



# Christ Lutheran Church

## Christ Church Comments

† September 2022

### Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

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We are entering a new chapter of ministry here at Christ Lutheran. I want to invite you to be a part of writing that next chapter by joining me in prayer and discernment about who God may be calling to positions of trust and leadership.

Each year when I gather the nominating team together I ask them to think of people in the congregation who meet two qualifications: (1) they are spiritually mature; and (2) they are capable of putting the well-being of the congregation ahead of their own interests. Who comes to mind when you hear that description?

What does it mean to be spiritually mature? All of us are saints and sinners at once. All of us are completely reliant on God's grace in this life and the next. For those who want to assume a position of leadership in a faith community I hope that you'll be actively working towards the promises you've made in baptism and at your confirmation:

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; and  
strive for justice and peace in all the earth?"

What does it mean to put the congregation's best interests ahead of your own? This one is more direct. Let's say you have a song or hymn that you really dislike. You'd be happy if everyone just forgot that it existed. But, part of being a community means that we include songs and worship styles that speak to a variety of people. Invariably, this means that some of the songs we sing together will be the ones you'd just as soon skip. A leader in the congregation should

be able to separate their own preferences from what is best for the congregation, not just in music choices, also when we worship, how we set the budget, and what our mission priorities will be.

Who from our community comes to mind when you think about these two qualifications? Please tell them! Sometimes it is the case that other people can see God's gifts in our lives better than we can see them in our own. And finally, please join me in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to stir in our community and raise up the leaders who will help write the next chapter in our congregation's history.

Peace,

*Pastor David*

## Your Generosity Matters!

One of the ways that CLC's ministry extends beyond our walls is by supporting our ministry partners at Stony Lake. One of the programs that they run each year is Bridge Builders. This year 33 high school students from Michigan,



Oklahoma, Ohio, Illinois, and Pennsylvania came together at Stony Lake to learn about building a community that is actively anti-racist. This week is challenging and asks campers and staff alike to embrace honesty, humility, vulnerability, tenacity, resilience, and so much more. This is life-changing work. It creates a crack in the wall of lies we tell ourselves and the lies the world tells us about who we are and how things have to be. Through that crack, God provides a glimpse of something very different. You may recognize one of our own in this picture: Kiera Kokx. She's in the middle in the blue hoodie. Here's what she had to say about her week at Bridge Builders:

When I first got to camp I didn't know what to expect from the program, all I knew is that it was an anti-racist leadership program. I didn't know what that meant. I was also unaware of how much it would change my view of the world. When I first got there it was a little tense, I didn't know anybody there. But by that night all of us were laughing together and sharing our stories of where we came from. We were a very diverse group we had people from different states and cultures. By the end of the week, I learned more about our history than I have from all of my years at school. I learned that many people suffered in the past and continue to suffer. This will continue unless we make an effort to end it, we may not completely end it but our efforts will lead to a better future for the generations that come next. We must keep trying, we cannot keep quiet, we must educate ourselves. Being silent is just as bad as being the person committing the racist act(s).

Your faithful generosity makes this important work possible. Thank You!

## 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.

## Raising Faithful Kids:

Parents, Grandparents, and anyone who has young people in your life! Do you want to help equip the young person in your life with a faith that will help them face a rapidly changing world? Do you wish you were better equipped to address the big questions that our kids invariably ask? Then join us after worship on Sundays this fall as we talk together about the stories that our kids will be hearing in faith formation, share resources for practicing faith in the home, and support one another as we care for the young people in our lives.

## Service Sunday:

Join us on **Sept 11<sup>th</sup>** as we worship together, put our faith to work, and then share a meal. Worship will begin at 9:30, like always. It will include scripture, prayer, communion, and music. From there we will be sent out to three different service opportunities. Finally, we'll reconvene in the fellowship hall for lunch and celebration.

This year's service options are:

1. At Christ Lutheran: We'll be assembling and preparing art supply kits for children to distribute through the food pantry. Often when money is tight it is the fun and creative things that end up having to be cut from the budget. We want to make it possible for children to continue to use art to express themselves, tell stories, and explore the world around them. This option is great for someone who will serve best where they can sit down and have quick and easy access to restrooms.
2. At Custer Elementary: We will be refreshing and revitalizing the playground area at Custer Elementary School. This space has fallen into disrepair and can use some attention in order to restore it to a joyful place of fun and games. We'll be painting/repainting some of the playground area and getting it ready for years of fun, games, and imaginative play.
3. At Monroe Rain Garden in the Riverfront Parking Lot: We will be clearing invasive species, pulling weeds, and trimming river birches. The City of Monroe will provide work gloves, leaf bags, etc. Tending to this space will beautify our community and care for God's creation right in our community. Sign up either in the narthex or by calling the church office to help us make sure that everyone has the supplies they need in order to make these events a success!



***Rally Day September 11<sup>th</sup>***



The new website address for  
Christ Lutheran Church is:

**christmonroe.com**



**REMEMBER!**

If you want a set of offering envelopes for 2023, make sure to contact Karen in the church office by September 15th



## Food Pantry

The summer of 2022 has been a busy one for the Food Pantry team and all the volunteers who help us! Since Two Fish and Five Loaves relaunched last summer, the demand for food assistance has more than doubled. Each client we serve leaves with about 23 pounds of food, so when we average 25 clients a week, we are providing over 2200 pounds of food a month for those in need! The generosity of our congregation has never been more appreciated! It takes a lot of work to keep our shelves stocked and in addition, our drive to use our resources responsibly requires trips to multiple stores each week. So, when we were offered the opportunity to again take part in two Kroger's First Responders Food Drives sponsored by Gleaners', we couldn't pass it up. On July 30 & August 6 we assembled our hastily recruited volunteers and hit the pavement. We estimate that between the two days we were blessed to collect close to 1300 pounds of food! This event has taught us how generous our community can be and how good folks feel when they are able to help others.

One of our Food Pantry team's long term goals was to expand our support in the community to include drive through mass food giveaways. After many hours of planning Christ Lutheran Church was able to host the first of these events on July 23 in collaboration with St. Luke's of Temperance, Good Shepherd of Monroe, First Presbyterian of Monroe, MCOP & Gleaners'. An entire semi truck of food was distributed that day in a matter of hours. The large group of volunteers left the event sweaty and tired, but confident that close to 200 households wouldn't be hungry anytime soon.

If you were unable to help with these events, you still have opportunities to serve. We are looking for more help on a weekly basis. We are also scheduled to host two more drive through giveaways on September 24 and November 12. Please watch the bulletin board for the upcoming sign up or for more information please speak to any Food Pantry team member, including Rusty Ward [haroldw@umich.edu](mailto:haroldw@umich.edu)

If you have any questions or concerns please let me know. Thank you, Yvette



**CLC Youth's Yearly**  
**Pool Party & Planning**  
**Thursday, Sep. 1st 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm**  
**at Willow Metropark Pool**  
**(Swimming 5 - 7 pm, dinner & planning 7 - 8 pm)**  
**\$3 per person to swim (\$10 per car to enter)**  
**Dinner Provided.**  
**Friends, Parents & Siblings are welcome to join us.**  
**Sign-Up in the Narthex, or by contacting Kristen.**



**Choir  
Practice  
will begin  
weekly on  
September  
7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30.**

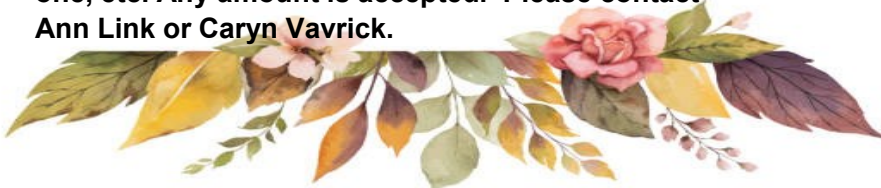
## News from around the church



A big thank you to all who remembered me with prayers, cards and telephone calls after my recent stay in the hospital. I'm happy to be recuperating at home now. Eleanor



The Altar Guild is accepting donations to offset the costs of making the artificial bouquets. These donations could be in celebration of an event, in memory of a loved one, etc. Any amount is accepted. Please contact Ann Link or Caryn Vavrick.



The fall Church Clean Up Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 1, 2022 from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. A variety of indoor and outdoor chores will be tackled.



*All are welcome to assist*

OWL's [Older, Wiser, Lutherans] will meet September 21<sup>st</sup> in the Eleanor Russell Hall for a pot-luck @ noon. Contact Sharon Nichols for questions 734-755-4840.



## Scripture Readers

*Thanks to Carol Miller for organizing!*

September 4 Geof Oetjens  
September 11 Patrick Lewis  
September 18 Don Link  
September 25 Kristen Hause

## Ushers

*Thanks to Patrick Lewis for organizing!*

September 4 Geof Oetjens  
September 11 Patrick Lewis  
September 18 Jim/Mary Jackel  
September 25 Gary Huepenbecker

## Assisting Minister

*Thanks to Rusty Ward for organizing!*

September 4 Wayne Butts  
September 11 Jim Jackel  
September 18 Renee Merkel  
September 25 Rusty Ward

## CURRENT FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Summary Operating Statement

	July 2022		YTD 2022	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Operating income	\$ 22,490	\$ 16,536	\$ 108,916	\$ 112,996
Operating expense	15,818	15,735	119,931	118,983
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 6,672	\$ 801	\$ (11,015)	\$ (5,987)

Memorials and early August receipts boosted the giving in July.