

# Christ's Ambassador

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Preston, Minnesota



~2024~

**Love God, Love People, Follow Jesus**

Christ Lutheran Church - Preston, Minnesota

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



## "Advent Calls Us to Wait"

Pastor Kris Hertsgaard Kincaid

When did you first spot a display of Christmas candy in the stores? When I was looking for something for Halloween the seasonal aisle was stocked with Christmas items. My response was, "No! Not yet!" And now, have you noticed when Advent is barely beginning, Christmas seems to be in full swing? Shopping days are counting down. Christmas trees and decorations are coming up. Rehearsals for Christmas concerts are underway. The Craft and Bake sale is just days away. How do we wait, when Christmas is in full swing?

This Advent season, the Old Testament texts reveal the prophecies spoken by Jeremiah, Malachi, Zephaniah, and Micah and remind us of waiting. These passages foretell of Christ's coming and proclaim God's presence in our world. When God pointed to the stars and told Abraham one day his offspring would outnumber them, Abraham and his descendants waited. (Genesis 15:5). When Jesus proclaimed, "The Kingdom of God is in your midst" (Luke 17:21) God's divine presence was made known through the healings, signs, and miracles of Jesus. God's restoration began with Jesus' ministry and we wait for when restoration will be complete. As we wait, we lean into the deep theological convictions in the Old Testament texts.

- God makes and keeps promises.
- God desires God's people to live in safety and peace.
- God will raise up a savior for God's people.

These convictions sustained the Israelites 2000 years ago and continue to sustain us. Our fast-paced world jumps ahead to the next big thing – and Christmas arrives before Advent. Gloriously, Advent invites us to take a break from our weary world and wait. If I look to the stars or sit beneath shimmering lights, I slow down. If I listen to God's call or read God's Word, I slow down.

Slowing down lets us recognize God's presence and hear God's call for us at this particular time. As people share stories of generosity during worship, I learn more about how the people of Christ Lutheran hear God's call and share their time, talents, and financial gifts. We do God's work by living our faith active in love. Thank you for your faithful generosity that provides ministries and mission for God's people near and far.

With Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love,  
Pastor Kris



## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

Advent is a season of hope and excitement for Christians waiting to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and to spend time with people they love. Advent also means a time of sorrow and darkness for many who face Christmas for the first time, or the twentieth time, without a loved one at their side. As people of God, we are not alone, God through the Holy Spirit is present, forming faith in us as the Spirit will and guiding our hearts and minds as we tend and care for others. This Advent, I invite you to worship with us, in familiar and new ways.

**Sundays, December 1, 8, 15, and 22, 9 a.m. – Advent Worship.** As we are reminded of God's presence and promises, we will light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love. The children's Christmas program is December 15 during worship.

**Sunday, December 22, 10:30 a.m. – Blue Christmas Service.** Do you wish to spend time with God in reflection? Some of us are mourning the death of a loved one, a job loss, or feeling overwhelmed by expectations. This service offers space to focus on the comfort and healing God offers during dark times.

**Tuesday, December 24, 4:30 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight and Holy Communion.** Come! Celebrate the birth of Immanuel, God with us. A choir practices each Sunday morning during Advent at 8:15 am and will sing at this Christmas Eve service. If you like to sing, come sing in this festive choir!

**Sunday, December 29 – 9 a.m. – Lessons and Laughter.** Joy and playfulness will be interwoven with our scripture readings as we emphasize all of creation rejoicing! Don't forget to laugh!

### UPCOMING DATES:

**Sunday, January 5 – 9 a.m. – Generous Together Sunday.** Through worship, activities and song we will connect the generations and celebrate "living among God's faithful people." Following worship head downstairs for Intergenerational Fun!

- **10-10:45 am Generation to Generation Potluck.** After worship, come on down to the Fellowship Hall! Bring a dish to share that is a family favorite or has been passed along through the generations. Beverages will be provided. Also – what is a favorite game your family plays? If you wish, bring a board game to play after the meal.

**Sunday, January 12 – 9 a.m. – Baptism of our Lord Sunday.** Children who were baptized this past year and their caring adults will receive a blessing in worship. Following worship, children ages birth-not yet in Sunday school and a parent/caring adult are invited to our new Frolic class, a time for parents and littles to grow in faith together!



## PRAYER list

Jacob Johnson  
Danny Serfling  
Rosalie Krips  
Val Christensen  
Amy Timmerman  
Jill Miller  
Axel Heller  
Bo Bakke  
Bridget Case  
Carole Engen  
Katie Sullivan  
Arnie Keene, who is at Harmony Care Center  
Marilyn Bunge, who is in Mabel Care Center  
Walt Hanson, who is at the Minnesota State Veterans Home  
Mary Lou Hansen, who is at Harmony Care Center  
Ann Ott, who is at Harmony Care Center  
Arlene Bakalyar, who is at Park Lane Estates  
Jim Fossum, who is at Fillmore Place  
Alice Cummings, who is at Chatfield Nursing Home  
Arlen Kiehne, who is at Chatfield Nursing Home  
Barb Barrett, who is at Chatfield Nursing Home  
Irene Aarre, who is at Traditions  
Averlene Marzolf, who is at Traditions  
Helen Haugerud, who is at Traditions  
Linda Hahn Smith, who is at Traditions

### Ministerial Acts in November

#### Funerals

November 2

*Jan L. Milne* (1946-2024)

November 6

*Helen M. Haugen* (1926-2024)



## December Service Group

| Member  | E-mail                    | Phone #      |
|---|---------------------------|--------------|
| Ron & Pat Scheevel,<br><b>Chairpersons</b>            | scheevelpat@gmail.com     | 507-765-4756 |
| Devin Nagle & Dawn Hellickson,<br><b>Chairpersons</b> | bossmomdlh@gmail.com      | 507-272-6606 |
| Jeff & Sheila Buenger                                 |                           | 507-765-4779 |
| Jason and Amanda Dempewolf                            | dempewolf110@hotmail.com  | 507-273-9020 |
| Rhenee Grabau   | rheneeg@mail.com          | 507-259-4615 |
| Eileen Linden   | eileenlinden@14@gmail.com | 507-272-6261 |
| Pam Mensink   | pamkmensink@gmail.com     | 507-272-8290 |
| Trever & Sara Niemeyer                                | sjniem@gmail.com          | 507-696-1630 |
| Brandi Olson  | merkelbrandi@yahoo.com    | 507-696-8949 |
| Chad & Megan Persons                                  | megan.m.mensink@gmail.com | 507-272-4398 |
| Trent & Susan Pikula                                  | susanpikula@gmail.com     | 507-993-2575 |
| Lynn & Kim Ristau                                     | ristau.kimberly@mayo.edu  | 507-273-6124 |
| Jason & Amanda Sethre                                 | amandasethre@gmail.com    | 507-251-5297 |

Scheduled events: First Sunday Cookies, Dec 1

### Worship Assistants in December

#### Acolytes

1 Cooper Holtegaard/Josh Bakken  
 8 Jackson Fischer/Lexi Engen  
 15 Lily Ledin/Grant Tieskotter  
 22 Lilianna Dempewolf/Katelyn Scheevel  
 24 4:30 Jax Heibel/Jezlyn Finseth  
 29 Turner Sprenger/Reese Larson

#### Computer

1 Kaylee Hernandez  
 8 Josh Bakken  
 15 Jezlyn Finseth  
 22 Harper Pickett  
 24 4:30 Lexi Engen  
 29 Braelynn Dierkes

#### Lectors

1 Darrel Olson  
 8 7<sup>th</sup> graders  
 15 *Children's program*  
 22 Andy Bunge  
 24 4:30 Nancy Hengeveld  
 29 tba

Worship Assistants in December cont....

#### Greeters

1 Dawn Hellickson  
 8 7<sup>th</sup> graders  
 15 Jon & Lynn Haugan  
 22 Traci Corson  
 24 4:30 Bruce & Teresa Hoff  
 29 Ron & Marilyn Schreier

Altar Guild.....Jennifer Pickett/Diane Johnson/Sue Hager/Chris Olson

Ushers.....Todd Ebner/Darla Ebner/Tony Severson/Darrel Olson

#### Communion Assistants

December 1.....Melissa Severson/Darrel Olson/Carol Solberg

December 15.....Jen Pickett/Randy Hahn/Christy Gildner

December 24 4:30.....Carol Solberg/Dawn Hellickson/Sara Niemeyer

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## LUNCH & LEARN

When: **Tuesday, December 17**

(10:45 a.m. depart from church)

Speaker: **Richard Bruxvoort Colligan**

Topic: **"Christmas Sing-Along Extravaganza"**

There's nothing quite like singing with people who love to sing. Join music leader Richard Bruxvoort Colligan for this half-hootenanny, half-concert among the beautiful Good Earth winter woods. Richard's lyric voice and acoustic guitar will lead us in singing favorite tunes together plus some songs to just relax and listen to. There's sure to be laughter, stories, and good company.

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## TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Mike and Kari Lee Odenbrett  
 Jon, Ashley, Natalia and Alexa Wood  
 Adam, Alexis, Jed and Mia McCabe  
 Lindsey, Hudson, Reese Larson and Isaiah Torres  
 Phil and Bre Gilbertson  
 Cindy Stinson  
 Shirley Dahl  
 Rich Kincaid

# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARYS

## December

- 12/4 Lesa Tienter
- 12/5 Chase Gatzke, Jaidyn Finseth
- 12/6 Zach Olstad
- 12/7 Bryce Corson
- 12/8 Judy Johnson, Kurt Reicks, Karen Schmidt, Christy Gildner
- 12/9 Diem Finseth, Scarlett Mathison
- 12/10 Jaxton Heibel
- 12/11 Joel Mielke, Janet Erdman
- 12/13 **Chris & Kari Mensink – Anniv.**
- 12/14 Jackie Do
- 12/16 Kari Bacon, Mike Woellert
- 12/18 Kelly Ristau, Chris Mensink
- 12/19 Pam Ristau
- 12/20 Jonathon Winkels
- 12/21 Sandy Amundson
- 12/22 John Marzolf
- 12/23 **Wayne & Donna Dreier – Anniv.**
- 12/24 Nancy Hengeveld
- 12/25 Gary Parker; **Jeff & Roxie Knies – Anniv.**
- 12/28 Rosemary Pikula, Emilee Ristau
- 12/29 Hannah Grabau; **Colin & Jennifer Pickett – Anniv.**
- 12/30 Ron Scheevel, Amanda Dempewolf; **Craig & Lori Britton – Anniv.**
- 12/31 Kjerstiana Corson, Porter Hahn; **Duane & Cari Ledin – Anniv.**



*\*Thank you for your generous donations to the local food shelf. Your gifts will help make the holidays a little merrier for those in need. We would like to remind you that food shelf is always in need of donation. Thank you for your generosity!*

*\*Dawn H., Mary G., and Carol S. would like to thank all who generously donated gift bags! We will be delivering Christmas gift bags to CLC members who are currently in care centers. Thank you again for your generosity in making the holidays brighter for our elderly members.*

This December, between decking the halls, baking cookies, buying presents, and attending parties, make time to prepare your heart for the birth of our savior with the simple, 5-steps of FAITH5 (Faith Acts In The Home). Share this routine with your spouse, children, dear friend by phone-anyone who is family to you or just keep it between you and God. Consider making this part of the bedtime routine in your home; maybe this month try it by candlelight or the glow of your Christmas tree. It begins by sharing “highs and lows” the best and worst moments of our day and ends with a blessing, perhaps tracing a cross on the forehead and saying something like “God loves you and I do too.”



Every night in every home



|    |                    |
|----|--------------------|
| 1  | Luke 1:26-27       |
| 2  | Luke 1:30          |
| 3  | Luke 1:31          |
| 4  | Luke 1:32          |
| 5  | Luke 1:38          |
| 6  | Luke 2:1           |
| 7  | Luke 2:3           |
| 8  | Luke 2:4-5         |
| 9  | Luke 2:6           |
| 10 | Luke 2:7           |
| 11 | Luke 2:8           |
| 12 | Luke 2:9           |
| 13 | Luke 2:10          |
| 14 | Luke 2:11          |
| 15 | Luke 2:12          |
| 16 | Luke 2:14          |
| 17 | Luke 2:16          |
| 18 | Psalms 95:6-7      |
| 19 | Matthew 2:1        |
| 20 | Matthew 2:2        |
| 21 | Matthew 2:11a      |
| 22 | Matthew 2:11b      |
| 23 | John 3:16          |
| 24 | 2 Corinthians 9:15 |
| 25 | John 1:14          |
| 26 | Matthew 2:13-18    |
| 27 | Luke 2:25-26       |
| 28 | Luke 2:27-33       |
| 29 | John 1:1-5         |
| 30 | John 1:16-18       |
| 31 | 2 Corinthians 5:17 |

December

# Christ Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** November 13, 2024

**Meeting time:** 7:00 p.m. (In person); Conference Room

**(X)** Indicates Present for meeting

| Member                          |   | Term Complete | Member               |   | Term Complete |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------|----------------------|---|---------------|
| Rev. Kris Kincaid               | X |               | Bruce Hoff-President | X | 2025          |
| Jennifer Pickett-Vice President | X | 2026          | Andy Bunge           | X | 2025          |
| Melissa Severson-Secretary      | X | 2026          | Darrel Olson         | X | 2024          |
| Katie Marzolf-Harstad-Treasurer | X | 2026          | Michael Johnson      |   | 2024          |

**Devotion Reflection**--Andy Bunge

**New business:**

- Holiday bonuses
  - Katie Marzolf-Harstad will contact Pam Ristau to review what was provided last year.
- How is the nomination committee doing in filling slots for the annual meeting for 2025-2028 candidates
  - Susan Pikula and Allison Leathers are on the nominating committee; Bruce will check with them.
- Set date for Executive Team to work on 2025 budget
  - Jennifer Pickett motions to replace Melissa Severson, the secretary, with Katie Marzolf-Harstad, the treasurer, on the executive committee. Seconded by Katie Marzolf-Harstad. This was approved by the council.
- Set date for Congregational Annual Meeting
  - January 26, 2025
- Christmas Eve services (4:30 p.m. with organist; 7:00 p.m. or 8:00 p.m. for 2<sup>nd</sup> service)
  - Currently we do not have music for the second service.
- "Blue Service" will be Sunday, December 22.
- Request from Lutheran Campus Center for donation. (We donated \$500 last year.)
  - This item is tabled.
- Property and Liability Insurance Renewal – (see information packet)
  - Motion to accept the policy with the \$10,000 deductible by Jennifer Pickett and seconded by Andy Bunge. This was approved by the council.
- Pastor Kris would like to plan summer trips for the youth to attend. She is looking for ideas on how to gather individuals who would be interested in assisting with planning.
  - Finishing 6-8<sup>th</sup> grades and an older group of finishing 9-12<sup>th</sup> grades.
  - She has spoke with the 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders. We will plan to survey the 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders to evaluate interest.

**Old business:**

- "Generous Together Initiative"—Update by Pastor Kris and Andy Bunge
  - Met last evening to develop a letter to send to members and a commitment card to assist with budget planning.
- "What Do I Like To Do Survey"—Update by Pastor Kris and Jennifer Pickett
  - They have received 16 completed surveys since it was sent out via email on Monday, November 11, 2024.

- Set date for Mutual Ministry Committee to meet.
  - This will be fulfilled by the Executive Committee. They will set a date to complete annual reviews for the secretary, Amanda, and Pastor Kris.
- Property Committee
  - Recommend to extend duct work in the basement. They are working on getting additional quotes.
  - Recommend to clean the ducts. They will get quotes.
  - Boiler monitoring: Katie Marzolf-Harstad will collect information from Pam Ristau. Bruce Hoff, Darrel Olson and Jennifer Pickett plan to set a meeting to discuss this ongoing need/monitoring.

**All reports and next meeting's agenda will be emailed one week prior to our meeting. Please have all items for the agenda to me a week in advance.**

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

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

**Team meeting reports submitted by:**

- Evangelism (Jennifer Pickett)
- Stewardship (Andy Bunge)
- Property (Darrel Olson)
- Worship and Music (Katie Marzolf-Harstad)
- Youth (Melissa Severson)
- Education (Michael Johnson)

Approval of reports (by consensus)

Next Council meeting scheduled: **December 11, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**

Lightning Round of Celebrations / Prayer Requests

Adjourn – Close with prayer

Respectfully submitted by,

Melissa Severson, council secretary.



## CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR

will practice on  
**Dec 1; Dec 8; Dec 15; Dec 22. in the balcony**  
**At 8:15 a.m.**



It's not too late to join!

**Holiday Giving Tree**

Looking for mittens, gloves, hats, scarfs and socks to be hung on there! Items donated will go to Fillmore Central, Fillmore County Foodshelf, SEMCAC and Open Hands Midway. Thanks for your generous support, all items are greatly appreciated!

# The 4th Annual CLC Craft and Bake Sale and Gnome Cafe

Sat., Dec. 7, 2024 from 9am-2pm.

The excitement has been building for our annual Craft & Bake Sale, as we are now only a few days away. This is our only fundraiser to support the church and our missions. Last year, we were able to raise over \$14,000 from this special event. We look forward to another successful event in 2024!

Help spread the word by telling family, friends, and neighbors, and inviting them to the sale! Help the event go viral and please find the event on Facebook and share it on your page. Be sure to like or share any posts from the main Christ Lutheran Church Facebook page as well.

Remember that the Gnome Cafe is open all day for treats and hot drinks. There is a new BBQ pork sandwich lunch from 11am-1pm for \$10. There are free kids' crafts all day (while supplies last), and preschool aged children and younger need an adult or older sibling to accompany them!

Thank you to the many volunteers who have signed up to assist with the event. Please call Alison Leathers at 507-251-8049 if you are interested in volunteering as there may be a few spots still open.

For those who sold raffle tickets, please return all tickets (sold and unsold) to Janet Erdman on or before Sunday, Dec. 1, 2024.

Please have your items pre-priced in even dollar amounts (see next page for baked goods pricing). Items should be left on the counter in the kitchen or in the refrigerator if needed. Committee members will check the church each day to secure the donations. See below for drop off times.

### Drop Off Times:

Tuesday, Dec. 3: 9am-4pm

Wed., Dec. 4: 9am-4pm

Thurs., Dec. 5: 9am-4pm

Fri., Dec. 6: 8am-6:30pm

Sat., Dec. 7: 7:30am-8:30am

We will continue selling any unsold items after church on Sunday, December 8. So if you were not able to come on Saturday, there is another opportunity for you to shop. Sunday, December 17 is the last day for picking up items that were donated and not sold.

The planning committee thanks you for your support of this once-a-year event. Happy baking, crafting, and shopping!

Committee Members: Janet Erdman (612)756-1578, Alison Leathers (507) 251-8049, Gail Bunge (507) 259-1444, Susan Pikula (507)993-2575, Teresa Hoff (507)259-3206, Kayla Peterson (507) 259-1504, & Lori Winkels (507)273-9799

| Item                     | Price         | Item                  | Price          |
|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Yeast Bread              | \$6.00        | Cinnamon Rolls (6 ct) | \$6.00-\$10.00 |
| Quick Bread              | \$4.00-\$6.00 | Tea Rings             | \$12.00        |
| Lefse (3 rounds)         | \$6.00        | Sandbakkels (6 ct)    | \$5.00         |
| Krumkake (strull) (6 ct) | \$5.00        | Rosettes (6 ct)       | \$5.00         |
| Cookies (12 ct)          | \$6.00-\$8.00 | Jams/Jellies          | \$6.00         |
| Pie                      | \$15.00       | Flatbread (~20 ct)    | \$6.00         |



### Generosity Moment: Meeting the Needs of the World through Crafting

Often as I sit in my office, I hear Amanda answering a phone call from someone outside of the community who is asking about this year's Craft and Bake Sale. Who are these crafters and how does their generosity show up in our community and beyond? Christ's Crafters is a group of women that was started approximately seven years ago. The group meets on the first and third Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall (January-November) and averages about 10-12 people each session. The initial purpose of the group was to make items to sell in the craft and bake sale room at the Norwegian buffet. As a stand-alone Craft and Bake Sale, it continues to be a hub of generosity. In 2023, the group donated \$14,500 in proceeds from the Craft and Bake Sale to the church council and asked them to disperse these funds to both benevolence and the general fund. In addition, Christ's Crafters work on other projects that benefit local and global missions.

Theologian Frederick Buechner defines vocation as, "The place where your deep gladness meets the world's deepest need." Through their diverse projects, Christ crafters meet the needs of people far and wide. They make the fleece blankets for our graduating seniors, baptism quilts, prayer shawls, mission quilts for Lutheran World Relief, and Easter goodie bags for local shut-ins, as well as Kleenex covers for the Veterans Home and Veterans Cemetery. Over the past few years, they have also partnered with the Volunteer Office at Mayo Clinic-St. Mary's Hospital to make chemo caps, prayer shawls, pediatric surgical caps, and fleece animals. They also make fleece animals for Bundles of Love. The group is also responsible for the centerpieces for the tables in the Fellowship Hall.

Their behind-the-scenes generosity offers love and care to God's people. Diane Johnson comments, "Christ's Crafters is a great way to spend time together. Members have various skill sets and are more than willing to help each other to complete whatever project they may be working on at the time." Each afternoon session ends with coffee, treats, and conversation.

The majority of the supplies for items made by this group are donated. If you have items to donate, they can be left in the quilt room across from the kitchen. Monetary donations to Christ's Crafters are always welcome to help purchase supplies for projects. Christ's Crafters - thank you for sharing your time, talents, and treasures.