



# Christ Lutheran Church

## Christ Church Comments † August 2023

### **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**

cgardetto7@comcast.net

#### ***Newsletter:***

secretaryonelm@sbcglobal.net

I've noticed an exciting trend over the last few months. We are starting to see more people visiting Christ Lutheran for the first time. I take this as a good sign and perhaps an indication that word of some of the good work we've been doing is getting out into the community. If you've been a part of this congregation for a while it is easy to forget just how difficult and frightening it can be to visit a new community of faith for the first time. Attracting and welcoming visitors well is a sign of a vibrant congregation. Since I know that each of you is interested in helping to welcome visitors and demonstrate that our congregation is a welcoming place, I've prepared a list of five things you can do to help us welcome visitors:

**1. Offer a warm, genuine welcome.** Early birds, this one's for you! Studies say that most visitors have decided if they will return within the first seven minutes that they are in the building. Depending upon when they arrive this could be before the worship service has even started. A simple handshake and introduction can go a long way toward helping someone feel welcome and cared for.

**2. Introduce them to someone who looks like them.** The number one question visitors are asking is, "Is this a place for people like me?" Obviously, there's only a certain amount you can know about someone by just looking at them. But, you can make some guesses. Someone who visits with children in toe may be delighted to meet another family with kids. A woman who walks in alone might be happy to meet someone else whose family stayed home on Sunday.

**3. Introduce them to me.** There's nothing magic that I'm going to say that will make someone want to return. However, getting to know the pastor is an important part of belonging to a church of our size. I always hang around after worship so that I can check in with people about what's going on in their lives. Those few minutes after worship are a perfect chance to make an introduction.

**4. Get them to sign the guest book.** Did you know that I handwrite a personal note to every visitor who leaves their contact info? I think that personal touch makes a difference. But I can only do that follow-up if we have a way to get into contact. A mailing address, phone number, or email address will help keep the conversation going on Monday morning.

**5. Invite them to come again.** Just like first impressions, final impressions matter. Sending someone on their way with an invitation to return lets them know that you are looking forward to seeing them again and that they didn't inadvertently do something to make them unwelcome.

I hope these five tips help you to welcome visitors to Christ Lutheran in a warm and genuine way. This is a concrete way that we can live out our unofficial slogan "All Are Welcome."

Thank you for being a part of our congregation and for helping us to make Christ Lutheran a welcoming place for all.

Peace,

*Pastor David*

## HAVE YOU HAD A CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

Please notify the church office with the details of your new address, **if you have moved, or have a new phone number, or are vacationing for an extended period of time.** This helps save postage on returned mail. All church contact information is found on page one.

The website address for Christ Lutheran Church is:

**christmonroe.com**



## VBS Adult Volunteer Meeting

Please plan to attend the August 2 meeting if you weren't able to be here for the July 30 meeting for opportunities for the upcoming Vacation Bible School adult volunteers:

**Wednesday, August 2 at 7 p.m.**

The meeting will be held in the sanctuary. We will review this year's curriculum, mission project, and discuss the daily routine/schedule. Safety protocols, including dismissal procedures, will be addressed. Please bring any questions you may have about VBS.

If this date and time does not work for you, please contact Carolyn Gardetto at [cgardetto7@comcast.net](mailto:cgardetto7@comcast.net) or phone 734-755-2012 to set up an individual meeting time. Each volunteer must either attend a meeting or meet with Carolyn prior to the start of VBS.

For Vacation Bible School this year, we will provide a nutritious mid-morning snack instead of lunch for the youngsters. We are seeking food donations to feed our goal of 30 children:

- Granola Bars • Fruit • Juice • Yogurt
- Cheese • Cut up Veggies– Carrots/Celery • Humus • Pita bread
- etc.

Peanut butter sandwiches (On Friday - *only if none of our guests have an allergy!*)

**Please drop off your donations marked VBS to the kitchen island or refrigerator.**

***Thank you for your continued generosity!***



*... and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of all the people.*

*Revelation 22:2*

## Vacation Bible School

August 7-11, 2023

Register at:  
[christmonroe.com](http://christmonroe.com)

**Monroe, Michigan friends - would you be kind enough to share this VBS information?**

**Preschoolers through 5th grade are welcome to attend this fun week of music, crafts, games, story time and more! The event runs Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. with a Friday evening closing ceremony. Please register at [christmonroe.com](http://christmonroe.com) today!**

**VBS will be held Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

***The entire family is invited to the Friday Evening Closing Ceremony at 7:00 pm***

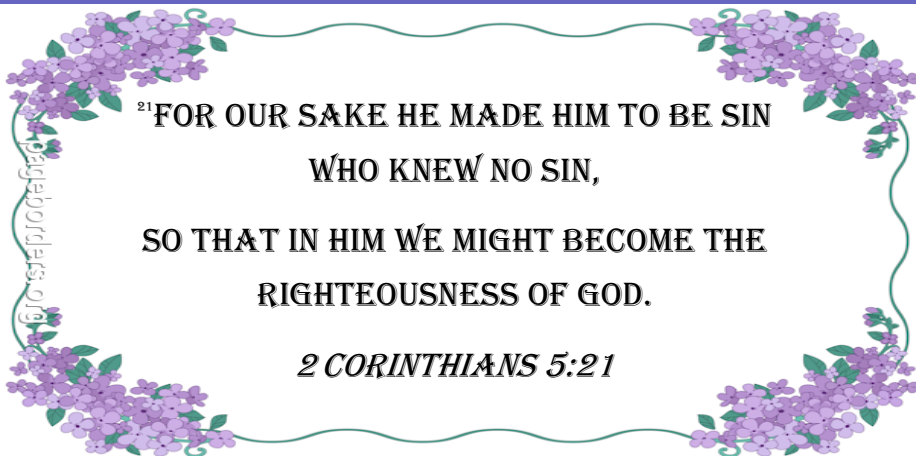
## News from around the church

A donation has been made to the Altar Guild by Geof Oetjens to the glory of God and in memory of Todd Oetjens and Marilyn Oetjens for August 12 & 13.

The altar flowers for August 19 & 20 are given anonymously to the glory of God and as a thank offering.



The Book Club will meet at Pollys on August 17 @ 1:00 pm .  
"Windswept" by Annabelle Abbs



<sup>21</sup>FOR OUR SAKE HE MADE HIM TO BE SIN  
WHO KNEW NO SIN,  
SO THAT IN HIM WE MIGHT BECOME THE  
RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD.  
*2 CORINTHIANS 5:21*

## Scripture Readers

Thanks to Carol Miller for organizing!

August 6 Pat Sargent  
August 13 Patrick Lewis  
August 20 Polly VanAcker  
August 27 Carolyn Gardetto

## Ushers

Thanks to Patrick Lewis for organizing!

August 6 Geof Oetjens  
August 13 Patrick Lewis  
August 20 Jim or Mary Jackel  
August 27 Gary Huepenbecker

## Assisting Minister

Thanks to Rusty Ward for organizing!

August 6 Rusty Ward  
August 13 Jim Jackel  
August 20 Wayne Butts  
August 27 Rusty Ward

## CURRENT FINANCIAL INFORMATION

<u>Summary Operating Statement</u>	<u>June 2023</u>		<u>YTD 2023</u>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Operating income	\$ 18,648	\$ 16,865	\$ 88,887	\$ 105,884
Operating expense	14,980	16,966	102,104	100,158
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 3,668	\$ (101)	\$ (13,217)	\$ 5,726

This month was are best offering month so far. As you can see we covered our expenses and had a surplus. The actual amount shown does not include any funds that have been collect for the repair of the steeple. The YTD Actual was reduced from last month by a little more than \$2,000.