



# Christ Lutheran Church

## Christ Church Comments

† January 2024

### **Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**225 E. Elm Avenue  
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christmonroe.com

**Facebook:**  
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Coordinator  
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### **Living into Our Baptismal Promises:**

A new year brings new starts, new opportunities, and a chance to wipe the slate clean. In the sacrament of baptism, we are immersed in God's boundless love and grace, which frees us from the grip of sin and sets us on a path of new life and purpose.

Through baptism, we make promises to live in accordance with God's will and to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. This New Year offers an opportune moment to reflect on these promises and recommit ourselves to living into them more fully.

Inspired by God's unconditional love, we are called to love one another as Christ has loved us. This means embracing our neighbors with compassion, kindness, and forgiveness, regardless of their differences or circumstances. It means working towards creating a world where love triumphs over indifference, hatred, and injustice. We must actively seek justice for the marginalized, challenge systems of oppression, and promote policies that foster peace, equality, and human dignity. Furthermore, we are called to care for God's creation, recognizing our interconnectedness with all living things and our responsibility to protect the environment for future generations.

As we embark on this New Year, let us renew our commitment to living into our baptismal promises. Let us strive to grow in our faith, deepen our love for God and neighbor, and make a positive impact on the world around us. Let us be agents of hope, spreading God's love and promoting peace, justice, and

reconciliation wherever we go. May this New Year be a testament to our unwavering faith and our commitment to living according to God's will.

If you are looking to give your faith life a tune-up, look through these baptismal promises and ask yourself, "What is one faithful step that I could take towards living into these promises in the next month? How would my life be different if I did?"

- Live among God's faithful people,
- Hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- Proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- Serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- Strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Peace,

*Pastor David*



### **Good time had by all at Youth Shopping Trip**

If you are ever feeling like the Grinch at Christmas time, you should go with the CLC Youth to participate in the Shopping Service Trip. The teens are a hoot. This year, four teenagers: Anna, Alice, Maddie and Caroline went to Meijer to shop for two little girls and their mother on Saturday, December 9. The teens took the assignment very seriously. We talked about the little girls' likes, gave each shopper a copy of their wish list, and discussed our budget parameters.

Off to Meijer we went in three vehicles as CLC now enjoys multiple teen drivers with licenses! For safety's sake while in the store, we had each others' phone numbers, and the shopping pairs stuck together. As agreed, we met by the avocados when completed, then hit the check out. They even have fun paying the bill. Basically, they have fun all the time.

When we got back to church, the girls started to wrap the gifts with festive paper and bows while listening to Taylor Swift in the narthex. The place was rockin' on a Saturday night and there was much singing and laughter.

We all worked up an appetite shopping so we ordered pizza and pop.

At the end of the night, there was a huge box full of wrapped gifts for a needy family.

The teens are truly a joy. It was fun, they were fabulous workers, enjoyed each others' company and did a good deed for some little ones. We are fortunate to have such a nice bunch of kids at CLC. Personally, I had a blast, and I am still chuckling over the evening. They are hilarious.

**Carolyn Gardetto**

**Interim Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator**



**Romans 6:14**

<sup>14</sup>For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.



The taking down of Christmas decorations will take place on Sunday, January 7, immediately following the 9:30 service. Please plan on staying to help. The more help we have, the easier and quicker the job.

# Annual Meeting

JANUARY 21ST  
FOLLOWING  
WORSHIP



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.



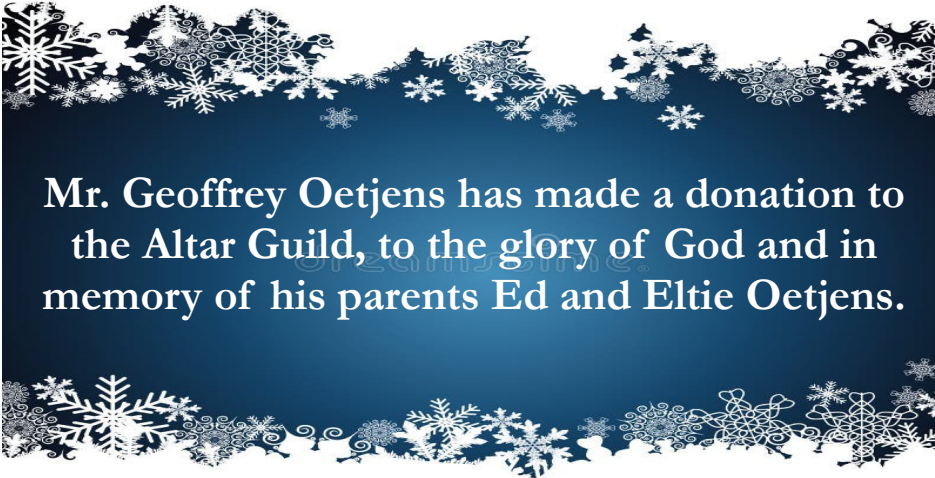
## HAVE YOU HAD A CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

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**

## News from around the Church



Mr. Geoffrey Oetjens has made a donation to the Altar Guild, to the glory of God and in memory of his parents Ed and Eltie Oetjens.



**Thank You everyone that donated a poinsettia to the church for Christmas. It was beautiful!**  
**Laura**

## Scripture Readers

Thank you Carol Miller for organizing!

January 7 Geof Oetjens  
 January 14 Patrick Lewis  
 January 21 Ben Garman  
 January 28 Polly VanAcker

## Ushers

Thanks to Patrick Lewis for organizing!

January 7 Geof Oetjens  
 January 14 Patrick Lewis  
 January 21 Jim/Mary Jackel  
 Jan 28 Gary Huepenbecker

## Assisting Minister

Thanks to Rusty Ward for organizing!

January 7 Renee Merkel  
 January 14 Geof Oetjens  
 January 21 Jim Jackel  
 January 28 Rusty Ward

The Book Club will meet

Thursday, January 18 at

Polly's 1:00 pm.

Read "The Guncle"

by Steven Rowley



## CURRENT FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Summary Operating Statement

	November 2023		YTD 2023	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Operating income	\$ 10,995	\$ 16,573	\$ 170,572	\$ 186,167
Operating expense	13,721	15,744	182,561	184,168
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (2,726)	\$ 829	\$ (11,989)	\$ 1,999

November was one of our lower giving months this year. Causing us to go back in a negative status for this month. It also brought our YTD deficit back over \$10,000.00