

January 2024



SPECIAL DATES

- Church office closed - 1/1
- Evangelism meeting - 1/2
- Epiphany - 1/7
- Church undecorating - 1/7
- Worship meeting - 1/7
- Parish Ed. Meeting 1/8
- Bible Study - 1/3, 1/17
- Euchre Night - 1/13
- Youth Group - 1/12, 1/26
- Young Adults - 1/26
- Staff meeting - 1/2, 1/16
- Executive meeting - 1/9
- Council meeting - 1/16
- Congregational mtg - 1/28

January 2024						
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	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			



CHRIST TODAY

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

From the Pastor's desk

Dear families of Christ Lutheran Church,

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all !

Happy New Year to all of you! This new year reminds me again about the unceasing mercy of God which is abundant for all who believe in HIM. This time I would like to share a comforting word from the book of **Isaiah 40:27-31**, which God put in my heart for this New Year. Here is the Word:

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

According to the Old Testament theologians, the book of Isaiah is divided into three parts. The first part is called **Proto-Isaiah**, the second is called **Deutero-Isaiah** and the third is called **Trito-Isaiah**. This text tells us the three-fold fundamental things about the God, whom we serve and worship.

1) GOD IS AWARE!

To a people tempted to be impatient, forgetful and of little faith, Isaiah said: why do you say, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my just claim is passed over by my God?" Why do you think that way? Why make such a reckless charge? "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. There is no searching of His understanding."

God is aware! He is aware of that which challenges His people from day to day. We may be surrounded by all manner of unsympathizing hostility. And we may find ourselves tempted to stop trusting the Lord whom we worship and follow. We may be forced to think, "God has forgotten me...He has passed me by!" But whatever our inadequate emotions and reactions may tell us, GOD IS THERE, AND AWARE. "The Lord knows the way of the righteous," (Psa. 1:6)

(continued on page 2)

From the Pastor's desk

(continued from page 1)

It doesn't matter though you are passing through a dangerous zone, though you are lonely and seem to be helpless, God is aware of everything. Nothing is hidden before him. You may experience his intervention any time.

As those Jews went through the dark moments of their Captivity in Babylon and when we go through our times of difficulties, pain and frustration, we need to have our remembrance moved and our conscience pricked. Our way is not hidden from the Lord! God is aware.

2) God is able

In the spiritual world, it is very vital not to put ourselves as a forerunner in any situation. God is our Shepherd who always goes before us. It doesn't matter how big our enemy is! It doesn't matter how big our challenges are; we need to see our God who is bigger than our enemies and challenges. Yes, we are not able but HE IS ABLE. Nothing is impossible for God. He is an almighty God, who is able to do abundantly and exceedingly above what we ask and think.

3 God is available

He is available, to renew the strength of "those who wait" on Him. One might inquire, "what does it mean, to wait on him?" Let us understand that this is not a passive thing, where you do nothing, and ask for everything, then wait for it to be handed to you. That's not waiting for God. NO! That's pleading with Satan to devour, and take advantage. **To wait on God means SINCERE AND STEADY DEPENDENCE ON HIM, WITH OBEDIENT TRUST – and no misgivings about His faithfulness, in doing what He says...nor about our need to obey Him.**

It means, there is only one place you can find the healing you seek. The wounds of suffering, and grief and death can reach deep into the soul. And it may seem like a tremendous burden, at the moment. But if you have a Biblical understanding of the everlasting God, you can find the healing you seek. Therefore, let us keep in mind these three comforting words of the prophet Isaiah: **God is aware, God is able and God is available.**

Stay blessed!
Pastor Tsegayesus Hurisa Hunde

Daily Bread Food Pantry

This month, the food pantry drive-thru is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 16** from noon until 1:00 p.m. There are a couple of thank-you notes outside of the secretary's office sent by people who appreciated the time and generosity of our congregation. Alongside the Thanksgiving basket ministry, there were several phone call requests for help with food. Two households came to receive Oakridge gift cards, paper products, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items, and garbage bags which the Bridgcard does not support. A couple in their second marriage with three and four children (totaling seven) were very thankful to not be turned away during this difficult time. May we remember to count our blessings from God every day! Happy New Year!



As we begin this new year, the handbell choir will practice easy songs to share in worship! It is our goal to offer music once a month, while also enjoying working as a team! Anyone interested in learning how to play, come join us! The ringing of bells serves as a reminder of joyous occasions and spreading the love of Christ! Please feel free to contact Melissa Bruesehoff at melissa.bruesehoff@clcwarren.org or 586-264-0418.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 2024

SUN **MON** **TUES** **WED** **THURS** **FRI** **SAT**

12th Annual 3 Days of
Prayer: Jan. 2-4, 2024

10:00 A.M. SUNDAY WORSHIP

Services are in-person &
Live Streamed

1

Church
Office
closed

2 10 am Staff
mtg
12:30
Evangelism

3

1 & 5:30
Bible Study

4

5

6

7 Epiphany

Worship Service at 10 am with
Holy Communion

10:00 - Sunday School

11:00 - Blood Pressure

- Coffee Hour

11:15 - Catechism

- Worship Mtg.

- Church

undecorating

8

9:30 a.m.
Prayer group

5:30 Genesis

6:30 Parish Ed

9

10 – 1:00 Pins
& Needles

6:30 Executive
meeting

10

11

12

6 – 8:00
Youth Group

13

6–9:00
Euchre Night

14

Worship Service at 10:00 with
communion

10:00 Sunday School

11:00 Coffee Hour

11:15 Catechism

15

9:30 a.m.
Prayer group

6:30 p.m. CLC
Praise Band

7:30 Bell choir

16

10:00 am Staff
meeting

6:30 Council
Meeting

17

1 & 5:30
Bible Study

18

19

20

21

Worship Service at 10:00

10:00 - Sunday School

11:00 - Coffee Hour

11:15 - Catechism

22

9:30am
Prayer grp.

5:30 Genesis

7:30 Bell choir

23

24

25

26

6 – 8:00 pm
Youth
Group and
Young Adults
bowling

27

28 Worship Service at
10:00 with communion

10:00 Sunday School

11:15
Congregational
Meeting

29

9:30am
Prayer grp.

6:30 CLC
Praise

7:30 CLC
Bell Choir

30

31

YOUNG AT HEART AGE 50 PLUS



Birthdays

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

David Fehmer	1/1
Virginia Lobstein	1/1
Shirley Mannikko	1/3
James Nelson	1/4
Bob Schmalenberg	1/4
Helen Clark	1/6
Judith Tokarski	1/8
Marion Runde	1/10
Allan Busch	1/11
Dorothy Gillette	1/14
Carol Coles	1/20
Marilyn Niehaus	1/20
JoAnn Parobek	1/20
Lee O'Bryan	1/22
Deb Kadluboski	1/28

Send a card, share a wish to our young at heart 50+ seniors of Christ Lutheran Church.

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



50+ Wedding Anniversaries

JANUARY 22

Mike & Pat VanSlembrouck
59 years
Lee & Nancy O'Bryan
53 years

But in the beginning of creation God made them male and female. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united with his wife, and the two will become one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.

Mark 10: 6-9

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry

Thank you to all who filled an Operation Christmas Child shoebox this year! We delivered 30 boxes to the collection center. During this time of turmoil 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 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

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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Cheryl Gothro, President

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Vice President

Jim Bruesehoff, Treasurer

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Suzanne Sopfe, Secretary

Suzanne.sopfe@clcwarren.org

Church Office Hours

Mon. – Thurs: 9am – 2:00pm

Friday – 9:00 am - noon

From the Council President

Happy New Year, welcome 2024! I hope you had a wonderful and beautiful Christmas celebrating with friends and family, keeping in your heart and mind the glory of Christ Jesus birth.

If you are ill or have lost loved ones, please notify the office. We will continue to pray for you and offer what assistance we can. Please notify the office if you need help with transportation.

We would love to have you join us for services in person. Being able to join in the church fellowship is a very important part of church life and we wish to keep you an active part of our church family.

Please remember that we will hold our annual Congregational Council Meeting, January 28, 2024 following the 10:00 am church service. Please be sure to attend if you are able. We will be voting on important matters such as the church budget for the coming year. Also keep in mind that if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions concerning the life of Christ Lutheran Church, please feel free to contact Pastor, any of the Executive Committee members, or the Communications Committee.

Wishing you joy, health, prosperity, and peace, through the New Year, Cheryl Gothro

THANKSGIVING BASKET DISTRIBUTION

Our annual Thanksgiving Basket distribution took place Tuesday, November 21. Even though it was a cloudy, wet day, we still had a good turn-out for the distribution and didn't get too soaked in the process. Thirty-six families, including 88 people, were given boxes including food, laundry detergent, dish soap, paper products, and grocery store certificates to Oakridge Market. All the families were very grateful for all they received during these very challenging times! THANK YOU to the volunteers who came that morning to sort and pack the donated food in the boxes, and load the boxes into the cars! We are always so grateful for your help.

The Evangelism Committee

The Means of Grace

The preaching, teaching and very life of the Lutheran Church centers around the Word of God, specifically the Means of Grace. In this regard, the Lutheran confessions are very clear:

"Therefore, we ought and must constantly maintain this point, that God does not wish to deal with us otherwise than through the spoken Word and the Sacraments. It is the devil himself whatsoever is extolled as Spirit without the Word and the Sacraments." (Smalcald Articles Part 111, Art. VIII, 10)

According to definition we find in the small catechism, the Means of Grace: "...are meant those things by which God offers and gives His gifts of forgiveness, of sins, life, and salvation." Luther's small catechism (Gausewitz edition, 1956, p 191).

According to the Lutheran heritage we have two means of grace:

1. The Word of God

2. The Sacraments (Holy Baptism and Holy Communion)

One of the most important parts of the Reformation is what Dr. Martin Luther quoted as "Sola scriptura", which means "the scripture alone" in Latin. Any theology that denies the Means of Grace, or which diminishes the Means of Grace is neither Scriptural or Lutheran. The Reformation was based on fundamental elements which we as Lutherans pay attention to. The Word of God is the Manual we can use as a reference for any failure or confusion. It helps us to come back to the right path.

NALC Disaster Response Needs Your Help!

North American Lutheran Church congregations throughout the US have come to the aid of people suffering from a variety of natural disasters. From the wildfires in California to the hurricanes in Florida, the response of NALC congregations has supported those affected by these disasters and are preparing to help others who might fall victim in future situations.

The NALC has nine Regional Disaster Response Warehouses. Disaster Response receives **no** financial support from the NALC. One hundred percent of the funding comes from offerings and donations. These warehouses are stocked with flood buckets, health kits, quilts and blankets to respond with help when disasters happen.

Our Michigan Mission Warehouse is in Owosso and needs to be restocked. The manager of the Owosso Warehouse has requested our help. The Evangelism Committee has selected Health Care Kits to help supply the warehouse. **For a list of the items see page 8.** 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.

Please consider helping with this project. We are suggesting you provide complete kits, if possible. partner with someone to provide a kit, if you wish.

This week, I purchased these items from Walmart and Dollar Tree. The items for the kit cost between \$14 and \$16 depending on if you buy travel size and need 2 of the same item. I used the dental floss my dentist gave me. You could use the toothbrush from your dentist as well. I also bought a 12 pack of combs for \$1.25 from the Dollar Store. Just make sure the toothbrushes are individually wrapped. There are extra items on a table in the hallway outside of Pastor's office. Please take them for your kit.

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 through February 26. 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

Youth Help Celebrate the Birth of Christ



Do You Hear What I Hear?

by Evelyn Hudson-Wright

Evelyn Hudson-Wright:	The North Wind
Amelia Koschke:	Gift Bearer
Debra Koschke:	Gift Bearer
Lorelei Koschke:	Lamb
Brittani Baloga:	Gift Bearer
Paul Banks:	Gift Bearer
Madison D. Hudson:	Lamb
Morgan Moore:	Lamb
Zakiyah Cobb:	Lamb
Willow Gielniak:	Lamb
Reynaud Hunde:	Lamb
Chad Bruesehoff:	Mighty King
David Bruesehoff:	Shepherd Boy

The Nativity Story

Directed by

Kay Trombat & Brittani Baloga

Narrators:	Amelia Koschke, Chad Bruesehoff, David Bruesehoff,
Sheep:	Zakiyah Cobb, Willow Gielniak, Reynaud Hunde, Morgan Moore
Shepherds:	Kristian M. Hudson, Lawrence D. Hudson
Angels:	Brittani Baloga, Madison D. Hudson, Lorelei Koschke
Heavenly Hosts:	Christian Brault, Kelsey Bowse, Selah Bowse, Reuben Hunde, Debra Koschke
Wise Men:	Paul Banks, Reuel Hunde, Christian Taylor
King Herod:	James Bruesehoff
Joseph:	Michael G. Wright
Mary:	Denise Baloga

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January 2024

NALC Disaster Response Kit

Health Care Kit

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

- 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 comb
- 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