

# CHRIST TODAY

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



## From the Pastor's desk

Dear saints of Christ Lutheran Church,

Grace and peace unto you from the Risen Lord who gave his life as a ransom for many! He is our hope, peace, joy and future whom we can trust forever. This encourages Christians to be bold and to stand firm on the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ! I hope you have enjoyed the celebration of the resurrection day! I just want to share with you what has been on my mind throughout this wonderful Easter season. Some of you might not be able to show up in the church due to health conditions, but I want you to know what a pleasure it is to serve you. The text I want to share is from the gospel of John.

**John 20:19-23** *"On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you. When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."*

The disciples who lost Jesus on Good Friday felt hopeless, disappointed with their lives, having no future and decided to go back to the normal life they had before Jesus called them. Some of them could not even get that opportunity because the position they left was occupied by somebody else. For Peter and the other fishermen, it was easier to go back to fishing again. But what happened on Sunday morning changed their depression, hopelessness, sorrow and crisis into something I call, the unshakable joy of the Resurrection. The bible says, *"the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord."*

**The unshakable joy of the Resurrection** – So, Christ is risen from the dead, and nothing can change that fact. There's no power in heaven, earth or under the earth that can change the fact that Christ is risen. And based on his promise, based on our faith in Him, we will rise again, and we will live forever with Him. And that is my sure and certain foundation, the foundation of my joy. It's a foundation for unshakable joy. And all other joys are temporary and transitory and fleeting and shallow in comparison with this. We can't forget what has happened on the resurrection day! The empty tomb is a reality which no one can deny.

Now, there are many temporary causes of joy. A wedding day, for example. It is the laughs, the celebrations, the photos, the wedding feast, and joyful, celebratory music. It is joy, but is it unshakable joy? No, it is not. There's victory in a political election. A candidate achieves the office he sought to

(to be continued on page 7)

## SPECIAL DATES

- Office closed - 4/1
- Evangelism mtg. - 4/2
- Craft Night - 4/2
- Bible Study - 4/3, 4/17
- Name Tag Sunday - 4/7
- Blood Pressure ck. - 4/7
- Parish Ed mtg. - 4/8
- Executive mtg. - 4/9
- Grief Share - 4/11
- Youth Group - 4/12, 4/26
- Euchre 2-5 pm - 4/13
- Spring Breakfast - 4/14
- Council meeting - 4/16
- Pairs & Spares - 4/19
- Dottie Gillette - memorial service 4/27
- Youth Program: Prodigal Son - during service 4/28



April 2024						
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				

## Memorials and Honorariums

### In memory of Helen DeVantier

Undesignated gift  
Given by: Hoa Nguyen

### In memory of Dottie Gillette

Gift designated to Landscaping  
Given by: Nancy Woy

Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes  
him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but  
has crossed from death to life.

John 5:24



## Disaster Relief Boxes

The response of CLC members who donated items for Disaster Relief kits last month was outstanding. Evangelism Committee members were able to fill seven boxes with 32 kits, plus 17 Bibles and devotionals.

The boxes were delivered to the NALC Disaster Warehouse in Owasso, Michigan, at the end of March. Thank you to everyone who participated in this outreach!

## April is National Volunteer Month!

Every month is an opportunity to celebrate and thank dedicated volunteers. This month, we salute *all* Christ Lutheran volunteers for their commitments, especially in the Pantry Ministry. It is also a true blessing to have three additional passionate volunteers (who are not church members) come to assist as well! Because of the volunteer's time and compassion, approximately sixty plus hours are contributed to prepare and complete each distribution.

Pantry volunteers have expressed how serving God in this way makes them happier and they appreciate everything that He has given to them. The CLC Daily Bread Pantry has officially completed eleven full years serving residents in Macomb County. The recent pantry distribution took place on Tuesday, March 19.

Thank you very much to everyone who contributes to the pantry, whether it is through your time, donations or praying for people who are seeking help.

## Name Tag Sunday Returns

In an effort to improve fellowship and to increase the identification of fellow members, the Evangelism committee is re-establishing a previous CLC practice that was discontinued during and following COVID.

The first Sunday of every month will be designated as Name Tag Sunday. Hopefully, members will learn to recognize one another by name with this monthly practice.

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

April 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	<b>10:00 A.M. SUNDAY WORSHIP</b>					
<b>Services are in-person &amp; Live Streamed</b>	<b>1</b> Office closed 5:30 CLC Praise Band	<b>2</b> 12:30 pm. Evangelism Mtg 6-8 Craft Night	<b>3</b> 1 & 5:30 pm Bible Study	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Name Tag Sunday Worship Service at 10 am with Holy Communion  10:00 - Sunday School 11:15 - Blood Pressure 11:15 - Coffee Hour 11:15 - Catechism 11:15 - Worship Mtg.	<b>8</b> 9:30 a.m. Prayer group 5:30 Genesis 6:00 Parish Ed Meeting	<b>9</b> 10 am Staff Meeting 10-1:00 pm Pins & Needles 6:30 pm Exec Mtg.	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 12:00 Grief Share	<b>12</b> 6 - 8:00 Youth Group	<b>13</b> 2-5 pm Euchre
<b>14</b> 9:00 am Spring Breakfast Worship Service at 10:00 am  10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Coffee Hour 11:15 Catechism	<b>15</b> 9:30 a.m. Prayer group 5:30 p.m. CLC Praise Band	<b>16</b> 6:30 Council Meeting	<b>17</b> 1 7 5:30 pm Bible Study	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 12:30 pm Pairs & Spares at Waves	<b>20</b> 9-12:00 pm. Spring Clean-up
<b>21</b> Worship Service at 10:00 am with Holy Communion  10:00 - Sunday School 11:15 - Coffee Hour 11:15 - Catechism	<b>22</b> 9:30am Prayer grp. 5:30 Genesis	<b>23</b> 10 am Staff Meeting	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6 - 8:00 pm Youth Group	<b>27</b> 11:00 am Dottie Gillette Memorial Service
<b>28</b> Worship Service at 10 am Youth-led Prodigal Son 10:00 - Sunday School 11:15 - Catechism 11:15 - Coffee Hour - April Birthday celebrated	<b>29</b> 9:30 am Prayer Group 5:30 pm CLC Praise Band	<b>30</b>				

## YOUNG AT HEART AGE 50 PLUS



### *Birthdays*

Send a card and share a wish with our young at heart 50 + seniors of CLC.

Rex Mize	4/04
Deborah Dzielski	4/08
Kathi Frezza	4/08
Charlene Catey	4/10
Andrew Jablonski	4/10
Donna Schiesel	4/10
Lois Bartlett	4/11
Susan Muhme	4/11
Nancy Hynick	4/19
Ed Marcotte	4/19
Nancy Vrana	4/20
Karen Malugin	4/23
Amy Herbst	4/24
Kathryn Botalitto	4/26
Michael Schneider	4/26
Milton Lobstein	4/29
Donna Cavanaugh	4/30
Jennifer Schneider	4/30

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

*Happy 63<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary  
Daniel & Bobbye Nicholson  
April 15*



### Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

I would like to offer a special "THANK YOU" to our Council Committees for serving delicious meals before the Lenten services each Wednesday evening. It was a great way to enjoy a meal and the company of others while we prepared for the Lenten services. Yours in Christ, Cheryl Gothro

**Thank you** to Lynn Lusk for her visits with me on Sundays. She always reads the sermon notes to me that she takes during Pastor's Sunday sermons. It is greatly appreciated. I miss seeing everyone each week and hope to be back soon. I'm still waiting for my hip to heal better. It's still very painful when I try to walk.  
Phyllis Burghardt

**Thank you** so very much Pastor Hunde for your visits and ongoing prayers for strength and healing during my hospitalizations and rehabilitation. Your visits are welcomed and greatly appreciated. **Thank you** also to those who called or sent cards of hope and comfort.  
Sincerely, Marion Runde, (and family)

At the St. Patrick's Day luncheon, the food was delicious and the fellowship very enjoyable.

A special **thank you** to Debbie Brown, Kathi Frezza, Bob Slavko, Sherry Carroll, Allan Mullins, and Bill Gothro for making this event so successful. Thanks for Linda Smith's Irish Soda Bread, Cheryl Gothro's cake, and the clean-up efforts of so many.

**Thank you** to all of those involved.

**Thank you** to our employees and volunteers who help keep Christ Lutheran Church functioning efficiently behind the scenes. Your commitment to the continuation of services and programs is greatly appreciated. Yours in Christ, Cheryl Gothro

**Thank you** to all our CLC Council leaders that work diligently to keep the programs of our church home organized and functioning as smoothly as possible. **Thank you** for your continued support. You are all greatly appreciated. Yours in Christ, Cheryl Gothro, Council President

**Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10**

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH NALC/LCMC

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### Church Office Hours

**Mon. – Thurs: 9am – 2:00pm**

**Friday – 9:00 am - noon**

### HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

This remains the promise and blessing to us as Christians. Christ lived, was crucified, died, and rose from the dead so that our sins would be forgiven, and we could one day join our Lord in heaven!

I hope you enjoyed sharing the Lenten season with its meals and services, as well as sharing the story and meaning of Holy Week. It also was a great time to socialize and get to know our church family better. We had wonderful turnouts for our Lenten meals and evening services including Prayer Night, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil. Thank you to all who participated either by being a worship assistant, ushering, setting up the altar with flowers and communion, reading scripture, preparing meals, setting up and cleaning up. It was wonderful to see so many take part in the pageantry, sharing the stories and meaning behind Holy Week. With services each Wednesday evening, including afternoon Bible study during Lent, as well as seven services during Holy Week, we were very busy. Everyone worked very hard to make it all run smoothly and efficiently. Pastor Hunde continued to offer spiritual and education messages as we pondered Jesus' journey

to the cross. Imagine the confusion and emotions of the disciples during these times as they journeyed with Jesus and watched as He suffered. Now imagine the joy we can revel in knowing this was all done for us. The tomb is empty! Our sins are forgiven forever! Alleluia! He is risen indeed!

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 office if you are in need of prayers, pastoral counseling, or assistance with planning necessary related events. Visitors are welcome and encouraged to contact Pastor Hunde if considering becoming a member of Christ Lutheran. If you know anyone searching for a church home, please encourage them to visit and let us know they are joining us. We are happy to help them feel welcome.

Please contact the church office if you are in need of a ride for church services. We are in the process of developing transportation to church for those in need. Also please contact the church office if you would like a Pastoral visit, to be added to the prayer list, or receive communion.

Our church website is frequently being upgraded. Please be sure to check the church calendar for upcoming events on our website as well as the kiosk setup in the Narthex, You are now able to contact and communicate with Pastor, Council officers/committees, and staff members through our upgraded website. Looking forward to seeing you in church.

*Yours in Christ, Cheryl Gothro, Council President*

## The Three Ecumenical Creeds and the Lutheran Confessions

Creeds are the general summary of what we as Christians believe. When we confess the creed, we are not praying but we confess what we believe. Ecumenical creeds are umbrella terms used in Lutheran tradition to refer to the three creeds. The Latin “Credo” means “I believe” as the root of our English word ‘creed’. We express this together with others as the faith that Christians hold in common with those present, with those in the past, and with Christians still to come

I. The three General or Ecumenical Creeds, which all Christians confess are:

### 1. The Apostles’ Creed

The Apostles’ Creed is so called because it is rightly considered to be a faithful summary of the apostles’ faith. It is the ancient baptismal symbol of the church of Rome. The old name was called “The Old Roman Creed”. Many agree that the origin goes back to the second century. The creed affirms the teaching of the doctrine of Trinity. It has three articles: the first article is about God the Father, the second article is about our Lord Jesus Christ and the third article is about the Holy Spirit. In Christ Lutheran Church, the Apostle Creed, is the most common creed which we use during our regular services.

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the**

**Resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

### 2. The Nicene Creed

What we call the Nicene Creed is actually the product of two ecumenical councils---one in Nicaea (Present-day Iznik, Turkey) in AD 325, and one in Constantinople (now Istanbul) in AD 381---and a Century of debate over the nature of the relationship between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. I personally visited both places in Turkey a couple of years ago.

The main purpose of the council was to resolve the heresy problem and stand against the false teaching called Arianism. In Alexandria in AD 318, a presbyter named Arius began publicly proclaiming his theory that Jesus was not God at all, only a celestial servant of the true Most High God, who alone was almighty, transcendent, the creator and first cause of all things. This teaching is today followed by those who call themselves the Jehovah Witnesses.

Like all of the ecumenical creeds, the Nicene Creed does not set forth any specific theory or view of atonement---the way of understanding what Jesus accomplished on the cross. Still, in its final form, the creed tells us that Christ’s mission for our salvation included coming down out of heaven and taking on flesh from the Virgin Mary (the incarnation), carrying that flesh in suffering through life and into death on the cross. The creed declares that He was crucified by Pontius Pilate, “for us.” Christ died for us to take our place of suffering and set us free to receive salvation.

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## From the Pastor's Desk

(continued from page 1)

achieve for years, and the volunteers are hugging each other and celebrating and crying and all that. It's joy. Is it unshakable joy? No, it is not. We can name a lot of examples of temporary joy which we witness at different occasions, but all those types of joy are temporary. We cannot compare it with the unshakable joy of the Resurrection.

So, the foundation of that unshakable joy is the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. That is the foundation of everything. Jesus' shocking death was the cause of their grief, but also Christ's triumphant resurrection would be the cause of their joy. Jesus would come and stand in their midst, in the midst of a locked room filled with dreariness and sadness and fear and anxiety and depression, and He would go right through those walls and stand in their midst and present himself to them and say, "Peace be with you." And they looked at His hands and His sides. The scripture says in **John 20**, *the disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. It's the only proper response for forgiven sinners like they were...or again, in Luke's gospel, we see the same thing, Jesus giving unshakable Joy to his frightened and weak disciples. In Luke 24*, it says *"While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said, Peace be with you. And they were startled and frightened thinking they saw a ghost. And He said to them, Why are you troubled? Why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at My hands and My feet, it is I Myself, touch Me and see. A ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see, I have.* And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, He asked them, Do you have anything here to eat? And they gave Him a piece of broiled fish and He took it and ate it in their presence. Their reaction was they couldn't believe it because they were so filled with joy. It's too good to be true. Well, in this case, it was too good not to be true, joy unshakable and full of glory based on Christ's resurrection.

So what do I mean by unshakable joy? I mean there's nothing on Earth that can take away that joy. In **1Peter 1**, it says, Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. His great mercy has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade, kept in Heaven for you, who through faith is shielded by God's power until the time comes for you to receive your inheritance. So this joy, this unshakable joy is founded on some unshakable historical facts, the incarnation of Jesus Christ, when He took on a human body. A permanent choice by Him. His sinless life, His substitutionary death for us on the cross, His bodily resurrection on the third day, these are historical facts. Who can take away this joy from our hearts? It is unshakable joy and it will remain until we are reunited with Him in Heaven.

May your days, weeks, months and years be filled with this unshakable joy of the Resurrection!  
Pastor Tsegayesus Hurisa Hunde

### Narthex Kiosk Improves Communication

Thanks to the Information Technology Committee (Steve Brown, Glenn Sopfe & Allan Mullins) for adding a kiosk in the church narthex. Members now have an additional opportunity to know what is happening around CLC. Glenn Sopfe is responsible for downloading the content. He is using pictures, illustrations and print to keep the membership informed.

Thank you for this newest addition!

## The Three Ecumenical Creeds and the Lutheran Confessions

(continued from page 6)

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His Kingdom will**

**have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son, He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

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Liturgical scholar Balthasar Fischer (1912-2001) shared an “a-ha” realization about the significance of praying with open, outstretched hands, an ancient practice. The opposite gesture, a closed fist, is used to threaten others or even inflict violence. We also grasp things in closed fists, refusing to let go, to share, to hold gently or loosely.

When we pray with open hands, Fischer explained, we’re saying before God that we renounce “all highhandedness, all pride in [our] own sufficiency, all violence.” We hold up our empty hands to God, saying, “I have nothing that I have not received from you, nothing that you have not placed in my empty hands. Therefore I do not keep a frantic hold on anything you have given me; therefore, too, I desire not to strike and hurt but only to give and to spread happiness and joy.”



## Spring Clean-up is Just Around the Corner

Shirley Dutcher and Allan Mullins are joining efforts to organize the year's annual Spring Clean-up. Scheduled for **Saturday, April 20, from 9-12:00**, the co-directors are in need of volunteers.

There are jobs available for young and old alike. Some people with gardening skills are always needed, but volunteers or laborers to do the "grunt" work are really in need as well.

While most tools, supplies and materials will be made available, volunteers are welcomed to bring their favorite personal shovel, rake or broom, as well. Don't forget to bring gardening gloves and wear weather-appropriate clothing.

Snacks and beverages will be available to help volunteers maintain their energy level. Hope to see you there and please don't forget to add your name to the sign-up sheet on the volunteer board in the main hallway between Pastor's office and the business office.

## Please help us Stamp Out Hunger

What is Stamp Out Hunger? It is an annual event where the Warren USPS letter carriers collect non-perishable foods from residents on their route while delivering mail in May. It is a one-day commitment where these men and women take time to collect and deliver food to local outreach programs. The Warren letter carriers deliver to food pantries, while other communities have carriers deliver to Gleaners Food Bank and to a Macomb County Food Bank.

Help is needed to unload the food and to write expiration dates on products, plus categorize the items by month and year. If you have an hour (or maybe a couple of hours) to spare, every set of hands makes a huge difference. There will be a great need for boxes too. This will help keep workers safe as they move round the room and the boxes will later be used for future food distributions.

**This year, USPS letter carriers will be collecting non-perishable food on Saturday, May 11 and dropping it off at CLC between 12:30 – 5:30 pm.** Last year, the foods that were expired were donated to The Vietnam Veterans of America in Clinton Township.

Volunteers can add their names to the sign-up sheet posted on the volunteer board in the main hallway across from the coffee lounge. Please contact Melissa Bruesehoff for further information: [Melissa.bruesehoff@clcwarren.org](mailto:Melissa.bruesehoff@clcwarren.org) or by calling (586) 264-0418.

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**April 2024**



Before the children searched for their Easter eggs on Palm Sunday, Cheryl Gothro (Council President) read a book to them entitled **God Gave Us Easter.**

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