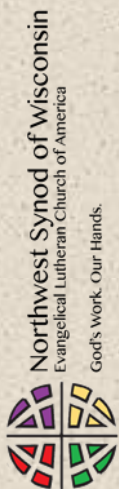


Christ Lutheran Church

March 2024

The FRIEND

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH SOMERSET, WI 54025



2/18/24 Council Installation

CELEBRATE EASTER AT CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

PALM SUNDAY ~ MARCH 24TH AT 9 AM
MAUNDY THURSDAY ~ MARCH 28TH AT 6:30 PM
GOOD FRIDAY ~ MARCH 29TH AT 6:30 PM

EASTER CELEBRATION ~ MARCH 31ST
EASTER BREAKFAST SERVED ~ 7:30-8:30 AM
EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE ~ 9 AM

HE IS RISEN

Pastor Jeff Smith
Christ Lutheran Church
510 Germain Street ~ Somerset, WI
Website: www.somersetlutheran.org
Email: christluthsom@somtel.net
715-247-3341



Dear Partners in Ministry,



DOLLAR CLUB UPDATE

Last year, I suggested we start a “Dollar Club” ministry to do random acts of kindness in the community. As of February 7, you all have donated over \$860 to this ministry!!! Thanks to all who have been so generous with putting your dollars in the “little red box” in the back of the sanctuary. We’ve given away \$400 of those funds so far: \$100 last March for grocery cards that were handed out at Dick’s Market (ten \$10 cards to random shoppers). Last April we did the same thing at Kwik Trip, handing out ten \$10 gas cards. Then in September, the office purchased another \$100 in gas cards to hand out to those who show up at our door in need. Also in September, we gave \$100 to our local schools music department for much needed sheet music. Every time we hand out these funds to individuals, we attach a little business card that, in addition to our contact info, says,

*“The Dollar Club of Christ Lutheran. We do random acts of kindness in love, because our God loves us unconditionally too!
May our small act of kindness bless your day!”*

We’re ready to give out more of these funds, but we’d like your ideas where to use them next. The laundromat? More grocery cards? Coco’s Heart Dog Rescue? Grace Place? The local police or fire station? Somewhere else? Please put your ideas in the little red box with your next donation. Thanks again for helping us love our neighbors unconditionally in a fun way!



FIRST COMMUNION

Lent is also a traditional time to do First Communion classes. If you or someone you know has not received their first communion yet, let me know and we can arrange a time to prepare you/them for this special sacrament!

WEDNESDAYS OF LENT & HOLY WEEK

I want to again invite you to join us for the Wednesdays of Lent for a soup & sandwich supper served by our youth, followed by a unique worship experience which includes a couple of meditative Taize worship songs and communal prayers, but the bulk of our time together is a teaching/learning/discussion time each week focused around the theme “**What’s Next?**” We are looking at what church might look like moving forward in a world that no longer prioritizes church the way some of us grew up.

At the end of Lent is Holy Week. I’ve always found Maundy Thursday and Good Friday to be two of the most meaningful services of the year which is why I’m often bummed more people don’t attend- I wonder if they know what they are missing?! That said, I know for most of you with kids, this year spring break is over Holy Week. So please join us if you’re not out of town.

Join us at 6:30 p.m. on March 28 for our Maundy Thursday Service. This service will include special music and the traditional stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday.

Also join us at 6:30 p.m., on March 29 for our Good Friday Service. We will remember the passion of Christ in meaningful ways that will help you better appreciate the gift and joy of the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

SAVE THE DATE

I had planned to host an “**Agape Meal**” as part of our Maundy Thursday Service. This is a special service to reflect on the Last Supper, Christ’s love for all of us, and on our unchurched neighbors. The service includes numerous food items, wine & juice that we will share together around a special table. However, with so many of our “regulars” traveling for spring break over Holy Week, we’re going to do this event in April instead. The final date is TBD, but likely in the evening of April 3 or 10. Watch the bulletin announcements and the April newsletter for more details!

I hope you will join us for all the remaining services of Lent! See you around church and out in the community we are called to love and serve!

Blessings,

Pastor Jeff

Church Council Minutes

January 19, 2024

Christ Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Date: January 19, 2024

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

Absent: Tricia Davis, Erv Schauer

Meeting called to order: Time 5:11 pm

Approve previous month’s minutes: Motion made by Donnie Seconded by Ellen.

Ashley made a motion to bypass our normal agenda and only do the budget and dates for the budget and annual meetings for this council meeting. Ellen seconded. Discussion pursued to see if anything else needs to be added. Passed.

2024 Annual Budget discussed and reviewed. There was a lot of fruitful discussion about how to use our budget and building to better engage in the community in new ways. Motion made by Donnie to approve the budget and Sharon seconded. Passed.

Congregational Budget Meeting: January 21st, 2024 after service.

Annual Meeting: February 4th, 2024 after service.

Adjourned: Motion to adjourn by Ellen. Seconded Donnie. Time 7:22 pm.

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer

2024 CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

Executive Council

Sarah Warren	President
Marty Morud	Vice President
Lisa Mevissen	Secretary
Beth Hankel	Treasurer
Jeff Smith	Pastor

**Sharon Ammerman, Ashley Cochran,
Donnie Kern, Paul Nasvik,
Sharon Swanson**

God bless you all for answering the call to help our church continue to spread the good news to our community!

We are so grateful for the time and talents of our council members who have fulfilled their terms and stepped down.

Ellen Smith has led the worship team for many years now, and it is time for her to step down from this roll. Ellen has been a huge help planning services, arranging readers and pulpit supply, and other tasks which have allowed us to have a part-time administrator. Thanks Ellen! We are asking for someone to step up to fill this essential role.

Ashley Cochran has been indispensable for the past two years as council secretary. Her concise minutes have allowed us to share the discussions and decisions from council with the entire congregation. Thanks Ashley!

Erv Schauer has faithfully led the Building and Property Committee for many years. We are so lucky for his continued stewardship as he passes the torch to **Donnie Kern**. Thank you Donnie, for ensuring continued leadership on this committee.

Lloyd Peterson, Roger Hughes, and Bill Neuman have been faithful stewards and very dedicated to the Buildings and Property committee over the years. Thank you gentlemen!

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL Crafters Welcome! March 15th & 16th. 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!

Flowers for the Easter Sunday Worship Service may be ordered now and can be designated in memory or in honor of a loved one. Checks should be made out to: Christ Lutheran Church with Easter Flowers in the memo. Flowers need to be ordered by Sunday, March 17th. Payment must accompany the order form, which is available in the narthex. Flowers may be taken home after Easter worship service.

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.

Join us for Lenten Soup Suppers every Wednesday during Lent. Food is served at 5:00 pm, followed by Lenten Worship at 5:45 pm, then Christian Education and adult bible study at 6:30 pm. This year's Lenten theme is "What's Next?" 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.



Easter 2024 A Message from Bishop Laurie Rummaging for God

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!



Does your house have a junk drawer? Do you ever find yourself going through this drawer full of stuff; feeling around looking for something that you are sure must be in there somewhere? Twist ties from bread wrappers, pens, batteries, rubber bands, nail clippers, scissors, matches, superglue, glass cleaner, coins, tiny screwdriver, ChapStick, charger cables, sticky notes... Rummaging around in your junk drawer might seem like a strange illustration for an Easter message, but I invite you to consider your memory of past life events as your junk drawer.

Think back on last year's Easter celebration. What do you remember? Rummage around in those memories to see if you can find God. You are pretty sure God is there somewhere but where? Where did you experience God last Easter? Was it in church, at the sunrise service, a sermon, a Bible reading, a hymn, an Easter egg hunt in the park, a gathering with family or friends, or a walk in the woods later that day? How did you experience God and the miracle of Christ's resurrection last Easter?

Now, think back over your lifetime, a lifetime of Easter celebrations, for me that 66 Easters. Where did you see or experience God and the power of the resurrection, God's transforming love that defeated death and gives new life?

Looking back over a day, a year, a lifetime is a spiritual practice called the Examen. Essentially it is rummaging through our memories, looking for when and how God was present. The Examen is a form of daily prayer that invites us to examine our day to find God. Finding God in all things and at all times gives us the strength for that next most faithful step.

I wondered what must have been going through Mary Magdalene's mind as she walked to the tomb that first Easter morning. Was she rummaging through all the memories of her time walking with Jesus? Was she trying to remember every word Jesus said? Was she looking for a clue, some way to make sense of what happened on Friday? Where was God in all of this? How could this possibly bring in God's kingdom? She must have missed something. She saw him die. How could Jesus' death be part of God's plan?

Mary arrived at the tomb and found the stone rolled away. She didn't find what she was looking for. The body wasn't there. It still made no sense. Did someone steal his body? She knows that God is in all of this, but where? She continues to search with Peter and John and finally after they leave she enters the tomb and through her tears sees the angels and then a gardener, but not a gardener but the teacher, the risen Savior; and finally through her tears she sees God. (John 20)

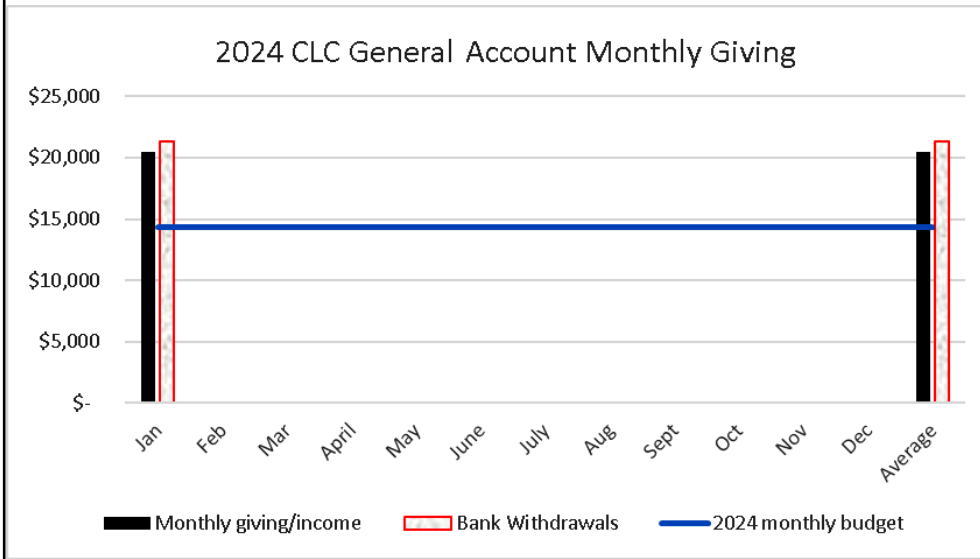
John 20:11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb.

Look back over a day, a year, a lifetime of trips you've made to some tomb. Was it the place that held the body of loved one, a dream that had died, a relationship that ended, or a hope that had been crushed? Rummage around in those memories to find what you know is there somewhere, God. Through the tears see the angels, the messengers; the ordinary people, those who helped you and see God!

Dear Friends, I invite you to rummage through all the memories in the junk drawer of life and find God. Think back over a lifetime, a lifetime of trips to the tomb and Easter celebrations. See God and the power of the resurrection. See God's transforming love that defeated death and gives new life. May seeing God in all of life give you the courage and strength to take your next most faithful step.

Rev. Laurie Sh. O'Leary

Monthly Financial Report for January 2024



Monthly Budget
\$14,375

January Deposits
\$20,432

January Withdrawals
\$21,308

March Birthdays

Tayva Strom	Nicole Rivard
Megan Larse	Margaret Atkins
Jackson Nichols	Tricia Flitter
Howard Morud	Todd Rushton
Miladis Kern	Zachary Smith
Jill Nasvik	Monica Bassett
Sheila Parnell	Westton Mattren
Gary Grant	Kevin Noeldner
Caryn Johnson	Robert Rushton
Jay Anderson	Tiffany
Alexis Mevissen	Hantsbarger
Roger Hughes	Christina Dubak
Todd Parnell	Jon Meyer
Taylor Flitter	Kathryn Rushton
Aiden Johnson	Colt Campeau
David Nichols	Amy Mattren

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

March

3 Julia Warren
 10 Beth Hankel
 17 Kevin Noeldner
 24 Donnie Kern (Palm Sunday)
 28 Sharon Ammerman (Maundy Thursday)
 29 Cherrie Wood, Berit Strom, Sharon Swanson (Good Fri.)
 31 Lisa Mevissen (Easter Sunday)

April

7 Berit Strom
 14 Sharon Swanson
 21 Sue Strese
 28 Carol Hokenson

Counters Schedule

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

May

5 Joan and Sharon
 12 Karen and Carol
 19 Carol and Joe
 26 John and Sue

Communion Server Schedule

March

3 Sarah Warren
 10 Kevin Noeldner
 17 Kevin Noeldner
 24 Donnie Kern (Palm Sunday)
 28 Sue Strese (Maundy Thursday)
 31 Lisa Mevissen (Easter Sunday)

April

7 Berit Strom
 14 Cherrie Wood
 21 Sue Strese
 28 Carol Hokenson

Altar Care Schedule

March Sharon Swanson
April Ardie Wold
May Carol Hokenson

March 2024

Connection and Community

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9 am Worship- 3rd Lent 4-6 pm Girl Scouts	4 9 am Quilters 7 pm Boy Scouts (Upstairs) 7 pm AA (Downstairs)	5 1-3 pm Cards 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	6 5 pm Soup Supper 5:45 Lenten Worship 6:30 Education/ Bible Study	7 9:30 am Bucket Bible Study 10 am-3 pm River Valley Foot Care	8	9
10 9 am Worship w/ Pastor Kirstin Kellahe 4th Lent 4-6 pm Girl Scouts Daylight Saving Time Begins	11 9 am Quilters 7 pm Boy Scouts (Upstairs) 7 pm AA (Downstairs)	12 1-3 pm Cards	13 4 pm Council 5 pm Soup Supper 5:45 Lenten Worship 6:30 Education/ Bible Study	14 9:30 am WELCA Bible Study	15 CLC Crafters 9 am - Midnight	16 CLC Crafters 9 am - Midnight
17 9 am Worship- 5th Lent 4-6 pm Girl Scouts St. Patrick's Day	18 9 am Quilters 7 pm Boy Scouts (Upstairs) 7 pm AA (Downstairs)	19 1-3 pm Cards 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	20 5 pm Soup Supper 5:45 Lenten Worship 6:30 Education/ Bible Study	21 9:30 am Bucket Bible Study 10 am-3 pm River Valley Foot Care	22	23
24 9 am Palm Sunday Worship 4-6 pm Girl Scouts 31 7:30-8:30 am Breakfast 9 am Easter Worship	25 9 am Quilters 7 pm Boy Scouts (Upstairs) 7 pm AA (Downstairs)	26 1-3 pm Cards	27 NO Evening Activities - Spring Break	28 9:30 am Bucket Bible Study 6:30 pm Maunder Thursday Worship	29 6:30 pm Good Friday Worship	30

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: Sarah Warren

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 - DURING LENT

5:00-7:00 PM

5:00 pm - Lenten Soup Supper

5:45 pm - Lenten Worship

6:30 pm - Confirmation, Children's Choir and Education, Faith Connections



E-mail: christluthsom@somtel.net



Website: <https://somersetlutheran.com>



[CLC YouTube Channel](#)



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

