

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



SPECIAL DATES

- BP Check - 1/4, 2/1
- Worship Mtg - 1/4, 2/1
- Bible Study - 1/7, 1/21, 2/4, 2/18
- Grief Share - 1/8, 2/12
- Youth Grp. - 1/9, 1/23, 2/13, 2/27
- Euchre - 1/10, 2/14
- Evangelism Mtg. - 1/11, 2/8
- Church Undecorating - 1/11
- Parish Ed. Mtg - 1/12, 2/9
- Pins & Needles - 1/13, 2/10
- Staff Mtg. - 1/13, 1/27, 2/10, 2/24
- Exec. Mtg. - 1/13, 2/10
- Teleconference - 1/14, 2/11
- Pairs & Spares - 1/15, 2/19
- Pantry - set-up (1/15) & Pantry Distribution (1/20)
- Council Mtg - 1/20, 2/17
- Ash Wed. 2/18
- Prayer Night - 1/22, 2/26
- Congregational Mtg. - 1/25

January 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear families of Christ Lutheran ,

Peace and grace to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ! Let me share with you a message from Acts 16 about the ministry of Paul which resulted in planting the first European Church in Philippi.

The Church in Philippi – the first Christian Church in Europe

Acts 16:6-10

"6 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden by the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, 7 after they were come sto Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not. 8 And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas. 9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying come over into Macedonia, help us. 10 And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel unto them."

Paul had many visions, sometimes to encourage, sometimes, as here, to direct him in his work. An angel appeared to him, to intimate him that it was the will of Christ that he should go to Macedonia.

God's voice sometimes can lead us to a situation where we may not enjoy life at all, a situation where things seem impossible, a situation where we can be tempted to end our ministry.

By the way, there should be no confusion or concern with the different ways of speaking about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus, the Spirit of God, the Spirit, are all names for God the Spirit.

You know, we really don't know why God redirected their plans and we don't know how Luke knew that God redirected their plans. However, God did, indeed redirect their plans. Even when we don't know why, even when we don't know how, even when it hurts, even when it's confusing, even when it seems strange, we should welcome a change of plans by God. God was making it very clear to them what he wanted them to do next: he wanted them to go preach the gospel in Macedonia.

How often I want to treat God like a fast-food drive through, which I often order for my boys. No way, it doesn't work that way! I want to place my order and immediately pick it up. Here we see a few ways God leads:

(Continued on page 8)

Thank You to the Congregation

I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers during my surgery and recovery. All the cards, phone calls/text messages, flowers and, mostly, All of the prayers helped so very much and gave me the peace to be able to heal so quickly. Thank you again,
Gail Dietz

Thanksgiving Box Distribution

Our annual Thanksgiving Basket distribution took place on Tuesday, November 18. Thank you to all of our generous Christ Lutheran Church members who donated food to fill the boxes and/or donated money to purchase grocery store certificates to Oak Ridge Market to give with the boxes. Even though it was a cool, cloudy day, it was dry and we had a good turn-out for the distribution. Thirty-four families, including 75 people, were given boxes filled with non-perishable food items, laundry detergent, dish soap, paper products, and grocery store certificates. All the families were extremely grateful for all they received during these very challenging financial times!

A special THANK YOU goes to the 12 volunteers who came that morning to date, sort, and pack the donated food in the boxes and load the boxes into the cars! We are always SO GRATEFUL for our volunteers – we couldn't do anything without your help!

The Evangelism Committee

Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry

THANK YOU to all who filled an Operation Christmas Child shoebox this year, either physically or virtually online. This year, we delivered 21 boxes to the collection center at the Woods Church on 13 Mile, and are aware of at least 4 shoeboxes that were donated online.

During this time of turmoil, war, and instability around the world, these little boxes of joy are needed now more than ever! In addition to the gifts inside, the children are introduced to the gospel message, most of them for the first time. We ask that you would continue to pray for the safety and wellbeing of these children and their families, and that the Holy Spirit would touch their hearts to be receptive to the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Greatest Gift of All!

The Evangelism Committee

Nursery Needs Volunteers

“Jesus Loves the Little Children, all the children of the world!” Remember this song which was sung by your parents, grandparents or great-grandparents? God’s precious little ones have a special place in church too!

The Parish Ed committee is seeking volunteers to assist in the nursery with children aged three and younger. Two adults will be needed each week. This would be during the 10 am Sunday services. There are various books, music, and appropriate toys available. If you are passionate about sharing the love of Jesus with little children, here is an opportunity for you.

For further information, please speak with any of the Parish Ed. committee members: Michele Neubauer, Kay Trombat, Denise & Brittani Baloga, Gail Dietz, Melissa Bruesehoff, and Evelyn Hudson-Wright. You also can call the church office (586-293-0700).

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	10:00 A.M. SUNDAY WORSHIP					
Services are in-person & Live Streamed				1 Church Office is closed New Year's Day	2	3
4 Name Tag Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 am 10:00 – Sunday School 11:15 – Catechism 11:30 – Coffee Hour 11:30 – Blood Pressure CK 11:30 – Worship Meeting	5 9:30 a.m. Prayer group 7:15 Bells	6 Epiphany	7 Bible Study Noon & 7 pm	8 12:00 Grief Share	9 6 – 8 pm Youth Group	10 2-5 Euchre
11 Baptism of Our Lord Worship Service at 10:00 am with continuous communion 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Catechism 11:30 Coffee Hour 11:30 Evangelism Meeting 11:30 Church Undecorating	12 9:30 a.m. Prayer group 6:00 Parish Ed Meeting 7:15 Bells	13 10-12 Pins & Needles 10:00 Staff Mtg 6:30 Executive Meeting	14 7:00pm Teleconference Dial812-832-8700 ID# 919200 #	15 Noon Pairs & Spares lunch at Fraser Green Lantern 12:30 Pantry Set-up	16	17
18 Worship Service at 10:00 am 10:00 - Sunday School 11:15 – Catechism 11:30 - Coffee Hour	19 9:30am Prayer grp. 7:15 Bells Martin Luther King Day	20 12-1 pm Pantry Distribution 6:30 Council Meeting	21 Bible Study Noon & 7 pm	22 7 pm Prayer Night	23 6-8 pm Youth Group	24
25 Worship Service at 10 am with communion 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Catechism 11:30 Congregational Meeting	26 9:30 Prayer Group 7:15 Bells	27 10:00 Staff Meeting	28	29	30	31

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
10:00 A.M. SUNDAY WORSHIP						
1 Name Tag Sunday Worship Service at 10 am 10:00 - Sunday School 11:15 - Catechism 11:30 - Coffee Hour 11:30 - Blood Pressure Ck 11:30 - Worship Meeting	2 9:30 Prayer Group 7:15 Bells	3	4 Bible Study Noon & 7 pm	5	6	7
8 Worship Service at 10 am with Holy Communion 10:00 - Sunday School 11:15 - Catechism 11:15 - Coffee Hour 11:15 - Evangelism Mtg	9 9:30 a.m. Prayer group 6:00 Parish Ed. Meeting 7:15 Bells	10 10-12 Pins & Needles 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Exec Meeting	11 7 pm Teleconference Dial 812-832-8700 ID# 919200 #	12 Noon - Grief Share	13 6 - 8:00 Youth Group	14 2-5 Euchre Valentines Day
15 Transfiguration Worship Service at 10 am w/ continuous communion 10:00 - Sunday School 11:15 - Catechism 11:30 - Enhanced Coffee Hour for Valentines Day	16 9:30 a.m. Prayer group 7:15 Bells President's Day	17 6:30 Council meeting	18 Bible Study Noon & 7 pm Ash Wednesday	19 12:00 Pairs & Spares at Lakeside Olive Garden	20	21
22 Worship Service at 10:00 with communion 10:00 - Sunday School 11:15 - Catechism 11:30 - Coffee Hour	23 9:30am Prayer group 7:15 Bells	24 10:00 Staff Meeting	25 Lentine Service	26 7 pm Prayer Night	27 6-8 Youth Group	28

YOUNG AT HEART

Age 50 PLUS



The Lord bless 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)

David Fehmer	1/1
Virginia Lobstein	1/1
Shirley Mannikko	1/3
Robert Schmalenberg	1/4
Marion Runde	1/10
Allan Busch	1/11
Carol Coles	1/20
JoAnn Parobek	1/20
Lee O'Bryan	1/22
Randy Byrne	1/28
Debbie Kadluboski	1/28

Happy Anniversary

Lee & Nancy O'Bryan Jan.22 55 yrs

Mike & Pat VanSlembrouck Jan.22 61yrs.

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

Michelle Reich	2/1
Don Young	2/1
Ann Slavko	2/4
Kevin Durak	2/5
Nancy O'Bryan	2/8
Daniel Nicholson	2/11
Lawaun Modrich	2/12
Dorothea Rehn	2/12
Gerhilde Rometsch	2/15
Leigh Bull	2/19
Ellen Paquin	2/20
Dale Goodwin	2/25



A special thank you to Dan & Patti Zawierucha and Allan & Barb Mullins for once again organizing our Christmas church decorating efforts. The sanctuary, narthex, hallways, and lounge look beautiful. Moving the outdoor manger closer to the road was a good idea, too. It's much more visible to the community.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH NALC/LCMC

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Church Office Hours

Mon.-Thurs: 9 am-2:00 pm

Friday: 9:00 am - noon

From the President

HAPPY NEW YEAR dear Congregation members!!!

I hope your Christmas season was blessed and full of family, traditions, and love, giving you the strength and joy to begin a New Year. For most, the Christmas season brings loved ones closer, bringing joy to family and friends. Celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ brings such joy and peace. It is a favorite time for me, especially when attending the special services held within Christ Lutheran. My greatest hope was to have shared them with our CLC family, especially those who have been away. I pray those who have suffered the loss of loved ones are not alone and continue to be surrounded with the kindness of family and friends.

Please remember that January 25 is CLC's Annual Congregational Meeting, held immediately following the service. It is extremely important for all members to attend. We will be discussing the budget for the coming church year. Attending gives you an insight into the financial needs of the church and also how your financial contributions are put to use. Remember that by attending, you are able to give voice to the discussions held, otherwise, you are allowing decisions to be made without your input. Much like other years in the recent past, one of our biggest challenges is that of a balanced budget. Over the past several years, we have seen a significant decrease in membership. A main contributor to this is the passing of many of our most senior members, numbering as many as 10-15 each year. Not only has the passing of these saints affected us on a personal level, leaving an emptiness in our lives, but also on an economic level. We must consider how their passing has affected our church income. This is not to belittle the worth of our members, who are so loved and involved in many activities within the church, but to call to everyone's attention that our accounts are not lacking due to an increase in spending, but to a cost-of-living increase plus a decrease in income. We've also noticed that a few of our long-time members have left the CLC family. This also affects not only the CLC family ties, but finances as well. Your Council and staff have worked diligently, along with your Treasurer, to modify spending money on projects that we are quite accustomed to having available to us.

Our Business Manager has been successfully working with the utility companies to reduce those costs. Our Property team works tirelessly to maintain our building and its content. Old buildings require constant attention and at times costly upgrading. Our Sound and AV system has been fully operational thanks to our Property, IT and Sound teams, so that our services may be enjoyed with a crisp, clear sound, and picture over multiple viewing monitors in church, as well as online for viewers at home. I am deeply grateful to Pastor Hunde and our wonderful staff who work to keep the needs of Christ Lutheran's family first and foremost, along with our Council members and all the volunteers that are generous with their time and energy to keep Christ Lutheran Church's doors open and welcoming to the needs of its members and community.

One of the greatest duties of our church, along with sharing the Gospel of our Lord, is to continue to rebuild our membership with the introduction of new members and the return of those who have been away. Please always feel free to invite friends, neighbors, and family to join or return to Christ Lutheran Church and to make it their church home.

Yours in Christ, Cheryl Gothro

Youth Group members share Christmas spirit with seniors



A dozen Youth Group members and adult volunteers met at church to practice singing Christmas carols before traveling to The Arbor Inn on 14 Mile Road, Dec. 5. The senior residents there enjoyed the cheerful smiles of CLC members as they paraded through the hallways to bring holiday cheer to those who could not leave their rooms, plus they sang several songs in one of the lounges there. The group returned to CLC for pizza, cookies and hot cocoa.

Congregational Meeting Scheduled for Jan. 25

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Biannual Congregational Meeting following the worship service on Jan. 25. In addition to discussing the budget and the financial health of the church, members will learn about the reactivation of the Mutual Ministry Committee, designed to address unhealthy conflict within the congregation, to improve communication among the congregation, and to help guide the Council and other church leaders to base their decisions on our Mission and Vision statements. See you there!

NALC Disaster Response Team Needs Your Help

We are again collecting Health Kits for the Michigan Mission Warehouse in Owosso. These kits will be used throughout the United States to aid people suffering from a variety of natural disasters. Look on the last page of this newsletter for a list of needed items. They are also requesting new or used Bibles. These items are not expected to last for years or even months, so they don't have to be top-shelf quality.

The Disaster Response Team suggests packing the items in a 2 gallon Ziplock bag or a drawstring tote bag. We will be collecting these kits during the month of February. At that time, you may place your finished kits on the table in the hallway. If you have any questions, please see me.

Thank you for your participation.
Esther Straka

From the Pastor's Desk

(continued from page 1)

How often I want to treat God like a fast-food drive through, which I often order for my boys. No way, it doesn't work that way! I want to place my order and immediately pick it up. Here we see a few ways God leads:

1. God kept doors closed, in this case two different doors, leaving them really only one direction, west.
2. God gave a positive vision, an open door.
3. These circumstances were the basis for their discussion. The text says they immediately went, but it also says "we sought to go... concluding God had called us. They then put two and two together, the negative and the positive.

Consider the various ways God communicated to them. Yes, there were open/closed doors, but more. This is more than circumstantial, they used their minds.

As it is true for many Christians, you may feel unsatisfied at times with the state of your relationship with God. Perhaps you've studied the Bible enough to know a lot of truths about God and yet are experiencing relatively little in terms of an actual relationship with God.

Perhaps God seems distant to you, and as a result, you regularly feel spiritually drained and empty, even as you try to be faithful in doing what God's called you to do. Sometimes, even though we are on the right track, we may face an inconvenient situation which may test us. It is tough, but God never leads people into a wrong direction. Something wonderful, something beautiful will come out of the struggle we may pass through. Through the suffering and unfair treatment, they

could have questioned whether the vision Paul saw was right or wrong. Nothing was wrong with the vision, but the issue is that Christian life has never been easy. They suffered because something new was about to come. It was birth of the first European church.

Dear brothers and sisters,

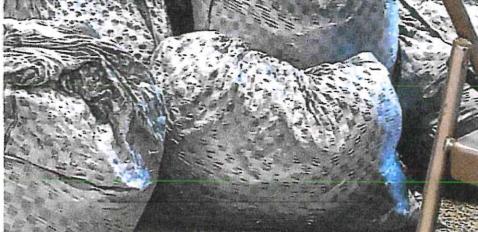
God never abandoned us. He keeps the same promise that he gave the apostles over two thousand years ago. He will be with us until the end of time. Let us keep on doing what we have been doing though the challenge we are facing seems to be strong. God is faithful to bring out something big and strong which can be a blessing to generations.

The Philippian church is one of the strongest churches throughout the ministry of Paul. They are the ones who used to support him financially, even when he was serving other Christians while he was very far from the Philippians.

May God help us as we continue the journey to our destination!

Pastor Tsegayesus Hurisa

Detroit's homeless benefit from CLC Sing-Along



The annual Christmas Sing-Along, sponsored by the Runde family for the 25th year, collected warm winter clothing and donated it to ARK, an organization assisting the homeless in Detroit. Previously, donations were given to Second Hand Rose (Mt. Clemens) and to Lighthouse (Clinton Twp). Participants this year also were treated to appetizers, beverages, a catered meal and dessert, while singing to music provided by Cheryl Gothro, Lawaun Modrich, and Justin Bowse.

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Help for Disaster Victims

January-February 2026

NALC Disaster Response Kits

Health Care Kit

(pack in a 2 gallon plastic storage bag or tote)

- 1 bath towel
- 1 wash cloth
- 1 shampoo (2 if travel size)
- 1 bar of soap (2 if travel size)
- 1 toothbrush
- 1 pack of floss
- 1 toothpaste (2 if travel size)
- 1 deodorant
- 1 nail clipper
- 1 comb

Bibles

(we encourage you to write a message of hope in the front of donated Bibles)

All of the following are acceptable:

- New or Used (highlighted or underlined text is acceptable)
- Child, teen or adult Bibles
- Bible stories for children
- Spanish or any language
- Large print
- Prayer books