

Christ's Ambassador

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Preston, Minnesota



February

2024

Love God, Love People, Follow Jesus

Christ Lutheran Church - Preston, Minnesota

Pastor: Kris Hertsgaard Kincaid

Cell phone: 507-330-1824

Email: revkris.christlutheranpreston@gmail.com

Church Administrator: Amanda Means

Office Telephone: (507)765-2161

Church Email: office@christlutheranpreston.org

Website: www.christlutheranpreston.org

Church council: Bruce Hoff, Darrel Olson, Michael Johnson,
Andy Bunge, Katie Marzolf-Harstad, Jennifer Pickett, Melissa Severson



"These days of dust. These days of despair. We can hear reality speak to us in a clear, ringing voice. So we approach. Carefully. Barely ready to hear the hard truths we long to be told about beautiful, terrible death." ~Kate Bowler, *Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day!*

Lent may be the oldest of Christian liturgical seasons, yet each year we approach it with new questions, reflections, and practices. We are all first marked with the cross using water at our baptisms, celebrating new life as a beloved child of God. On Ash Wednesday we are marked with the cross with ashes and reminded of the finitude of life. As we journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter, we are held in God's love, and we encounter God in experiences of reconciliation, transfiguration, crucifixion, restoration, and resurrection.

Lent calls us to reflect, and during Lent and life our reflections often seek to help us know where our lives are headed. We try to figure out what summer camps our kids might attend and make choices about college, work, and relationships. We try new things and discover what centers us. This Lent our journey at Christ Lutheran includes trying new things and embracing traditions.

Wednesdays during Lent (Feb. 14, Feb. 21, Feb. 28, Mar. 6, Mar. 13, Mar. 20).

Starting Ash Wednesday February 14 our Wednesday nights will include soup suppers and an opportunity for all ages to join in conversation and prayer practice on a Psalm, followed by worship with the Holden Evening Prayer service. Ash Wednesday is February 14 this year, and our conversation and prayers will include conversation hearts – kids especially enjoy creating prayers this way! The Wednesday schedule is:

6 pm Soup is served! What a wonder – one night a week we are invited to gather for a meal with our caring community. Many hands make light work for all of us! Take a turn and sign up to bring a gallon/crock pot of soup, bread, or beverages, and to help set-up and serve the meal. Confirmants will bring bars and assist with the meal. Sign-up sheets will be passed during worship starting January 28 and will also be available in the church office.

6:15-6:45pm – Conversation, Coloring and Psalms. Gathered around the table, we will explore a Psalm through conversation and coloring. This prayer practice will help us reflect and grow in faith with others. The Psalms include hymns of praise, songs of lament, prayers of thanksgiving and include a writing for almost every human emotion or event. Come and see how they help us reflect and wonder about what direction our life may be taking us next.

7-7:30 pm-Holden Evening Prayer Service. Each week we will use this service, which was written and composed by Marty Haugen, a Wanamingo MN native. The liturgy is quiet and meditative, with an emphasis on lighting candles and seeking light in the darkness, its meditative qualities provide a calm invitation to wonder and reflect. The music is simple and repetitive, and the melodies are catchy and easy enough for anyone to sing.

Jesus says, "Follow me." This season we follow Jesus through hard and holy times. We walk this road together and God forms faith in us step by step. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Kris

YOUTH LEAD - Wednesday, February 7th, 6-7:15 pm, grades 10-12,

Gather at 6 pm for supper, then join your peers for **Youth Lead**. Explore faith through fun, discussion, and service. Plus - learn leadership and communication skills which help you be a resource to peers.

'ENVELOP OUR YOUTH' FUNDRAISER

Sunday, February 11 – Sunday, March 10
SUPPORT THE YOUTH GATHERING GROUP!
GRAB AN ENVELOPE. IF ALL 100
ENVELOPES ARE FILLED, WE WILL RAISE \$5,050.



- We are fortunate to have 4 youth and 1 adult attending the Youth Gathering in New Orleans, July 16-20, 2024.
- The cost of the Gathering per person is \$1,200. Each youth has paid \$150. The church council has voted to subsidize up to 25% and the youth hope to fundraise the remaining costs, roughly \$4,500. Other summer camps are still to be determined.
- In each envelope, you will find a letter from one of the youth introducing themselves and describing how they will grow through participation in summer ministries. They ask for your prayers and also invite you to share your name and prayer request.

FAQ

- Q What if all the amounts in my price range are taken? May I still donate?
A Yes! We appreciate any donations in any amount! Simply write "other amount" on your envelope and return it with your donation or collect remaining envelopes to add up to your gift.
- Q May I grab more than one envelope?
A Yes! Grab increments however you wish! If you grab \$75 for you and \$3 for your 3-year-old, your donation would be \$78.
- Q What if I can't come to church during this time frame? How can I give?
A You may send a check to the church office and indicate your donation is for the 'Envelop our Youth' Fundraiser. Thank you.

February Service Group

Co-Chairs: Ostrom, Sue	507-289-4002
Keene, Doug & Tona	507-696-1292
Burmeister, Rich & Jackie	507-886-8252
Every, Kevin & Joyce	507-951-1345
Every, Nate & Stacy	507-251-5405
Hahn, Brenda.....	507-273-9149
Heibel, Kyle & Amanda.....	507-273-1770
Herron, Melissa.....	507-273-5864
Herron, Stacy.....	507-273-7773
Johnson, Tom & Marcia.....	507-272-8087
Keene, Cassie.....	507-951-6635
Kerns, Katie.....	507-421-1256
Kramer, Cindy.....	507-440-3381
Mensink, Christopher & Kari.....	507-259-1040
Olson, Jerry & Diane.....	507-696-6394
Pfremmer, Curt & Wendy.....	507-259-4295
Underbakke, Judi.....	507-743-8466

Scheduled events: Sunday Morning Cookies - February 4 (8-10 dozen)

Worship Assistants in February

Acolytes

- 4 Lilianna Dempewolf/Melony Wingert
- 11 Ava Severson/Taelyn Kerns
- 14 Rosemary Pikula/Joshua Bakken
- 18 Josie Corson/Ryan Schroeder
- 21 Cooper Pickett
- 25 Katelyn Scheevel/Reese Larson
- 28 Lexi Engen

Computer

- 4 Rosemary Pikula
- 11 Reese Larson
- 14 Katelyn Scheevel
- 18 Grant Tieskotter
- 21 Jackson Fischer
- 25 Jaxton Heibel
- 28 Maggie Wingert

Lectors

- 4 Alison Leathers
- 11 Youth
- 18 Bev Olson
- 25

<u>Altar Guild</u>	Mary Specht/Mindy Parker/Paula Severson
<u>Ushers - Feb 4th</u>	Scott & Andrea Hellickson/Erlyn & Sandy Marzolf
<u>Feb 11th</u>	Erlyn & Sandy Marzolf/Jeff Bennett/Glenn Dale
<u>Feb 18th</u>	Scott & Andrea Hellickson/Glenn Dale/Darrel Olson
<u>Feb 25th</u>	Dean & Carol Solberg/Glenn Dale/Darrel Olson

Communion Assistants

February 4	Darrel Olson/Bruce Hoff/Carol Solberg
February 14	Bruce Hoff/
February 18	Michael Johnson/



Val Christensen, after the sudden loss of her sister, Kathleen
 Richard Johnson
 Barb Barrett
 Rosalie Krips
 Axel Heller
 Bo Bakke
 Bridget Case
 Steve Kling
 Don Solberg, who is at Spring Valley Care Center for rehab
 Marilyn Bunge, who is in Mabel Care Center
 Walt Hanson, who is at the Minnesota State Veterans Home
 Adie Milne, who is at Harmony Care Center
 Ann Ott, who is at Harmony Care Center
 Betty Riehl, who is at Harmony Care Center
 Arlene Bakalyar, who is at Park Lane Estates
 Helen Haugen, who is at Park Lane Estates
 Jim Fossum, who is at The Fillmore Place
 Arlen Kiehne, who is at Chatfield Nursing Home
 Alice Cummings, who is at Chatfield Nursing Home
 Lew Randall, who is at Traditions
 Irene Aarre, who is at Traditions
 Averlene Marzolf, who is at Traditions
 Helen Haugerud, who is at Traditions
 Jeff Trende, who is at Traditions
 Linda Hahn Smith, who is at Traditions
 Evie Christianson, who is at Seasons of Apple Valley
 Jan Milne, who is at Brookdale Senior Living
 DeWayne Vogt, who is at Luther Oaks Skilled Nursing Care

*****Thank you** to all my church family that have remembered me with cards, prayers, visits and food brought to my home, and all the many memorials since the death of my daughter, Lori McCabe. I am so blessed to have so many wonderful friends.

Sincerely, Val Christensen

Christ Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Date: January 10

Meeting time: 7:30 (In person); Conference Room

(X) Indicates Present for meeting

Member		Term Complete	Member		Term Complete
Pastor Kris Kincaid	X		Mike Erdman /President	X	2023
Bruce Hoff	X	2025	Sara Niemeyer /Secretary	X	2024
Andy Bunge	X	2025	Darrel Olson	X	2024
Michael Johnson /VP	X	2024	Susan Pikula /Treasurer	X	2023

Devotion Reflection - Sara Niemeyer

New/Old Business:

- Approval of 2024 budget - thank you to Mike Erdman, Susan Pikula, and Bruce Hoff for balancing the budget and organizing the data to share with the congregation. Susan moves to accept the budget as prepared, Bruce 2nd, motion passes.
- MN Earned Sick and Safe Time Law, see attached documents.
 - Council discussed ESST details and made decisions regarding the church employees to be in compliance with the new employment law.
- Craft sale benevolence distribution (Gross \$15,232.62 receipts) Once again, an emphatic THANK YOU to the Christ Crafter's group for their efforts!
 - \$2,900 distribution was decided upon by our Confirmation students with the guidance of Pastor Kris to be given to ELCA World Hunger-Good Gifts. A multitude of farm animals, farm kits, school supplies, medical supplies, and home needs were designated, **job well done** Confirmation students!!
 - \$2,900 - Preston Food Shelf/SEMCAC and Rural Concerns Taskforce (\$1450 each)
 - \$2,900 - ELCA Refugee Resettlement program and the Women's Shelter/SE MN (\$1450 each)
- Recycling at CLC
 - There is a recycling bin downstairs and Susan Pikula is donating one as well.
 - Recycling may be sorted into those inside, both bins need to be set out Thursday mornings by 9am to be picked up.
- Quarterly statements will be mailed to members beginning in 2024.
- Feb 4th retreat - light meal, potluck/appetizers from council members to share.
- Lent/Easter update
 - The Worship Team met and created a format for Lent.
 - Soup Supper at 6pm, Worship at 7pm.
 - Confirmation students will provide bars, Congregation will be asked to provide the rest.
- Request from SS - children will be able to choose the noisy offering recipients.
- First Communion - to be held March 10th
- Youth Gathering Fundraisers - hosting Bingo March 17th, envelope fundraiser for CLC students.

- Property update
 - Four Sunday school classrooms were painted. Whiteboards will be replacing the chalkboards.
 - The exit signs in our church were repaired.
 - Our new front cement entrance was sealed by Andy Bunge and Joel Mielke.
 - New carpet was installed in the pastor's office.
 - The front door thresholds were raised and doors adjusted to accommodate the new entrance.
 - Items that are being worked on are replacing 3 fans in our sanctuary and installing new LED lights in the sanctuary.
 - We will also be replacing some electrical outlets throughout the church.
 - In the spring we will address some landscaping items.
 - There will be an extension of the duct work for the basement vents to make the air exchange system efficient.
 - The Property Committee is requesting a contract with Plunkett's. Motion to approve the proposal, Michael Johnson, 2nd by Bruce Hoff. Motion passes.

Treasurer's Report: Financial reports will be e-mailed for review and approved by consensus during monthly meeting.

Secretary's Report: Minutes will be e-mailed for review and approved by consensus during monthly meeting.

Pastor's Report:

Team meeting reports submitted by:

Evangelism & Stewardship (Darrel Olson) - Stewardship retreat on Feb. 4th, 2024 after Church. Emily Carson will speak at Church service and we plan on having a retreat after Church. We will have a light lunch. We will cover in the 3-hour retreat:

Spiritual Life - 45 minutes

Relationship Life - 45 minutes

Stewardship 90 - minutes

Property (Andrew Bunge, Susan Pikula)

Worship and Music (Sara Niemeyer)

Youth (Susan Pikula, Bruce Hoff) - The Youth Team raised \$1000 from the cinnamon bun sales to be used for the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this coming summer. Special thanks to all the volunteers of all ages who helped with this project.

Education (Michael Johnson)

Approval of reports (by consensus)

Next Council meeting scheduled: **February 13th @ 7PM**

Lightning Round of Celebrations / Prayer Request

Adjourn - Close with prayer

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARYS



2/2 Arlene Bakalyar, Stacy Herron; **Phil & Sandy Milne - Anniv**

2/4 Sharon Johnson

2/5 Morgan Pickett, Kolby Brunsvold

2/6 Mary Irish

2/7 Bonnie Hahn, Ryan Kling-Punt

2/8 Melanie White, Landon Sethre

2/10 Sheila Marzolf, Dick Hellickson; **Bob & Donna Conlan - Anniv.**

2/11 Carter Johnson

2/12 Sandy Milne

2/14 Travis Ristau; **Scott & Andrea Hellickson - Anniv.**

2/15 Anita Turck, Rich Burmeister; **Tony & Paula Severson - Anniv.**

2/16 **Jerry & Diane Olson - Anniv.**

2/17 Jackson Persons, Nolan Scheevel

2/18 Linda Britton, Kody Ebner, Casey Ristau, Janice Schultz, Shauna Hoff, Owen Winkels; **Travis & Tammy Gatzke - Anniv.**

2/19 Keith Johnson, Diane Olson

2/20 Marcia Specht, Gunner Benson

2/21 Greg Hoff

2/22 Dean Schumacher

2/23 Grayson Winkels

2/24 Norma Vogt, Cadence Jones

2/27 Jeff Buenger, Dan Christianson, Barb Hanning, Streat Speer

2/28 **Randy & Bonnie Hahn - Anniv.**



Christ Lutheran Church invites you to share in the joy of our CLC Card Ministry

A basket of envelopes has been placed in the Narthex, each envelope contains 1, 3, or 5 congregation members names and addresses. CLC Card Ministry asks that you send a card or a kind note to each person/family in the envelope (boxed Thinking of You cards are available for purchase in the Narthex). Let us reach out with kindness.

As Valentine's Day approaches, bright red and pink cards, candy, flowers, and hearts are everywhere. This February focus on GOD'S LOVE. Send a valentine to God by devoting time to him with the simple, 5-steps of FAITH5 (Faith Acts In The Home). Share this routine with the people you love the most or just keep it between you and God. Begin with "highs and lows" the best and worst moments of your day, read the love themed verse of scripture found below, pray and end with a blessing, perhaps tracing a cross on the forehead and saying something like "I love you, but God loves you even more."



Every night in every home



1	Mark 12:30-31
2	Romans 12:9
3	Romans 13:10
4	1 Corinthians 13:4-7
5	1 Corinthians 13:13
6	Ephesians 4:2
7	1 Peter 4:8
8	1 John 4:7-8
9	1 John 4:18-19
10	John 15:13
11	Colossians 3:14
12	Proverbs 10:12
13	Proverbs 17:17
14	1 John 3:16-18
15	1 John 4:8
16	John 3:16
17	Psalms 18:1
18	Matthew 6:24
19	Matthew 22:37-39
20	1 Corinthians 13:8
21	Isaiah 49:15
22	Song of Solomon 8:7
23	Psalms 37:4
24	Romans 5:5
25	1 John 4:16
26	Ephesians 5:1
27	Romans 8:28
28	1 John 3:1

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Women of Christ Lutheran Committee Minutes Summary

Wednesday, January 10, 2024, Christ Lutheran Church, 6:30 p.m.
Present: Darla Ebner, Janet Erdman, Diane Johnson, Joyce Hellickson,
Mary Zimmerman, Pastor Kris Kincaid
Absent: Mary Glaser

- The fall 2023 benevolence letter generated \$3,435 in donations.
- Altar Guild- Mary Glaser reported prior to the meeting the \$500 considered in the proposed budget could be put toward a new baptismal banner for the church.
- The committee clarified what would be paid for from the WOCL Committee account versus the Craft and Bake Sale account. Only supplies specifically used for items related to the Craft and Bake Sale would be paid from the Craft and Bake Sale account. Supplies for non-Craft and Bake Sale projects (i.e., fleece for blankets, Easter baskets) as well as expenses such as sewing machine repair and equipment would be paid for by the WOCL Committee.
- Joyce applied for and received a \$250 Thrivent grant in December that went for Christmas presents for a family of five in Fillmore County. Members of CLC who purchase insurance through Thrivent are eligible to receive two \$250 grants annually for projects.
- WOCL Committee Checkbook - The current chair, Diane Johnson, and vice chair, Janet Erdman, will be added to the checkbook, and Pam Ristau and Norma Vogt will be taken off. Darla is also on this account. The account name shall be changed to "Women of Christ Lutheran" instead of WELCA.
- 2024 Budget—approved.
- Next meeting will be held Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

The next **Women's Fellowship** group meeting will be on Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the Conference Room. We moved the date to Thursday, instead of Wednesday because of the Lenten service on Wednesday night.

"Did you know..."

If you are a Thrivent member you can make a difference in your community through Thrivent's generosity programs. Thrivent members are able to apply for one or two \$250 grants per year that can be used for various projects, food, clothing, infant supplies, necessary items through charitable organizations. It's easy to apply. Go to www.Thrivent.com/actionteam to learn more or you can call Joyce Hellickson at 507-951-5700.

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON

Dear friends in Christ,

Over the past year we have continued to experience changes in the world around us. Even as our church finds ways to adapt to this changing world, we find hope in the unchanging and always present promise of God's love through Jesus Christ. We change and adapt not to conform to the world but because we believe that the gift of God's Son is for the world, and that our congregations and worshipping communities are places to gather and be sent into the world, where we will tell the story of God's love in word and deed.

The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the churchwide organization provide ways for the church to move beyond the boundaries of structures and geography and to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, our cities, our country and beyond. We engage in this ministry knowing that our church walks by faith, trusting in God's promise in the gospel, and that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word. In John 15:5, Jesus reminds us, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." We are connected by the promise that we do all through Christ and can do nothing apart from him.

God gives the Holy Spirit, who uses gospel proclamation — in preaching and sacraments, in forgiveness and in healing conversations — to create and sustain this faith. Just as we rely on God to sustain our faith, we rely on each other to sustain the ministries that offer God's love to the world. Through your generosity to each expression of this church — your congregation, your synod and your churchwide organization — you add to our collective voice proclaiming God's love for all.

I am grateful for your generosity over this last year. My gratitude spreads far beyond your generous financial gifts. You've shared your gifts of time through countless hours of volunteering, serving and accompanying. You've shared the gifts of your voices as we've tried to discover and learn how God is calling us to be the church now and into the future. And, finally, dear church, you have shared the gift of the realness of God's love with the world around you. Be well, dear church, and stand steadfast in the promise of God's love and grace as you take that promise with you into the world.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop Evangelical Lutheran Church in America