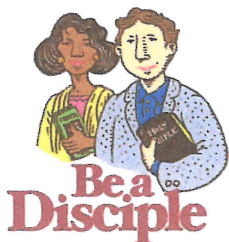




SPECIAL DATES

- 6-8pm Craft Night – 2/6
- 1 & 5:30pm-Bible Study -2/7
- Noon Grief Share Group - 2/8
- Euchre 2 - 5pm. – 2/10
- Transfiguration Sunday – 2/11
- Valentine Brunch 11:15 – 2/11
- Staff meeting 10am - 2/13
- Ash Wed dinner 6pm – 2/14
- Ash Wed. Services noon & 7pm – 2/14
- Pairs & Spares 12:30 - 2/15
- Coffee hour 11:15 am - 2/18
- Worship training 11:15 - 2/18
- Bible Study 1pm only - 2/21
- Lenten dinner 6pm - 2/21
- Lenten Service 7pm - 2/21
- Staff meeting 10am - 2/27
- Lenten dinner 6pm - 2/28
- Lenten Service 7pm – 2/28

February 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		



CHRIST TODAY

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

From the Pastor's desk

Dear chosen people of God,

Grace and peace to you from our Heavenly Father who loves us with His unconditional love! What a privilege it is to serve such a wonderful God.

I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. "For He is the living God and He endures forever; His kingdom will not be destroyed, His dominion will never end. He rescues and He saves; He performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions." So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian. (Daniel 6:26-28)

We stepped into the new year by His grace to enjoy the blessings He prepared for us and to face the challenges which we must pass through. I just want to share with you this wonderful verse from the book of Daniel as the text of the year which we can refer to when we face unexpected challenges in 2024.

Daniel survived his night in the lion's den because he trusted God and God sent His angel to close the mouths of the lions. Darius was very glad to find that Daniel had survived. Daniel's accusers were thrown into the lion's den and quickly met their death. Daniel landed in the lion's den because Darius signed a decree that prohibited anyone from worshipping or petitioning anyone besides himself for thirty days, effectively declaring himself God. The Devil used Daniel's accusers to mislead Darius to the wrong path. Now, Darius the king wrote to all the peoples, nations and men of every language who were living in all the lands declaring that Daniel's God is sovereign. He made a decree that in all the dominion of his kingdom, men are to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel.

Darius recognizes that God is truly a living God who has power and dominion over all. Despite being a king himself, Darius humbles himself before God and declares Him truly king. Daniel has remained faithful through his captivity, several kings, positions of power, and threat of death. He trusted God. So Daniel enjoyed success in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

We are living in an ungodly world where the Devil is propagating his lies and misinterpreting the WORD OF GOD to mislead people. It is becoming worse and worse. In the midst of this chaos, God is looking for faithful servants like Daniel to stand firm on the solid foundation of Christianity to witness about the God of Daniel who saved Daniel from the den of lions.

Brothers and sisters, we are called to this ministry as God's ambassadors to represent Him wherever we go. Daniel has seen the glory of God through his faithfulness which resulted in winning the entire kingdom of Darius. God will save us from all attacks of the enemy and will give us victory. Let us keep on doing what we are doing: it can be volunteering in different aspects. All of these are powerful parts of the ministry we have in Christ.

(continued on page 7)

Memorials and Honorariums

In memory of Lawrence Hudson

Undesignated Gift

Given by: Kelley Hudson

Gift is designated to Youth & Family Ministry

Given by: Lee & Nancy O'Bryan

In memory of Doug Prebee

Undesignated gift

Given by: Cheryl Squicciarini

In Memory of Sallie Vanden Bossche

Undesignated gift

Given by: Mike & Jill Sabiston

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 Response Kits

The Evangelism Committee is reminding CLC members that NALC Disaster Response Kits are due Feb. 26. Many people have already responded to the Temple Talk message given by Esther Straka and the article that appeared in the January newsletter.

Some kits have been placed on the table outside of Pastor's office. There are also extra items there if anyone needs them for their kits. A complete list of items to be included in the kits can be found on page 8.

Thank you in advance for your Generosity!

Daily Bread Pantry

Happy February, everyone! This month, let's take time to ask, "In what ways do we share God's love? And how often does this happen?" This may be with family and friends or with people we don't know. The Food Pantry volunteers have been able to meet many struggling families and individuals. Despite the challenges, this ministry helps these people because of God's true love and blessings.

Just a couple of weeks ago, a team of volunteers worked hard at preparing for the first pantry distribution of the new year. It was a mild day before the first snowstorm hit, then came the polar vortex. Luckily, the Warren Consolidated Schools remained open and we were able to conduct our distribution. The 'mission was accomplished' with fully-prepared volunteers willing to tackle the frigid temps and wind chills. Other pantries did not open due to inclement weather.

One of our visitors was so impressed with our hard work that she got out of her car and gave a hand-made headband to one of the volunteers. She was very thankful for the time, donations, and prayers that we offered.

A former church member wanted to use Thrivent Seed Money to contribute to this ministry. Nearly \$250 worth of paper products were purchased, which amounted to 75 rolls of paper towel and 225 rolls of toilet paper. We were fortunate since we needed around 40 rolls of paper towel and 160 rolls of toilet paper for this most recent distribution.

Clearly, the prices have increased in the grocery stores. Another Thrivent member also contributed non-perishable foods, like soup and hot meals that can be heated up to bring comfort during these frigid times.

The needs of 26 households and 70 individuals were addressed last month and a sincere thank you goes out to all volunteers whose dedication and sacrifice were examples of serving the Lord. **The next pantry distribution is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19.** Donations of non-expired canned /boxed goods or paper products can be placed in the bins located under the coat racks in the Educational Unit.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	10:00 A.M. SUNDAY WORSHIP 7:00 P.M. MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES					
Services are in-person & Live Streamed		Black history month		1	2	3
4 Worship Service at 10 am 10:00 - Sunday School 11:15 - Blood Pressure 11:15 - Coffee Hour 11:15 - Catechism 11:15 - Worship Mtg.	5 9:30 a.m. Prayer group 5:30 Genesis	6 12:30 p.m. Evangelism and SC Meeting 6-8 pm Craft Night	7 1 & 5:30 pm Bible Study	8 Noon - Grief Share	9 6 - 8:00 Youth Group	10 2-5 pm Euchre
11 Transfiguration Sunday with Holy Communion 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Catechism 11:15 Valentine Brunch	12 9:30 a.m. Prayer group 5:30 p.m. CLC Praise Band 6 pm Parish Ed	13 10 am Staff Meeting 12:30 pm Evangelism & SC Meeting 10-1:00 Pins and Needles 6:30 Executive Meeting	14 6:00 Lenten meal Ash Wednesday services at noon & 7 pm	15 12:30 Pairs & Spares at Cloverleaf	16	17
18 Worship Service at 10 am 10:00 - Sunday School 11:15 - Coffee Hour 11:15 - Catechism 11:15 - Worship Training	19 9:30am Prayer grp. 5:30 Genesis	20 6:30 Council Meeting	21 1 pm only Bible Study 6 pm Lenten Meal 7 pm Lenten service	22	23 6-8:00 Youth Group	24
25 Worship Service at 10am with Holy Communion 10:00 - Sunday School 11:15 - Catechism 11:15 Coffee Hour	26 9:30 am Prayer Group 5:30 CLC Praise Band	27 10 am Staff Meeting	28 6 pm Lenten Meal 7 pm Lenten service	29		

YOUNG AT HEART AGE 50 PLUS



Birthdays

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

Michelle Reich	2/01
Don Young	2/01
Ann Slavko	2/04
Hertha Sheridan	2/07
Nancy O'Bryan	2/08
Cynthia Schleis	2/08
Daniel Nicholson	2/11
Lawaun Modrich	2/12
Dorothea Rehn	2/12
Larry Oser	2/15
Gerhilde Rometsch	2/15
Janna Bull	2/19
Ellen Paquin	2/20
George Schleis	2/21
Michele Schultz	2/22

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. Numbers



Worship Training Scheduled

Worship assistants & communion servers are asked to attend a Worship Training session following the February 18 service.

Pastor Hunde & Cheryl Gothro are hoping to get all volunteers on the same page as they review the worship service, step by step. They want to be sure there is consistency regardless of who is assisting or serving communion.

Please contact Cheryl if you are unable to attend.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Thank you to the musicians and vocalists who beautify our worship services.

Thank you to Kathi Frezza and Allan Mullins for ordering and hanging a new bulletin board to honor current and former CLC members who served in the armed forces.

Thank you to the dedicated CLC volunteers who sort canned goods and cleaning products, plus set up for Food Pantry distribution every other month.

Thank you to those members who stayed after the worship service to undecorate the church following Christmas.

Thank you to those volunteers who deliver the altar flowers to the homebound or hospitalized.

Thank you to everyone who assists Allan Mullins when he shovels and salts the sidewalks leading into church.

Thank you to Pastor for his tireless efforts to provide leadership, example & support for our members.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH NALC/LCMC

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Fax: 586-293-5046

Email: churchoffice@clcwarren.org

Web: www.christlutheranchurchwarren.org

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Jim Bruesehoff, Treasurer

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Suzanne Sopfe, Secretary

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Church Office Hours

Mon. – Thurs: 9am – 2:00pm

Friday – 9:00 am - noon

From the Council President

Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ. Hello and welcome to all of you. I pray you had a healthy and safe New Year. My prayers go out to those who suffer with ill health or loss. Please notify the office or Pastor if you require support of visitation, prayers, or transportation. Thank you to all who remained for the Annual Congregational Meeting January 28. Your support and dedication to the decision making and running of Christ Lutheran is greatly appreciated. We continue to pray for a positive growth in members and financial stability.

Now that we have passed from the Christmas season with the celebration of Christ's birth, Epiphany with the three wise men bearing witness to the Christ child, and later His baptism by John, we approach the events that lead to the season of Lent and Jesus' sacrifice on the cross as payment for our sins.

The season of Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday on February 14**. We will hold traditional **services at noon and 7pm**. Due to very low attendance last year, **there will only be evening (7pm) services for the remainder of the Wednesday Lenten season until Palm Sunday**, which is the beginning of Holy Week. A light meal will be offered by your council committees each Wednesday at 6pm. During Holy Week, there is no Wednesday service. The next service will be on **Maundy Thursday** with a light coffee hour from 6:30-7pm, in remembrance of The Last Supper. **Good Friday** will have traditional noon and 7pm services. We will hold an **Easter Vigil** that Saturday evening beginning at 6:30 pm, when we will cover everything from creation to the resurrection. The Sunday morning **Easter service** will be held at **10:00 am**. Please be sure to join us as we study Jesus' life and journey to the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. After all, as Christians, we are an Easter people! Without this great sacrifice and gift of forgiveness from God through His Son, Jesus, we have no hope of life everlasting.

Please feel free to contact the church office if you would like us to provide transportation. Your council members will attempt to contact homebound members and those we know who no longer drive in the evenings and offer transportation. We look forward to you joining us and sharing fellowship and the Word.

Yours in Christ,
Cheryl Gothro

Our Confessional Lutheran Dogmatics

Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." Matt 24:35

The Word of God is Eternal. God used his Word to bring the world from non-existence into existence. If God did that, then he can create something new in your life out of nothing. The creating power of the word of God is still the same.

When Paul advised Timothy to be a sustainable minister, he said "Preach the Word. Be ready in season and out of season." 2 Timothy 4:2

A) Holy Communion (The sacrament of the Altar)

To understand the Holy Communion deeper, you need to go back to its Old Testament background. Jesus instituted the Holy Communion when he was together with the apostles to celebrate the **Passover (Genesis 12:1-14, 26-28)**

The story takes us back to the story of people of Israel when they were in slavery in Egypt. God sent Moses to lead them out of Egypt to the promised land. God punished the Egyptians with ten different plaques. The last plaque was "killing of all their firstborn sons. God wanted to make a difference between the people of Israel and the Egyptians.

God told Moses to tell the Israelites to slaughter a blameless lamb. And paint the doorposts with the blood of the lamb so that the angel can see it. That night the angel of the Lord passed over!

"Holy Communion is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and the wine instituted by the Christ for us Christians to eat and drink." Small Catechism.

According to Lutheran theology, there are two things in Holy Communion. The first one is the visible things, and the second one is the invisible things. The visible things are the bread and the wine. The invisible things are the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. According to Catholic theology, after the consecration, the bread and the wine will completely be changed into the blood and body of Christ. This is called the doctrine of Substantiation. But for us Lutherans, the bread and the wine will completely be changed into the blood and body of Christ. This is called the doctrine of Substantiation. But for us, we do not accept this because even after the words of institution, the bread is still there and the wine is still there, but at the same time we receive the body and blood of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

Grace, forgiveness and salvation comes through the sacraments. Why do we need to learn about the Holy Communion before we take it?

1 Cor 11:23-32 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you. The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me. For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone out to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. But if you were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment. Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world.

The names given to the Holy Communion

Holy Communion, The Lord's Table, the Last Supper, the Lord's Supper, Communion, the breaking of the bread, Holy Sacrament, Eucharist, The body and blood of Christ.

The Bible warns us not to receive the Holy Communion in an unworthy manner.

"So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in a way that is unworthy will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so should he eat of the bread and drink of the cup." 1Cor 11:27-28

This text is one of the strongest texts as far as the Eucharist is concerned. The Corinthians: communion services had become corrupted with selfishness, drunkenness, and discrimination against the poor. Participants were neither honoring God nor edifying one another in their celebrations. The "unworthy manner" Paul had in mind was most likely a failure to express the love and unity of the body of Christ, and failure to confess sin. I am afraid that today's church is also in the same situation which needs to be corrected. Paul hoped that reminding them of the Lord's simple and straightforward instructions would lead the Corinthians to correct their bad behavior.

Holy Communion is the gift of the Lord to every Christian which should not be misused and taken for granted.

From the Pastor's desk

(continued from page 1)

Christ Lutheran Church is a community of Christ-followers growing in love of God and neighbor. This is what we at CLC believe Christian discipleship is, what we are to be, and what Jesus meant when he sent his followers to "make disciples." We believe every person is of sacred worth and created in God's image. We commit to Jesus' example of inclusive love, care, and intentional hospitality with persons of every race, ethnicity, age, sex, marital status, faith story, physical or mental ability, economic status, or political perspective. We respect our diversity of opinion and expressions of faith. This is how the body of Christ should be! As to missional planning, our mission statement says a lot about who we are. **May God help us to be models for others.**

In January, I had the opportunity to attend the Annual North American Lutheran Church Pastors' conference (which they called a 'clergy retreat' this year) in Florida for three days. The main title of the conference was "I will give you rest." This year, the church decided to use the NALC Ministers who served more than 30 years. There were 180 pastors, two bishops (the retired bishop and the present bishop) at the conference. **The focus of all the guest speakers was "a Spiritual Health as a grounding for Ministry of the Church."** The purpose was to take us back to the early church practice which all true churches need to do now **more than ever.** It also was announced that NALC ordained its first Deacon who will be based in the main office, but will be traveling to different states to serve NALC churches.

Deacons (comes from the Greek word Diaknos – which means servant) and their ministry is not very clear in some Lutheran churches. They were appointed by the Apostles to enable the Apostles to concentrate on 'prayer and the Ministry of the Word' and to address a concern raised by Greek-speaking believers about their widows not being served properly or forgotten in the daily diakonia or ministry. At that time, the number of disciples was increasing and that is why the apostles decided to appoint those who can serve while they go out and reach others. (Acts 6: 1-6).

Finally, I would like to encourage those of you who read this newsletter, but are not active attendees of our church services, to come back to church so that we can serve this wonderful Lord together. In case you need to talk to me, please feel free to call my personal number so that we can talk in the presence of the Lord and pray together! May the Almighty bless you richly!

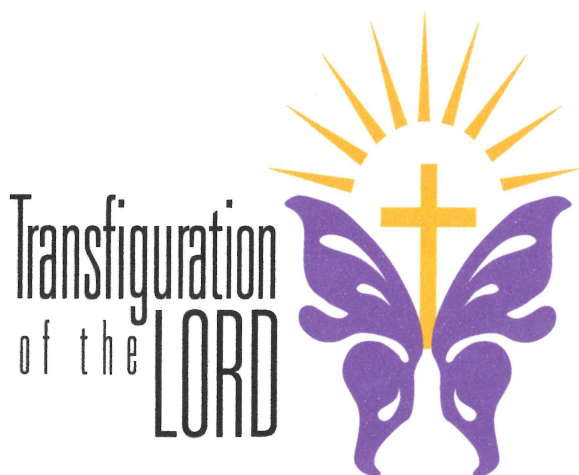
Pastor Tsegayesus Hurisa Hunda

Bible Study Hours Altered during Lent

CLC members will continue to meet for Bible Study the first and third Wednesdays of each month, however, the hours will be adjusted during Lent. Since there is a Lenten meal at 6pm, followed by the service at 7pm, the 5:30 Bible Study has been canceled on Feb.21, March 6 and 20. The 1pm Bible Study will be offered between Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday. Both classes will be offered again on Wednesday (March 27) during Holy Week and from then on.

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February 2024

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

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