



Christ Lutheran Church

Christ Church Comments + MARCH 2024

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

225 E. Elm Avenue
Monroe, MI 48162
734.241.4554

Pastor:

davidhively@gmail.com

New - Website:

christmonroe.com

Facebook:

Christ Lutheran Church—Monroe,
MI

Secretary: Karen

secretaryonelm@sbcglobal.net

Licensed Lay Minister

Wayne Butts

rwbutts@chartermi.net

**Interim Youth Family Ministry
Coordinator**

Carolyn Gardetto

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Newsletter:

secretaryonelm@sbcglobal.net

Holy Week: A Journey of Transformation with Jesus

As Holy Week approaches on March 24th, many people wonder about our focus on Jesus' challenging path leading to his crucifixion. Why linger on hardship when Easter's joyous celebration of rebirth is near? While the joy of Easter is central to our faith, spending time with Jesus as he faces betrayal, arrest, crucifixion, and death has a great deal to teach us about living lives of faith.

Imagine a magnificent tapestry, where threads of joy and sorrow weave together to form a complete picture. Jesus, embodying divine love, chose to navigate the coarsest and most difficult threads – betrayal, loneliness, and immense suffering. By embracing these challenging moments, we honor the reality of life's difficulties and appreciate the strength woven into Christ's sacrifice.

More importantly, when we sit with the difficult moments in Jesus' life, we find our story in his. Each of us encounters betrayal, loss, and moments of despair. Seeing Jesus navigate these challenges with unwavering faith and compassion offers immense strength and comfort. He doesn't shy away from our pain; he walks beside us, weaving its threads into the tapestry of our lives.

So I invite you to join us this year as we stand amidst the joyous cheers on Palm Sunday. Witnessing their celebration, we can almost forget the looming challenges. Yet, as we join in Maundy Thursday's quiet reflection, we remember the vulnerability shared in that final meal. We kneel with the disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, witnessing Jesus' struggle and finding solace in knowing he understands our own.

The silence of Holy Saturday hangs heavy with anticipation. We wait, held in that unsettling time between death and resurrection. And then, the glorious news of the empty tomb bursts forth, unraveling the tangled threads and revealing the vibrant tapestry of hope.

Easter Sunday isn't just a celebration of rebirth; it's a testament to the transformative power of facing difficulties. By acknowledging the challenging parts of Jesus' life, we see our struggles mirrored in Jesus' life. He doesn't promise to shield us from hardship, but to walk beside us, offering strength and hope. This knowledge becomes our guiding thread, leading us through life's complexities and reminding us that even in the most difficult times, the vibrant tapestry of hope awaits.

Peace,

Pastor David



The Fellowship Hall was hopping with 35 guests that attended the Kids' Valentine's Party on the afternoon of Saturday, February 10. A variety of activities including Valentine Bingo, relay games, coloring sheets, and several crafts were available to keep the children busy and enjoying the festivities. Grilled cheese sandwiches and variety of chips and juices were served. Everyone also enjoyed decorating a delicious homemade heart-shaped cookie baked by Karen Russell. Ann Link supplied icing and embellishments.

Please mark your calendars and be sure to sign up your children and grandchildren for the Easter Party on Saturday, March 23 from 3:00 p.m.- 4:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Special thanks to the youth who manned the games and entertained the youngsters, and to Lyn Sanscrainte and Stacy Stripes for manning the kitchen. Thank you also to Chris Kosal for donating snacks for the group to enjoy.



Lenten Pot-Luck

March 6, 2024
6pm

Bring: Soup,
Salad, or Bread



SHADOWS

Before the Cross



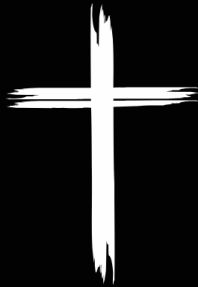
MARCH 28TH - 7PM

225 E. ELM AVE - MONROE, MI



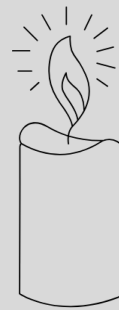
March 28th
Shadows Before
the Cross

Noon - Online
7:00 Sanctuary



March 29th
Good Friday

Noon -
Community
Worship
@ 1st
Presbyterian
Church



March 30th
Easter Vigil

5:00
Saturday Night
Alive Worship



March 31st
Easter

7:00 - Playlist
9:30 - Sanctuary
10:45 Brunch

Bags for our Food Pantry – Update

Thanks to everyone who brings in bags for the pantry. We are still seeing 50 or more people each week. We do use plastic bags, but please make sure that they are clean and have no holes. And, if you could lay them flat or fold them, it would save us lots of time. Do you ever order your groceries from Kroger? The white Kroger bags are THE BEST BAGS EVER! Not only are they large but they're very strong. We also like getting the cloth or reinforced plastic bags with the handles. We get quite a few bike riders and walkers.

Are you at all interested in volunteering in our pantry? Give me a call or text me at: 734.693.2914 with any questions. Thanks again, Kathy Kreiger

The website address for Christ Lutheran Church is:
christmonroe.com

1Peter 3:15-16

¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.

Mid-week Lenten Worship

WEDNESDAYS AT 7P STARTING FEBRUARY 21ST

Join us this year as we worship with Holden Evening Prayer and rethink our relationships in light of God's enduring love.



Help make our church beautiful for Easter! Consider loaning a spring flower of your choice for Easter Sunday, March 31st. Simply drop off your flower no later than March 29th in the Narthex - don't forget to put your name on it. I will be setting up on Saturday. Any questions feel free to call me at 734-658-3455.

Laura Matthews



Kids' Easter Party

Saturday, March 23, 2024

3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Christ Lutheran Church
225 East Elm Ave., Monroe

All elementary age children welcome!

Bring a friend!

Please Sign up on the Bulletin Board

SAVE THE DATE!

Kids' Movie Party!

Saturday, April 13, 2024

3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

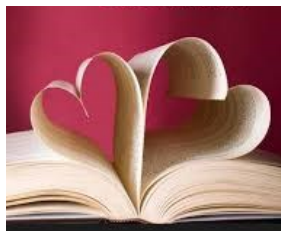
All elementary children are welcome to bring a friend!

Christ Lutheran Church - 225 East Elm Avenue, Monroe

Watch for more details coming soon!

News from around the church

The Book Club will meet at
June's March 21st at 1:00 pm.
Read: Lessons in Chemistry
by Bonnie Garmes



The colder weather is here. Please consider donating
women's, men's & children's socks. Thanks!

Drop your donations off at the church or call:

Ann Link 734-243-9396.



Scripture Readers

*Thanks to Carol Miller for
organizing!*

March 3 Geof Oetjens
March 10 Patrick Lewis
March 17 Polly VanAcker
March 24 Deb Wilson
March 31 Don Link

Ushers

*Thanks to Patrick Lewis for
organizing!*

March 3 Geof Oetjens
March 10 Patrick Lewis
March 17 Jim/Mary Jackel
March 24 William Vavrck and
Gary Huepenbecker
March 31 Geof Oetjens and
Jim/Mary Jackel

Assisting Minister

*Thanks to Rusty Ward for
organizing!*

March 3 Wayne Butts
March 10 William Vavrck
March 17 Jim Jackel
March 24 Renee Merkel
March 31 Rusty Ward



CURRENT FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Summary Operating Statement	January 2024		YTD 2024	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Operating income	\$ 11,023	\$ 15,750	\$ 11,023	\$ 15,750
Operating expense	19,551	15,417	19,551	15,417
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (8,528)	\$ 333	\$ (8,528)	\$ 333

The deficit is partially due to the first payroll in February, our Payroll Company posted that payroll on the last day of January in the amount of \$4,843, so if you remove that amount our January deficit would be \$3,685. This amount is due to lower giving than what was needed in the Budget.