

Christ Lutheran Church

February 2024

The FRIEND



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH SOMERSET, WI 54025



Lent Begins Ash Wednesday



Dear Partners in Ministry,
I'd like to chat about two things in this newsletter.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

First, last fall we had a stewardship drive with a football theme and the chance to attain several prizes. Since we haven't had such a drive recently, I wasn't sure what level of participation to expect. I think I may have been a little bit overly optimistic and set goals that were not realistic! So even though we only received 26 commitment cards and not the 40+ commitment cards I had hoped for, and even though we only had 8 people sign up or continue electronic giving, I'd still like to reward the congregation. Because not only did a lot of you participate, 13 of you DID pledge to give a one-time bonus offering totaling \$5,870! THANK YOU to all who participated in our stewardship drive! Your gifts will go a long ways towards allowing us to continue sharing the Gospel in Somerset and beyond in 2024. For your combined efforts, I will NOT be wearing a Packer Jersey, but I WILL bake my grandma's famous (in our family anyway) **caramel rolls to serve after worship on Sunday, February 11.**

SPECIAL WORSHIP THE WEDNESDAYS OF LENT

Second, Lent is right around the corner. I want to invite you all to join us for the Wednesdays of Lent for a Soup Supper served by our youth, followed by a unique worship experience this year. The five Wednesdays after Ash Wednesday, we will have a short service that will include a couple of meditative Taize worship songs and communal prayers, but the bulk of our time together will be a teaching/learning time each week focused around a theme of what church might look like moving forward in a world that no longer prioritizes church the way some of us grew up. I highly encourage you to attend as many as you can. While each week will build upon the learnings of the previous week, you won't be lost if you miss a week or two, so come when you can! This will be a great chance to dream together about where God might be calling us to serve Somerset in the year ahead.

Thank you for the continued privilege to be in ministry with you at CLC!

Blessings, Pastor Jeff

36 quilts and 6 afghans were blessed during service on Jan. 21st. The CLC Quilters welcome anyone who would like to join them in creating lovely quilts just like these! If you can tie a knot or use a scissors you are needed! The Quilters meet every Monday in the lower Fellowship Hall at 9 am to noon and culminate the morning with a lunch. You need not be a member to join in on the fun!

Thank You CLC Quilters!





The Annual Meeting will be held after the worship service **Sunday, February 4th**. Please join us in person or via Zoom as we explore the opportunities before us in 2024. Zoom information will be sent to you prior to the meeting. We will elect our leadership, discuss and update the goals of our ministry teams and vote on the congregation's budget. **YOUR participation is important - we need you!**

The following positions will be open for nomination on the executive council the first Sunday in February: **President and Secretary**. We are also currently looking for more help with Worship, Altar Care, Building and Property, and the Community Life Committee. These groups keep things running behind the scenes and are an essential part of the church. We pray you allow the time to quietly reflect with the Holy Spirit to ask yourself, "What is God calling me to do?" Contact the church office with questions about what these positions entail or how to serve our Lord.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us for Dinner Church every Wednesday.

Faith, food and fun for all ages!

Food is served at 5:00 pm, followed by Casual Worship at 5:30 pm, then Education at 6-7 pm.

Faith Connections is our adult ministry group who meet to discuss scripture and how our faith impacts our lives on a daily basis. Everyone is invited to explore and increase your faith. Led by Scott Wells and/or Sarah Warren, this group meets every Wednesday at 6 pm, after dinner church while the kiddos are singing and exploring their own faith.

Please hold these dear friends in prayer: Tom Warren, Ross Swanson, Wyatt Schmit, Ronald Rixmann, Jeff and Carol Reed, Bill Neuman, Linda Myers, Merle Meisner, Jan Kjellberg, Vern and Roberta Jelle, Curt Hughes, Paul H, Scott and Sue Hovet, Gary Grant, Eric Grant, Tom and June Boyer.

CLC quilters continue to meet every Monday at 9 am. They have a great time creating quilts intended to be given to mark a special event or provide comfort. They also enjoy a time of fellowship with a potluck lunch. Everyone is welcome!

Card players gather every Tuesday at 1-3 pm to play cards and other games. Everyone is welcome!

Sincere condolences to Jon Becker and family upon the passing of his beloved wife Sharon. She was surrounded by loved ones when she met Our Father on January 8th.

ALL Crafters Welcome! February 9th and 10th.

Come set up at 9:00 a.m. on Friday and stay as long as you like. Leave your machines, paper stacks, cutters, and knitting needles in the space, and come back on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. and craft to your hearts content!

INVITE ALL YOUR CRAFTING FRIENDS!

Ocky's Angel Fund

Ocky's Angel Fund was established in 2010 in memory of Harold "Ocky" Ammerman from money received in his memory. The purpose of this special fund is to provide emergency funds to Christ Lutheran members and active church participants facing a financial crisis. Funds up to \$400 may be requested by contacting the pastor, Chris in the office, or Sharon Ammerman and filling out the *Ocky's Angel Fund* form. All requests are kept in strict confidence.



Donations to this fund are always welcome.



**CLC's Amazing Volunteers
Packed 95 Boxes
At Feed My Starving Children on
1/24/2024**



**That's 20,520 Meals!
56 Kids Fed Daily For a Year @ 0.29 Cents
Cost of \$5950.80 AMAZING !!
Sharing God's Love With Hearts & Hands**



On January 17th CLC kids made 30 origami heart valentines to send to the WI Department of Veterans Affairs to help them try and achieve their goal of surpassing 24,000 valentines for veterans. We made 30. Good thing we've learned that even the tiniest mustard seed can grow so very large!



Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

January 15, 2024

Dear Pastors, Deacons, SAMs and Lay Leaders of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

After much prayer, reflection and conversation with my family I have decided not to seek a second term as bishop. It has been an honor and privilege to serve this synod first for four years as the Director of Evangelical Mission and now for the last six years as Bishop. I am grateful for your partnership in ministry, your prayers, support and trust through these years. Serving through COVID was an unexpected challenge! Through it all I was proud of your creativity, hard work and determination to continue to proclaim the good news and care for your congregations and communities. I am confident that you will continue to serve faithfully walking in the way of Jesus in the future. Please know that I will pray for you and for the next bishop.

I invite you to take time in these next few weeks to pray about the bishop's election. Please plan to attend your conference assembly in February. This meeting will be the nominating ballot to begin the pre-identification process for the bishop's election. Your Deans will be sending information about the meeting. (I am grateful to the Deans for their leadership in the election process.) [Here is the link to the synod constitution which lists the expectations for the bishop. Here is the link to the synod assembly 2024 election information.](#) We will have some time to talk about the Bishop's Election process on January 30 at 2:30 p.m. at the end of the Winter Theological Gathering at Luther Park. (Spirit Focused Ecclesiology with Rev. Dr. Cheryl Peterson) If you haven't, please register [here](#).

You are receiving this letter on Martin Luther King Day, January 15. Martin Luther King Jr., the Baptist pastor and civil rights leader was born on this date in 1929 and was assassinated on April 4, 1968. This federal holiday is declared to be a National Day of Service. We are encouraged to volunteer and do something to improve our communities. Martin Luther's dream was to address the racism, violence, hatred and poverty and create the Beloved Community. I hope and pray that you and your members will take your faith to the streets and be servant leaders in your communities for Jesus' sake. In these last six years we have tried to create space for intentional conversations about racial, environmental and gender justice. It is my dream you will continue to do so. Please read the latest edition of the synod's justice newsletter, Just Love, Just Act for ideas on ways to continue the conversation. [December 2023 Newsletter](#)

I am so grateful for you the rostered and lay leaders of this synod and for the amazing synod ministers I've had the opportunity to work with over the course of these years as bishop. A heartfelt Thank You to Liz Bartsch, David Behling, Sara Bishop, Diane House, Greg Kaufmann, Lidix Montoya, Erin Nelson, Randy Olson, and Laura Ramlow. I am honored to have been a part of such great team of leaders. I have been inspired and learned so much from each one of you. Thank you all.

God's blessings, as we moving forward bravely in this new year taking the next most faithful step!

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

Epiphany 2, Martin Luther King Day



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Christ Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Date: December 12, 2023

Attendees: Marty Morud, Beth Hankel, Ashley Cochran, Paul Nasvik, Sharon Swanson, Donnie Kern, and Jeff Smith

Absent: Tricia Davis, Ellen Smith, and Erv Schauer

Meeting called to order: Time 5:37 pm

Devotion: Sharon Swanson read from Matthew 21:9.

Approve previous month's minutes: Motion made by Ashley and Seconded by Donnie. Motion Passed.

Pastor's Report:

Christmas plans are finalized.

Feed My Starving Children on January 24th is scheduled and anyone 5+ is welcome to join.

Narthex is really dark, Pastor would like to find a way to get more light.

Donnie let him know that Buildings and Grounds is meeting and he can bring that to their department.

The signage for the church still isn't being used. Donnie discussed the permitting issue and the possibility of getting a neighbor to agree to let us put a sign in their yard.

Can we use Sign Up Genius or another application to put out a need in the church for people to see and sign-up to help where and when needed? This was discussed and will be looked into further.

Pastor asked "What if our council meetings were not about reports, what would they look like then?" Marty stated that he's been trying to move the council away from the reports. He thinks an agenda revamp would include shoutouts to what good work various ministries are doing. Donnie believes we should focus the council on sharing with the congregation what the church is doing and he believes we could put more focus on what the church is doing out in the community. Pastor wants council to be informed about what is going on, and believes the reports to council are important, but asked if we emailed them instead so council can focus on other things. Paul stated that the council meeting has turned into a mechanical meeting, with talk of making changes, but we haven't acted on those.

Pastor asked what the council should keep doing, stop doing and start doing? Ashley suggested we stop meeting monthly. Donnie stated that when his union went from monthly to quarterly, they lost a lot of participants. Marty suggested meeting monthly but add structure starting with purpose, mission and vision. Sharon A. encouraged that we continue to meet monthly as there are people who can't meet every month so it cuts others out. Donnie suggested that quarterly we encourage the congregation to join us, maybe offer a potluck dinner to encourage attendance.

Financial Report:

General Fund deposits \$10,680 and withdrawals were \$7,520.

Designated Fund deposits \$2,498 and withdrawals were \$14,754.

Ministry Reports

Building and Properties

Furnace thermostats have been installed throughout the church, Jeremie Rudek donated them.

The elevator is 21 years old, a part was found for replacement to fix it. They are changing service companies to save money.

Two toilets were donated and put in the men's bathroom.

The snowplow company has been replaced and will save us money this winter.

There were some water issues in the basement that will need to be addressed in the spring.

WELCA

Thrivent quilting event was very successful.

There is a group that meets on Fridays at Not Justa Cafe for breakfast.

Bible studies are still meeting.

New Business:

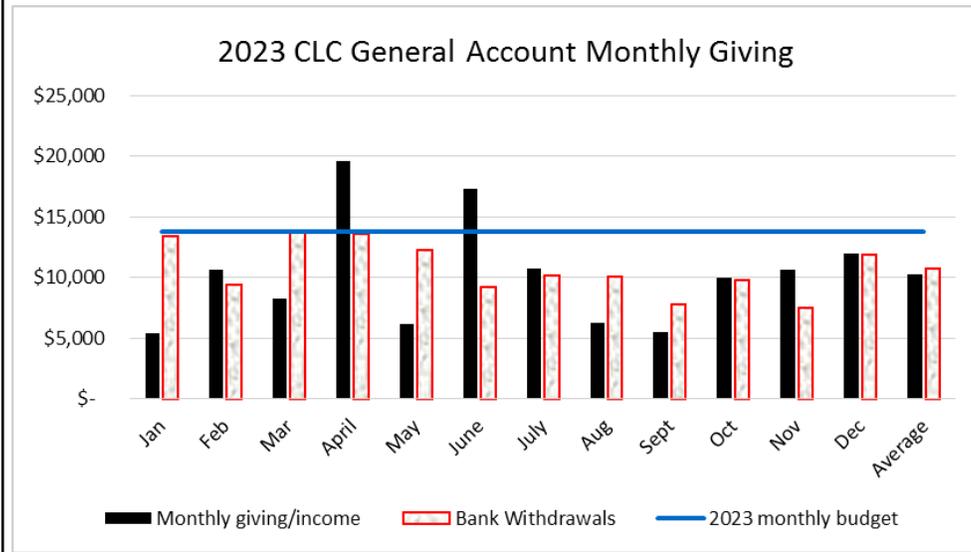
All ministry teams need to email their annual budgetary needs and their end of the year reports to Chris, Beth and Donnie. Ashley will send email.

Next Executive & Council Meetings: Will need to email later as we need to meet after the Finance Committee has had a chance to get the budget together.

Adjourned: Motion to adjourn by Ashley. Seconded by Sharon S. Time 6:36 PM

Closed with the prayer.

Monthly Financial Report for December 2023



Monthly Budget
\$13,814

December Deposits
\$12,009

December Withdrawals
\$11851

February Birthdays

Viki Neuberger	Clayton
Erica Smith	Determann
Colleen Rivard	Elsie Noeldner
Lainey Johnson	Sheldon Wold
Brittany Nichols	Tyler Hutter
Sean Wells	Matt Linkletter
Victoria Gomez	Thomas Warren
John Melvin	Adam
Reggie Larson	Wegleitner
McKell Larson	James Morud
Lynsey Peterson	Ellie Melvin
Ashley Cochran	
Timothy Kunze	
Robert Larson	
Jacob Metzger	

We All Have Spiritual Gifts

CLC is blessed with many people in our congregation who are willing to share their spiritual gifts. We are grateful to these people who read, serve communion, usher, light candles, count the offering, live-stream the services, and serve on Altar Care setting up communion and changing paraments and banners. Special thanks to Doug Halberg, Roger Hughes, Rachel Erickson, Beth Hankel, and WELCA for their faithful assistance!

Readers Schedule

February

4	Cherrie Wood
11	Sarah Warren
18	Sharon Ammerman
25	Tricia Davis

Counters Schedule

February

4	Erv and Roger
11	Joan and Sharon
18	Karen and Joe
25	John and Sue

March

3	Erv and Roger
10	Sharon and Joe
17	John and Sue
24	Karen and Sharon
31	John and Sue

April

7	Erv and Roger
14	Joan and Sharon
21	John and Sue
28	Karen and Carol

Communion Server Schedule

February

4	Cherrie Wood
11	Sarah Warren
18	Berit Strom
25	Tricia Davis

Altar Care Schedule

February	Ellen & Wendy Smith
March	Sue Strese
April	Ardie Wold

February 2024

Connection and Community

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30 am Bucket Bible Study 10 am-3 pm River Valley Foot Care	2	3
4 9 am Worship Annual Meeting! 4-6 pm Girl Scouts	5 9 am Quilters 7 pm Boy Scouts (Upstairs) 7 pm AA (Downstairs)	6 1-3 pm Cards 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	7 5-7 pm Dinner Church and Education	8 9:30 am WELCA Bible Study	9 CLC Crafters 9 am - Midnight	10 CLC Crafters 9 am - Midnight
11 9 am Worship w/ Message from Sarah Warren 4-6 pm Girl Scouts	12 9 am Quilters 7 pm Boy Scouts (Upstairs) 7 pm AA (Downstairs)	13 1-3 pm Cards	14 Ash Wednesday Worship 5-7 pm Dinner Church and Education St. Valentine's Day	15 9:30 am Bucket Bible Study 10 am-3 pm River Valley Foot Care	16	17
18 9 am Worship 4-6 pm Girl Scouts	19 9 am Quilters 7 pm Boy Scouts (Upstairs) 7 pm AA (Downstairs) President's Day	20 Spring Primary Election 1-3 pm Cards 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	21 5-7 pm Dinner Church and Education	22 9:30 am Bucket Bible Study	23	24
25 9 am Worship w/ Pr. Joanne Sorenson 4-6 pm Girl Scouts	26 9 am Quilters 7 pm Boy Scouts (Upstairs) 7 pm AA (Downstairs)	27 1-3 pm Cards	28 5-7 pm Dinner Church and Education	29 9:30 am Bucket Bible Study		

Christ Lutheran Church

PO Box 123
510 Germain Street
Somerset, Wisconsin 54025
Church Office - 715.247.3341

Sharing God's Love with Hearts and Hands

Christ Lutheran Church
SOMERSET, WISCONSIN

Contacts for CLC

Church Address: PO Box 123
510 Germain Street - Somerset, WI 54025

Church Office: 715.247.3341

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 11 am - 4 pm

Pastor Jeff Smith: clcsomersetpastor@gmail.com

Council President: Vacant

Accompanist: Beth Hankel

Music Director: Rachel Erickson

Custodian: Roger Hughes

Office Manager: Chris Dubak

Established in 1896, we are a Christ-centered faith community with the heart and mind of those living in the 21st century. Our mission is to love and serve you right where you live. Everyone is welcome here!

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 9:00 AM

Sunday service is live-streamed on YouTube - search Christ Lutheran Somerset. A link is posted on our Facebook page as well.

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES - 5:00-7:00 PM

5:00 pm - Meal
5:30 pm - Casual Worship
6:00 pm - Confirmation, Children's Choir and Education, Faith Connections (A new ministry for adults!)



E-mail: christluthsom@somtel.net



Website: <https://somersetlutheran.com>



[CLC YouTube Channel](#)



<https://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranSomerset>

