

Christ's Ambassador

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Preston, Minnesota



January
~2025~

Love God, Love People, Follow Jesus

Christ Lutheran Church - Preston, Minnesota
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Website: www.christlutheranpreston.org

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



We are the Light of God!
Pastor Kris Hertsgaard Kincaid

Merry Christmastide! When we celebrate the twelve days of Christmas, December 25 through January 5, we move from celebrating the light entering the world in human flesh; to recognizing we are the light, sent out into the world to share God's love. During Christmastide, this majestic mystery often calls us to slow down and be more reflective. Students are home from school and many of us take time off work. Some of us slow down so much we playfully ask, "What day is it?"

The language used to describe the light of God in John, Ch. 1 of *The Message Bible* captivates me.



1¹⁻² The Word was first,
the Word present to God,
God present to the Word.
The Word was God,
in readiness for God from day one.
3-5 Everything was created through him;
nothing—not one thing! —
came into being without him.
What came into existence was Life,
and the Life was Light to live by.
The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness;
the darkness couldn't put it out.

The magi saw God's' light and found their way to Christ. Epiphany, which we will observe in worship on January 5, celebrates their arrival. By following the light of the star, the magi are embraced by the one true God, and through them we see God welcomes everyone and their unique gifts. The magi showed their respect for Christ with gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We also offer our gifts and talents to further the brightness of God's new dawn. No matter how simple, God accepts and uses our gifts for God's purpose.

In 2024 the people of God of Christ Lutheran shared our gifts generously. **Generosity Moments** have enlightened us on how gifts of time, talent, and treasures have nurtured our Vacation Bible School ministry; supported children and youth attending Bible camp and the Youth Gathering; encouraged gifted crafters, bakers, and organizers to welcome people to our Craft and Bake Sale; invited members to visit care centers and homes to stay connected with those who are unable to get out and about; prompted youth to host a Painted Pumpkin Fundraiser to benefit those hit by hurricanes . . . and the list goes on. In addition, your financial generosity in December ensured we ended our fiscal year strong.

In 2024, we celebrated the lives of 14 members of Christ Lutheran. Memorials given in their honor further our mission to love God, love people and follow Jesus. Recently, we received a major gift from the estate of Evie Christianson. This gift is to be used for capital expenses and reminds us God is calling us at this particular time. What ministries will be discerned as we move forward into 2024 and beyond?

Epiphany reminds us our light has come. When the magi saw the star they were following had stopped over the place where the Christ child lay, they were overwhelmed with joy (Matt. 2:10). May we continue to shine God's light, love, and joy.

Shining God's light with you,
Pastor Kris

UPCOMING DATES IN JANUARY:

Celebrating Baptism! Ages birth to preschool- Sunday, January 12, 9:00 am **Worship.** It's Baptism of the Lord Sunday. Let's also celebrate your child's baptism!

CELEBRATE your child's baptism with a blessing during worship.
GIFTS for your child - newly baptized children will receive the board book, *God Loves You* and other children will receive *The Jesus Storybook Bible*.
FAITH PRACTICES to bring home will be explored in Frolic (ages birth-3 years) and Sunday School.

Frolic with Christ Lutheran! - Sunday, January 12 – 10 a.m.
Frolic is a class for parents/caregivers and children birth to age 3. Shelby Ristau is leading Frolic and together you will experience Bible stories through circle time (music, story, group play); play stations that may include craft and sensory play; and more. If you are familiar with ECFE classes in the school district, you will be familiar with the format at Frolic. We hope you will enjoy this opportunity to come together with other young families. *For more information, contact Pastor Kris or Shelby Ristau.* We look forward to this special time together. Please RSVP to Amanda Means, office@christlutheranpreston.org, on or before Thursday, January 9 for planning purposes.

Youth Lead, High School, grades 10-12 - Wednesday, January 8, 6-7:30 pm – Come for a meal, stay for faith, fun, and friends. We will play some games and explore faith and life with a devotional from the Youth Gathering. This is designed to take a step out of busy and into shared space with friends from Christ Lutheran and beyond – you are always welcome to invite a friend.

Summer High School Trip Information Meeting for 9-12th Graders - Sunday, January 12, 10 am – Rich Kincaid and Pastor Kris are excited to plan a summer trip that combines exploring the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and the local landscape and history of the Ely MN area. Think canoeing, hiking, wolves, and root beer. Specific information and dates will be posted prior to January 12. Youth and parents are encouraged to attend this information meeting. If more than seven youth register, additional adult leaders will be needed! *Rich is an experienced wilderness educator and leader, having taken over 600 kids into the Boundary Waters through school and church trips.*



Generous Together Sunday
January 19, 9 am Worship & 10 am
Cross+Generational Sunday School/Fellowship –
 For our second Generous Together Sunday we are exploring how the Bible directs us to bring generations together for forming identity and passing on faith and values. What unique perspective and gifts do each generation bring? Following worship, all ages are invited to come downstairs for conversation, activities, and treats. We will honor the eldest and youngest in our midst. *Parents, please accompany your child to this Cross+Generational Sunday School event.*

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PRAYER
list...

- The family of Casey Albrecht
- Dave Hokenson
- Cynthia Hokenson
- Jason Schwingle
- Jacob Johnson
- Danny Serfling
- Rosalie Krips
- Val Christensen
- Jodi Milne Trochlil
- Amy Timmerman
- Jill Miller
- Judy Graham
- Axel Heller
- Bo Bakke
- Bridget Case
- Carole Engen
- Katie Sullivan
- 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
- Arnie Keene, 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

January Service Group

Member	E-mail	Phone #
Steve & Karen Trende, Chairpersons	ktrende@gmail.com	507-696-4806
Robert Hanson & Mary Zimmerman, Chairpersons	maryzim@gmail.com	507-251-6807
Stacey & MariLyn Bakke	ssbakke04@gmail.com	507-421-5858
Phil Durst		507-273-0867
Dan Grabau		507-259-5093
Susan Hager	blaisehappy@gmail.com	507-951-7830
Justin & Becky Jones	bekajn@hotmail.com	507-202-5182
David & Margo Marzolf		507-765-2424
Bruce & Anna Rae Nelson	nelsonba50@yahoo.com	507-450-8163
Christine Olson		507-269-5691
Andrew & Jenna Pederson	jenna.trende@gmail.com	507-259-2132
Colin & Jen Pickett	cjpick2@gmail.com	507-272-7129
Kevin & Holly Rissman	hjrissman@gmail.com	507-272-7253
Randy & Deb Ristau	dristau@olmmed.org	507-259-6077
Eric & Tiffany Scheevel	tscheevel@outlook.com	507-450-5276
Dan & Jeanette Serfling	djserfling@gmail.com	507-951-0739
Tony & Paula Severson	paulakim35@hotmail.com	507-251-5444
Keith & Trista Tieskotter	tristie103@gmail.com	507-951-2846

Worship Assistants in January

Acolytes

5 Harper Pickett/Taelynn Kerns
 12 Ava Severson/Kaylee Hernandez
 19 Melony Wingert/Maggie Wingert
 26 Braelynn Dierkes/Lexi Engen

Computer

5 Lily Ledin
 12 Jackson Fischer
 19 Cooper Holtegaard
 26 Jax Heibel

Lectors

5 Bev Olson
 12 Michael Johnson
 19 Jenna Pederson
 26 Alison Leathers

Worship Assistants in January cont....

Greeters

5 Ron Laughlin & Sandy Amundson
 12 Jim Keune & Mary Glaser
 19 Barb Mielke/Mary Zimmerman
 26 Alison & Brad Leathers and family

Altar Guild.....Roxie Knies/Lynn Haugan/Pam Mensink

Ushers.....Rick Grooters/Kevin Every/Robert Hanson/Scott Wilson

Communion Assistants

January 5.....Darrel Olson/Katie Harstad/Jen Pickett

January 19.....Bruce Hoff/Dawn Hellickson/Carol Solberg

Ministerial Acts in December

Funerals

December 13 Casey K. Albrecht (1938-2024)



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARYS



- 1/1 Matt Hellickson
- 1/2 Phil Milne, Bill Wojtkiewicz
- 1/3 Walt Hansen, Terri Broadwater, Kari Odenbrett
- 1/4 Lynn Ristau, Grant Tieskotter, Jason Sethre
- 1/5 Nathan Pfremmer
- 1/6 Cari Ledin; *Dan & Jeanette Serfling – Anniv.*
- 1/7 Jo Randall
- 1/9 Jeff Woellert
- 1/10 Camden Blaney
- 1/15 Melissa Herron, Luke Marzolf
- 1/16 Turner Sprenger
- 1/17 Brian Soland
- 1/18 Brenda Ristau, Katie Marzolf-Harstad, Martina Wingert
- 1/19 Abby Hellickson, Easton Grabau
- 1/20 Jackie Burmeister
- 1/21 Cynthia Hokenson
- 1/23 Sue Ostrom
- 1/24 Pam Mensink
- 1/25 Elaine Hellickson, Mary Specht, Jeremiah Grabau
- 1/27 Deb Ebner, Jessica Bradt
- 1/28 Kendyl Bennett, Paige Bennett, Amanda Heibel, Doug Keene
- 1/29 Matt Hoff, Terry Kraling, Bev Olson, Larry Ristau
- 1/31 Rick Grooters, Trever Niemeyer

It's all about the LIGHT this month! January can be a dark time full of long nights, winter weather, and the absence of the Christmas decorations that were put away until next year. God is very much present in our world and the firelight, candlelight, starlight, ALL the light is here to remind us of just that. This year resolve to end each day 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. You may want to light a candle as you share these 31 scriptures about light. Begin with "highs and lows" the best and worst moments of your day and end with a blessing, perhaps tracing a cross on the forehead and saying something like "God loves you and his light is with you."



Every night in every home



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|----|-----------------------|
| 1 | Genesis 1:3-5 |
| 2 | 2 Samuel 23:3-5 |
| 3 | Job 22:27-29 |
| 4 | Job 29:2-4 |
| 5 | Psalms 18:27-29 |
| 6 | Matthew 2:9-11 |
| 7 | Psalms 27:1-3 |
| 8 | Psalms 89:14-16 |
| 9 | Psalms 97:10-12 |
| 10 | Psalms 104:1-3 |
| 11 | Psalms 119:104-106 |
| 12 | Psalms 119:129-131 |
| 13 | Proverbs 4:18-19 |
| 14 | Isaiah 42:5-7 |
| 15 | Isaiah 45:5-7 |
| 16 | Isaiah 58:6-9 |
| 17 | Isaiah 60:1-5 |
| 18 | Matthew 5:13-16 |
| 19 | Luke 11:33-36 |
| 20 | John 1:1-13 |
| 21 | John 3:19-21 |
| 22 | John 8:12 |
| 23 | Acts 13:46-48 |
| 24 | Romans 13:11-12 |
| 25 | 1 Corinthians 4:5 |
| 26 | 2 Corinthians 4:4-7 |
| 27 | Ephesians 5:8-14 |
| 28 | Colossians 1:3-9 |
| 29 | 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6 |
| 30 | 1 Peter 2:9-10 |
| 31 | 1 John 1:5-7 |

Christ Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Date: December 11, 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		2025
Melissa Severson-Secretary	X	2026	Darrel Olson	X	2024
Katie Marzolf-Harstad-Treasurer	X	2026	Michael Johnson		2024

Devotion Reflection—Michael Johnson (covered by Darrel Olson)

New business:

- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service—4:30 p.m. (one service only) with organist, choir, and communion; An 8:00 p.m. service will also be offered.
- December 29th—Lesson & Laughter Services; Will request interaction from the congregation in regards to hymns that will be sung, there will also be only one sermon, instead of two (adult and children’s will be combined).
- January 5th—“Generous Together” Sunday—intergenerational; Date changed to January 19, 2025; Will plan to have activities, snacks, and beverages in the Fellowship Hall following worship.
- Recognition of a gift from the estate of Evie Christianson to be placed in the Building Fund.
- “Welcome Bells” – why are they no longer played before/after the service; Pastor Kris will talk with Tami Christianson.

Old business:

- Boiler: Bruce will schedule a meeting to discuss.
- Nominating committee: they are looking into possible replacement council members.
- Discussion of Christmas Bonuses for employees (information provided from previous years). Motion by Bruce Hoff for \$50 bonus for Robert, second by Darrell Olson. Council approves. Motion by Bruce Hoff to proceed with no change of the bonus for Tami Christensen or Amanda with second by Jenifer Picket. Council approves.
- “Generous Together Initiative”—Update
- “Things I Like To Do Survey”—Update
 - 31 responses so far.
- Set another date for Executive Committee to work on 2025 budget (Bruce, Jennifer, Katie, Pastor Kris)
- Met today, 12/11; Next meeting scheduled Wednesday, December 18 @ 7:15.
- Set Mutual Ministry Committee meeting to complete reviews of secretary and pastor.
 - Wednesday, December 18 @ 3 p.m.

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.

-Motion to approve by Bruce Hoff, second by Darrel Olson. Council approves.

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

-Motion to approve by Jennifer Pickett, second by Darrel Olson. Council approves.

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.

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Annual Meeting of Christ Lutheran Congregation
Sunday, January 26 (following 9 am worship)

All confirmed members are invited to the Annual Meeting. This meeting calls us to make decisions that affect our common life together as the people of God of Christ Lutheran, an intention that grows out of the Reformation idea of the “priesthood of all believers”. We look forward to sharing more specifically how your gifts are being used as well as hearing from you regarding your hopes for the ministries of Christ Lutheran.

Women's Fellowship

The next Women's Fellowship meeting will be held **Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 6:30 p.m., at the church.**

The topic will be *“How can we help? Congregational responses to cancer, death, illness, and other serious life challenges.”*

All are welcome. Please join us!

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.

CRAFT & BAKE SALE THANK YOU!

We are grateful for the incredible participation and contributions of so many members of our congregation and community for the 2024 Craft and Bake Sale! Your efforts were invaluable, and it is inspiring to see the congregation come together with such commitment and enthusiasm.

Income summary: Total income \$20,725 – Expenses \$805.46 = Profit \$19,919.54

\$19,000 was given to the Council who will determine the percent to be given to local, national, and global missions and the percent to be used by the church. The Council will determine specific recipients. This goal helps us carry out our mission work beyond our church walls.

Please consider your role in the 2025 Craft and Bake Sale! We are seeking committee members for roles large and small. Please reach out to the committee if you'd like to join or have any questions.

2024 Craft and Bake Sale Committee members:

Gail Bunge, Janet Erdman, Teresa Hoff, Alison Leathers,
Kayla Peterson, Susan Pikula, Lori Winkels



Thank You for Your Generosity!

As we reflect on this year, the stewardship team is filled with gratitude for the countless ways God has blessed our faith community. Your presence, generous support, and willingness to serve help us fulfill our mission, To Love God, Love Jesus, and Serve People.

In November and December, we asked for you to consider your gifts and when possible increase your giving to Christ Lutheran. Your response allows us to finish the year fiscally strong and prepare a budget for 2025 that continues to share the Good News for the sake of the world. As of December 31, we had the following information on December giving: **\$30,700**.

We also wish to invite you to attend our Annual Meeting to be held Sunday, January 26 following worship. This meeting is for confirmed members of Christ Lutheran to make decisions that affect our common life together, an intention that grows out of the Reformation idea of the “priesthood of all believers”. We look forward to sharing more specifically how your gifts are being used as well as hearing from you regarding your hopes for the ministries of Christ Lutheran. Thank you again for giving generously.

A note from Christ's Crafters:

Thank you to the Craft and Bake Sale Committee for another very successful event! If you purchased a porch pot and do not have a use for it at the end of the winter season, we would appreciate it if you would return it and any decorations so that they can be used again next year. We can always use artificial greens and decorations for making centerpieces, etc. Did you know that most of the supplies used to make items for the sale are donated by members of Christ's Crafters? Donated items can be left in the former Quilt Room across from the kitchen. Monetary donations should be made out to “Women of Christ Lutheran” and earmarked for Christ's Crafters. Checks can be left in the church office (Attn: Darla Ebner). New members and ideas are also welcome! If you have questions, contact Diane Johnson (507-251-6922 or johnson.dianekeith@yahoo.com).

CLC Monthly Financial Summary 2024

