



# Christ Lutheran Church

## Christ Church Comments

✝ January 2023

### **Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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**New - Website:**  
christmonroe.com

**Facebook:**  
Christ Lutheran Church—Monroe,  
MI

**Secretary: Karen**  
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**Youth and Ed.: Kristen**  
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As we approach the new year, many of us reflect on the past year and think about ways we can improve ourselves in the year to come. We make resolutions to exercise more, eat healthier, spend more time with loved ones, and so on. While these goals can be beneficial and help us lead happier, healthier lives, it's important to remember that we are not saved by our own efforts or good works. We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Our resolutions may help us grow as people, but they are not going to make God love you more than God already does.

Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." This verse reminds us that our salvation is not based on anything we do, but rather it is a gift from God that we receive through faith in Jesus.

As you make your resolutions for the new year, ask yourself, "Does this resolution help me grow into the person that God is calling me to be?" and "Does this resolution cultivate in me the fruit of the Spirit ( love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control)?" (Galatians 5:22-23)

1 Corinthians 15:10 says, "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me." This verse reminds us that it is through the grace of God that we are able to accomplish anything, and that his grace is sufficient for us.

It's also important to remember that we are all imperfect and prone to failure. Even with the best intentions, we may not always follow

through on our resolutions. But this doesn't mean that we should give up on trying to improve ourselves. Instead, we can rely on the grace of God to help us grow and change.

Finally, do not allow the perfect to be the enemy of the good. Don't allow a minor setback to derail your plans. One or two missed days of a new habit - or of falling back into an old one - does not mean that you need to give up. Instead, simply remind yourself of your goal and begin again.

May the new year be a time of growth and transformation for you, as you rely on the grace of God to guide you on your journey.

Peace,

*Pastor David*

After many years of faithful, dedicated, and creative service Kristen is going to be stepping away from her role as Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator after the Epiphany Party on Jan 8th. In this position she's been a role-model and confidant to a full generation of children, youth, and young adults from this

## CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY: KRISTEN HAUSE

Join us after worship on January 29th for brunch as we celebrate Kristen's ministry and offer our blessings on her new endeavors.



congregation. Of course, we also recognize that her service to this congregation has extended well beyond simply working with our young people. You'd often find her coming in early to set up for and staying late to clean up after, almost any event that we've hosted in recent memory. Kristen has been a cornerstone of our church community, and her passion for spreading the Good News and helping young people grow in their faith has had a profound impact on so many lives.

As a way to mark the conclusion of this phase of Kristen's ministry with us, we are planning a recognition brunch. Please join us after worship on January 29th as we celebrate the good and faithful work that God has done through Kristen and extend our blessings and well-wishes to her as she begins her new endeavors. This will be a time for us to come together as a church family and show our appreciation for all that Kristen has done for us over the years.

We hope you will join us in thanking Kristen and celebrating her ministry on January 29th. Please mark your calendars and plan to be there to show your support and appreciation.



## The Power of the Gospel

### Romans 1

<sup>16</sup>For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup>For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, 'The one who is righteous will live by faith.'

### 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.

*Hosted by the Baptismal Ministry Team  
In conjunction with the Fellowship Potluck*  
**Sunday, January 8 at 6:00 pm**  
**In the ER Parish Hall**

**Soup, Dessert & Beverages Provided**  
**Please bring a Salad or Side to share.**

*There will be activities for the children after dinner,  
including a visit from some special guests.*

**The congregation is asked to help take down the holiday decorations on**  
**January 14 @ 10:00 am**

The new website address for Christ Lutheran Church is:

**christmonroe.com**

### Staffing Change:

After many years serving as custodian at Christ Lutheran, Kathy Krieger has decided to step away from the position. When you see her around, please say thanks to Kathy for all her hard work as our church custodian. She's been an amazing asset to our community and we're going to miss her in this role.

I'm also excited to announce that Rusty Ward is our new custodian. He's got experience in a role like this and we're confident he'll do a great job keeping our church safe and welcoming for members and guests alike.

Finally, a big shoutout to the personnel committee for leading us through this transition!

### Register for Camp:

Registration for Camp at Living Waters will open in January 2023. We expect that slots will fill up quickly. Campers who are participating in Explorers (Grades 1-3), Discoverers (Grades 3-6), Challengers, Confirmation (Grades 6-8), or Servant Hearts (Grades 8-12) should register for camp Week 4 - July 9 through 14. Bridge Builders will be July 23 through 28.

Unlike years past, the church is not able to register as a group. Each family will be responsible for registering their own campers. If you need help with this process, please contact Pastor David. Also note that this year Living Waters is offering "Welcome to All" Pricing. You can pay full price, half price, or no price. Because of this pricing structure, the congregational support that, in previous years, had been divided up among the campers is going to be sent straight to Living Waters to offset the costs associated with this pricing model. Families are encouraged to choose the price plan that makes sense for their family.

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

# Annual Meeting

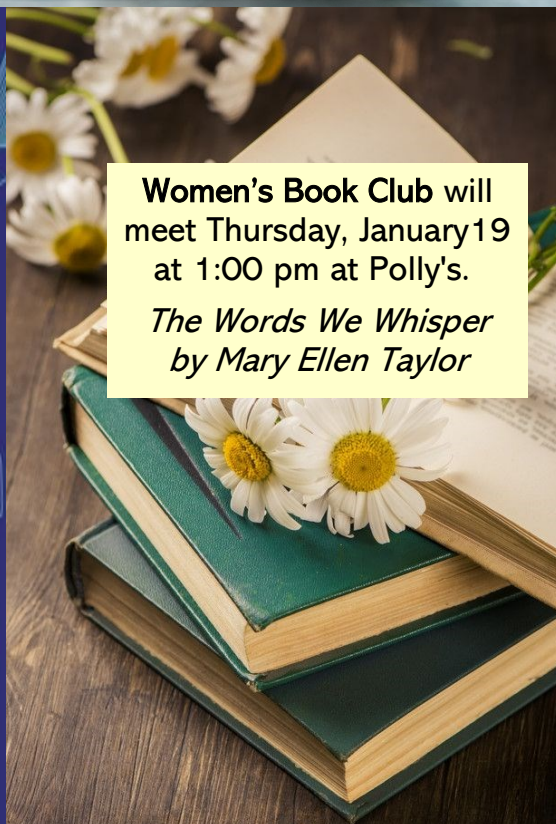
JANUARY 22ND  
FOLLOWING  
WORSHIP



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.

Women's Book Club will meet Thursday, January 19 at 1:00 pm at Polly's.

*The Words We Whisper*  
by Mary Ellen Taylor



## Scripture Readers

Thanks to Carol Miller for organizing!

January 1 Polly VanAcker

January 8 Patrick Lewis

January 15 Hope Link

January 22 Kristen Hause

January 29 Dede Ward

## Ushers

Thanks to Patrick Lewis for organizing!

January 1 Geof Oetjens

January 8 Patrick Lewis

January 15 Jim or Mary Jackel

January 22 Gary Huepenbecker

January 29 Patrick Lewis

## Assisting Minister

Thanks to Rusty Ward for organizing!

January 1 Renee Merkel

January 8 Wayne Butts

January 15 Jim Jackel

January 22 Rusty Ward

January 29 Renee Merkel

## CURRENT FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Summary Operating Statement

	<u>November 2022</u>		<u>YTD 2022</u>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Operating income	\$ 19,097	\$ 15,736	\$ 176,426	\$ 173,457
Operating expense	15,966	15,047	201,539	188,792
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 3,131	\$ 689	\$ (25,113)	\$ (15,335)

General giving and food pantry giving at Thanksgiving exceeded budget.