

# The Friendly Visitor

*from*  
Christ Lutheran Church

1306 Wilcox Street

Menomonie, WI 54751

December 2023

[www.Welcome2CLC.com](http://www.Welcome2CLC.com)

Facebook: [Welcome2CLC](https://www.facebook.com/Welcome2CLC)

## December @ Christ

- 1 Set-up for CLCW Christmas Sale in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 9:00am
- 2 CLCW Christmas Sale in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00am - 3:00pm
- 3 Worship with Holy Communion at 9:00am; Faith Formation at 10:15am;
- 6 The SPOT from 3:30pm - 5:30pm; CLC FoodShelf from 5:00pm - 6:00pm; Wednesday's Table from 5:00pm - 6:00pm; Advent Worship at 6:00pm in Sanctuary; 6ths Only at 6:45pm; Christ Time at 6:45pm
- 10 Worship with Holy Communion at 9:00am; Executive Board Meeting at 10:00am; Faith Formation at 10:15am
- 12 CLCW Christmas Potluck - Bible Study at 10:30am followed by potluck lunch; **ALL COMMITTEE NIGHT**; Committees meet at 5:30pm; Committees meet with Council at 6:30pm; Council meets at 7:00pm
- 13 The SPOT from 3:30pm - 5:30pm; CLC FoodShelf from 5:00pm - 6:00pm; Wednesday's Table from 5:00pm - 6:00pm; Advent Worship at 6:00pm in Sanctuary; 6ths Only at 6:45pm; Christ Time at 6:45pm
- 14 Music rehearsal at 6:30pm in Sanctuary
- 17 **YOUTH SUNDAY**; Worship with Holy Communion at 9:00am; Faith Formation at 10:15am

- 20 The SPOT from 3:30pm - 5:30pm; CLC Food Shelf from 5:00pm - 6:00pm; Wednesday's Table from 5:00pm - 6:00pm; Advent Worship at 6:00pm in Sanctuary; 6ths Only at 6:45pm; Christ Time at 6:45pm
- 21 No Bible Study (see you January 18)
- 24 Worship with Holy Communion at 9:00am; Christmas Eve Worship at 3:00pm
- 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY!** Office Closed
- 27 CLC FoodShelf from 5:00pm to 6:00pm; Wednesday's Table from 5:00pm to 6:00pm; **NO WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICE**
- 31 Worship with Holy Communion at 9:00am

## Council and Committee Night

All committees will meet individually on Tuesday, December 12, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. Committees and Council then meet together at 6:30pm, and the Council meets at 7pm.

Newly elected Council members are invited and encouraged to sit in on the meeting

## Scripture Readings for December

Dec 3	Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37
Dec 10	Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8
Dec 17	Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28
Dec 24	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38
Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14
Christmas Day	Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97 Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2: 1-20
Dec 31	Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40

## ADVENT SERVICES BEGIN NOVEMBER 29

Beginning the week of November 26, there will be no worship service on Monday evenings. There will, however, be an Advent service on Wednesdays (November 29 through December 20) at 6:00pm in the sanctuary.

**By attending the Sunday service,** you give consent that your image and the image of all the people in your group may be portrayed in the livestream and recording.

All donations to the church  
to be recorded as  
**2023 CONTRIBUTIONS**  
need to be  
received in the church  
office  
no later than 9:00am on  
**Tuesday, December 26.**



PASTOR

Dear Friends,

**Happy New Year!** Yes, you read that correctly. Indeed, as we wrap up the month of November, we begin the season of Advent. Within the church calendar, the liturgical season of Advent

marks the beginning of our new church year. You might be wondering why doesn't the church year begin with the birth of Christ at Christmas or the resurrection of Christ at Easter? That is a fair question. The liturgical year gives voice to the human experience through times of joy, sorrow, reflection, lament, and new life, and even gives us space for waiting. This reality sums up what Advent is all about. The church year intentionally does not begin with the highlights of our faith in the birth or resurrection of Christ. In contrast, it begins by modeling a posture of preparation.

This time of waiting is a gift to us as we enter the month of December. Every year, somehow, these weeks seem to go faster and faster. The days blur together between the preparations, the gatherings, the shopping, the to-do lists, and all we try to cram into this month. Fortunately, Advent serves as a pause button, a sticky note reminder that indeed God is doing a new thing. While God's Spirit is always at work, we pause and pray that we might become more aware of it. Advent gives us the freedom to ponder, explore, wonder, and consider what God has done, is doing, and will continue to do in our lives.

Advent gives permission to wait with expectant hearts for the coming of our Savior. As my brother would say, "Advent is a time we focus not on what we can see, but on what it is like to not be able to see yet. Sometimes the journey to God begins not with a discovery, but with a desire for something more. That's Advent." Come, let us live into this season- let us draw near to the one who has drawn near to us.

God's Joy,  
-Pastor Stephen

## Pastoral Acts

### Memorial Service

- Delores Stark - November 3 by Pastor Stephen Hilding
- Anita Jicha - November 10 by Pastor Stephen Hilding



On November 12,  
the following people  
formally joined  
Christ Lutheran Church:

Leo & Ruth Ann Walleser  
Lyndon Schlough  
Chad & Britt Nordquist, Elert,  
Cal & Ole  
Matt & Lara Lange, Anya &  
Marlies  
Ken & Sherry Iverson  
Pastor Stephen & Annie Hilding  
Randy & Mary Eide

**Christ Lutheran Church**  
**Council Minutes**  
**October 10, 2023**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Members Present

Arla Graff, Steve Josephson, Vicki Kuester, Curt Larson, Leslie Falkner, Kathleen Kjenslee, Tim Lehmann, Jeff Merritt, Linda Tylee, Dick Tyson, Kaye Wurm and Pastor Stephen Hilding (ex-officio)

Call to Order

Council President Tim Lehmann called the meeting to order at 6:51 p.m. at the Church.

Vision Statement was read by JMerritt.

Mission Statement was read by All.  
Council Purpose was read by All.

Approval of October 10, 2023

Agenda

[10-1] A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda; DTyson/LTylee; motion carried.

Dwelling in the Word

Pastor Stephen Hilding led in a Devotion.

Approval of September 12, 2023

Council Minutes

[10-2] A motion was made and seconded to approve the September 12, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes; DTyson/VKuester; motion carried.

New Business

A Action: Transfer of Membership for Ken and Sherry Iverson from American Lutheran of Sun City, AZ to Christ Lutheran.

[10-3] A motion was made and seconded to approve the transfer membership for Ken and Sherry

Iverson from American Lutheran of Sun City, AZ; LFalkner/JMerritt; motion carried.

B Action: Due to the size of Cub Scout Pack this year, they would like to use to Fellowship Hall when they have Pack Meetings and activities on the following date: October 19 - Campfire and skits (weather backup space), October 30 - Halloween Party, December 21 - Holiday Party, January 25 - Pack Meeting, February 15 - Blue and Gold, March 21(pm) - 23 (noon) - Pinewood Derby, April 13 - Spaghetti Dinner (3pm - 8:00pm), April 25 - Pack Meeting and May 30 - End of the Year Pack Picnic (weather backup space).

[10-4] A motion was made and seconded to approve the use of the Fellowship Hall by the Cub Scouts for the dates listed as follows  
October 19 - Campfire and skits (weather backup space), October

30 - Halloween Party, December 21 - Holiday Party, January 25 - Pack Meeting, February 15 - Blue and Gold, March 21(pm) - 23 (noon) - Pinewood Derby, April 13 - Spaghetti Dinner (3pm - 8:00pm), April 25 - Pack Meeting and May 30 - End of the Year Pack Picnic (weather backup space); VKuester/AGraff; motion carried.

Discussed ways we connect with people new to Menomonie. How can we meet people where they are? We all have to be reaching out and inviting people. Also how to re-engage with our current members.

Discussed pros and cons of moving worship to Wednesday nights for growth potential. Pastor Stephen is surveying the Monday night attendees for their feedback.

(Meeting minutes continued on next page)

## Council E-Mail Directory

- Tim Lehmann (President, Admin Committee): tmcleh@gmail.com
- Vickie Kuester (Vice-President/Outreach): kuesterv@uwstout.edu
- Leslie Falkner (Secretary; Cong. Life): lfalkner@clipay.com
- Steve Josephson (Administration): steve22di21@gmail.com
- Kathleen Kjenslee (Congregational Life): kjenslee@sbcglobal.net
- Linda Tylee (Congregational Life): linda.tylee@mail.com
- Kaye Wurm (Congregational Life) kayewurm@gmail.com
- Arla Graff (Outreach): no email
- Curt Larson (Outreach): curtisonk@outlook.com
- Jeff Merritt (Outreach): jmsepmsmerritt@wwt.net
- Dick Tyson (Outreach): tysonr@uwstout.edu
- Pastor Stephen Hilding (ex-officio) pastorstephen.clc@gmail.com

(Church Council meeting minutes continued from previous page)

Discussed the office hallway. The screen has been installed to promote our missions. The lumber is cut and it is ready to be installed around the window of the kitchen. Also discussed adding a mural to the walls with our mission statement.

#### Old Business

Action: Dunn County Humane Society would like the use of the kitchen and the Fellowship for the SPay-ghetti Dinner on February 27, 2024.

*[10-5] A motion was made and seconded to approve the use of the kitchen and the Fellowship Hall to the Dunn County Humane Society for the SPay-ghetti Dinner on February 27, 2024; KWurm/LTylee; motion carried.*

Action: Best practices for insurance claims and bids for products and/or services. Discussed all decisions regarding insurance claims and purchasing should go through the Executive Team. They will designate a staff member who will work with the agent.

*[10-6] A motion was made and seconded to approve for best practices of all insurance claims, products or services shall go through the Executive Team for approval or a specified person named at the time; LTylee/CLarson; motion carried*

Cash Flow discussed

Audit Committee Update - Tim Lehmann asked Gary Brummeyer, Kathy Wagner and Jerry Traxler and is waiting for their response.

Radio Broadcast - discussed options and how to not upset our members using the service. Discussed the need to go through our membership to determine who is using the service. How can we find out how many people are listening? Agreed we should announce it on Sundays and add it to the announcements. If someone listens to the service on the radio, we are asking them to contact the church office. We want to have it more accessible, not less accessible.

Discussed Bylaw Changes - Tim Lehmann is making those changes and bringing it back next month.

#### Other

Discussed the Emergency Management of Dunn County. In case of an emergency and they need the use of the church, emergency personnel will contact these three key holders: Pastor Stephen Hilding, Tim Lehmann or Larry Kuester.

2024 Officers discussed.

*[10-6] A motion was made and seconded to nominate Tim Lehmann as Council President for 2024-2025. Tim Lehmann agreed to stay on as president; JMerritt/SJosephson; motion carried.*

*[10-7] A motion was made and seconded to nominate Curt Larson as Council Vice President and Leslie Falkner as*

*Secretary for 2024-2025. Curt Larson and Leslie Falkner agree; VKuester/SJosephson; motion carried.*

#### Reports

A Pastor's Report: Pastor Hilding presented his report to the Council.

B Committee Reports/Actions/ Financial Reports received to the Council.

#### Adjournment

*[10-8] A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting; VKuester/KWurm; motion carried.*

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. and closed with The Lord's Prayer.

*Leslie Falkner, Secretary*

Dear friends, family, and partners in mission,  
We are \*finally\* able to sleep with windows open after what was an insanely hot and uncomfortable summer. I am hearing from friends in MN that temps are chilly now, requiring jackets. I love autumn... just wish it were a little longer.

In addition to my newsletters, I am including a special invitation for you to join us in a pretty big campaign. As you probably already know, our campus includes a kindergarten, junior high, senior high, and college. The only big piece that has been missing was an elementary school.

In the coming school year, beginning in April 2024, this will change. Our campus has been undergoing an intense process of building what will be called "Lutheran International Elementary School." The school will be a fully bilingual international school and will be built on the mission principles that guide our entire campus. A Lutheran pastor will be doing chapel services, making this one of the only Pre-K through university Christian campuses in the country. It really is a magnificent step and occurs just as our campus is headed into the celebration of the 100th anniversary of its founding.

As you can imagine, the amount of preparation in terms of personnel, buildings, logistics, and materials is incredible. One of the tiny ways I have been asked to help is by inquiring of our church support network about whether you might be interested in purchasing a book or two for their library. At this point, the only English resources on campus are in the junior high, and the pickings are scarce! We would love to be able to offer classics for our incoming students, some of whom already know quite a bit of English, and some who might be just beginning.

I have developed a "wish list" on the **Japanese** Amazon site ([amazon.co.jp](https://www.amazon.co.jp)) to \*hopefully\* make it easier to purchase. The dollar is very strong right now, so your money will go about twice as far as it did a year ago. The books I put on the wish list are all hardcover, since they will be in a library and prone to heavier use than normal. However, if you feel like you'd rather stretch your money

a little farther and order paperback, we will of course be equally grateful. I am attaching a "how to order on a Japanese website" instruction sheet, as the process will inevitably involve some interfacing with the Amazon-Japan site.

We are hoping to wrap up this campaign by the end of December, so if you would keep this project on your prayer list, we would be so grateful.

Feel free to pass along the link and instruction page to other folks who are literacy advocates or maybe wish to contribute in this way toward the growth of our Lutheran institutions. We are so grateful for your help and remain faithful that the Lord is holding this project in His hands. Feel free to contact me at this email address ([Jacqueline.bencke@gmail.com](mailto:Jacqueline.bencke@gmail.com)) if you have any other questions about the project, concerns about how this will unfold, or difficulties with the website.

Warm regards, and Happy Thanksgiving!

Jackie Bencke

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(Note from the church office: if you wish to order books for the Kyushu Library mentioned above, copies of the complete instruction can be found on the table outside the church office or I can send them to your email if requested....that should allow you to enlarge the screen shots if you have issues.)



# The Bencke Family in Japan



November 2023: 101 番

## “Season of seasoning”

I’ve been monitoring my social media and seeing many posts of people in the U.S. travelling or preparing for Thanksgiving, which is right around the corner. I have only spent two Thanksgivings in the U.S. over the past twenty years, but the memories of specific aromas wafting from the kitchen are still strong. There are specific seasonings that characterize Thanksgiving for me, including sage, rosemary, orange, vanilla, nutmeg, and cinnamon. I imagine that for most Americans, any of these seasonings can immediately conjure a mental image of a delicious food.

In fact, I would even go so far as to suggest that if I ask what word comes after “pumpkin,” someone will say “pie.” Cranberry? Relish. Whipped? Cream! We have created word pairs and attached them to memories that with time have “seasoned” in their own way.

The same is true for our worship life, and specifically the hymns we sing. Many of us come from traditional worship backgrounds where if I were to say, “Great is Thy...” you could fill in the rest—“faithfulness”—pretty easily. “Joy to the?” World, of course. These words, phrases, lyrics have been embedded into our memory in such a way as to shape how we know God and Christ Jesus. The lyrics have penetrated our souls so that no other word besides “faithfulness” really makes sense for us. Sometimes we can’t even speak the words without singing them, at least in our heads! The poetry we sing inspires our imagination, our thoughts, our prayers, and behaviors. Marinating in the text of a well-written hymn is time well spent.

I pray that this Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas, that the wonders of light in darkness, the power of a meek and lowly King in the form of a baby, and the humility of abundant grace despite our brokenness bless you and the conversations you have at the dinner table(s). May a spirit of thankfulness awaken your hearts and minds to a new and fresh spiritual response.



**Tis the season for rice harvesting! This gorgeous rice field near our home is now a black field of dirt after the rice was cut and harvested. The aroma is like nothing I can experienced in the Midwest – nutty, earthy, and almost mouth-watering.**

## **Kyushu Lutheran International School, Primary School Division**

In the spring of 2024, our little Lutheran campus will welcome an addition to the family. It will be the site of the first accredited international elementary school in Kumamoto.

<https://ps.kluther-gakuin.jp/en/>

[https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100094270287349&paipv=0&eav=AfYOgnLaLNpMnkb1k-P9n2IxuCEaUdgmbJ8owlnyD\\_7bCa5SecV0aUoTP6MgBODAJKc](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100094270287349&paipv=0&eav=AfYOgnLaLNpMnkb1k-P9n2IxuCEaUdgmbJ8owlnyD_7bCa5SecV0aUoTP6MgBODAJKc)

With the construction of TSMC—a Taiwanese semiconductor plant—the influx of international school-aged children is steadily increasing and is expected to explode this coming spring. Because our campus has a long history of international connectivity and strong English programs at both the secondary and college level, Luther was tapped by both the prefectural and national government to develop an international elementary school. The school needed to be able to cater to students both from abroad and from Kumamoto who wish to receive their education in English and with an eye toward using an I.B. curriculum. This is a major undertaking and has not been without some dissent from faculty.

Nevertheless, students are being recruited, faculty hired, facilities renovated or built, and curriculum developed. The energy surrounding this next step in expanding our mission is one of both excitement and a fair degree of nervousness. As you can imagine, the various pressures for such an undertaking are significant, and the bureaucracy for institutions is mind-blowing. Our college president, Michiaki Matsumoto, has been a strong proponent and advocate for this initiative from its inception. As a former English teacher at the college and a keen administrator, he has spearheaded many of the complex projects that were necessary to create this addition to our campus.

Knowing that many of our partners in mission are often interested in helping with varying projects around the world, we are establishing a short but hopefully robust campaign to help our new elementary campus with establishing its library. Because it is a Christian campus, we are interested in procuring books that are written with Christian education in mind. Also, because the library needs to have a large repository of books written in English for grades 1-6, we are looking for classic children's books, preferably hardcover, to fill the shelves. If you or someone you know is interested in purchasing books for this effort, advising our staff about library resources, or praying for this mini-ministry, please look at the information sheet (attached in this email) that will help you navigate the amazon-Japan website to help with this effort. Shipping from North America is exorbitantly expensive, so we decided to set up a "Wish List" on the amazon.co.jp (Amazon-Japan) website. It functions almost exactly the same as the U.S.-based site, but there are a few hoops to jump through in order to place an order. Hopefully the information sheet will help with that. From the bottom of our collective hearts, we say Arigatou Gozaimasu! Taihen Yoroshiku Onegaishimasu. (envision a deep bow here!)





Advent, Christmas and Epiphany blessings to you from Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson, Synod Ministers, Elizabeth Bartsch, Sara Villarreal Bishop, Diane House, Lidix Montoya, Randy Olson, Laura Ramlow

## Mary the Brave: Mary the God Bearer

As a young pastor and working mom, I struggled with the challenges of balancing work and home life, often while carrying a child in my womb, arms, on my hip, in a front or back baby pack, or car seat. Now my children are adults, and I have the joy of watching them carry my grandchildren. They do it differently than I did, their car seats are much nicer than the ones we had, but like us, they carry their children with much love.<sup>1</sup> I am still carrying my adult children and grandchildren and will always carry them, in my heart with much love. This Advent and Christmas season I'm reflecting on Mary, the God bearer. (In Greek it's Theotokos<sup>2</sup>.) Mary carried Jesus. Like all parents she carried her child with love, but she is also the God bearer. It was a brave thing Mary did to bear God into the world.

To love is a brave thing. It is a brave thing to become a parent. Mothers put their own lives at risk bearing a child in their womb and giving birth. It requires a measure of bravery for parents to bring a child into this world filled with the bad news of climate disasters, gun violence, war, political upheaval, racism, food/water insecurity, and escalating health and higher education costs.

History has painted Mary to be quiet, meek and mild, submissive to God's will, but a closer read shows us that Mary was brave. Mary was neither meek nor superhuman.<sup>3</sup> She had grit. She was faithful, courageous, strong and brave. Most of all, she was human. Her encounter with the angel Gabriel, the messenger of God made her brave. She knew that her pregnancy was dangerous and she could die giving birth. She also knew that as an unmarried teenaged mother it would cause upheaval in her family and community. She would give birth to Jesus during Roman occupation, a time of political unrest. Mary was *brave*. Her encounter with the living God made her brave

Her encounter with God gave her bravery and the faith to see that if God was calling her God would also protect her. It revealed to her that God chooses the people on the margins, those overlooked and underestimated. Bearing God in the world was to bring good news and hope to those oppressed. May Mary, the God Bearer, inspire us all to be brave!

This Advent and Christmas season, I invite you to be Theotokos, God Bearers. I invite you to carry the good news of Christ's birth, life, death and resurrection to all those we meet on this journey of life and the love of Jesus in your hearts always.

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

*Luke 1: 26ff In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you..." "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, ... the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God... For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.*

<sup>1</sup> Robert Munsch, *I'll Love You Forever*, Firefly Books (September 1, 1995)

<sup>2</sup> Since the 3rd century, Christians had referred to Mary as theotokos, "God-bearer." The first documented usage of the term is in the writings of Origen of Alexandria in AD 230. [Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God | uCatholic](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Mary the Brave: Neither Meek nor Superhuman - CBE International](#)



## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Dear Partner in Ministry,

Thank you for all the ways you are leading your congregation to care for others. **We join you in praying for our neighbors caught in danger in Israel and Gaza.**

If your congregation is called to **action**, your love can reach innocent civilians and rush aid to families in crisis right now.

Lutheran World Relief has a long history of reaching our neighbors caught in the crossfire in this region. From sending emergency health care supplies to delivering LWR Mission Quilts, your love has long been reaching our neighbors caught in this conflict. **With your support, together, we will not abandon these neighbors now.**

We are reaching out to our longstanding partners in the region to determine the specifics of our coordinated response and are committed to updating you as those plans become clearer.

**As always, your congregation's gift will deliver critically needed resources like medical care, food, water and essential supplies where they are needed most.**

## Help bring Christmas cheer to our neighbors at ALH!



This year again we are asking for monetary donations. Deb (ALH Activity Director) will do the Christmas shopping so that every resident has a present to open on Christmas morning. Please send or drop off your monetary donations no later than December 6 at the church, making checks payable to the church and indicating that the donation is for ALH gifts.

### RECONCILING IN CHRIST

The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin is starting the Reconciling in Christ process. We need volunteers for the team that will guide the synod through the process to publicly guide, practice, and teach particularly for racial identity, LGBTQIA+, and neurodiversity. If you think this is important enough to spend some time on Zoom each month, and maybe one in-person meeting or two, please send your expression of interest to [synodadvocate@nswi.org](mailto:synodadvocate@nswi.org). We only need eight more people, and if you represent one of these identified groups, we need you! Thank you!  
*Rev. Sara S. V. Bishop* - Synod Advocate for Right Relationship

## OUR SYMPATHY TO...

... the family and friends of **Byron Anderson** who passed away October 31. A memorial service was held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Spring Valley on November 5.

... the family and friends of **Anita Jicha** who passed away November 3. A memorial service was held at Christ Lutheran on November 10.

## Memorials

To the **CLC FoodShelf** in memory of  
Ryan Josephson from Steve & Diane Josephson

To the **General Fund** in memory of  
Eric Klopp from Janice Shaker Hoffman  
Anita Jicha from Arla Graff  
Delores Stark from Arla Graff  
Delores Stark from Dave & Jane Amble  
Anita Jicha from Jane & Dave Amble  
Raymond & Helen Hart from Steven Hart  
Anita Jicha from Kelly & Diane Stevens  
Anita Jicha from Robert & Linda Lorenz  
Anita Jicha from Patricia Chamberlain  
Anita Jicha from Marge Hernandez  
Anita Jicha from Timothy Stevens  
Anita Jicha from Cheryl Lowery  
Anita Jicha from Warren Olson  
Anita Jicha from family & friends  
Anita Jicha from Randy & Barb Dahms  
Anita Jicha from Daniel & Catherine Wunrow

To **Undesignated** in memory of  
Delores Stark from Larry & Vickie Kuester  
Eric Klopp from Larry & Vickie Kuester  
Anita Jicha from Linda Tylee  
Craig Anderson (Claudia's cousin and Kathleen's godfather) from Claudia Mork-Kjenslee and Kathleen Kjenslee  
Delores Stark from Jerry & Jan Traxler  
Eric Klopp from Nancy Bourget  
Anita Jicha from Jan & Jerry Traxler  
Anita Jicha from Nancy Bourget  
Anita Jicha from Char & Gerry Boots, Kathy Burgraff, Stacy & Jody Dahms, Brian Dahms  
Delores Stark from Mary Beth Holloway

To the **Furnace Fund** in memory of  
Delores Stark from Lois Schultz  
Delores Stark from Shirley Browning  
Delores Stark from Nancy Bourget  
Anita Jicha from Dave & Ardith Jacobson  
Anita Jicha from Lois Schultz  
Anita Jicha from Gerry Miller

To the **Parking Lot Fund** in memory of  
Delores Stark from Eileen Stark  
Ryan Josephson from Steve & Diane Josephson  
Jerry Smith from Larry Kuester  
Bill Neverdahl from Larry Kuester

To the **Radio Fund** in memory of  
Joan Labs from her daughters, Sonia Labs and Beth Hein. Joan's birthday would have been November 10.

To the **Radio Fund** in honor of  
The homebound members and friends of Christ Lutheran Church from the Christ Lutheran Church Women.

**Cordless Dyson Vacuum** in memory of  
Ryan Josephson from Steve & Diane Josephson

# Youth News

## Drop & Shop Fundraiser:

December 6; 5:30p-7:30p

The youth attending National Youth Gathering will be hosting a Drop & Shop night. There will be limited registration, but we are asking for helping hands. There will not be Christ Time or 6s Only that night. Please let Josie know if you are able to assist. [REGISTER HERE](#)

Extra Chance! Casserole Sale! Youth attending NYG are selling home-made, frozen casseroles. They will be ready for pickup in time for your Christmas visitors on December 17. All four casseroles available are holiday-themed recipes straight from the *CLC Blessings From Our Kitchens* cookbook. This sale is first come-first served! Only 30 casseroles will be made, so order early! [You can sign up HERE!](#)



## December

- 2.. CLCW Christmas Sale from 9:00am - 3:00pm
- 3..Wednesday Worship at 6:00pm
- 6..Drop and Shop Fundraiser from 5:30pm - 7:30pm
- 13..Wednesday Worship at 6:00pm
- 17..Youth Sunday Christmas Program at 9:00am
- 20.. Wednesday Worship at 6:00pm  
Wednesday Christmas Party
- 24..No Faith Formation  
Christmas Eve Worship at 3:00pm
- 27.. No Faith Formation
- 31.. No Faith Formation

# THANK YOU...

... for the cards and letters you have sent while I have been ailing. They are greatly appreciated. *Frank Smith*

...for your condolences, prayers and cards after mom's death. They have surely helped and are very much appreciated. Your kindness and comfort will always remain in our hearts. – Family of Anita Jicha:  
*Barb and Randy Dahms and family;  
Mike and Carolyn Schlough and family*

## **Thank You from the Red Cross**

Thank you again for hosting the October blood drive. We collected 35 pints of blood!

The staff said it was a very good day and were extremely grateful for your volunteers.

**The next Blood Drive will be February 8, 2024 from Noon to 6pm.**

**Meals on Wheels of Dunn County  
is looking for volunteer meal  
delivery drivers**

**Please call the ADRC of Dunn  
County for more information at  
715-232-4006**

## **THERE IS A MITTEN TREE**

in the narthex, waiting to be adorned with mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves. Gently used sweaters and sweatshirts would also be welcomed. Please have items at the church by Sunday, December 24. All items will be donated to help local people in need. Thanks for helping our neighbors stay warm this winter!



# Church Financials

## General Fund

October 2023

Offerings \$27,817.55

Expenses (26,127.88)

\$ 1,689.67

January 2023

Offerings \$22,552.94

Expenses (26,428.11)

( 3,875.17)

February 2023

Offerings \$18,545.60

Expenses (22,906.42)

( 4,360.82)

March 2023

Offerings \$22,254.90

Expenses (23,036.60)

( 781.70)

April 2023

Offerings \$26,989.23

Expenses (25,779.94)

\$ 1,209.29

May 2023

Offerings \$22,774.15

Expenses (23,024.13)

( 249.98)

June 2023

Offerings \$23,905.03

Expenses (23,215.15)

\$ 689.88

July 2023

Offerings \$26,039.14

Expenses (21,542.02)

\$ 4,497.12

August 2023

Offerings \$21,792.99

Expenses (24,956.72)

( 3,163.73)

September 2023

Offerings \$27,501.17

Expenses (22,594.26)

\$ 4,906.91

## National Youth Gathering - 2024

Christ Lutheran has 4 youth and 3 adults going to the NYG in New Orleans in July 2024! They will spend 5 days having their faith challenged and affirmed, learning to see things from new perspectives and meeting new people from across the country as they worship, learn and put their faith into action helping the people of New Orleans with the theme "Created to Be".

*"This is a powerful and transformational ministry if you are brave enough to let your guard down long enough for the Spirit to enter in, if you can be quiet long enough to listen to someone different from yourself, if your prayer is to be open to what God is calling you to, if you realize the strong roots of a community will ground you no matter the strength of life's storms, if you imagine yourself as part of something bigger than you. " - NYG website*

They are asking for your help. They will have several fundraisers throughout the year to help defray the cost of the trip, and while funding is important, what they need most are your prayers and your support.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **CLCW Christmas Sale**

December 1, 9:00am - ?

Setup for sale in Fellowship Hall

December 2, 9:00am - 3:00pm

Sale in Fellowship Hall

## **Lefse and Baked Goods Sale**

December 2, 9:00am - 10:30am

Our Savior's Lutheran -  
Menomonie

## **Drop & Shop Fundraiser**

December 6, 5:30pm - 7:30pm

## **CLCW Christmas Potluck**

December 12, 10:30am Bible Study

Potluck lunch to follow

## **All Committee Night**

December 12

5:30pm Committees meet

6:30pm Committees meet with  
Council

7:00pm Church Council meets

## **Youth Sunday**

December 17, 9:00am worship

## **Christmas Eve**

December 24, 3:00pm worship

## **Christmas Day**

December 25 - Office Closed

## **New Year's Day**

January 1 - Office Closed

## **Christ Lutheran Annual Meeting**

January 28, 10:00am

In the Sanctuary

## **Red Cross Blood Drive**

February 8, Noon - 6:00pm

In the Fellowship Hall

## **Ash Wednesday**

February 14, 6:00pm worship

# CLCW News

## Dates to remember

December 1: CHRISTMAS SALE **set up** in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00am

December 2: CHRISTMAS SALE 9:00am - 3:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

December 12: Christmas Potluck (Bible Study at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall followed by potluck lunch). Everyone is invited.

THERE WILL BE NO MISSION WORKDAYS IN DECEMBER.

THERE WILL BE NO BIBLE STUDY ON DECEMBER 21.

*Nancy Bourget and Arla Graff*  
CLCW Co-President

**A HUGE THANK YOU** to all who helped with the Lutheran World Relief drive this year. Whether you donated supplies or funds; sewed quilts; assembled school kits, layettes or sewing kits or packed boxes, your work is truly appreciated. A special thank you to Thrivent Financial for their donation toward supplies. There were 73 quilts, 204 personal care kits; 97 layettes, 119 school kits, and 6 sewing kits sent to Lutheran World Relief on October 7. They will be sent to various places around the world to help those in need. This could not have been done without your help.



**Join the CLCW**  
(Christ Lutheran Church Women)  
for a Christmas Potluck  
Tuesday, December 12.  
Bible Study will begin at  
10:30am in the Fellowship  
Hall followed by a potluck  
lunch.  
Everyone is invited.

## Prayer Ventures for December

**1** *World AIDS Day* Remember in prayer all who have been and continue to be affected by HIV and AIDS, and pray for the work we do together through the ELCA's HIV and AIDS Ministry — building awareness, serving people who live with HIV and AIDS, advocating for change, and supporting effective, affordable prevention, treatment and care globally.

**2** The United Nations estimates that 90% of wartime casualties are suffered by civilians. Pray for an end to the violence, loss of life, suffering and injustice caused by war and conflict in the world, especially in Ukraine and the Middle East.

**3** *First Sunday of Advent* Praise God, source of our hope, strength, healing and new life, and Jesus Christ, who lived among us to reveal God's grace.

**4** Approximately 15% of the world's population lives with some form of disability, including about 42.5 million people in our country. Pray for the Spirit to sustain our commitment and guide our efforts to welcome, respect and fully include people with disabilities in every aspect of society and the church. Give thanks for the work and resources of ELCA Disability Ministry, the Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association and the Lutheran Services in America–Disability Network.

**5** Pray that we will not lose heart when we read stories of the church in decline or hear fewer people expressing faith in Christ. Ask the Spirit to strengthen our trust in God's unwavering presence and work in the world and to help us bring the gospel to those still yearning for hope, healing and good news. "Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight" (ELW 241).

**6** Pray for ELCA missionaries serving alongside our global companions and churches around the world. Give thanks for communities of faith where our mission personnel worship and celebrate their faith with siblings in Christ.

**7** *Hanukkah* Pray for our Jewish neighbors around the world who are beginning their eight-day celebration of Hanukkah — the Festival of Lights.

**8** Remember in prayer people for whom the Christmas season stirs depression, loneliness and grieving. Promise to welcome these struggling people into our communities of faith and to connect them with new friends and siblings in Christ who will offer care and support during the holidays and throughout the year.

**9** Reflect prayerfully on the symbolism of the Advent wreath and candles, which help us anticipate and celebrate God's boundless love and the promise of eternal life fulfilled in the birth of Christ — a light that breaks through the darkness of the world and changes everything.

**10** Pray that we will be faithful and enthusiastic witnesses to the good news of Jesus Christ for all people in every circumstance of life.

**11** Give thanks for our church's commitment to service, generosity, justice and ending hunger and poverty for the sake of our neighbors in need. Pray that the ELCA Good Gifts catalog and the ministries of the ELCA will help us understand the needs of our neighbors and how we can work together to make a lasting impact in the world.

**12** Praise God for the diverse Advent and Christmas traditions of the Christian church around the world, traditions that enrich our faith and understanding of how Christ has impacted communities, cultures and nations.

**13** Pause during the busyness of the holidays and pray for our neighbors in need, especially those experiencing suffering, poverty, war, recovery from disasters and displacement from their homes. Pray that they will find relief, hope and renewed strength in the certainty of God's attention and love, evidenced in the gift of Jesus Christ and reflected in our concern, response and advocacy.

**14** Give thanks for the seasons of the liturgical year and the Scripture, colors, symbols, prayers, music and rituals of faith that help us live in the rhythm of life as children of God and siblings in Christ.

(continued on next page)

**(December Prayer Ventures continued from previous page)**

**15** Ask God to help us reflect on those who are not present whenever we gather and to remember that these children of God bring unique voices, gifts and life experiences to the worship, activities and gatherings of our congregations.

**16** *Las Posadas* Give thanks for the tradition of Las Posadas, which recalls Mary and Joseph's Nativity journey and is observed in parts of Latin America and in some Latino communities in the United States.

**17** Pray that we will have the humility, honesty and boldness of John the Baptist, who did not shy away from expressing his faith in Jesus Christ even when challenged and threatened.

**18** *International Migrants Day* Pray for those who, with great risk and uncertainty, have left their home countries and familiar surroundings to seek welcoming communities where they feel safe, respected and free to reestablish their lives and raise their families.

**19** Give thanks to God for the assurance of life eternal in the kingdom of heaven and for the Spirit equipping us to embody God's compassion in the world while we await the return of Christ.

**20** What stirs joy in you today? Give thanks for the people and experiences that bring joy into your life, even if only briefly. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

**21** *Winter solstice* As the days of the Northern Hemisphere grow shorter, pray that we will be guided and reassured by the light of Christ, which illuminates God's love, mercy and truth in our lives and in every corner of the world.

**22** Praise God for this time of remembrance, anticipation and celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, a birth that changed the world and our lives in ways that exceed our imagination and comprehension.

**23** Give thanks for those who serve our communities during Christmas, including people in health care, elder care, law enforcement, the hospitality industry, emergency services and the military.

**24** *Christmas Eve* Shout "Glory to God in the highest!" The good news of the birth of the promised Messiah and Savior for all creation and humankind has been made known to us and is the foundation of our faith and life.

**25** *Christmas Day* Lift up shouts of thanksgiving and praise for all to hear! God lives among us in the birth of Jesus Christ and pours hope and joy into our lives to fill their voids and mend our brokenness.

**26** *Kwanzaa* Pray for our African-descent neighbors and siblings in Christ who celebrate Kwanzaa, a weeklong observance of African culture and traditions that emphasizes family, community and shared principles. Give thanks for the rich and enduring practices of our African-descent siblings and the global African community.

**27** Give thanks that the gift of grace found in Jesus Christ is both deeply personal and for all humankind. "Of what benefit would it be to me if Christ had been born a thousand times, and it would daily be sung into my ears in a most lovely manner, if I were never to hear that he was born for me and was to be my very own?" (Martin Luther, 1522).

**28** Christmas may have come and gone, but we carry into every day the joy of Christmas and the birth of the Christ child, the manifestation of God's love for humanity. Give praise and thanks to God!

**29** Lift up prayers of relief and thanksgiving for God's mercy, which is fair and generous and is never swayed by our actions or words, no matter how good or well-intended.

**30** Share with God your hopes, concerns, uncertainties and aspirations for the year ahead. Pray for the Spirit to strengthen our faith in God's concern for us and in God's attention to our prayers — spoken and silent.

**31** *New Year's Eve* Our baptism with water, the word of God and the blessings of our siblings in Christ marks us as children of God and followers of Jesus, loved, forgiven and made new every day of our lives. Alleluia!



**The Friendly Visitor**  
*from*  
**Christ Lutheran Church**  
**1306 Wilcox Street, Menomonie, WI 54751**



**Pastoral Ministry**

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation.

Pastor: Stephen Hilding (715-222-2475; pastorstephen.clc@gmail.com)

Lutheran Campus Ministry Director: Sara McCullough  
(lcmstoutdirector@gmail.com)

**Music Ministry**

Accompanist: LuAnn Dohms

Substitutes: Andrew Maki, Mary Merritt

Worship Leader: Lexi Marsh

**Youth Ministry**

Youth Director: Josie Wilterdink (cosmo.clc@gmail.com)

**Sunday School (COSMO)**

Superintendent: Josie Wilterdink (cosmo.clc@gmail.com)

Accompanist: Mary Merritt

**Maintenance**

Custodian: Tom Surdick

**Missionary Sponsorship**

Patrick & Jackie Bencke, Japan (jackie@bencke.com)

**Food Ministry**

Coordinator: Jim Kausie

**Office Staff**

Secretary: Jillyn Geissler (The.Office.CLC@gmail.com).

Treasurer: Dick Rank/Tricia Rank-Larson (Financial.CLC@gmail.com)

– Office Hours: Monday through Thursday – 8:30am – 3:00pm

Friday—church office closed

**Radio Ministry**

Radio Broadcast on 880 AM Sundays at 9:30am

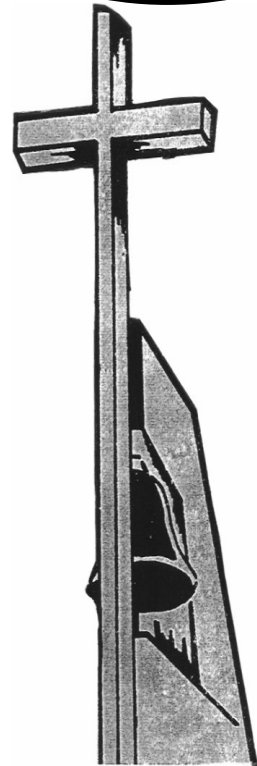
**Livestream Ministry**

Audio Visual Specialist: Darrin Falk (techuser.clc@gmail.com)

**Internet Ministry**

Sunday bulletins, “Friendly Visitor” newsletters, calendar, videos of Sunday services, and much more may be found at [www.Welcome2CLC.com](http://www.Welcome2CLC.com) or at [www.facebook.com/Welcome2CLC](https://www.facebook.com/Welcome2CLC).

[www.Welcome2CLC.com](http://www.Welcome2CLC.com)  
Facebook: Welcome2CLC  
715-235-5573



“Love Jesus,  
Grow Together,  
Serve Others.”

**Welcome!**

# December 2023 - Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>3</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Worship service (in-person and livestream)</p> <p>10:15 AM Faith Formation</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>10:30 AM CLCW Christmas Potluck - in Fellowship Hall</p> <p>5:30 PM Admin, Cong Life/Worship, Outreach Cmte's</p> <p>6:30 PM Cmte's and council meet</p> <p>7:00 PM Council Meets</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>3:30 PM THE SPOT</p> <p>5:00 PM -6:00 PM CLC FoodShelf</p> <p>5:00 PM -6:00 PM Wednesday's Table</p> <p>6:30 PM -7:30 PM Drop &amp; Shop Fundraiser</p> <p>6:00 PM Worship w/Holy Communion</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> <p>9:00 AM Annual Christmas Sale set up</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>9:00 AM -3:00 PM Annual Christmas Sale in CLC Fellowship Hall</p>
<p><b>10</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Worship service (in-person and livestream)</p> <p>10:00 AM Executive Board</p> <p>10:15 AM Faith Formation</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>10:30 AM CLCW Christmas Potluck - in Fellowship Hall</p> <p>5:30 PM Admin, Cong Life/Worship, Outreach Cmte's</p> <p>6:30 PM Cmte's and council meet</p> <p>7:00 PM Council Meets</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>3:30 PM THE SPOT</p> <p>5:00 PM -6:00 PM CLC FoodShelf</p> <p>5:00 PM -6:00 PM Wednesday's Table</p> <p>6:00 PM Advent Worship</p> <p>6:45 PM -7:30 PM 6ths Only</p> <p>6:45 PM Christ Time</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>
<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>Youth Sunday</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Worship service (in-person and livestream)</p> <p>10:15 AM Faith Formation</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>3:30 PM THE SPOT</p> <p>5:00 PM -6:00 PM CLC FoodShelf</p> <p>5:00 PM -6:00 PM Wednesday's Table</p> <p>6:00 PM Advent Worship</p> <p>6:45 PM -7:30 PM 6ths Only</p> <p>6:45 PM Christ Time</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>Deadline for Friendly Visitor</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>
<p><b>24</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Worship service (in-person and livestream)</p> <p>3:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>5:00 PM -6:00 PM CLC FoodShelf</p> <p>5:00 PM -6:00 PM Wednesday's Table</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>
<p><b>31</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Worship service (in-person and livestream)</p>						