



Christ Lutheran Church

Christ Church Comments

✝ October 2022

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

**225 E. Elm Avenue
Monroe, MI 48162
734.241.4554**

Pastor:
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New - Website:
christmonroe.com

Facebook:
Christ Lutheran Church—Monroe,
MI

Secretary: Karen
secretaryonelm@sbcglobal.net

Youth and Ed.: Kristen
CLCYouth225@gmail.com

Licensed Lay Minister
Wayne Butts
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Newsletter:
secretaryonelm@sbcglobal.net

One of the things about Christ Lutheran that routinely amazes me is how generous we can be. It is woven into the culture of the congregation. Some of you remember stories from a few years ago about donating the money for an airplane that supported missionaries in Alaska or of funds raised for a new piano in just two weeks. Even in this last year as inflation has become an issue and concerns about the economy grew we did amazing things: We raised \$1,500 in support of our ministry partners at Living Waters through the \$5k/5k. VBS kids and families collected \$841 and a couple of sets of bedding to support Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep through First Presbyterian. And in ways big and small we've supported a food pantry that now gives away sixty bags of groceries a week. Generosity is a part of who we are as Christ Lutheran Church.

It has always been important to Robyn and I that we model generosity and stewardship. For that reason when we make our family budget the very first line is always our offering to the Church. We've done this when all was well on the financial front and even when times were tough. No matter how much we gave, God always made sure we had enough. Lately, we've been trying to model this with Lucas as well, trying to help him understand that the things that God has entrusted to us are not just for our benefit, but also for the benefit of those around us. When we consider all that God has given to us, we cannot help but be generous with those around us.

This year, in late October and early November, will be this year's Stewardship Campaign, "Widening the Welcome." During these few weeks, you'll likely hear us talking about money more than we normally do. You'll get some letters and brochures in the mail. You'll see temple talks in worship and in the weekly playlist. It is my hope that by the end of the campaign when we collect statement of intent cards you'll be just as excited as I am about all that God has in store for our congregation in 2023.

When we send kids to camp, hear anthems from the choir, provide food for hungry people in our community, or support

members of our congregation who are facing difficult times - all of that is made possible by your continued, faithful support. Your gifts and offerings make a difference and we are grateful for you!

Peace,

Pastor David



Ministry Report

\$1,500

Raised to support
Living Waters
Ministries!

Thank you



Christ Lutheran Church and the United Way, in conjunction with Monroe County Homeless Awareness Week,

BOX CITY

Saturday, November 5 at 6:00 p.m.

- THROUGH -

Sunday, November 6 at 8:00 a.m.

Middle and high school students will experience the challenges of homelessness by spending one night outside sleeping in a cardboard box. Think of it as a Lock-Out, instead of a Lock-In... kids will get just a small glimpse of what the homeless go through on a daily basis. Participants are encouraged to layer clothing, including warm outer wear. Also bring warm bedding for the night.

Preregister at

www.christmonroe.com/box-city

Additional details will be sent upon registration

\$10 Donation

Per Person

*Will help those who
face homelessness
in Monroe*



Christ Lutheran Church
225 East Elm Avenue
Monroe, MI

Contact Kristen Hause at 734-241-4554, or via email at clcyouth225@gmail.com, for more information.

Participants will be continuously monitored by an active and alert team of adult volunteers passing current background checks.

Partners include area public safety organizations.



A Living Nativity

Saturday, December 3

5:30 pm - 7:30pm

*Help us bring the celebration of
Christ's birth to our community!*

We will worship together at 5:00 pm, and open the doors for the Living Nativity at 5:30 pm.

PLEASE SIGN-UP TO HELP BY NOV. 6th

If we don't have enough volunteers by that point, we will have to cancel the event.

**CLC's October
Fellowship Dinner
Sunday, October 2 @ 6 pm**



It is that time of year again! We are excited to be able to gather together for food and fellowship! Please bring a dish to share. Beverages will be provided.

Sign-up at church.

**CLC Middle & High School
Youth Group**

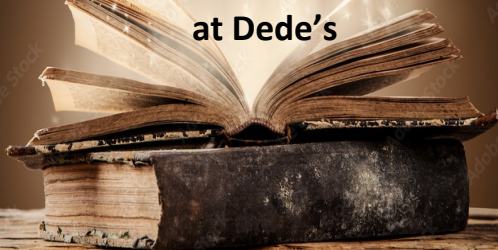
Bonfire
Sunday, October 9
6-8 pm
At the Merkels'

Join us for Games,
Food, Fun, and some Planning.

**SIGN-UP
In the
NARTHEX**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Women's Book Club
meets @ 1:00 pm on
October 27nd
at Dede's



**CLC's Weekly
Faith Formation**



Sundays from 10:45 am - 11:30 am

Children in Preschool - 6th Grade are invited to join us to hear stories, make crafts, and play games through the school year. We also prepare special programs for Christmas and Easter.

Older youth are invited to help lead the younger students.

***** There is also an adult class that runs at the same time as Faith Formation.*****

The new website address for Christ Lutheran Church is:

christmonroe.com

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

HOME COMMUNION VISITORS

We have a team of four lay people from the congregation who make monthly visits with our shut-in members to share communion with them and maintain a connection to Christ Lutheran.



CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HALLOWEEN PARTY

OCTOBER 22ND, 2022

6:00 TO 8:00PM

SIGN UP FOR YOUR
TIME SLOT AT
[CHRISTMONROE.COM/
HALLOWEEN-PARTY](https://christmonroe.com/halloween-party)



Fellowship Dinner

Pot Luck

October 2nd @ 6pm
Confirmation @ 7pm



News from around the church

October 15 & 16...A donation to the Altar Guild has been made by Mr. Geoffrey Oetjens to the glory of God and in memory of Mrs. Eltie Oetjens.

October 29 & 30...The altar flowers are given by Jason & Stephanie Hawkins and Family to the glory of God and as a thank offering.

The colder weather will soon be on its way. Please consider donating womens, men's & children's socks. Thank's!

Drop your donations off at the church or call: Ann Link 734-243-9396. (ankle length and no-shows are most often requested).



Scripture Readers

Thanks to Carol Miller for organizing!

October 2 Ben Garman
October 9 Hope Link
October 16 Patricia Sargent
October 23 Dede Ward
October 30 Patrick Lewis

Ushers

Thanks to Patrick Lewis for organizing!

October 2 Geof Oetjens
October 9 Patrick Lewis
October 16 Jim Mary Jackel
October 23 Gary Huepenbecker
October 30 Patrick Lewis

Assisting Minister

Thanks to Rusty Ward for organizing!

October 2 Wayne Butts
October 9 Jim Jackel
October 16 Renee Merkel
October 23 Rusty Ward
October 30 Wayne Butts



The fall Church Clean Up Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 1 from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. A variety of indoor and outdoor chores will be tackled. All are welcome to assist!

Please e-mail the names of loved ones departed to: secretaryonelm@sbcglobal.net for All Saints Sunday November 6th

CURRENT FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Summary Operating Statement August 2022 YTD 2022

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Operating income	\$11,659	\$13,486	\$120,575	\$126,482
Operating expense	23,283	18,379	143,213	137,363
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$(11,624)	\$ (4,893)	\$ (22,638)	\$ (10,881)

Christ Lutheran's food pantry, Two Fish & Five Loaves

When Pastor David asked me to write a paragraph about why I spend time each week working in **Christ Lutheran's food pantry, Two Fish & Five Loaves**, I thought the hardest part would be keeping it to just one paragraph. I like helping others. You meet great people. I have the time. It is a worthy cause... But, when I actually sat down to write, I learned my story goes a lot deeper than I realized.

In 2018 my husband, Todd, and I decided to sell our family home of 30+ years and move to Monroe County. For only the second time in my life I made the practical, yet painful, decision to look for a new church. So, after a couple of other stops around town, I visited Christ Lutheran. I liked many things about CLC from my very first visit- friendly people that appeared to actually enjoy the 'sharing of the peace', a seemingly thoughtful and compassionate pastor, a nice lady who mailed me a Welcome note (thanks Deb!), and a beautiful older building in the heart of the town I was beginning to love, to name a few. So, I joined a Bible study Pastor David hosted and met even more friendly people. The ELCA Social Statements provided an incredible learning opportunity not only for myself, but for anyone willing to engage with them. It's apparent why it's easy to be happy with CLC as your church home.

In January of 2020 we headed south to spend time with my mother. Our planned getaway was supposed to last 4 months, but Covid struck and circumstances kept us away from home for 16 long months! For this small-town girl that has always lived within a 25 mile radius of Monroe, being away from home and our (adult) children that long was a shock to the system! In addition, as you all remember so well, those early days of Covid were scary. No vaccines, no one knew how the germ worked, and lockdowns ensued. We all spent more time alone with our thoughts than ever before. For me it was the second time I had more than enough time to contemplate my own mortality and the state of humankind.

Several months into lockdown I was invited to join a weekly, online book club. This diverse group of adults read books that at times force me to examine America in an eye opening, heartbreaking way. I felt I knew quite a bit about America's ugly past, given I'm a retired teacher and my husband is partly Native American. However, I learned we all have been falsely soothed by what we learned, and more importantly did NOT learn, years ago in social studies class. Even the ones I helped teach! Ugh!

That soul searching stuff is a painful process. It forces you to question 'truths' you believed your entire life. I learned it's a lot like cleaning a closet- things tend to get worse before they get better. After months of sometimes crushing reflection, study, and prayer, I started to develop a new understanding of myself, a new appreciation of the importance of Community, and a plan of attack.

In March 2021 while preparing for our return to Michigan I emailed Rusty, who I had met in bible study. Somewhere along the line I heard CLC had a team working to relaunch the food pantry. Sure enough, someone was starting to work on the new name and logo. By June I received an email invite to the

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meeting that began the relaunch of the pantry. Soon after, we were offered the opportunity to do two food drives at Kroger. After months of planning and with our newly built shelves now full, we opened CLC's Two Fish & Five Loaves Pantry in August, 2021.

Since then the pantry has really grown! We have taken part in several more food drives at Kroger. We have planned and implemented two (of three) drive-through mass food distributions that fed nearly 200 families each. Over the last year the amount of food we provide to our community members on a weekly basis has nearly tripled! This requires three times as much planning, shopping, stocking, packing... Despite all the hard work, it is a great blessing to be able to help fill this need for our clients.

Today our Community continues to have too many unmet needs. Our elderly are often left to fend for themselves. Paychecks are small while bills continue to rise. Healthcare is cost prohibitive. In a country that has far more empty homes than homeless people, we still have people living on the streets. School shootings! Climate change! War...Will I fix the world? Of course not! But, when I reflect upon all of the blessings that I have experienced in my life, how could I just sit at home?



~Yvette Gronda

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' -Matthew 25:40-45

August Food Pantry - By the Numbers

- 180 Individuals were served
- 121 sets of bags were given out
- 2,783 pounds of food shared with our community!



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.