



Christ Lutheran Church

Christ Church Comments

✝ December 2022

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Sometimes a single image has a way of opening up new worlds for us. A couple of years ago, this image did that for me. I found myself thinking about the stillness after Jesus' birth. After the shepherds had gone home,



after the angel choirs, after the adrenaline wore off - what do you suppose it was like in those quiet hours? I love this depiction of Joseph as a father who is involved in caring for Jesus.

For as important that Joseph was in the story of Christmas, we know very little about him. Matthew and Mark talk about Jesus as the son of a carpenter or tradesman, but that's about all we get in terms of things that would usually land in a person's biography. But what we get instead are examples of how Joseph acted in difficult circumstances. And if we are trying to get to know someone, that might actually be more useful than knowing what they did for a living.

The Christmas story starts out with Mary engaged to Joseph. She's found to be pregnant but Joseph knows that he isn't the father. Scripture tells us that he's a righteous man. He would have been within his rights according to the laws of the time to have Mary publicly executed for adultery. But when God speaks to him through

an angel he determines to stay with her and to raise the child she's carrying. It is hard for us to imagine the kind of social stigma that would have come with a decision like that. But it shows us something about his character: Joseph is someone who is willing to pursue God's path of love and mercy even when it isn't easy or popular.

The other glimpse that we have into who Joseph is comes from when, after the guidance of an angel, Joseph takes Mary and Jesus and flees to Egypt to avoid the wrath of Herod. In a society where your social and economic life are tied up in your family bonds fleeing to a different country would be like hitting the reset button on your life. Ask anyone who has fled from persecution or violence in their homeland, starting over in a new place is incredibly difficult. What this shows us about Joseph's character is that he's willing to do difficult things for the safety and well-being a very young child and his post-partum mother.

So this year, as you look at the nativity scenes around your home, at church, or out in the community. I invite you to take a few moments to linger over Joseph - a man who pursued God's path of love and mercy without regard for the social consequences and who will do difficult things for the wellbeing of the vulnerable people that God has placed in his life.

Peace,
Pastor David

Widening the Welcome

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN RESULTS

RESPONSES

47+

Individuals and families responded in person, through the mail, and online.



NEW MONEY

\$23,000

Pledged increase in giving to support mission and ministry.



COOPERATION

\$9.50

average weekly increase across all pledges



BIG STEPS

7

Families and individuals pledged to increase their giving by \$20 per week or more in 2023!



CHRISTMONROE.COM

Annual Meeting

JANUARY 22ND
FOLLOWING
WORSHIP



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.



Living Nativity

December 3rd 5:30-7:30
Christ Lutheran Church

Fellowship
POTLUCK
Dinner

Sunday, December 4

Meal @ 6:00 pm

Confirmation Class @ 7:00 pm

Please bring a dish to share.
Beverages & place settings provided.

All are welcome!



December 10 & 11

After worship

Proceeds will help purchase gifts
for a family adopted by the Youth
Group this Christmas season.

The new website address for Christ Lutheran Church is:

christmonroe.com

Middle & High School Youth's Annual

Christmas Shopping Service Project



Wednesday, December 14

Starting at 5:30 pm

Join us for our traditional outing to buy gifts for our adopted family. We will meet at the church at 5:30 & then head to Meijer. Once there, we will break into teams to shop. We will then head back to the church to wrap gifts, eat pizza & have fun!

Bring \$10 to help pay for gifts.

CLC Faith Formation
Presents

UNBOXING CHRISTMAS



Our students will get a good look at the gift of Christmas.

The program will be shown at both worship services the weekend of December 17 & 18. It will also be available on the worship playlist.

Participating families... We will be recording November 26 & December 3 from 10:00 am until noon. You can pick the date.



The cold weather is here. Please consider donating women's, men's & children's socks. Thanks! [ankle length & no-shows are most often requested] . Drop your donations off at the church or call: Ann Link 734-243-9396.

CLC's Middle & High
School Youth's



**Friday,
January 6**

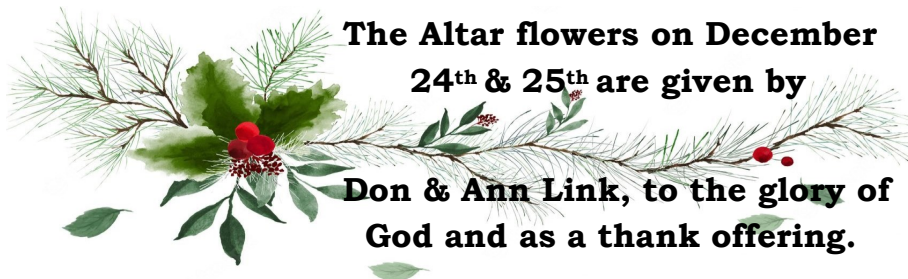
At 6:00 pm

Meet at Church

We will be carpooling to our host homes.

**Friends are welcome!
Please sign-up so we
know how many
people to expect.**

News from around the church



The Altar flowers on December
24th & 25th are given by

Don & Ann Link, to the glory of
God and as a thank offering.



The Book Club will meet @
Ann's December 15 @ 1:00 pm.
[Book Planning for 2023]



Scripture Readers

December 4 Ben Garman

December 11 Patrick Lewis

December 18 Don Link

December 24 Geof Oetjens

December 25 Deb Wilson

Thanks to Carol Miller
for organizing!

Ushers

December 4 Geof Oetjens

December 11 Patrick Lewis

December 18 Jim or Mary Jackel

December 24 Geof Oetjens and
Gary Huepenbecker

December 25 Gary Huepenbecker

Thanks to Patrick Lewis
for organizing!

Assisting Minister

December 4 Jim Jackel

December 11 Renee Merkel

December 18 Wayne Butts

December 24 Rusty Ward

December 25 Jim Jackel

Thanks to Rusty Ward
For organizing!

CURRENT FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Summary Operating Statement

	October 2022		YTD 2022	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Operating income	\$20,901	\$17,203	\$157,330	\$157,721
Operating expense	20,204	15,822	185,574	173,745
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 697	\$ 1,381	\$ (28,244)	\$ (16,024)

Food pantry and heating expenses are the categories of unfavorable operating expense.