

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

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# Christ Lutheran Church

## April 2026 Newsletter



Holy Week worship schedule is as follows:  
Maundy Thursday, April 2nd - 4 & 7 pm.  
Good Friday, April 3rd - 1 & 7 pm.  
Easter Sunday, April 5th - 8:30 & 11 am.  
There is no Sunday School or Youth Bible Study on Easter.

The regular worship schedule resumes April 8th.  
Sunday - 8:30 am Traditional Worship  
          - 9:45 am Youth & Adult Sunday School  
          - 11 am Contemporary Worship  
Wednesday - 4 pm Midweek Worship

Communion is celebrated at every worship service.



The following 3rd - 5<sup>th</sup> grade students have completed instruction in the Sacrament of Holy Communion and will be receiving First Communion at the 7 pm service on Maundy Thursday: Krissa Cunningham, Mya Mae Meyer, Charlee Meyer and Deake Yax. Harper Bauer will be receiving her First Communion at a later date. God's blessings to all of the students and their families on this special occasion.

### education

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE** will meet **Monday, April 13th at 6 pm.**

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**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS** will be available in the church office beginning April 1st and are due May 1st. Any active member of Christ Lutheran who will be attending an accredited program beyond high school is eligible to apply. Applicants are scored and awarded a financial amount based on the following criteria: church involvement/Christian activities, academics, extracurricular activities and a written essay.



**ATTENTION VBS VOLUNTEERS:** In order to keep our partnership for Vacation Bible School with St. Elizabeth's, they are requiring our adult leaders to have Virtus training. It is a 2-hour program and is an extremely helpful and important training. Once you go to the training, you will be certified for 5 years. The list of upcoming training courses that are close to us is posted on the bulletin board. The one in April will be in Frankenmuth. If you need more information, please feel free to contact Kelly Walz at 989.239.6912.

Happy Easter and April, Christ Lutheran!

He is Risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia! This April, we celebrate the death AND resurrection of Jesus Christ and all that he did for us! So please celebrate with us and the church around the world, because with God, dead doesn't stay dead.

On a separate note, April 6th is the one-year anniversary of my installation here as the pastor of Christ Lutheran Church! It is incredible that it has already been a year. It has been such an honor being your pastor for this year, getting to know you all (and I look forward to getting to know each of you even more). So I just wanted to say, thank you. May God bless each of you and your homes. May God continue to guide us this coming year as we rise and praise the name of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ!

Blessings - Pastor Phil

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Happy Easter!!

As a kid I could not wait to get a new Easter outfit, wait for Easter morning and find the basket full of goodies that gave me a tummy ache. Now, I wear what I can fit into, eat little candy and no longer color eggs. Sounds boring, not at all. I have sharpened the true meaning of Easter. This is holy week and think only how Jesus felt as he carried that heavy cross, knowing what is ahead. We are so blessed to have Him in our lives. He gave up a lot for each of us.

We have a few projects in the works, one was taking out the overgrown bush that was on the south side of the sanctuary, too close to the AC unit and foundation. We will be looking to replace the countertops in the kitchen. Quotes are coming and we will let you know as soon as the council goes over them. The fish fry was great and a huge thank you for all that helped. There is a lot of preparation that goes into it and more the following day cleaning up with a power washer! Thank you Alex!

To each of you, have a Blessed Easter, enjoy family and friends, and see you in church!

Sandy

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**LET'S GET  
TOGETHER!**

**HAVE YOU HAD A CHANCE TO HANG OUT WITH PASTOR PHIL?** A sign up calendar for April is 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!

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*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.



We are looking for people (men and women) to join our funeral dinner teams. 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.

We are also looking for people to join the prayer chain. Our Prayer Chain is made up of a group of ladies who have volunteered to pray for others whenever the needs are known. 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 men, too), we would welcome adding your name to the list. Please contact the church office.

When names are added to the prayer list in the church bulletin, please give us updates when possible as a lot of the people are unknown to Pastor and Deb. Thank you.

# FaithCircle

**FAITH CIRCLE** will meet on **Monday, April 6th** at **10 am**. Our Bible study is entitled "Angels". Please consider joining us. Books are provided.



**CLCW** will meet **Monday, April 6th** at **11 am**. All women of Christ are invited to attend.



**JOY CIRCLE** will meet on **Thursday, April 9th** 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, April 9th** 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 7 – Encountering God - Moses**

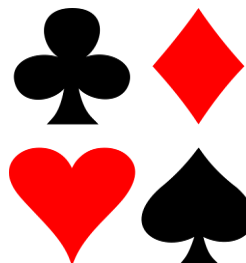
These days we might tend to forget the mysterious nature and strength of fire. Few of us have to stoke a fire to heat our homes. Even fewer among us rely on blazing flames to cook our food. Instead, we adjust the thermostat and sit closer to the heater. To people of biblical days, fire was a much more wild and unpredictable element. It was something to be feared. In his encounter with the burning bush, Moses was given a sense for the raw power and fearful majesty of God. He also experienced God's insistent desire to be in relationship with us, and his unorthodox way of choosing leaders who were reluctant.



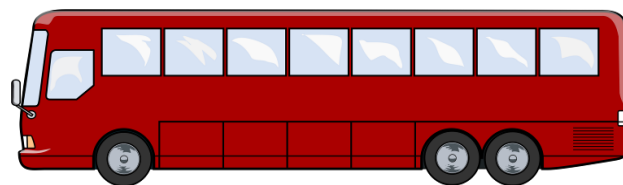
**SEW FOR FAITH** meets on **Wednesdays** from **9:30 - 11:30 am**. Come and join us for fellowship and help with our current projects. You don't need to know how to sew.



**HANDBELL CHOIR PRACTICES** are **Wednesday April 8th, 15th and 22nd** at **5 pm**. Our last performance is April 26th.



**EUCHRE FUN GAMES** - Mark your calendar and bring your family and friends for fellowship and fun on the following dates: **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!  
**April 14, 2026:** Soaring Eagle Day Trip  
**May 18-20, 2026:** Island Resort and Casino in Harris (2 night stay) stopping in Mackinaw City at the Odawa Casino on the way there  
**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



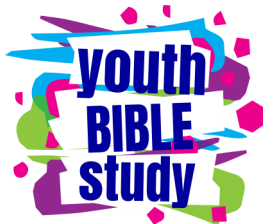
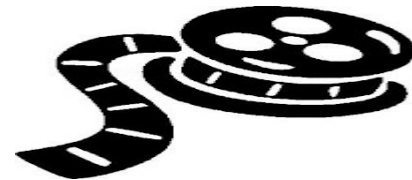
**SUNDAY SCHOOL YOUTH** will be singing at the 8:30 am service on **April 12th**.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT - Saturday, April 18th:**  
Church yard cleanup at 2pm. Please bring rakes and yard gloves.



**YOUTH & FAMILIES - Saturday, April 25th:** We will meet at the Delta Pool at 10 am. There is a little person play section, a lazy river, a water slide and diving board. Something for all ages. Please let Kelly know if you are interested in going.

**7TH -12TH GRADE YOUTH - Saturday, April 25th:**  
Movie Night: TBD. Still waiting on information.



**YOUTH BIBLE STUDY** for youth in grades 7th through 12th grade meets on **Sundays** from **6 - 8:30 pm** at Christ Lutheran Church. (There is no Bible Study on April 5th.) Dinner is provided. Please come and invite your friends to join us for food, games and Bible study.

**VBS** will be June 22-25 hosted at Christ Lutheran. Faith Community Church and St. Elizabeth's will both be joining us this year. The theme is Emerald Crossing (23rd Psalm). We are in need of volunteers. If you are interested, please let Kelly know 989.239.6912. A supplies needed list will be posted in next month's newsletter.



## APRIL ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

April 5	Deake Yax	William Ward
April 12	Logan Matthews	Alaina Edie
April 19	MiKayla Schulz	Krissa Cunningham
April 26	Annabelle Walz	Alissa Edie



**UCCS COLLECTION FOR APRIL & MAY:**  
Mac & cheese, canned pasta, chunky soup, cereal, pasta sauce & boxed pasta.



Operation Hope & Care Totes is done for this year. We were able to donate 25 totes. You can continue to donate full size personal hygiene items which the mission will continue to need. Also, watch the Sunday bulletin and the coat rack for an updated needs list for April.

# MISSIONS

...at home and around the world



Did you know that we collected \$1474 in Mission Offerings for the months of January and February? That money was split 3 ways with a third going to each of the following: Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Assistance Fund, and Life Clinic Community Resources.

Our Lenten Offerings will be going to the Tuscola Homeless Coalition. The total sent to them will be available in the May newsletter.

March and April Mission Offerings are designated to the LCMC, Institute of Lutheran Theology, and Thumb Area Assault Crisis Center.



Our meals during Lent received \$281.50 in donations. All the money collected was sent to the I Support the 1% Veterans Food Pantry. Thank you to all that helped with the meals, cooking, clean up, desserts, and of course, enjoying the food.

# Thank You

Thank you so much for the contribution sent in memory of Marian McMahon. By supporting the ministry of Samaritan's Purse, your prayers and gifts are also helping the poor and honoring God. As we work to meet physical needs, our ultimate goal is to lift up the name of Jesus Christ and spread his life-changing Gospel around the world. We would appreciate your continued prayers. May God richly bless you.

Franklin Graham

Dear Christ Lutheran Church Community - Thank you so much for the donation you sent to Samaritan's Purse in my mother's (Pastor Phil's grandmother) memory. I am truly grateful for this generous donation and allowing my son, your Pastor Phil, to have time to attend her funeral and spend time with his family. God bless you all in your service to our Lord.

Love,  
Sue Bromhal

Thank you to Pastor Phil for his many visits and for a meaningful funeral service for Ralph. Thank you to members of the funeral dinner team for serving a wonderful luncheon. Thank you to David Abraham for running the sound room and making a slideshow presentation possible in the Fellowship Hall. Also, thank you to the many members of Christ Lutheran Church, friends and family who showed an expression of condolence or a kind gesture. It meant a lot. Thank you again.

Marcy Bublitz and Family

**Christ Lutheran Church of Reese Michigan**  
**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, March 16, 2026**

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

Sandy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Phil opened in prayer.

1. Monthly Reports

- a. **Secretary Minutes:** A motion was made by Nancy to accept the minutes, supported by Irene, and carried to accept the minutes.
- b. **General Fund Report:** A motion was made by Jennifer to accept the report, supported by Dale, and carried to accept the report.
- c. **Special Funds Report:** A motion was made by Dale to accept the special funds report, supported by Mary, and carried to accept the report.
- d. **Office/Pastor's Report:**
  1. Pastor thanked everyone for allowing the time off to spend time with his family for his grandmother's funeral.
  2. He performed 2 funerals in the last 2 weeks.
  3. He is visiting shut-ins on a regular basis.
  4. 1<sup>st</sup> communion classes are going well. 5 children attend and 4 of them will receive their 1<sup>st</sup> communion on Maundy Thursday and 1 another time.
  5. Pastor thanked Dennis and Mary Felske for leading the adult bible class between Sunday service while he leads the children's 1<sup>st</sup> communion classes.

2. Unfinished Business

- a. **Mission Support:** A motion was made by Mary to replace May-June 2026 donation for Global Ministry to Lutheran Military Vets and replace May-June 2026 donation for Local Ministry to Foster Family Navigation, supported by Nancy and carried to accept the change. Mission Support chart has been updated to combine Saginaw Rescue Mission and Good Samaritan Rescue to Saginaw Rescue Mission (Saginaw and Bay City Locations) because they are the same mission. A decision will be made at a later time as to whether to change Sept-Oct 2026 Local Ministry to another donor.
- b. **Member Directory:** Dale reported the 3 options available to create a new directory. Options include Rummel Studio's, Universal Church Directory, and Instant Church Directory. This has been tabled until further research can be completed.
- c. **Lawn Mowing:** Dale Bremer and Cooper Shores will be mowing the lawn or find volunteers to assist.
- d. **Weed Spraying:** A motion was made by Jennifer to spray the church lawn twice this year at a cost of \$285.00 each application, with funds from the Lawn and Landscape Maintenance Fund to be used, supported by Dave, and carried to accept the proposal.

3. New Business

- a. **Neighboring Church Fire:** Reese Faith Community Church is borrowing 2 candles, a cross, 2 communion trays from us. They have also requested to join our Vacation Bible School this summer.
- b. **Kitchen Counter tops and sinks:** A discussion was held on replacing the church kitchen counter tops. Dale presented some options and it was tabled for further discussion.

4. Ministry Reports

- a. **Ministry of Youth and Family:** Jennifer reported
  1. Youth went to Snow Snake tubing and sledding and had a great time.
  2. Families will be attending a Saginaw Spirit Game Saturday, March 21, 2026.
  3. Kelly is working on the youth mission trip.
- b. **Ministry of Property:** John reported discussed in unfinished business

**c. Ministry of Worship and Music:** Irene reported

1. Both services on Palm Sunday will begin in the fellowship hall and proceed to the Sanctuary with Palm Branches.
2. Maundy Thursday service will be at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> Communion will be received by youth at the 7:00 p.m. service. Alter will be stripped after 7:00 p.m. service.
3. Good Friday Services will be at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
4. Easter Sunday Services will be 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
5. Irene mentioned there have been sound issues on the livestream (see Ministry of Communication)
6. Summer Services will begin Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> with one service at 9:00 a.m. A decision will be made at a later date as to when the summer schedule will end.

**d. Ministry of Outreach and Congregational Life:** Trista reported

1. Euchre is going well
2. Saginaw Spirit Hockey coming up Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>

**e. Ministry of Education:** Nancy reported

1. Nancy requested purchasing a new set of handbells for the children. Some pieces have fallen off the bells while the children are ringing them. Nancy will bring council a quote for cost to purchase a new set.
2. Kelly is working on Vacation Bible School.

**f. Ministry of Communication:** Dave reported

1. Dave reported there was a buzzing noise on the church service livestream. The noise is gone and thoughts were possible the new LED lighting helped that issue. Pastor and Dave on currently working on the piano sound issue on the livestream.

5. Misc. Issues:

- a. Sandy asked if we wanted to place an ad in the Tuscola County Advertiser with our Easter Sunday worship hours. The issue was tabled.
- b. There was a discussion of special music for the future, copyright issues etc. Issue was tabled.

Sandy adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m. and the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joanne Connelly, Secretary

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## ATTENDANCE

	8:30 am Sunday	11 am Sunday	Wednesday	Sunday School
March 1	50	11		11/8
March 4			34	
March 8	58	9		15/9
March 11			29	
March 15	59	10		19/
March 18			35	
March 22	68	19		17/8
March 25			44	
March 29	54	13		9/9

## Worship Assistants for April

DATE	LECTOR	COMMUNION SETUP	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	COMMUNION CLEANUP 8:30 AM/11 AM	USHER TEAM
5	Renee Zimmer	Nancy Clauss	Nancy Clauss/ Denise Felske	Renae Kamin/ Ward Family	1
12	Diane Osantowski	Ellen Schultz	Denise Felske/ Sandy Schafsnitz	Kelly VanDenBoom/ Jill VanOchten	2
19	Kelly Walz	Kathy Bublitz	Sandy Schafsnitz/ Nancy Clauss	Kevin Felske/ Ward Family	3
26	Kelly VanDenBoom	Dale Bremer	Nancy Clauss/ Denise Felske	Irene Weiss/ Jill VanOchten	4



### April Birthdays

- 2 Phyllis Felske – over 80
- 3 Margaret Briggs
- 4 Jill VanOchten
- 5 Meg Redwanz
- 6 Pastor Phil
- 7 Dennis Felske - over 80
- 8 Blaise Zimmer
- 9 Marc Watkins
- 10 Denise Felske
- 11 Nancy Walz - 80th  
Taylor Fachting
- 14 Carol Belger – over 80
- 15 Tammy Gillespie
- 16 Debbie Sigelko
- 19 Hank Kuhne
- 20 Kelly Walz
- 22 Rick Wascher
- 23 Stephen Anklam
- 24 Jerzie VanOchten
- 25 John Redwanz  
Owen VanDenBoom
- 27 Richard Sylvester
- 30 Tom Janson



### April Anniversaries

- |    |                       |      |
|----|-----------------------|------|
| 9  | Andrew & Jessica Karg | 2016 |
| 11 | Dennis & Mary Felske  | 1970 |
| 17 | Reed & Nancy Swanton  | 1982 |
| 19 | Dale & Susan Bremer   | 1980 |
| 25 | Travis & Renee Cragg  | 1998 |



Carole (Vargo) Wahl passed away on February 9th. Her funeral service was March 7th at Christ Lutheran Church with Pastor Phil officiating. Private interment will take place at Gilford Township Cemetery.

Ralph Bublitz passed away on March 5th, two days shy of his 98th birthday. His funeral service was March 13th at Christ Lutheran Church with Pastor Phil officiating. Burial is at Floral Gardens Cemetery, Bay City.