

# Christ Lutheran Church

December 2025

The FRIEND



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH SOMERSET, WI 54025



## CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 24 4 PM

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

510 Germain Street, Somerset WI

715-247-3341

[www.somersetlutheran.org](http://www.somersetlutheran.org)



## **Faith Reflections**

by Pastor Jeff Smith

### ***'Tis the Season***

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." — John 1:5*

Dear friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you as we step into the holy season of Advent. December invites us to slow down, breathe deeply, and watch for the ways Jesus, our Light, breaks into the darker corners of our world and our lives. Each Sunday in Advent, we gather around the wreath, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love. Week by week, the sanctuary grows brighter... and so, I pray, do our hearts.

This year, we will once again celebrate our Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship remains one of my favorite moments of the entire church year when we all stand together, candles lifted in the darkness, singing "Silent Night," and remembering that the One born in Bethlehem still shines and still saves. Yes, Jesus still brings light that no darkness can overcome.

Before we turn the page fully into Advent and Christmas, I want to take a moment to say thank you. In October, so many of you reached out with kind words, notes, and gestures as part of Pastor Appreciation Sunday. Your love and support touched me deeply. I am truly privileged to serve Christ Lutheran — even if only part-time — and I'm continually grateful for the ways this congregation embodies God's grace in such genuine, heartfelt ways.

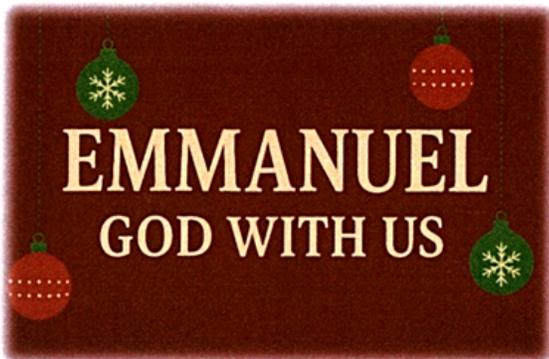
As we walk toward the manger together, I encourage you to share the Good News of Jesus' birth with someone who needs a word of hope this season. There are so many people feeling weary, overwhelmed, or alone right now. A simple invitation, a prayer, a conversation, or a small gesture of kindness can become a spark of Christ's light in another person's life.

May this Advent draw us closer to the promise that Jesus is, and always will be, the Light shining in our darkness. And may Christmas fill you with peace, joy, and wonder all over again.

Blessings and love in Christ,

*~Pastor Jeff*

## BISHOP HALOM'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: WHEN GOD SHOWS UP



As we approach the season of Christmas that so many of us adore, I'd like to address a few churchy words that theologians like to use and sound impressive when using them. The first word is *incarnation* and the second is *Emmanuel*.

If your church uses the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), you will again hear the passage from the first chapter of John on Christmas Day. The passage famously concludes in verse 14 with the words, "And the Word became flesh and lived among us..." This verse speaks directly to the concept of

incarnation. In other words, it speaks to a God who literally takes on human flesh and enters this world in the form of baby Jesus. It's in stark contrast to what some believe and experience - a God who exists far away, only to look down on us from God's heavenly throne. Instead, the incarnate God speaks to a God who is willing to take on the human experience with all the joys and sorrows that come with it. One can readily see that Jesus did indeed make his way through the human experience. He felt joy. He felt pain. His eyes teared up. And even if I can't recall a story when he laughed, I gotta believe that he really did!

Another passage found in the Christmas season comes from the gospel of Matthew, which references Isaiah 7:14: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us.'" One of the most important lessons I ever learned in seminary was in a pastoral care class. I had hoped to learn what to say, especially to someone hurting or grieving. What I learned was much more important. Instead of learning what to say, I was taught to show up - to be present. As time passes, few will remember what I say, but will remember that I was there. That's precisely why the name *Emmanuel* means so much to me. It's a constant reminder that God is always with us. Consider the final words in the gospel of Matthew: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b) Presence matters because God embodies it and teaches it.

Christmas is known for its gift giving nature. We share gifts with one another to reveal our love for them. This year, I hope that regardless of the quantity or quality of the wrapped presents that lay under the tree, you will recognize the gift of presence. Not only the presence of your loved ones, but particularly the presence of God. So many of you will grieve as you experience the lack of presence from a loved one due to death or distance. My heart grieves with you. My hope lies in a God who provides and will gift you all with someone who will be present with you in some way at some time. If nothing else, remember God's presence as you receive the body and blood of Christ in the worship services that you attend, for that's yet another way in which God shows up.

Fellow disciples, Merry Christmas to you all and may the presence of God incarnate, Emmanuel, embrace you in such a way that brings warmth to your heart!

Bishop Martin

**Christ Lutheran Church Council Agenda  
9 a.m., October 19, 2025**

**The Mission of Christ Lutheran Church is:**  
Sharing God's Love with Hearts and Hands

Attending- Pastor Jeff, Sarah Warren, Sharon Swanson, Carol Hokenson, Donnie kern (via Zoom) Rachel Erickson

9:08 **CALL TO ORDER** – Sarah Warren

9:01 **READING OF THE MISSION STATEMENT** – All

9:02-9:10 **DWELLING IN THE WORD & OPENING PRAYER** – (Sarah) Psalm 91:1-4  
November Leader: Donnie

9:10-9:11 **APPROVAL OF OCT. 19 AGENDA & AUG. 27 MINUTES**

Donnie motioned to approve of the Aug. 27th minutes pending overview of the banking numbers, Carol Seconded. Motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

9:11-9:15 Nominations Committee (Pastor Jeff)

**ACTION ITEM:** Determine vacancies & remind to start search

Members of Nomination Committee- Cherrie Wood, Rachel Erickson

Vacancies- President

Others ?

**UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS:**

9:15-9:20 Community Garden Task Force Update (Paul & Carol)

Met before church Oct. 12. They made the assignment outlines. Ashley is looking for a community member and connecting with the group across the street. Joan is looking for tools, and donations. Paul is working on connecting with the village for a water source. They need to meet to set a budget and things are moving forward. Donnie spoke with Bob Gunther re: a water tank and filling it. Have Paul reach out to Bob Gunther.

9:20–9:25 Bold Initiative Update (Sarah & Pastor Jeff)

Pastor- at Ministerium last month- Dr. Francis (Munangi) Mpindu, PhD speaker, would be a good person to zoom in for a bold initiative gathering.

9:25-9:33 Dog Park on Church Grounds Discussion (Donnie)

12 people yay, and 3 nays

Questions/concerns Clean up, safety of children, looks or aesthetics (gaudy/dog poop all over)

Carol- Is the village paying us for the leasing? Donnie- a cost savings for the church because the church wouldn't have to pay for the mowing of the area- in the summer it would save \$250 or so. Village would be mowing inside the fenceline.

Liability- The Village insurance would cover that.

Would this lower the property value of the church? Donnie says no.

Would it lower the property value of the neighborhood? Donnie says it will raise the property value in the neighborhood.

**ACTION ITEM:** Next steps if any?

9:35-9:55 **REPORTS:** (If Time!)

- Finance/Treasurer's

- August - Beginning balance = \$25, 274                      Deposits = \$7581.20  
Withdrawals = \$15,302.27                      Ending Balance = \$17,553.60  
September - Beginning balance = \$17,553.60    Deposits = \$6,765.96  
Withdrawals = \$11,535.91                      Ending Balance = \$12,783.64

- Pastor's (Accept)

- Building & Property (No Meeting) - Building is being re-keyed and new key pad entrances

- Worship (Accept)

- Education (No Meeting)

Adult Bible Study- Thursday morning bible study continues with study on the Twelve Disciples with the last session on Nov. 20. We will take a break during Advent. In January we will start a study on "Meeting the Spirit" Anyone is welcome to come.

- Youth (Accept)

- WELCA (Accept)

- Stewardship (No Meeting)

- Endowment (No Meeting)

- Call Committee (No Meeting)

New Item for next Council Meeting- Re-Visit Wednesday services?- 7 PM River Service revived? Families who used to attend the Wed. evening services and do not attend Sundays are missing the Wed. evening service time.

**Next Meeting: Nov. 30, Noon**

Sarah Motion to adjourn, Carol seconded

**LORD'S PRAYER & ADJOURNMENT** – Pastor Jeff

Respectfully submitted by Rachel Erickson

Somerset Community Food Pantry had an abundance of pumpkins from a generous donation so we got a group together to turn those pumpkins into pies! We also made some Dutch apple pies for variety. All pies were then given to the pantry to hand out to their patrons. Thank you for all the donations, and thank you helpers!





**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**2026 pledge cards for were recently mailed out.** Please remember to turn your cards back in to the church. This process is a great aid for financial planning for the church. Your assistance is appreciated!

**Crafters! Let's make this December crafting** time full of holiday cheer. If you are able, bring an hors d'oeuvres to share with your fellow crafters. We are meeting December 11th, 12th, and 13th. Hope to see you there!

**Thursday morning bible study** will be taking a short break and will resume on January 8th, 2026 at 10 am.

**The church office will be closed** December 11th. It will also be closed beginning December 23rd and will reopen January 5th. Emails and messages will be checked, but response time may be delayed.

**Community Christmas Concert & Sing-Along** will be held Sunday, December 7th at 4:00pm at Peace Lutheran Church, 2355 Clark Road, Dresser WI. Featuring Good Neighbor Ukuleles, Jerry Prokop, Ronda Haley, Nici Peper, and Wildflowers. Free will offering. Shop the annual Peace Lutheran bazaar before and after the concert.

**Shop the annual Peace Lutheran Christmas bazaar**—2355 Clark Road, Dresser WI. Saturday, December 6, 2025, 8 am-1 pm for crafts & ornaments, woodworking & jewelry, bake sale & MORE! Pastries, coffee & lunch. Vendor Spots Available - Call 715-755-2515.

**It is time for Love Baskets!** We are supporting three families, a total of 10 kiddos. Guidelines for sign-up:

1. Put name and phone number next to child you are purchasing for.
2. Gift cards should be placed in a large envelope so it doesn't get lost.
3. Do NOT wrap any presents.
4. Mark your bag/package with the family # you purchased for.
5. Return to CLC by Sunday December 14th.

**Come kick off the holiday season with us** at our Holiday Craft & Bake Sale Fundraiser! Somerset Middle School Commons on Saturday, December 6: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM and Sunday, December 7: 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Shop local, enjoy some sweet treats, and help support Somerset High School Spanish, Band, and Choir students as they raise money for their trip to Spain! You'll find handmade crafts and gifts from local vendors and students, cookies by the pound and tons of other baked goodies, holiday music and a cheerful atmosphere. This is the perfect chance to check off your holiday shopping list while supporting a great cause — helping our students experience the culture, music, and history of Spain firsthand!

**The community life team is looking for volunteers** for Saturday, December 13th to decorate a CLC tree for Christmas in Somerset: Light the Night Holiday Tree Showcase hosted by the Somerset Champions at Village Park on Spring Street. Set-up & decorating: 12-4 PM. We would appreciate extra tree decorations you may have. We would also like to give out bags of popcorn, but we need volunteers! Contact the office!

**We are seeking volunteers to light the Advent Candles** on Dec 21. Lighting the candles can be a family affair! If you are interested, please contact Chris in the office.

**We are seeking nominations** for an important position on our Church Executive Board: **President**. If you feel called to serve, or know someone who would be a good fit, please prayerfully consider this opportunity to contribute to the leadership and mission of our church. Please let Ashley Cochran, Tricia Davis, or Cherrie Wood if you are willing to consider a nomination!

**Please hold these dear friends in prayer:** Deb and Tom, Clarice M., Gary H., Ira Brunner, Deanna and Jonathan, Darrell Wold Sr., Bob Trealoff, Evelyn, Tammy Nick, Dean Strehlau, Marya, Stephen Peterson, Tami, Tom and June Boyer, Eric Grant, Paul H, Scott and Sue Hovet, Curt Hughes, Jeff and Carol Reed, Ronald Rixmann, Ross Swanson.

WELCA hosted another successful Ham Dinner! We served over 150 hearty meals to very happy people. Thank you to the many volunteers that make this event possible every year!



# Christmas IN SOMERSET

## LIGHT THE NIGHT HOLIDAY TREE SHOWCASE

Join the Somerset Champions for a magical evening of community spirit and holiday cheer! Bring your decorated tree and be part of Somerset's holiday celebration!

- Saturday, December 13th
- Located in Village Park on Spring Street in Somerset
- Bring your own tree (6-8 foot recommended) and decorations. Electricity will be provided
- Tree set up and decorating from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- Santa to arrive between 5:00 and 5:30
- Tree lighting ceremony to begin after santa arrives
- Open to local families, businesses, organizations, and schools
- Extras: Hot cocoa, festive music, photo station with Santa, and a tree decorating contest with prizes!

Follow the link here: <https://bit.ly/3J55jhq> or scan the QR code for more information and to sign up




# CHRISTMAS

WITH  
**THE RIVER CITY CHORALE**  
ANDREW HAASE, CONDUCTOR

**FRIDAY, DEC. 19 7:30PM**  
FEATURING ORGANIST BILL CHOUINARD  
**ROSEVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
1215 ROSELAWN AVE W, ROSEVILLE, MN  
FREE WILL DONATION

**SUNDAY, DEC. 21 3:00PM**  
FEATURING FULL PROFESSIONAL ORCHESTRA  
**ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
900 STILLWATER RD, MAHTOMEDI, MN  
FREE WILL DONATION



**Congratulations to  
our 2025  
Confirmands  
Ethan Smith  
Claire Rivard  
Paxton Mattren  
(Pictured here with  
Pastor Jeff Smith  
and Paul Nasvik)  
We are so proud  
to walk alongside  
you on your faith  
journey!**

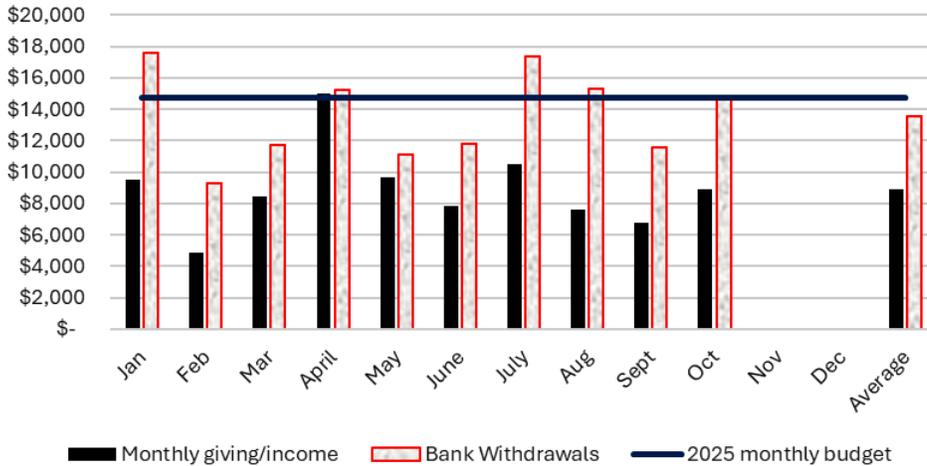


Here are the happy Jack-O-Lantern winners from Trunk or Treat! Finn is the winner. His brother is Porter. Congrats! Thanks to Paul Nasvik for carving and delivering this special prize! What fun!



# Monthly Financial Report for October 2025

2025 CLC General Account Monthly Giving



**Monthly Budget**  
**\$14,689**

**October Deposits**  
**\$8,912.27**

**October Withdrawals**  
**\$14,856.93**

## December Birthdays

Scott Hovet Kevin Nichols Maureen Morud Robert Swanson Bob Strand Jeff Smith Amy Hutter	Tod Kiekhoefer Sophia Smith Wendy Smith Carol Hokenson Colleen Potting Christian Peterson Payton Westphal
---	---

## 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 Assistant	Greeter	Counters
December	Sue and Ellen				
7		Rachel Erickson	Sue Strese	Sue Strese	Erv and Roger
14		Kevin Noeldner	Kevin Noeldner	Kevin Noeldner	Joan and Sharon
21		Sharon Swanson	Sharon Swanson	Sharon Swanson	John and Sue
24		Tricia Davis	Tricia Davis	Tricia Davis	n/a
28		Carol Hokenson	Carol Hokenson	Carol Hokenson	Carol and Karen
January 2026	Cyndy Folie				
4		Kevin Noeldner	Kevin Noeldner	Kevin Noeldner	Erv and Roger
11		Sharon Ammerman	Sue Strese	Sharon Ammerman	Carol and Gary
18		Sharon Swanson	Sharon Swanson	Sharon Swanson	Joan and Sharon
25		Berit Strom	Berit Strom	Berit Strom	John and Sue

# December 2025

## Connection and Community

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 9 am Quilting 7 pm Boy Scouts	<b>2</b> 1-3 pm Phase 10	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10 am-4 pm River V alley Foot Care	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 10 am Worship- 11 am-12 pm Education	<b>8</b> 9 am Quilting 7 pm Boy Scouts	<b>9</b> 1-3 pm Phase 10	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Office Closed 8:00 am- Midnight - CLC Crafters	<b>12</b> 8:00 am- Midnight - CLC Crafters	<b>13</b> 8:00 am- Midnight - CLC Crafters Light the Night at Village Park
<b>14</b> 10 am Worship 11 am-12 pm Education	<b>15</b> 9 am Quilting 7 pm Boy Scouts	<b>16</b> 1-3 pm Phase 10	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10 am-4 pm River V alley Foot Care	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 10 am Worship- 11 am-12 pm Education 11 am Council	<b>22</b> 9 am Quilting 7 pm Boy Scouts	<b>23</b> Office Closed 1-3 pm Phase 10	<b>24</b> Office Closed 4 pm Christmas Eve Service	<b>25</b> Office Closed 	<b>26</b> Office Closed	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10 am Worship	<b>29</b> Office Closed 7 pm Boy Scouts	<b>30</b> Office Closed 1-3 pm Phase 10	<b>31</b> Office Closed	<b>January 1 2026</b> Office Closed 	<b>2</b> Office Closed	<b>3</b>

## 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

Cantor: 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.

#### SUNDAY EDUCATION

10:00-10:45	Worship
11:00-11:30	Large Group Education (Open to ALL Ages-Kids, Youth, Adults)
11:30-Noon	Confirmation Small Group Time



E-mail: [christluthsom@somtel.net](mailto:christluthsom@somtel.net)



Website: <https://somersetlutheran.com>



[CLC YouTube Channel](#)



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

