



CHRIST TODAY

A monthly newsletter for friends and members of Christ Lutheran Church, Warren NALC/ LCMC

SPECIAL DATES

- Bible Study - 7/1, 7/14, 8/5, 8/19
- Parish Ed mtg – 7/6, 8/3
- Teleconference – 7/8, 8/12
- Grief Share – 7/9, 8/13
- Evangelism mtg - 7/12, 8/9
- Worship meeting – 8/9
- Youth Group - 7/10, 8/14, 8/28
- Food Pantry set-up – 7/16
- Music Concert – 7/11
- Staff mtg – 7/14, 7/28, 8/11, 8/25
- Faith Night – 7/17
- Pantry Distribution – 7/21
- CLC Fellowship Day – 8/16
- Prayer Night – 7/23, 8/20
- Young at Heart – 7/26
- Ethnic Luncheon – 7/26
- Faith Night – 7/17
- Prayer Night – 7/24, 8/21
- Youth Group – 7/25, 8/22
- Youth-led Service – 8/31

| July 2026 | | | | | | |
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| August 2026 | | | | | | |
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From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Lutheran families and readers of this Newsletter,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ ! I hope you are doing well wherever you are. I would like to share with you what God has kept in my heart from Exodus 3:13-14

“Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of our fathers has sent me to you’, and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them? ‘God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’... This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.”

For most of us, our names have particular significance and meaning but aren't all that descriptive. For example, I met many people in Norway whose names had no specific meaning. In my country of origin (Ethiopia), all names have meaning. But for many characters in the Bible, and particularly so for God himself, names are very significant. They're often descriptive, and they give us a window into who the person actually is. The first mention of God's personal name--the name by which he is to be remembered throughout all generations--comes to Moses from the burning bush. In this encounter with Moses, he promises the salvation of the Israelites, which he is about to accomplish through Moses himself. Moses is worried about the reception he'll encounter back in Egypt, so he puts forward a very personal and relational request:

“If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ What shall I say to them?” (vs.13) God's answer is a bit mysterious, as if by his very nature we can know God personally but not entirely pin him down.

“I am who I am” has a deeper theological meaning which also has been reflected in the New Testament. It has to do with divine nature which is beyond our boundaries. We are not worthy to say, “I Am” because we are who we are because of HIM. But Jesus used similar phrases. In the gospel of John, we read seven prominent, metaphorical “I AM” statements where Jesus pairs the phrase with a symbolic title:

- I am the **Bread of Life** (John 6:35)
- I am the **Light of the World** (John 8:12)
- I am the **Gate for the Sheep** (John 10:7)
- I am the **Good Shephard** (John 10:11)
- I am the **Resurrection and the Life** (John 11:25)
- I am the **Way, the Truth, and the Life** (John 14:6)
- I am the **True Vine** (John 15:1)

The title Jesus used here in the gospel of John describes his Divine identity. It shows and confirms that he is able!

(Continued on page 8)

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!



Members of the Prayer Group, plus Allan Mullins, stayed after their weekly meeting to dust the shelves and books in the Gathering Room library.

CLC members enjoy the Home Plate fundraiser



Twelve CLC members ventured downtown to attend the annual Home Plate Tiger baseball game and fundraiser.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 2026

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY WORSHIP | | | | | | |
| Services are in-person & Live Streamed | | | 1 Bible Study 11 am, 7 pm | 2 | 3 Office Closed | 4 |
| 5 Name Tag Sunday Worship Service at 10 am 11:30 - Coffee Hour 11:30 - Blood Pressure Ck | 6 9:30 a.m. Prayer group 6:00 Parish Ed. Meeting | 7 5:30 Genesis | 8 7 pm Teleconference Dial 712-832-8700 | 9 12:00 Grief Share | 10 Youth Group 6-8 pm | 11 Music Concert 4:30 at CLC |
| 12 Worship Service at 10 am with Holy communion 11:30 Coffee Hour 11:30 Evangelism Meeting | 13 9:30 a.m. Prayer group | 14 10-12 Pins & Needles 10 am Staff Meeting 5:30 Praise Band | 15 Bible Study 11 am & 7 pm | 16 12:30 Food Pantry Set-up | 17 Family Faith Night Fundraiser Picnic: 6:00 Game: 7:05 | 18 |
| 19 Worship Service at 10:00 am 11:15 - Coffee Hour | 20 9:30am Prayer group | 21 10 am Staff Meeting 5:30 Genesis 6:30 No Council Meeting | 22 | 23 7 pm Prayer Night | 24 | 25 Pairs & Spares Picnic @ Debbie Browns - 2:00 |
| 26 Worship Service at 10 am With holy communion <u>Young At Heart celebrated</u> Ethnic Luncheon after worship | 27 9:30 Prayer Group | 28 5:30 Praise Band | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

May Financials: Budgeted Pledges: \$11,555.33 May's Actual Pledges Received: \$18,819 (Up \$7,263.67)
YTD Budgeted Pledges: \$57,776.65 YTD Actual Pledges Received: \$65,912.50 (Up \$8,135.85)

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|------------------|
| <p>SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you.</p> <p>Deuteronomy 5:12</p> | | | | | | 1 |
| <p>2 Name Tag Sunday</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Worship Service</p> <p>11:30 Blood Pressure check</p> | <p>3 9:30 a.m. Prayer group</p> <p>6:30 Parish Ed. meeting</p> | <p>4 5:30 p.m. Genesis</p> | <p>5 Bible Study 11am & 7p.m.</p> | <p>6</p> | <p>7</p> | <p>8</p> |
| <p>9 10:00 a.m. Worship service with communion</p> <p>11:30 Worship Mtg 11:30 Evangelism Mtg</p> | <p>10 9:30 a.m. Prayer group</p> | <p>11 12-1 Pins & Needles 10:00 Staff Mtg 5:30 Praise Band 6:30 Exec Mtg</p> | <p>12 7 pm Teleconference Dial 712-832-8700 ID - 919200 #</p> | <p>13 Noon Grief Share</p> | <p>14 Youth Group 6-8 pm</p> | <p>15</p> |
| <p>16 10:00 a.m. Worship service</p> <p>11:30 Fellowship Day Games/Food/Prayer (Potluck)</p> | <p>17 9:30 a.m. Prayer group</p> | <p>18 5:30 Genesis</p> <p>6:30 Council Meeting</p> | <p>19 Bible Study 11 am & 7 pm</p> | <p>20</p> | <p>21</p> | <p>22</p> |
| <p>23 10:00 a.m. Worship service with communion</p> | <p>24 9:30 a.m. Prayer group</p> | <p>25 10:00 Staff Mtg</p> <p>5:30 Praise Band</p> | <p>26</p> | <p>27 Pairs & Spares Bumpers for lunch @ noon</p> <p>7 pm Prayer Night</p> | <p>28 Youth Group 6-8 pm</p> | <p>29</p> |
| <p>30 Youth-led Service with communion</p> | <p>31 9:30 Prayer Group</p> | | | | | |

YOUNG AT HEART AGE 50 PLUS



JULY
Birthdays & Anniversaries



AUGUST
Birthdays & Anniversaries

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you peace.
Numbers 6:24-26

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Pat VanSlembrouck | 7/2 |
| Karen Rice | 7/3 |
| Judy Krueger | 7/4 |
| Dolores Taylor | 7/4 |
| Dawn Kopacki | 7/9 |
| Teri Gnam | 7/13 |
| Trudi Oser | 7/13 |
| Sally Oehmke | 7/15 |
| Christine Wade | 7/16 |
| Tom Doetsch | 7/18 |
| Cheryl Gothro | 7/18 |
| Terry Stevens | 7/18 |
| CB Wade | 7/18 |
| Karin VerVaecke | 7/19 |
| Michael Wright | 7/19 |
| Terry Foster | 7/20 |
| Jim Brault | 7/23 |
| April Fox | 7/23 |
| Shelley Gallis | 7/23 |
| Allan Mullins | 7/24 |
| Beverly Goltz | 7/26 |
| David Kopacki | 7/28 |
| Sharon Scites | 7/31 |

Happy Anniversary

| | | |
|---------------------|------|----------|
| Don & Joyce Young | 7/2 | 71 years |
| Bob & Sharon Makie | 7/22 | 59 years |
| Marv & Sally Oehmke | 7/29 | 54 years |

Send a card & share a wish with our young at heart 50+ Seniors of CLC.

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Paul Botalitto | 8/1 |
| Martha Bradbury | 8/1 |
| Russ Brown | 8/1 |
| Debbie Buccellato | 8/1 |
| Giovanni Rastelli | 8/4 |
| Sarah Badia | 8/8 |
| Roy Castle | 8/8 |
| Tammy Lozen | 8/8 |
| Nancy Woy | 8/8 |
| Robin Zinyk | 8/8 |
| Terry Straka | 8/9 |
| Becky Williams | 8/10 |
| Doris Cinder | 8/13 |
| Esther Straka | 8/13 |
| Laureen Constance | 8/14 |
| Sherry Carroll | 8/15 |
| Bernie Gallis | 8/19 |
| Wilma Koberstein | 8/20 |
| Walter Koberstein | 8/26 |
| Bob Slavko | 8/31 |

Happy Anniversary

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------|----------|
| Milton & Virginia Lobstein | 8/1 | 51 years |
| Philipp & Gerhilde Rometsch | 8/2 | 68 years |
| John & Jeri Tompkins | 8/5 | 59 years |
| Charles & Lynn Deis | 8/17 | 63 years |
| Roy & Rose Castle | 8/29 | 67 years |

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH NALC/LCMC

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Church Office Hours

Mon. – Thurs: 9 am – 2 pm

Friday – 9:00 am – noon

Letter from the Council President

Dear CLC family, welcome to Summer! I hope you are able to have a wonderful summer full of family, friends, and travel. This is a wonderful time to rest, recharge, and enjoy the beauty Michigan has to offer. As you travel or simply walk out your back door, look around you and pay attention to the wonders God has created for us to enjoy. While you are contemplating all that surrounds you, enjoying the longer warmer days, remember that your church doors are still open every Sunday rain or shine. Please continue to join us to hear the Gospel's message and songs praising our Lord and keeping the needs of others as well as yourself in prayer. It is a blessing to continue worshiping with your fellow congregation members while, at the same time, asking friends and neighbors to join you. Help introduce or reunite someone to our Christ Lutheran Church family and possibly welcome a future member. If you are unable to join us in person, remember that services are available via Livestream and You Tube.

I hope you, your family, or friends took advantage of our VBS program this past June. The weather held during the morning hours, and the children had great fun learning Bible stories, singing and dancing, playing outside, and making fun crafts to take home. Thank you to our Parish Ed, Sunday School instructors, Music Director, Worship and Property committees, and all the other volunteers that made this event run smoothly and safely. The children and their parents left with goodie bags and smiling faces, already looking forward to next year! You all did a fantastic job!

Prayers continue for those in need of healing of mind, body, and spirit, as well as those suffering the loss of loved ones. Please call the church office if you are in need of prayers, pastoral counseling, a pastoral visit, assistance with planning necessary events, or to place your prayer requests on the blue sheets. Please contact the church office if you wish a ride to church services or events. We will do our best to accommodate you. Visitors are welcome and encouraged to contact the church office or Pastor Hunde if considering becoming a member of Christ Lutheran Church. If you know someone who is searching for a church home, please encourage them to visit Christ Lutheran, while letting us know they are joining us so that we might make them feel welcome.

We look forward to seeing you in church.

Yours in Christ, Cheryl Gothro, Council President

Stamp Out Hunger Doubles CLC's May Distributions

What an amazing blessing the Stamp Out Hunger program is for the food pantry ministry! Every May reminds local pantry teams about the anticipation of Christmas. This is because there is hope, peace, love, and joy being shared by Warren residents as they donate non-perishable food through USPS Stamp Out Hunger. Pantry leaders wait and wonder how many pounds of good foods they will receive to share during distributions.

Statistically, a grand total of 4,525 pounds of non-perishable foods were collected this year. Some 3,600 pounds were acceptable, while 925 pounds had either expired or were badly damaged. Twenty-two USPS letter carrier vehicles stopped by our church. The goods from January of this year through April were at a table of 'expired' foods and free for people to take if any of the items interested them. Any other food items dated before January of this year went to local resources who accept expired foods. Thank you Property Committee members for weighing the foods and stacking them in the two pantry storage rooms.

Oakridge Market also generously contributed several boxes of very recently expired chips. Special kudos to them too, because they allowed us to borrow two grocery carts to make it easier to transfer donated foods from the vehicles to our pantry tables. In all, some 50 grocery carts were loaded with bagged foods and brought into the room where our CLC volunteers wrote dates on items and placed them into labeled boxes. Over 140 hours were recorded by CLC volunteers who assisted with this outreach program.

At the May food pantry distribution, 71 visitors from 31 households received double the usual amount of non-perishable foods. Some 64 boxes were distributed. The dedication of all volunteers made the difference. That's always why this program is successful.

THINKING-OF-YOU CARD MINISTRY

A NEW ministry titled The Thinking-of-You Card Ministry will connect those unable to attend church regularly, due to short or long-term illness, with their fellow CLC members. A box of cards and a shortened blue sheet containing the prayer and homebound lists are located next to the computer/kiosk; this box contains "Thinking of You" and "Get Well" cards that the Evangelism Committee would like you to use. For the cost of a stamp, you can bring a smile to those who are unable to be in the Lord's House with us each Sunday. CLC members can also HELP by bringing to the church office, any EXTRA cards of this type OR those FREE cards received in the mail from organizations seeking donations.

Prayer Calendar Update

The LCMC has expanded its Three Days of Prayer event at the beginning of the year into monthly year-round calls to prayer. Prayer Calendars are emailed at the beginning of each month to all CLC members with email addresses. The church office is using the US Postal Service to send hard copies to those without email addresses. At the end of August, the Evangelism Committee plans to survey CLC members to see how they are able to use this information.

From the Pastor's Desk

(continued from page 1)

Brothers and Sisters,

We have somebody who can do what we can't. We have somebody who fears nothing. He is our God! The God whom Moses encountered is the same God whom we encountered through his son Jesus Christ. It doesn't matter how things are complicated and difficult both spiritually and physically. He uses the same title "I AM Who I Am" today too. Let me point out a few important things about the title.

When God calls himself "I AM" in Exodus 3:14 (when speaking to Moses), he is declaring His absolute, eternal, and unchanging nature. This foundational declaration reveals several key truths but let me point out four important points:

- **Self-Existence:** God does not depend on anyone or anything for His existence. The word God means self-existence (need nothing to exist). Unlike human beings who are born and eventually die, God has no beginning and no end. He simply *is*.
- **Eternal Presence:** The Hebrew word for eternal presence implies active, manifest presence. In essence, God is promising, "I am the One who is always present with you." He is unchanging across the past, present, and future.
- "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Heb. 13:8
- **Self-Sufficiency:** Unlike the gods of gentiles, He has everything and needs no help from others. God asserts that He is not comparable to anything else. He is complete in and of Himself.
- **Deliverance:** By telling Moses to say "I AM" has sent me to you." God is stepping in to liberate His people from slavery.

All above factors play an important role in understanding who our God is. I simply encourage you all to stand firm and put your Trust in HIM regardless of the struggle you face in your life. May the one who is "I AM" give us the strength he gave to Moses and his people to stand against their opponents. May God bless you richly! Pastor Tsegayesus H. Hunde

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry

This is just a short note to let everyone know that we will be participating in this wonderful evangelistic outreach again this year! We are letting you know now so that you can take advantage of sales during the summer for items you like to include in your shoebox. These can include personal hygiene items, clothing, educational items, games, and toys. We will have preprinted shoeboxes available for you to use, or you can use your own. Just be aware that whatever you buy must fit in the shoebox so that the lid closes and is not bulging at the seams! There will be brochures available that give suggestions and instructions for filling the shoe box (what to include, as well as what not to include). So have fun this summer finding those special things for your shoebox.

If you would like to build a shoebox online: open your web browser and type: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/>

You can start building yourself, or you can select "Build it for me", then follow the prompts. The cost is \$30 per box this year, which includes the \$10 per box donation to cover printing/shipping costs. If you have any questions, you can call Barb Harry at 586-247-7231

VBS covers Mary, Martha and Other Faithful Women in the Bible

This year's Vacation Bible School was blessed with comfortable weather, biblical stories, crafts, fun outdoor recreation, yummy snacks and, of course, awesome music! From Monday, June 15, to Thursday, June 18, there were a total of 14 children from 8 families in attendance. Some 250 flyers were distributed in neighborhoods in nearby communities during the sultry hot days. Information was available on the church website, Eventbrite and word of mouth.

The children were separated into two groups. Preschoolers, kindergarteners and first graders were in one group and the other one contained second through fourth graders. Children listened to stories of "Mary, Martha and Many Faithful Women" and participated in classroom learning activities. The themes included Martha Works, Mary Listens, Lazarus is Raised, Mary's Gift to Jesus and the Resurrection. Children painted paper butterflies, made crosses with colorful yarn woven throughout, filled netting with a small amount of potpourri, created a cross with beads and played with playdough. Children were reminded how these represented peace, tranquility, transformation and comfort all provided by God in one's life. Children were given time to enjoy snacks thanks to the donations from generous church members. Parish Ed is truly thankful for these yummy contributions. Church music director, Justin Bowse, taught some fantastic singing skills and fun songs such as This Little Light of Mine, Allelu Allelu, Praise Ye the Lord, Awesome God, What a Mighty God We Serve and Father Abraham among others. With this being a special 250 year of independence, children also learned God Bless America. These songs were shared at a program at the end of the last day with parents and grandparents in attendance.

It was a wonderful group of children to serve. Special kudos to EVERY volunteer who shared time and talent to make this possible.



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July/August 2026



September 6th at CLC

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