



CHRIST TODAY

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

SPECIAL DATES

- Church Decorating - 12/2
- First Sunday in Advent -12/3
- Worship meeting following 10:00 am service - 12/3
- Midweek Advent Ser. – 12/6
- Bible Study 1:00 pm - 12/6
- Youth Grp Roller skating 6-8 pm, 12/8
- Euchre Night – 12/9
- Christmas Sing-Along- 12/10
- Pairs & Spares Lunch- 12/11
- Bible Study 1:00 pm - 12/13
- Midweek Advent Ser -. 12/13
- Young Adults 6-7:30, 12/13
- Neighborhood caroling 12/15
- Cookie Exchange 12/17
- Youth Christmas Prog. 12/17
- Midweek Advent Ser. 12/20
- Christmas Eve Services with Communion 5 & 7:30, 12/24
- Christmas Day Service with Communion 12/25

December 2023						
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						



From the Pastor's desk

Dear saints in Christ Lutheran Church,

Receive my warm greetings in Christ Jesus! We have continued to enjoy the blessings of the Lord in our Church. God blessed us with 14 new members last month and that was an unforgettable celebration. All of your feedback and appreciation together with your full support and prayers gives me the spiritual strength I need to proceed in my pastoral ministry!

As we approach the darkest and coldest months of winter, it is wonderful to see all the Christmas decorations with beautiful Christmas lights displayed almost everywhere. My first impression when going to Norway was the Christmas decorations. When I saw them, I said to myself 'Oh, these people are celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus in a very special, different way compared to how they do it in Africa. Nevertheless, not long after that, I found out that the central figure in the Christmas celebration for the entire population of Norway was not Jesus. That is true for most of the European countries. The children in Norway are happier to hear about Santa Claus than Jesus because they have been brought up in a Christmas tradition where they hear almost nothing about Jesus. I think the United States is also affected in the same way.

In this time of Advent, which is a time of preparation, I want you to be aware and make the necessary preparations to come together as one body to celebrate the new born baby. Let him get our attention more than ever.

For many non-Christians and even members of churches of Christ, Christmas once meant decorated trees, colorfully wrapped gifts and Santa Clauses all around, but definitely no mention of baby Jesus. That is the worst crisis for the church of Christ. This worries me a lot. But how should we celebrate Christmas? This question is important because of the significance of the day and because so many obviously do not know how to celebrate it. That is the Christmas story - God became man! The infinite clothed in human flesh! How can this be? We cannot understand it – but it is true, and we should marvel at it. Allow it to stretch your mind and learn that there are more things in heaven and on earth that are dreamed of in any human philosophy.

The word Christmas or "Christ's Mass" was adopted in the fourth century by Roman Emperor Constantine to encourage a common religious festival for Christians and Pagans. It is all about Christ not anyone else. But nominal Christianity brought in wrong input and overshadowed the true and biblical celebration of Christmas.

(continued on page 2)

Memorials and Honorariums

In memory of Robert Runde

Undesignated Gift
Given by: Gary Runde

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



From the Pastor's Desk

(continued from pg 1)

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

If we are not celebrating Christ during Christmas, then we have lost the real meaning of Christmas and have become the most deceived people on the planet. Therefore, we at Christ Lutheran Church should be united in celebrating the Lord of Christmas as we enjoy the biblical tradition of Christmas with its memorial connotations. We will make sure that anyone who visits Christ Lutheran Church during Christmas, will hear the good news which the angels proclaimed to the shepherds (Luke 2:9-13)

Stay tuned! God bless you all!
Pastor Tsegayesus Hurisa Hunde

November Evangelism Outreach Ministries

THANK YOU to all who participated in one way or another in the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox ministry and/or the Thanksgiving Basket ministry!

The shoeboxes will be delivered to children around the world. Each box not only gives great joy to the child, but the message of Jesus' love can impact the whole family and community. Please continue to pray for the safety of these children and their families and for the Holy Spirit to touch their hearts to learn more about Jesus.

We are planning to deliver 36 boxes of food to families in our Macomb County community. Thank you to all who donated money or non-perishable food items for this ministry, and to those volunteering to help pack the boxes!

Since this article is being written before the deadline for these ministries, the January CT will contain final numbers of families served with Thanksgiving boxes and Shoeboxes delivered to the collection center.

THANK YOU!! - The Evangelism Committee

Neighborhood Christmas Caroling

Join us for CLC Caroling Friday, Dec, 15.

Meet at church at 4:30 pm, to get your song sheets and to receive instructions.

We will begin caroling through the neighborhood near church at 5:00 pm and return to CLC to enjoy hot cocoa and cookies.

Looking forward to seeing you then!

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH						December 2023
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					1	2 9-noon Christmas Decorating
3 Worship Service at 10 am with Holy Communion 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 - Blood Pressure - Coffee Hour 11:15 - Catechism - Worship Mtg.	4 9:30 a.m. Prayer group 5:30 Genesis 6:00 Parish Ed 6:30 CLC Praise Band	5 10 am Staff Meeting 12:30 p.m. Evangelism and SC Meeting	6 1 pm Bible Study 7 pm Advent Service	7	8 6 – 8:00 Youth Group roller skating	9 6-9:00 Euchre Night
10 Worship Service at 10:00 am 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour 11:15 Catechism 11:30 Christmas Sing-Along	11 9:30 a.m. Prayer group 1:30 Pairs & Spares lunch 5:30 p.m. CLC Praise Band 7:30 Adult Bells	12 10-1:00 Pins and Needles 6:30 Executive Meeting	13 7 pm Advent Service	14 6-7:30 Young Adults	15 4:30 Caroling	16 
17 Worship Service at 10:00 am with Holy Communion 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 - Coffee Hour & 11:15 - Catechism 11:30 - Youth Christmas Program 1:00 Cookie Exchange	18 9:30am Prayer grp. 7:30 Adult Bells	19 10 am Staff Meeting 6:30 Council Meeting	20 1 pm Bible Study 7 pm Advent Service	21 	22	23
24 Christmas Eve Services: 5 & 7 pm 31 Youth-led Worship service at 10:00 am 11:00 Coffee Hour	25 10:00 am Christmas Service with Holy Communion 	26	27	28	29	30 

YOUNG AT HEART AGE 50 PLUS



Birthdays

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

Frank Hynick	12/02
Dave Dietz	12/05
Craig Love	12/07
Sharon Makie	12/10
John McFarlane	12/10
Judy Mize	12/11
Shirley Dutcher	12/12
Jim Bruesehoff	12/13
Katherine Anderson	12/14
Marjorie Wyss	12/19
Henry Rehn	12/20
Karin Stevenson-Twiss	12/20
David Rice	12/21
John Eichhorn	12/22
Kelly DeLeeuw	12/26
Suzanne Kars	12/27
Lori Rafalski	12/29

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

Thank You to Allan Mullins and Gary Runde for redesigning the table layout in the Gathering Room. It makes the coffee hours much more comfortable!

Thank you to church decorating co-leaders: Barb & Allan Mullins and Patty & Dan Zawierucha for their orderly preparation beforehand. It will make decorating much easier!

Annual Christmas Sing-Along

The annual Christmas Sing-Along will be held in the educational unit after worship on **Sunday, Dec. 10**. Please bring winter outerwear for men and/or women to donate to ARK, an association that helps feed, clothe, and assist people with housing in the heart of Detroit.

The CLC Praise Band will perform, lunch will be provided, and the Fellowship Committee will direct craft projects for the children. Donations of blankets and new undergarments are welcomed as well.

See you there!

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

The Fellowship Committee would like to send out a **Big Thank You** to all CLC members who helped out this past year during special events, as well as the weekly coffee hour.

So many brought in wonderful dishes to share, came early to help set up, and/or stayed after to clean up. Your efforts were greatly appreciated; our workload was definitely lessened.

Thank you for your generosity and helpfulness. Debbie Brown and Kathi Frezza

A special thank you to Gary Runde who takes his custodian responsibilities a step farther than the job description. As a long-time member, Gary has a lot of knowledge of how things should be, where things are stored, and how things were done in the past.

Thanks for working so hard and being so pleasant to work with.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH NALC/LCMC

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Church Office Hours

Mon. – Thurs: 9am – 2:00pm

Friday – 9:00 am - noon

From the Council President

Christmas Blessings to you and your families! Yes, that special church season is here again. I hope that you are in good health and spirit to enjoy this special time of year. The season of **Advent begins Sunday, Dec. 3**. This is the season of waiting and anticipation of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. It's a time for us to contemplate all that has come to pass. Imagine how lucky we are that we can think about the birth of Christ and all that occurred over 2000 years ago when no one knew the importance of what was to take place. It makes you wonder how Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and the wisemen had such strong faith that they believed, traveled, took part and witnessed the miracle of Jesus' birth. **Please continue to keep the true meaning of Christmas in your hearts and daily life.**

There are many special events planned this month beginning with **Advent services on Wednesday nights, Dec. 6th, 13th, 20th, at 7:00 pm**. If you are in need of transportation, please contact the church office or ask someone you know that lives near you for a ride so you may share in the joy and wonder of this season.

We will have the **church decorating on Saturday, Dec. 2, 9am-noon**. Please come help us beautify the church.

The Christmas Sing-Along is Sunday, Dec. 10th following the church service. This is an outreach for the ARK Association who helps to feed, clothe, and assist in finding housing in the heart of Detroit. They are especially looking for winter outerwear for men and women. Blankets and new under garments are also needed. Items clean and in good repair that you are no longer using will be greatly appreciated as well. A lunch with activities for the children will be offered. **There also will be neighborhood caroling on Dec. 15, at 5:00 (see page 2 for details).**

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, so we will not hold a morning service, but we will have 5:00pm and 7:30pm services. The Christmas Day Service will be at 10:00 am on Monday, Dec. 25th. Please check the church website for additional information, times and locations, and join us in praise and song during this wonderful time in the life of our church.

It has been wonderful seeing some of our missing members returning to our services. Please continue to welcome our new members as well. What a joyful gift to witness the growth of our church family. Thank you to all who assist our homebound when needed. Prayers continue for those in need of the healing of mind, body, and spirit, as well as those suffering the loss of loved ones. Continue to pray and to look to the Lord for guidance and strength.

Visitors are welcome and encouraged to contact the church office or Pastor Hunde if considering becoming a member of CLC. If you have an emergency, please contact Pastor Hunde or Cheryl Gothro (see directory). We look forward to seeing you in church.

Yours in Christ, Cheryl Gothro, Council President

Our Confessional Lutheran Dogmatics

Beginning with this month, Pastor will be writing a special column each month, discussing various elements of the Lutheran faith. He hopes to reach out to those who are unable to attend the Bible studies or unable to hear his sermons on Sunday.

The reformation of the 16th century brought several reforms to the Catholic Church which the church condemned. Those who protested the resistance of the church ended up in forming the Protestant movement, Luther was the dominant figure of the Reformation. I would like to point out some of the important Lutheran doctrines and the heritage of our church.

In this section I would like to focus on the differences between the Lutheran Church and the Roman Catholic Church. It is very important to make a clear distinction between the two. Otherwise, we end up ignoring the value of the Reformation.

Martin Luther was a Bible scholar and believed strongly that all doctrine must be solidly based on scripture. He rejected the idea that the teaching of the Pope carried the same weight as the Bible.

Initially, Luther sought only to reform the Roman Catholic Church, but Rome held the belief that the office of Pope had been established by Jesus Christ and that the Pope served as Christ's vicar or representative on earth. Therefore, the Catholic Church rejected any attempts to limit the role of the Pope or cardinals. Let me make some clear distinctions between Lutheran and Catholic Churches.

According to Lutherans, the Bible is the sole authority as far the doctrine of the church is concerned. Whereas, the Roman Catholics give doctrinal authority to the Pope, traditions of the church, and the scriptures.

The main point for Lutherans is that Justification comes to humans by grace alone, through faith in Jesus Christ alone; Roman Catholics believe that faith must be accompanied by good works for salvation to be achieved.

Lutherans believe that Christ is the head of the church and that the Pope or other ministers should not have divine authority over believers; whereas Roman Catholics believe Christ granted supreme authority to the Pope. For Lutherans, the Bible and the sacraments are the only means of grace. Lutherans have only two sacraments (Baptism and Holy Communion). On the contrary, the Roman Catholics have seven sacraments. The understanding of the sacraments in the Lutheran Church is different from that of the Roman Catholics.

To be continued...

"Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically." Romans 12:11



Altar Guild members include Front Row (L to R): Judy Mize, Sherry Carroll and JoAnn Parobek.
Back Row: Lois Bartlett, Gail Dietz and Ann Slavko.

Each Sunday, CLC members come to church expecting everything to be set for the worship service. The altar should be set: white linens and paraments cleaned and pressed, vases filled with flowers picked up Saturday morning at a local florist, altar candles filled with liquid wax, communion cups filled with wine, the ciborium filled with wafers, the altar carpet vacuumed, the communion railing disinfected, and the racks in the pews filled with envelopes, pencils, hymnals and Bibles.

None of this would be possible without the dedicated efforts of the Altar Guild members. Two teams alternate months of Saturday morning responsibilities. In addition, they prepare the altar for midweek services during Advent and Lent, plus weddings and funerals, and special events like Prayer Night and our weekend Revival.

Additional responsibilities continue after the services end each Sunday. Altar Guild members clear the altar, discard the plastic wine cups, wash the chalice, flagon (wine decanter), platen, communion cup trays, and transfer altar flowers to plastic containers so Evangelism volunteers can deliver them to our homebound or hospitalized members. They also remove the linens, wash and press them for the following week.

When our church membership started to decline years ago, the number of Altar Guild teams also declined. If anyone is looking for a way to serve the church and can devote a few Saturday morning hours every other month, please contact the church office or connect with any CLC member photographed above. If enough people volunteer, the rotation will be less often and the workload will be shared among more participants. Prayerfully consider joining this group of dedicated members whose work is greatly appreciated.

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December 2023

*We will be placing Poinsettias around the altar again this holiday season. Purchase a plant for **\$11**, honor someone special and beautify the sanctuary. **Deadline: Dec. 3***

Your name _____

Phone _____

Plants may be given in memory of those who have died or in honor of someone or an event.



In memory of _____

In honor of _____

The _____

_____ family

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