE MISSION OF BAY CITY** has a need for the following: Underwear - men's (M,L), men's jeans - (32 x 30, 32 x 32), women's pajamas (S - 4X), women's boots (9 - 12), twin sheets (deep pocket), diapers (6,7). Youth shelter needs are women's hoodies (M,L) and body spray/perfume. Kitchen needs coffee, drink mixes and tea, chicken and beef broth, salad dressing, canned fruit. Items can be placed in the tote under the coat rack. Thank you!

# YOUTH ACTIVITIES



## 7th -12 GRADE YOUTH - Friday, January

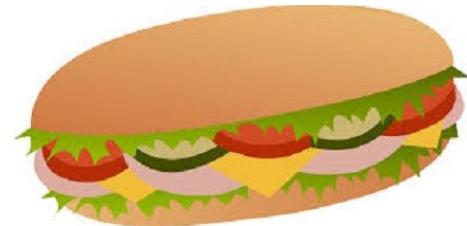
**23rd - Sunday, January 25th - SpringHill**

Winter Retreat: We will meet in the church parking lot at **6 pm**. Please feel free to call Kelly with any questions at 989.239.6912.

**ATTENTION YOUTH & FAMILIES:** If you are interested in going to Sea Life at Great Lakes Crossing on **Saturday, Jan 10th at 9 am**, please let Kelly know by Wednesday, January 7th so she can order tickets.



**NO-SEW BLANKET COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT -**  
**Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm:** We will meet in the Fellowship Hall to make No-Sew Blankets.



**SUPER BOWL SUB FUNDRAISER ORDERS** will be taken now through **Wednesday, February 4th**. Sandwiches will be available for **pickup Sunday, February 8th** between services. Cost is \$8. Order forms are available on the bulletin boards or call the church office.



**YOUTH BIBLE STUDY** for youth in grades 7th through 12th grade will meet on **Sundays** beginning **January 11th** 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.

## **JANUARY ACOLYTE SCHEDULE**

January 4	Harper Bauer	Krissa Cunningham
January 11	Logan Matthews	Alissa Edie
January 18	Annabelle Walz (9:30)	Annual Meeting
January 25	Laine Yax	William Ward

**Christ Lutheran Church of Reese Michigan**  
**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, December 15, 2025**

**Present:** Sandy Schafsnitz, Chris Bublitz, John Ward, Mary Felske, Dave Abraham, Robbie Oldenburg, Lora DeLong, Pastor Phil, Trista Jeske-Yax  
**Excused:** Irene Weiss, Kelly Walz, Jen Shores

Pastor Phil opened with a prayer at 6:55pm.

**1. Monthly Reports**

- a. Secretary's Minutes: A motion was made by Lora DeLong to accept the minutes with the following updates, supported by Dave Abraham, and the motion was carried to accept the minutes with the updates.
  - i. In 1d change "He had he first baptism" to "He had his first baptism".
  - ii. In 3a change "and the motion would pass." To "and the motion was carried."
- b. General Funds Report: A motion was made by Lora DeLong to accept the minutes, supported by Robbie Oldenburg, and the motion was carried.
- c. Special Fund Report: A motion was made by Lora DeLong to accept the minutes, supported by Robbie Oldenburg, and the motion was carried.
  - i. A motion was made by Lora DeLong to move \$2000 from the Educational Scholarship CD to the Educational Scholarship checking, supported by Robbie Oldenburg, and the motion was carried.
- d. Pastor and Office Report: Pastor made multiple hospital visits and the funeral for Stewart Yockey will be on Saturday. The first two Advent Services have been affected by bad weather; the forecast looks good for the last Advent Service; he is preparing for Christmas Services. Pastor will be leaving for vacation after Christmas Day Service and returning January 2<sup>nd</sup>, he will be out of state but he can be contacted, if needed. The last adult Sunday School class was Sunday, he plans to continue in the new year. The youth group Christmas party was last night. Confirmation is going well; Pastor is involving the parents before meeting with the kids.

**2. Unfinished Business**

- a. GFI Plugs – Carter DeLong labeled all the plugs in the kitchen with the breaker number. The plugs on the perimeter of the kitchen are each on their own breaker, all the plugs on the island are on the same breaker, when plugging in crockpots or roasters not more than one should be in the island to avoid tripping the breaker.

**3. New Business**

- a. Term limits – The following council positions are available beginning for 2026 term.
  - i. Vice President
  - ii. Secretary
  - iii. Ministry of Outreach and Congregational
  - iv. Ministry of Education
  - v. Ministry of Communication
- b. Annual Congregational Meeting January 18, 2026
  - i. Ministry reports due by January 9<sup>th</sup>.

**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. Ministry of Outreach and Congregational Life – Nothing to report.
- e. Ministry of Education – Next meeting is scheduled for February.
- f. Ministry of Communication – Nothing to report.

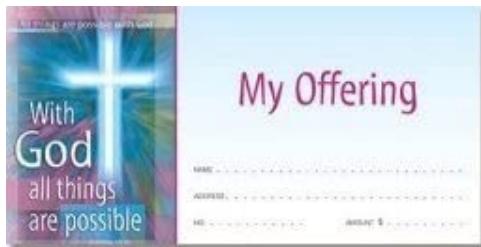
Meeting adjourned at 8:29pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting January 19, 2026 at 7:00pm.

Submitted by Lora DeLong for Kelly Walz

## ATTENDANCE

Dec.	8:30 am Sunday	11 am Sunday	Wednesday	Sunday School
3			30/11	
7	52	14		18
10			Online - 46 views	
14	49	23		22
17			37/10	
21	98	N/A		Christmas Program
24	4 pm - 85	7 pm - 67		
25	10 am - 21			
28	36	17		N/A



**2025 GIVING STATEMENTS** are available for pick up on the table in the lounge.

**2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available for pick up in the lounge. 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.



## Thank You

Thanks to everyone who donated food, money and helped on packing day. God has truly blessed our organization with the continued support of our community, churches and individuals that have kept this ministry going since 1990. Our 2025 food bag give away assisted 175 families.

**United Christian Community Service**

Thank you to the ladies and Lloyd who served and brought desserts for Stewart's funeral. Also, thank you to Pastor Phil for the visits and nice funeral service.

**The family of Stewart Yockey**

Thank you for your gift to Good Samaritan Rescue Mission. Your support is a blessing, providing men, women and children not only a warm meal and safe place to sleep, but a chance to transform their lives and start new productive lives.

**Dan Streeter, CEO**

We are deeply grateful to you, our friends at Christ Lutheran Church, for your continuing partnership with us. With your help and support, we can continue to be an advocate for children and families by empowering them to overcome the challenges of trauma, hopelessness, poverty and social isolation.

**Dave Morin, CEO and Kelli Dobner, CGO  
Samaritans**

# Worship Assistants for January

DATE	LECTOR	COMMUNION SETUP	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	COMMUNION CLEANUP 8:30 AM/11 AM	USHER TEAM
Jan. 4	Kelly Walz	Kathy Bublitz	Nancy Clauss/ Denise Felske	Irene Weiss/ Jill VanOchten	4
Jan. 11	Renee Zimmer	Dale Bremer	Denise Felske/ Sandy Schafsnitz	Renae Kamin/ Ward Family	1
Jan. 18	Kelly VanDenBoom	Lora & Makenna DeLong	Denise Felske/ Nancy Clauss	Kelly VanDenBoom/ Annual Meeting	2
Jan. 25	Jen Shores	Nancy Clauss	Sandy Schafsnitz/ Nancy Clauss	Kevin Felske/ Ward Family	3



## January Birthdays

- 9 Sawyer Hoffmann
- 10 Alvin Mielens - 94  
Bob DeLong  
Aaron Abraham
- 11 Sarah Hoffmann  
MiKayla Schultz
- 12 Rose Stedry
- 17 Remington Chant
- 18 Roberta Oldenburg
- 20 Teagan Zimmer
- 26 Marcy Bublitz – 96  
Diane Osantowski
- 29 Nathaniel Stuart
- 30 Kaitlyn Perrine
- 31 Cevin Hoffmann  
Heidi Stuart



## January Anniversaries

10	Curt & Ann Bublitz	1987
26	Chris & Kathy Bublitz	1980



## Funerals

Stewart Yockey passed away on December 10, 2025. His funeral service was held on December 20, 2025 at Christ Lutheran Church with Pastor Phil Bromhal officiating.

Lawrence (Larry) Schnettler passed away on December 24, 2025. His funeral service was held at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Essexville, on January 2, 2026. Burial is at Floral Gardens, Bay City.

## Thank You

Thank you on behalf of the United Theological College of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica. You may have heard about the tremendous damage to Jamaica done by Hurricane Melissa in October. The damage was mostly in the western part of the island, so fortunately the college was not greatly harmed. Nevertheless, the school always faces financial challenges, so your gift will be much appreciated. David Kuck