



Christ Lutheran Church

Christ Church Comments **✝ December 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

Dear Friends,

As we journey through the complexities of life, it's remarkable to see how the difficulties encountered by the Holy Family reflect the struggles we encounter today. The story of Jesus' birth offers profound insights into resilience and hope during trying times.

Facing Uncertainty Together

Think about Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem—a journey filled with uncertainty. Similarly, our world grapples with uncertainties, just as many individuals face uncertain futures today.

Finding Comfort Amid Turmoil

Imagine the simple stable where Jesus was born, a place of humble shelter amid chaos. This mirrors the need for solace and security amidst our own life's storms, where many seek refuge from various challenges.

Lessons in Perseverance

Consider Mary and Joseph's resilience as they adapted to unexpected circumstances. Their unwavering strength teaches us to face difficulties with determination and reliance on our faith and supportive communities.

Holding onto Hope

Despite their hardships, the birth of Jesus brought a message of enduring hope. In a world of change and upheaval, we cling to hope, trusting that Jesus comes among us - even in the most difficult circumstances.

Community Support Matters

Reflect on the kindness shown to the Holy Family—a simple stable offered as a refuge. None of us were designed to face the challenges of this world alone. We were given to each other to love, care for, and support.

Building Empathy and Understanding

As we ponder these connections between the circumstances of the Holy Family and people in our world today, it opens our hearts towards the people around us. We see Mary, Joseph, and Jesus in the face of our neighbors. Our shared experiences can create bridges of empathy and solidarity.

Walking in Their Footsteps

May the Holy Family's story inspire us. May their resilience encourage us to face challenges with faith, kindness, and a belief in the light that shines through the darkness.

Peace,

Pastor David

Annual Meeting

JANUARY 21ST
FOLLOWING
WORSHIP



**THE LAW INDEED WAS
GIVEN THROUGH
MOSES; GRACE AND
TRUTH CAME
THROUGH
JESUS CHRIST.**

JOHN 1:17



Christmas Eve

12/23 5PM- PRAISE, COMMUNION, CANDLELIGHT
12/24 9:30 AM - CHOIR, COMMUNION, CANDLELIGHT
12/24 7PM - CHOIR, COMMUNION, CANDLELIGHT

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.

Thanks to Alexandria Willeford

If you have been in the narthex recently, we are certain you noticed how nice it looks. Alexandria Willeford, a union painter who attends a CLC outreach program, put a fresh coat of paint on a substantial part of the room. By painting five feet up from the baseboard, and repairing nicks, dings and scrapes, she gave the entire room a fresh and updated look. Alexandria volunteered her professional services as a gift to the church.

The Property Team reached out to a local painter earlier this year because the wear and tear on the room was noticeable. The quote for one coat of paint on the narthex was \$3,920 and two coats was \$6,200. Alexandria donated her labor, and the church only had to pay for paint and supplies -- well under \$500.

Thank you, Alexandria, for the generous gift of your time and talents! We are very grateful and the narthex looks wonderful!



Thank you to Box City Volunteers

Youth experienced a small part of being homeless by sleeping in an appliance box for one night in the annual Box City event. Adult volunteers stay awake in shifts during the night to ensure the students' safety. Special thanks to the following volunteers who donated their time to supervise and/or donated food: Sandy Butts, Wayne Butts, Ben Garman, Rusty Ward, Becky Huepenbecker, Gary Huepenbecker



Box City was held November 3-4 at the Salvation Army and was held in partnership with City Church Project Monroe. Thank you for your generosity!

Carolyn Gardetto

Interim Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator

The colder weather will soon be on its way. 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.**

(ankle length and no-shows are most often requested).





Ho! Ho! Ho! Youth Service Christmas Shopping Trip

Christmas shoppers for the annual Youth Service Shopping Trip will meet at church on Saturday, December 9 at 6 p.m. We will travel to Meijer to pick up some special toys for two sweet girls and something nice for their mom. After the elves make their selections, we will return to church to wrap the gifts in festive paper and bows! Pizza and pop will be provided to all!

Here is our shopping list:

- (2 each) Slime, Kinetic Sand, Color Change LOL
- Barbie
- Shoes size 8, clothes size 5T and socks
- Shoes size 6, clothes size 3T and socks
- Baby doll
- Women's clothes size large, size 6 winter boots, and bath and body sprays
- Cleaning supplies

Please contact Carolyn at cgardetto7@comcast.net if you will be participating to ensure we have enough drivers.

Special thanks to Sarah Woodward for her ongoing assistance!



CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

**Special Coffee Hour after
Sunday Service December 10!**

Please bring a dozen or so
cookies to share with your
friends!

**ENJOY A DELICIOUS HOT
CHOCOLATE BAR TOO!**

**Courtesy of Youth and
Family Ministry**



Giving Tree 2023

The tree is up loaded with ornaments. We have adopted two families whose names came from the ISD.

We are asking you to put your gift in a gift bag with the ornament in plain sight.

Please have the gifts in by Wednesday, December 13. We plan to deliver them on December 15. If you would like to help, but do not want to shop, we will be happy to shop for you. Just contact one of us.

Thank You,

Polly VanAcker, Becky Huepenbecker,
Annie Click & June Coyne



The website address for Christ Lutheran Church is:

christmonroe.com

News from around the church

The **Church Donation Envelopes** will be printed in-house again for 2024. Please e-mail secretaryonelm@sbcglobal.net or call the office 241-4554 if you wish to be put on the list to receive envelopes.

Thank You! Karen

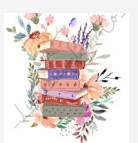


The altar arrangements for this Advent Season are given by Ms. Deb Wilson to the glory of God, and in loving memory of her parents, Ellsworth and Edna Wilson.

The Altar Flowers for December 23 & 24 are given by Don & Ann Link to the glory of God and as a thank offering.



The Book Club will meet on Thursday, December 21 at Annie Clicks, and will be choosing books for 2024 year.



Scripture Readers

Thank you Carol Miller for organizing!

December 3 Stephanie Hawkins
December 10 Dede Ward
December 17 Patrick Lewis
December 24 9:30 Ben Merkel
December 24 7:00 Geof Oetjens
December 31 Deb Wilson

Ushers

Thank you Patrick Lewis for organizing!

December 3 Patrick Lewis
December 10 Patrick Lewis
December 17 Gary Huepenbecker
December 24 9:30 Mary Jackel
December 24 7:00 Geof Oetjens
December 31 Jim Jackel

Assisting Minister

Thank you Rusty Ward for organizing!

December 3 Rusty Ward
December 10 William Vavrick
December 17 Renee Merkel
December 24 9:30 Jim Jackel
December 24 7:00 Rusty Ward
December 31 Wayne Butts

CURRENT FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Summary Operating Statement

	October 2023		YTD 2023	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Operating income	\$ 26,375	\$ 16,515	\$ 159,577	\$ 169,594
Operating expense	15,998	16,349	168,840	168,424
		\$		
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 10,377	166	\$ (9,263)	\$ 1,170

October was a 5 Sunday month which allowed us to end the month with a positive balance. It also cut the deficit for our YTD almost in half.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving.

