



Christ Lutheran Church

Christ Church Comments

† March 2022

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

Newsletter:

secretaryonelm@sbcglobal.net

A few weeks ago the church had a technician come out to do some work on our internet connection. He wore a bright reflective vest, company hoodie, faded denim jeans, and work boots that seemed like they came straight from central casting. As he was wrapping up he came into my office (where the church's internet connection enters the building) and began a few final tweaks. While everything was testing he looked up and asked, "So - what's it been like leading a faith community lately?" I tried to brush him off with a couple of hollow platitudes - but for whatever reason - he seemed to be waiting for a deeper, truer answer.

"It's been hard," I said. "It seems to me that people are carrying a lot of pain, but don't have a place to put it."

"I've seen that too," he said. "I deal with a lot of people in this job from all walks of life and it seems like everyone is close to their breaking point."

Truth is, I've had versions of this conversation with other faith leaders, scoutmasters, teachers, little league umpires, and barbers. There's something in the air right now that we are having trouble naming but somehow know isn't quite right.

It shouldn't come as a surprise. We've all had several extra helpings of grief thrust upon us in the last few years. We've

lost loved ones to tragedy, old age, and COVID. We've made and canceled plans for graduation parties, visits to grandchildren, family vacations, and so much more. Each of these losses is another encounter with grief. And each new wave of grief compounds on top of the others leaving us hurting and searching for answers.

If you have found yourself having difficulty focusing as well as you used to, or getting irritable more quickly, or just not finding joy in the places where you used to find it, there's a decent chance that you have some grief to process.

During our mid-week Lenten services this year, we are going to be working on our grief together. We'll use stories from scripture to help root us in the promises of God and trust that the One who knows us better than we even know ourselves can heal the grief inside of us. This isn't going to be a time of mournfulness and dirges, but a chance to let God do what God does best - bring wholeness and healing. There's going to be space to think and pray, a chance to hear scripture, to be quiet, to sing together, and to ask God for the kind of healing that we need as individuals and as a society. I hope you'll join us on Wednesdays at 7pm.

Peace,

Pastor



Starting something new?

In late January, the newly elected council met in retreat. Through conversion, prayer, and discernment, we've begun exploring how our church building may be an asset to the congregation and the wider community. One of the avenues that we are exploring is potentially hosting a Great Start Readiness Program classroom or similar program. We expect that the state is going to begin a substantial expansion of pre-school programming and that this expansion will be a great opportunity for us to show love and hospitality to an underserved part of our community. We are still in the early phases of this exploration, but if this sounds like something that you'd be interested in helping bring to life, please reach out to Pat Sargent or Mary Hawthorne.

The new website address for Christ Lutheran Church is:

christmonroe.com



1PETER 2:9 ⁹ BUT YOU ARE A CHOSEN RACE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, GOD'S OWN PEOPLE, IN ORDER THAT YOU MAY PROCLAIM THE MIGHTY ACTS OF HIM WHO CALLED YOU OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT.

Lenten Pot-Luck

March 15, 2023
6pm

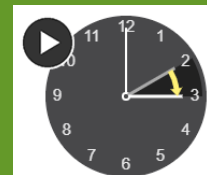
Bring: Soup,
Salad, or Bread



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.

**Time Change..March 12,
2:00 am move your clock
forward 1 hour**



The present moment alone is ours. Today is a day which we never had before, which we shall never have again. It rose from the great ocean of eternity, and again sinks into its unfathomable depths.



News from around the church

Help make our church beautiful for Easter! Consider loaning a spring flower of your choice for Easter Sunday, April 9th. Simply drop off your flower no later than April 8th in the Narthex - don't forget to put your name on it. I will be setting up on Saturday. Any questions feel free to call me at 734-658-3455.

Laura Matthews



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.



Please mark your calendar and plan to participate!

ANNUAL SPRING WORK DAY

9:00 a.m. - noon Saturday, May 6

A variety of inside and outside tasks will be tackled!



Women's Book Club
March 16th, 1:00 pm
at Ann Link's



Scripture Readers

Thanks to Carol Miller for organizing!

March 5 Geof Oetjens

March 12 Patrick Lewis

March 19 Polly VanAcker

March 26 Clinton Hause

Ushers

Thanks to Patrick Lewis for organizing!

March 5 Geof Oetjens

March 12 Patrick Lewis

March 19 Mary Jackel

March 26 Jim Jackel

Assisting Minister

Thanks to Rusty Ward for organizing!

March 5 Jim Jackel

March 12 Wayne Butts

March 19 Renee Merkel

March 26 Rusty Ward

CURRENT FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Summary Operating Statement

January 2023

YTD 2023

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Operating income	\$ 16,995	\$ 16,865	\$ 16,995	\$ 16,865
Operating expense	19,102	19,513	19,102	19,513
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (2,107)	\$ (2,648)	\$ (2,107)	\$ (2,648)

The loss that we experienced this month is due to the Church Insurance that is due semi annually.