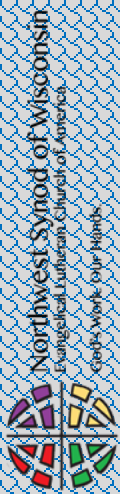


Christ Lutheran Church

December 2024

The FRIEND

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH SOMERSET, WI 54025



Join Us As We
Celebrate
the Birth of Our Savior

Christmas at Christ Lutheran Church

December 15 at 10:00 am
All Ages No-Rehearsal
Christmas Program

December 18 at 6:00 pm
A Christmas for Travelers

December 22 at 10:00 am
CLC Choir Cantata

December 24 at 4:00 pm
Christmas Eve Service

December 29 at 10:00 am
Service of Carols

Join Us Every Week!

10 am Sunday Worship Service
5 pm Wednesday Dinner Church

(No Service December 25th or January 1st)

Christ Lutheran Church
510 Germain Street
Somerset, WI 54025
www.somersetlutheran.org
or visit our Facebook page!
715-247-3341





Faith Reflections

by Pastor Jeff Smith

***“The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.”***

Dear Partners in Ministry,

This Sunday Advent begins, and with it, the steady march towards Christmas, long dark nights, and colder weather.

One of the framed pieces of art in my office, quotes the line from “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” that titles this month’s Faith Reflections. As I pondered what to write this month, those words seemed fitting.

While December tends to be extra busy for most of us, some of my most favorite moments of the season aren’t when I’m running around decorating or baking or shopping or attending parties. No, they are in those moments of solemn stillness, such as:



-while singing "Silent Night" by candlelight at church

-sitting alone in my family room after the family is in bed, and just admiring the lit Christmas tree

-taking a walk late at night as a light flurry falls on a neighborhood lit up for the season

I pray that in the midst of the busyness of this season, you too can find some solemn, still moments, to perhaps catch the distant singing of angels once again welcoming our Lord Jesus to the world. God's abundant blessings to you and yours this Christmas, and always.

Your sibling in Christ,

~Pastor Jeff



Lisa Mevissen

I am currently serving as your Council Secretary. This is my 2nd time serving in this capacity. Being your Council Secretary is a good fit for me as I work for Wells Fargo as a Project Manager.

My husband Glenn and I were married in 1995 in Hawaii. We have one daughter, Alexis, who is 23. She was confirmed in Christ Lutheran Church by Pastor Van. We also have 2 Dogs (Jasmine & Gretta) and a Cat (Mosey).

I enjoy attending church service and try to serve as much as possible. You may have seen me as a Greeter, Reader and Communion Assistant. Attending church helps me reset and remember what is truly important. I am blessed to have a wonderful church community as a member of CLC.

THE GIFT THAT IS YOU!

2024 Christmas Message



As I reflect on my time in Malawi back in early November, I had so many experiences that merit being shared. As I write this letter, perhaps the most important lesson I can offer was that of my new reality as a guest overseas.

Everywhere I turned, I truly felt like I was the most important person present. Yes, there were times where I was the honored guest as a bishop. I was granted the best seats in the church, in the van, on the stage. When I walked the grounds at the Lutheran Compound in my purple clerical, EVERYONE immediately stopped what they were doing to greet me, even if that was their first encounter with me. I was fed better than most and I never had to carry my own luggage. I had women pour water over my hands before certain meals (including communion) much like Christ did

during the Last Supper in washing the disciples' feet. And despite my innermost desires to remind them that I was just another guy, I simply could not insult them in that manner. The way in which they treated me was at the core of their faith practice.

Thankfully, Deacon Laura taught me a valuable insight that helped my understanding more clearly. They didn't treat only bishops that way, they treat all guests that way! Having been to Malawi five times before she took me, Laura has experienced that generous hospitality time and time again. And now that I'm a few weeks removed from their genuine welcome, I still firmly believe that their faith has taught them to love their neighbor and lift them up no matter how far away we may come.

What if we all treated our neighbor as though they are the most important person present at that time? What if we lifted the spirits of the people God places in our lives each and every day? As we prepare for the Christmas story once again this year, we emphasize the gift that comes in the Christ child, God made flesh to live among us mortals. Just think about the lives that the Christ child touched! It started with Mary and Joseph, continued to the shepherds in the fields, and even gave the heavenly host something to praise!

Of course, Jesus went on to touch so many lives - people in need of healing, children in need of welcoming, outcasts in need of community, sinners in need of redeeming. Jesus became the gift who helped them all feel that they were the most important person present at the time, people worthy of his unconditional love, people whose spirits were uplifted.

As we march through the season of Advent toward the birth of God Emmanuel, Jesus the savior of the world, remember the gift of God's presence in your lives. Recognize that God is even present within you and that you are a gift as well! And much like my new friends in Malawi, be that gift for others. Reveal Christ's presence to others through your continued faithfulness and dedication to the God of love because that love can overcome division. You are a gift to this synod and to God's church when you let God's light shine in and through you! May this Christmas also reveal to you the light of Christ through others.

Bishop Martin

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLC's Youth Christmas Party will be held Wednesday, December 4th from 6-7 pm. Join us as we celebrate the reason for the season with games and refreshments!

Thursday morning bible study will be taking a break after their last 2024 study on December 5th at 10 am. Bible study will resume on January 9th, 2025 at 10 am.

Faith Connections bible study is offering a 2-part Advent bible study on December 4th and December 11th. It will be from 6 to 6:30 pm after dinner church. Please join us in preparation for the birth of Jesus!

Light the Night at the Spring and Main Street lot (former home of Wheelhouse.) Saturday, December 7th, from 5-8 pm. Santa arrives at 5:30, the tree will be lit at 5:45, pictures with Santa from 6-8 pm. The Community Life Team will be handing out popcorn at the event. Please join us!

St. Anne Catholic School is thrilled to host our annual Christmas Boutique. It's THE place to buy homemade cookies by the pound, Ann Austreng's Famous Fudge, special handcrafted gifts & so much more! Saturday, December 7th from 10 am to 5 pm & Sunday, December 8th from 8:30 am to 1 pm. *Visit Santa on Sat from 11 am - 1 pm. All proceeds support St. Anne Home & School, Scholarships, and Ann Austreng Memorial Fund. Location: St. Anne Church Basement, 141 Church Hill Road. Visit our website to learn more or register a vendor today!

<https://www.stannecatholicsschool.org/christmas-boutique>

Get creative with the CLC Crafters! December 13th and 14th. Set up after 9:00 a.m. on Friday and stay as long as you like. Leave your supplies and equipment in the space, and come back on Saturday after 9:00 a.m. and craft to your hearts content!

The church office will be closed Dec. 12, 24 and 25, as well as Jan. 1. Happy Holidays!

Please hold these dear friends in prayer: Evelyn, Dean Strehlau, Tom Sirovatka, Marya, Stephen Peterson, Tami, Robin Knutson, Tom and June Boyer, Eric Grant, Gary Grant, Paul H, Scott and Sue Hovet, Curt Hughes, Vern and Roberta Jelle, Jeff and Carol Reed, Ronald Rixmann, Wyatt Schmit, Ross Swanson.

Operation Love Baskets!

The Community Life team invites you to help in creating **Love Baskets for three families in the Somerset and surrounding area**. A **Love Basket** is a collection of gifts for children whose families may have a difficult time in doing so this Christmas season.

How can you help?

* In the narthex of the church there is a sign-up for you to choose who you would like to help purchase presents for, along with a 'wish list' the family has put together.

* **The gifts should not be wrapped.**

* Please return your donation to **CLC by Sunday, December 15th**.

Thank you for helping families in our community! You will have brought many smiles and great Christmas memories to children. Without your help, they may not have had Christmas this year! If you have any questions, please contact Tricia Davis at 715-307-2626. Blessings!

**Christ Lutheran Church Council Agenda
4:00 p.m., October 16, 2024**

The Mission of Christ Lutheran Church is:

Sharing God's Love with Hearts and Hands

- 4:00 **CALL TO ORDER** – Sarah Warren
Present: Sarah Warren, Lisa Meissen, Ashley Cochran, Paul Nasvik, Pastor Jeff, Carol Hokenson, Beth Hankel
- 4:01 **READING OF THE MISSION STATEMENT** – All
- 4:02-4:10 **DWELLING IN THE WORD & OPENING PRAYER** – (Sarah)
Nov. Leader: Carol H.
- 4:10 **APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 11 MINUTES & OCTOBER 16 AGENDA** - Motion to approve all by Ashley., Seconded by Sarah.. Motion passed. Agenda – Ashley would like to re-arrange topics due to time constraint.

NEW BUSINESS

4:11 – 4:20 Community Non-Profit Use of Building (Ashley) – Ashley put together a letter to send to local non-profits to encourage them to utilize our church to help with sharing of expenses. May reach out to St. Croix Valley United Way and Giving Tuesday. Sarah reviewed the letter and approves as written. Need to consider what space we will offer, but may not be able to answer until we get requests. Second sentence of letter will be removed.

ACTION ITEM: Approve/Disapprove/Delay, inviting local non-profits to use our building. Lisa motions to send out letter as amended with Sarah's contact info, seconded by Carol H. Motion passed. Letter will be sent out by Sarah.

4:29-4:33 Christmas Worship Times (Jeff)
ACTION ITEM: Decide worship times for Dec. 18, 24, 29
12/18 – Travelers Christmas 6 pm
12/24 – Christmas Eve 4 pm
12/29 – Service of Carols – 10 am

UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS:

4:40-4:40 New Sunday Worship Time (Jeff)
ACTION ITEM: Decide whether to continue with 10 am or revert to 9 am Worship. Pastor motioned to keep service at 10 AM through 12/29 to get more data. Seconded by Ashley. Motion passed.

4:40-4:47 “BOLD INITIATIVE” Listening Sessions Planning (Jeff & Sarah) – Paul contacted Pastor Chris from Trinity, and they lost their Youth Director recently. They need to step due to the extra work load. Paul reaching out to the Synod for help.

ACTION ITEM: Determine if we have enough interviewers. If so, possible training dates? No volunteers have been identified. Paul has volunteered to secure the questions for the interviews. Paul will text when he has info and we will set a date for training.

4:20 – 4:28 Website Updating: Updates on plan for who/how to keep website up to date. Ashley is proposing the following:

On the Homepage:

1. Livestream lists church time as 9am and we do not list our worship times on the homepage. My proposal would be to turn that section into a Worship information section with the updated time for worship and a link to the livestream along with the blurb that is already there. Then the top tab for "worship" should just take the user to that spot on the homepage and all additional links on the tab for worship should be removed.
 - a. Chris do you need to do anything on this page to have the livestream show up on the homepage or does it generate automatically? If you need to do something to pull the newest video up, I think we should remove it and just leave the link.
2. Calendar tab on homepage. I don't want to take this down if we can prevent it but I'm unsure how time consuming it is. Chris, please let us know.
3. Worship tab on homepage. Please see my notes on #1.
4. Ministry Teams tab on homepage - let's take this off. It's not updated and is very old news.
5. Newsletter tab on homepage. Chris, is this time consuming?
6. Give, Announcements and Contact Us appear fine. However, again, Chris, how time consuming are announcements?

Ultimately, the goal is to make our website accessible but not burdensome. Currently Chris is updating the calendar, newsletter, and announcements. I believe that the calendar was the only item she was initially expected to update when she was hired. So I would propose that if the newsletter and announcements are making it difficult for Chris to complete her work, that we remove them along with my other suggestions.

ACTION ITEM: Table until Pastor talks to Chris.

4:47-5:01 **REPORTS: (If Time!)**

Finance/Treasurer's:

General fund August: deposits 6348.72 expenses: 13,247.64.

General fund September: deposits 7715.83 expenses: 9778.13. Ending balance \$3583.46.

Motion to approve Lisa, seconded by Sarah. Motion passed.

Pastor's (Accept) – received separately. Need coverage for 11/13 & 11/20 Dinner Church Service.

Paul will take 11/13. Sarah will take 11/20.

Building & Property

Worship

Education

Youth

WELCA

Stewardship

Endowment

Call Committee

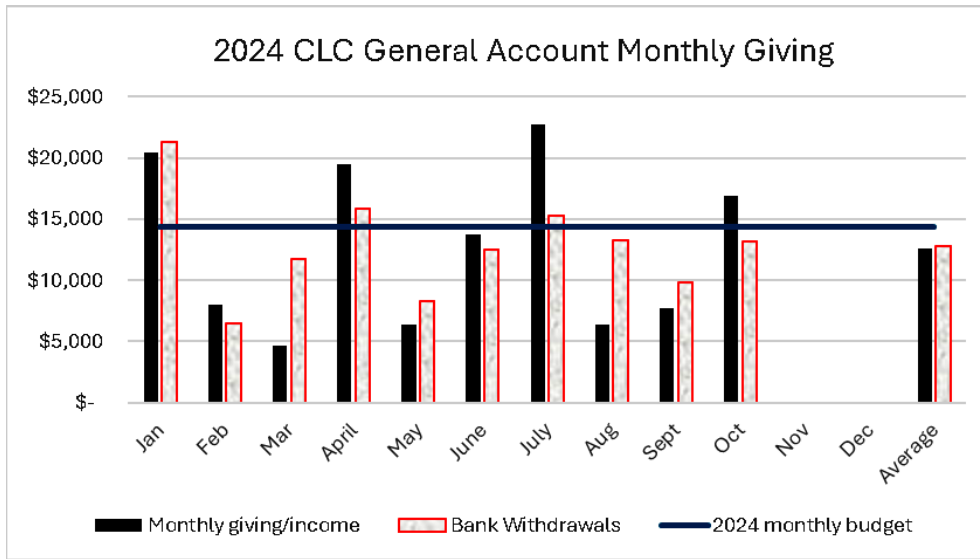
Next Meeting: 4 pm, Nov. 13 (Pastor will be absent)

Marty – Please delete your meeting series

Chris – Please setup a new meeting series using Zoom vs. Google.

LORD'S PRAYER & ADJOURNMENT – Pastor Jeff. Lisa motion to adjourn, Seconded by Sarah. Motion passed. 5:03 PM.

Monthly Financial Report for October 2024



Monthly Budget
\$14,375

October Deposits
\$16,914
(Including \$8,000 transfer from endowment)

October Withdrawals
\$13,141

December Birthdays

Scott Hovet	Frederick Mangine
Kevin Nichols	Sophia Smith
Jordan Hanson	Wendy Smith
Maureen Morud	Carol Hokenson
Catherine Dressel	Colleen Potting
Karmen Rushton	Christian Peterson
Jeff Smith	Steve Mohn
Amy Hutter	Payton Westphal
Tod Kiekhoefer	Allison Cheaney

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!

Month	Altar Care	Reader	Communion	Greeter	Counters
December	Karen Nork				
1		Donnie Kern	Donnie Kern	Donnie Kern	Erv and Roger
8		Rachel Erickson	Sue Strese	Sue Strese	Joan and Sharon S
15		Tricia Davis	Tricia Davis	Tricia Davis	John and Sue
18		Carol Hokenson	Carol Hokenson	Carol Hokenson	N/A
22		Berit Strom	Berit Strom	Berit Strom	Carol and Karen
24		Lisa Mevissen	Lisa Mevissen	Lisa Mevissen	N/A
29		Cherrie & Carol	Carol Hokenson	Carol Hokenson	Carol and Joe
January					
5		Kevin Noeldner	Kevin Noeldner	Kevin Noeldner	Erv and Roger
12		Sharon Ammerman	Sue Strese	Sharon Ammerman	Carol and Joe
19		Beth Hankel	Cherrie Wood	Cherrie Wood	Karen and Sharon S
26		Berit Strom	Berit Strom	Berit Strom	John and Sue

December 2024

Connection and Community

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>10 am 1st Advent Worship</p> <p>4-6 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9 am Quilting</p> <p>7 pm Boy Scouts</p> <p>7 pm AA</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1-3 pm Phase 10</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5-6 pm Dinner Church</p> <p>6-7 pm Youth Christmas Party!</p> <p>6-6:30 pm Advent Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Last 10 am Bible Study in 2024</p> <p>10 am-3 pm River V alley Foot Care</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5-8 pm Light the Night @ Spring & Main St.</p>
<p>8</p> <p>10 am 2nd Advent Worship</p> <p>4-6 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9 am Quilting</p> <p>7 pm Boy Scouts</p> <p>7 pm AA</p>	<p>10</p> <p>1-3 pm Phase 10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>4 pm Council</p> <p>5-7 pm Dinner Church and Education</p> <p>6-6:30 pm Advent Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00 am- Midnight - CLC Crafters</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 am- Midnight - CLC Crafters</p>
<p>15</p> <p>10 am 3rd Advent Worship - All Ages No-Rehearsal Christmas Program</p> <p>4-6 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9 am Quilting</p> <p>7 pm Boy Scouts</p> <p>7 pm AA</p>	<p>17</p> <p>1-3 pm Phase 10</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5-6 pm Dinner and Education</p> <p>6 pm A Christmas for Travelers</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10 am-3 pm River V alley Foot Care</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>10 am 4th Advent Worship - CLC Choir Cantata</p> <p>4-6 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9 am Quilting</p> <p>7 pm Boy Scouts</p> <p>7 pm AA</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>4 pm Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>11-4 pm Reserved</p> <p>No Evening Activities</p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>10 am Worship - Service of Carols</p> <p>4-6 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9 am Quilting</p> <p>7 pm Boy Scouts</p> <p>7 pm AA</p>	<p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p>	<p>1</p> <p>January 2025</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>No Evening Activities</p> 			

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 - 10:00 AM

Followed by coffee and fellowship

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 pm - Meal for Everyone!

5:30 pm - Casual Worship

6 - 7 pm Kid's Choir and Education, Confirmation, and Faith Connections.



E-mail: christluthsom@somtel.net



Website: <https://somersetlutheran.com>



[CLC YouTube Channel](#)



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

