

# Christ Lutheran Church

January 2016



Rev. Dr. Ed Kloos, Pastor  
Jessica Brink, Editor



## A Thought from the Church Council

The members of the Church Council wish to thank the members of our congregation for the way in which you have responded to every challenge this past year. We were able to call a new pastor from New York and pay for his moving expenses. The parsonage was a big challenge as well. New appliances, some rug replacement, and a good clean up were all needed to maintain our property.

This coming year we are envisioning three major projects, resurfacing our parking lot, air conditioning the church and replacing the drafty windows in the parsonage to save on heating. This is a big undertaking. However, our faith in our Lord has always provided the means for us to do ministry.

The Council has a thought. Scripture says, "Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar, and render unto God that which is God's" Mark 12:17. Many of us have been truly blessed in 2015. Why should we pay in taxes that which would bless the church with a special year end offering to help get the 2016 projects off to a good start? Please pray about it.

May God bless you with a happy, healthy and prosperous 2016.

## Annual Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, January 17th**

**9:00—10:15 a.m.**

**If you would like an item  
added to the agenda,  
contact council president  
Rick Zimmer at 868.4915.**

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## Cover Dish & Movie

This month we have a special "Movie with Pastor Day." On January 20 we will be sponsoring a Covered Dish Lunch at 12 noon followed by the acclaimed Christian movie, "War Room" at 1 o'clock. We are having this covered dish luncheon so that people who don't like to drive at night can see this great movie about the power of prayer.

At 6 o'clock we will have a covered dish dinner for those people who work or find that they have more free time at night. The movie will be shown at 7 o'clock in the church.

A sign-up sheet will be posted so that you can tell us what you'll be bringing. It will also help us prepare enough place settings and beverages for all who come.

For more information please speak to Deva Weber, Dorothy VanOchten or Pastor Ed.

Invite your family and friends you won't regret it!

# Pastor's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
New Year's Greetings!

It's time for new beginnings! It's time for a fresh start! It's time to make some resolutions!

These are often statements that are made by most people at the beginning of a new year, and we as Christians are not really all that

different! Who wants to remain the same as before? I know I don't, because I want to

continue to grow in the Lord, as well as put off some of those things that have held me down for being all He wants me to be. Yet, we all struggle just a bit in our endeavor to move forward as failings and

difficulties from the past create a "drag" on the vision for the future! I'm reminded of a

wonderful scripture that helps me each time those thoughts come into my mind, and it follows here:

Philippians 3:12-14 (NIV) 12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13

Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

In Paul's declaration of forgetting, he said he does one thing, however we see that one thing is actually broken down into three parts.

Forgetting what is behind is the first one. It seems that the more difficult a situation is, the harder it is to "forget!" Paul wasn't saying there's no way we would remember these things, but he was simply saying those things would not be enough to hold us back from forward progress!

The next thing he said was he would "strain toward" what is ahead. Yes, there are times

serving God, and even moving forward in life takes some "straining!" Yet, be reminded today that it will truly be worth it all one day!

Lastly, he said he would "press on toward the goal to win the prize." We need to remember also that we will be rewarded one day. We must keep our eyes focused on the prize, and the greatest prize we will know one day is to see our Savior face to face!

So let's move forward! Let's dream dreams! However, let's do it all within the safe confines of God's will.

Your servant in Christ,

*Pastor Ed*

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## Hospitalized

*Please keep in your prayers those members who have been hospitalized this last month*

Dorothy Heartwell, Betty Spiekerman, Jim Felske, Trista Jeske and son.

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## Holy Baptism

*Ivan Mark Sylvester*, son of Mark and Mandi Sylvester was baptized December 6, 2015. His sponsors are Kandace & Wayne Prescott and David & Katie Gebhardt.

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## Funerals

*Paula Marie Jasman*, wife of Jim Jasman, passed away at the age of 35 in her home on November 23, 2015. Her funeral was November 28<sup>th</sup>.

*Donald L. Liebknecht* died December 23, 2015 at St. Mary's Hospital, Saginaw and his funeral was December 28<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Kloos officiated with burial in Blumfield Township Cemetery.

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## REMINDER:

### TREASURERS & MINISTRIES

Please have your reports for the Annual Meeting emailed or dropped off to the church office by January 11th. Thank you.

If emailing send to:

[lindachristlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:lindachristlutheran@gmail.com)

## Words of Thanks

Dear Rev. Kloos and Christ Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Board of Governors, faculty, students and staff at the United Theological College of the West Indies, thank you for your recent donation of \$488.83. This will assist in the preparation of men and women for the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,

*Rev. Dr. Oral Thomas, Acting President*

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I would like to send a heartfelt thank you to the Christ Lutheran Church Sunday School for the Christmas gift of bath salts and scrub. It is a blessing to serve our Lord by teaching the little children.

*Linda Babechenko*

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Thank you to everyone who helped with putting together the Children's Christmas program this year and to Santa for making an appearance afterwards to have cookies with the kids.

The United Christian Community Service Christmas Basket program for 2015 provided food, household items and gift cards to 48 local families. Thank you to everyone that donated to this ministry, we are very grateful for the support to our organization over the years.

Also, thank you to all those that helped pack the boxes on Dec. 7, many people come back year after year to help with this important task, we could not do it without you. Thank you to Bob Spiekerman and Gracie Lefler for helping with delivery on Tuesday, Dec. 8.

*Deva Weber*

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Thank you to Rick Zimmer, Dave Edwards and Jacob Walz for putting the tree together. Jacob Walz and Jenn Shores for putting up the lighted boughs and Dave Edwards for getting the lights to work. A special thank you to Beck and Cooper Shores for doing a beautiful job decorating the tree! God bless you all!

*Phyllis Felske*

My Dear Church Family,

The words "thank you" seem to be so limited in my expression of appreciation to you, yet I really don't know what else to say as you have blessed my life so profoundly during this past Christmas.

I want you to know how appreciative I am of all of you, including your divine baking and the generous gifts you gave and of course, the kind words of appreciation you placed inside the cards you sent. I'm not sure people really understand how wonderful it is to read words such as that!

Rest assured, I consider myself highly blessed and favored of the Lord to be placed by His call and plan in this corner of His great vineyard as we labor to see souls won into His Kingdom. Truly the harvest is great, and I am so thankful for those who get involved in encouragement and assisting as we bring in the harvest.

Please know that I am here to serve you as your Pastor, and will do my best to assist our congregation as much as possible during our times of need.

Again, thank you and God bless you all!

*Pastor Jd*

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I would like to thank the Choir and CLC for thinking of me at Christmas. It's my pleasure to be able to serve the church by singing praises to the Lord!

Thank you,

*Darlene Mallory*

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Thank you to everyone for the Christmas cards and especially the congregation for the gift of money. It is always appreciated and means a lot to me. Sending you warm wishes for a healthy & happy New Year.

*Linda Lubaczewski*

### **CLCW**

Christ Lutheran Church Women (CLCW) meeting is Monday, Jan. 18 at 6:30, please come and see what is happening at Christ Lutheran.

### **FAITH CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY**

Will meet on Monday, Jan. 4 at 10:00 to take down the Angel tree in the Sanctuary and the tree in the lounge. The next Bible study will be on Monday, February 1 at 10:00am; the lesson is Psalm 6. All are welcome.

### **BLOCKHEAD QUILTERS**

Time 9:30-11:30, Wednesday, Jan.20. Come join us, and see how our new fundraiser quilt is coming. Everyone is welcome, you do not need to be a quilter

### *Project Linus*

The next meeting of Project Linus will be Wednesday, Jan. 13, 9:30 TO 11:30. Our blanket count for 2015 was 43. Please come and help make blankets during our meeting time, or just come out for the fellowship, check us out. The blankets are donated to local hospitals and other organizations.

### *Bible Study*

Come join us for the monthly Bible Study on Thursday, January 14, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. We have extra books...."Living Beyond the Ordinary". Part 3 – Obstacles to Our Relationship With God....."How can I Worship? I'm in the Wrong Pew!" We can fellowship and Worship with the Lord Anywhere.

### **EUCHRE FUN NIGHT**

The next Euchre Fun Night is Saturday, January 9, at 6:30 p.m. Join us for an evening of fellowship, and be sure to bring your family and friends. Come a little early at 6:00 p.m. and enjoy music and a sing along with Pastor Ed.

### **OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2016**

The boxes can be picked up on the tables in the lounge. If you do not find your name and would like a set, please sign up on the sheet provided and you will be issued a number.

Weekly Attendance	Worship	SS
12/6	160	31
12/13	144	23
12/20	149	20
12/24	319	0
12/25	25	0
12/27	107	0

### **CURRENT EXPENSE FUND NOV. 30, 2015**

CHECKING ACCT.	\$ 31,208.79
REGULAR SAVINGS	\$ 12.39
DONATION SAVINGS	\$ 50,012.64
THRIVENT FEDERAL CREDIT UNION: 10/31/15	
Business Money Market	\$ 425.68
Checking Acct.	\$ 251.45

## **Reese Fire Rescue's 19th Annual - All You Can Eat Pancake & Sausage Supper**

January 13th - 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Adult \$6.00

Youth (6 to 12 yrs) \$5.00

Children 5 and Under Eat Free

Reese Fire Hall

1955 Gugino M.D., Reese

Proceeds to help purchase new emergency and rescue equipment.



## Church Council Minutes December 15 2015

Present: Pastor Ed, Rick Zimmer, Ellen Schultz, Kelly Walz, Robbie Oldenburg, Tom Janson, Linda Babechenko, Harold Avery, Dale Bremer, Maria Wagner and Kevin White, Dorothy Van Ochten, and Judy Stuart  
Absent: Darla Kolomak and Jan Histed

Rick called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Ed opened in prayer

**Lounge Furniture:** Dorothy Van Ochten brought a proposal to council with two options for lounge furniture. The current furniture is about 15 to 20 years old and not very functional for older people any more. Tom made a motion to accept option 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda. Council approved and the money is to come out of the Memorial Fund.

**Monthly Reports after new council is picked:** Once the new council is picked, the ministry officers will submit their monthly reports to Linda a week or two before the council meeting. This culmination of reports will then be reviewed by council members and approved with the minutes to help move the meeting along.

**Secretary's report:** Submitted by Kelly Walz. Motion to accept by Harold, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Robbie.

**Current Expense Fund:** Motion to accept by Darla, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Harold.

**Check Register Reports:** Checks #28205 thru #28233. Motion to accept by Ellen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dale.

**Building/Memorial Funds/Other Special Funds:** \$1,470 will be paid from the General Fund back to the Memorial Fund for the Baptismal font. Someone stepped up and paid for the font. Motion to accept by Linda, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dale.

**Ministry of Finance:** The money from Thrivent went to the CLCW for the Christmas family.

**Ministry Of Property:** Dale Dirker & Bill Stuart fixed the door out front. Paul Dost will do the snow plowing this winter.

**Ministry Of Worship:** Nothing to report. No meeting in December.

**Social Ministry and Outreach:** Lenten offering will go to the Eastside Soup Kitchen.

**Ministry of Congregational Life:** Nothing to report.

**Ministry of Education:** Dale submitted a report. Kelly Walz to coordinate Vacation Bible School. She will still need a helper. Sunday school Christmas Program to be held at 6:30 p.m. on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Confirmation classes are going well. Pastor is planning a trip with the confirmation class to New York in late spring or early summer.

**Ministry of Communications:** Swartz Graphic will be providing a quote for the addition of Pastor Kloos' name to the sign out front. Maria to give passwords to Tom and Darla for the website.

**Ministry of Youth & Family:** Erica Squanda was interested in starting a 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter group with the youth and wanted to start it on December 18<sup>th</sup>. She did not bring this in front of the council, had no supervision scheduled for the kids, other than herself and she is not a member of Christ Lutheran. Everyone unanimously agreed that this was not a good idea and should not happen.

**Pastoral Report:** We went three Sundays in a row with no one setting up for communion. Robbie will be calling all people currently listed on the Communion setup teams to ask if they still want to be in the list. If they do, Linda will be calling and texting people to remind them on Thursday if they have setup. If they are not available, Linda will either find someone else or set up for communion on Friday. Pastor needs to know who is homebound and who is in need of a visit. Please give him, names, phone numbers and email addresses. We need to get the membership role corrected. Need to figure out who is active and inactive. Pastor and Linda need new computers. Pastor Ed's computer still has Vista which is extremely out dated and slow. Both computers do not currently have virus protection either. Common consent is that Pastor and Tom will look into pricing and other options.

**Office Reports:** Linda will need all reports from all Ministry officers for the annual meeting in January.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Electrical:** Rick & Harold fixed the burned out lights at the altar. Need to figure out how to turn out the wreath lights.

## Church Council Minutes December 15 2015 Cont'

**Air Conditioning:** Rich still working on quotes

**Parking Lot:** Need to get quotes, Tom would like to do some fundraising and put the air conditioning and parking lot project together maybe even the windows.

**Nominating Committee:** The nominating committee is still looking for People to run from Church Council. Robbie said she will still run for Worship and Music. Still need someone for Communication (deals with website, sign and Facebook posts), Julie Torrez may do Congregational life, still not sure though.

**Parsonage Windows:** Southside windows in the parsonage need to be replaced.

**Youth Director:** Discussion tabled until budget is dealt with.

**New Business:**

**Budget:** Many issues. May need to office position to be a volunteer position.

**2016 Support Ministries:** Need to get a list from Linda. The list needs to be ready for the Annual Congregational Meeting. We will have the congregation vote on it at the meeting.

**Annual Meeting:** Sunday, January 17, 2016

**Next Council Meeting:** January 12 at 6:15 p.m.

**Table and Chairs:** Tables and chairs were not put away after an event. Mark needs to have a schedule of events, so that he know s when there are special events.

**Dumpster:** We may need to look into getting a dumpster for events. Rick will call Blumfield Township to figure out the cost.

Motion to adjourn by Harold, and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Robbie. The meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kelly Walz

## COLLECTION FOR THE MILITARY

Did you notice the Christmas Tree is still up by the entrance way to the sanctuary? Let's fill it with warm items needed for the men and women in the Military during the months of January, February and March.

A spare change of clothes is always a welcome thing for someone in the military, and they appreciate the following:

Hand and foot warmers: (air activated/disposable) - the desert can get quite cold at night, to say nothing of the weather in other places. Uniform undershirts, t-shirts, and so forth

sweat pants, blankets and blanket throws

Lots of extra cotton socks for men & women – black, white, or olive green,

**underwear!**

Sending items to those in the military whether they are one's own flesh and blood or a member of some other community is one of the most rewarding things you can do for them. Not only will they be **overjoyed** to know that there are people back home who are thinking about them, you the sender will feel a great sense of self-gratification and good karma. The key to the success of these donations lies not so much in what is donated, but in the thought and the emotion behind the donation.

Thank you, Joy Circle

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## **Church League Basketball**

Christ Lutheran High School Youth are once again joining with Trinity, Reese and St. Michaels, Richville to form 2 Church League Basketball teams. We need to purchase five new uniforms. Also, there is the expense of the Referees for the games. The Christ Lutheran Basketball Fund is running low. If you would like to donate and support the team, please place your donation in the collection plate and note it for the Basketball fund. Include your name and it will be documented for your church contributions. Thanks for supporting our teams!

Wally Bringold, Treasurer

## *January Birthday's*

Best wishes for a Happy Birthday! We are recognizing those persons who have reached the milestone of 80 years old and above. May God bless you.

1	Mary Ann Elbers Charles Keyes	15	Allison Hawken Mark Tack
2	Zachery Spiekerman Randy Heinzman Bradley Ruhanen Patrick Kloos	16	Erik Haske
3	Richard Bartolowits	18	Roberta Oldenburg
4	Erin Andrus	19	Dennis Babechenko
5	Tim Elbers	80	Margaret Williamson – over
6	Ashley Mielens Angela Mielens	20	Kayla Kozak Gracie Lefler Dana Schember
7	Jordan Deisig Justin Kuehnemund Penny Tack Blake Johnson Joselyn Henry	21	Jessica Brink
10	Bob DeLong Alvin Mielens – over 80 Sheri Kern Aaron Abraham	22	Michelle Bryce Diane Zissler
11	Larry Wascher Nancy Hawkin Sarah Lynch Austin Kuehnemund MiKayla Schultz	23	Bob Allen Lyndsay Cole
12	Ted Lubaczewski Rose Stedry	25	Kimberly Smith Paul Dirker Dave Navarro
		26	Marcy Bublitz – over 80 Diane Osantowski Pastor Ed Kloos
		27	Michael Moench
		28	Justin Campbell
		29	Nathaniel Stuart
		31	Linda Lubaczewski Dana Schultz

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## *January Anniversaries*

2	Dan & Tina Cole	1993	21	Paul & Beverly Prell	1956
4	Jeff & Nancy Barrett	2001	23	Tim & Colleen LaBeau	1993
10	Curt & Ann Bublitz	1987	24	James and Tabitha Garcia	2009
16	Rich & Janet Sahr	1970	26	Chris & Kathy Bublitz	1980

## Worship Assistants for December 2015

Date	Time	Greeters	Lectors	Communion Set-up	Communion Assistant	Acolytes	Usher Teams
Jan. 3	8:00	Jessica, Tyler & Ayla Brink	Kelly VanDenBoom	Tom & Jill Lynch	Jim Jasman	Lucas Connelly	Teams 2
Jan. 3	10:30		Gracie Lefler	Tom & Jill Lynch	Milke & Marcia Ruhanen	Cooper Shores	
Jan. 10	8:00	Jessica, Tyler & Ayla Brink	Dave Edwards	Katie Bauer	Michele Schmitzer	Sydney Histed	Teams 3
Jan. 10	10:30	Jeff & Mary Palm	Shirley Grabowski	Katie Bauer	Carol Jasman	Jerzie VanOchten	
Jan. 17	8:00	Jim Jasman	Kelly Walz	Dale Bremer	Denise Felske	Grace Connelly	Teams 1
Jan. 17	10:30	Sherry Hull & Family	Renee Zimmer	Dale Bremer	Debbie Bittner	Wyatt Schember	
Jan. 24	8:00	JoAnn Johnson	Kelly VanDenBoom	Matt & Marla Lefler	Robbie Oldenburg	Breanna Rocha	Teams 2
Jan. 24	10:30	Scott & Sheri Kern	Jennifer Shores	Matt & Marla Lefler	Deva Weber	Libby Redwanz	
Jan. 31	8:00	Bud & Karen Schorge	Dave Edwards	Darla Kolomak	Jim Jasman	Lucas Connelly	Teams 3
Jan. 31	10:30	Tim & Tina Mielens & Family	Phyllis Felske	Darla Kolomak	Volunteer Needed	Emily Rupprecht	



Christ Lutheran Church  
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## *2015 Church Staff and Church Council*

<b>STAFF</b>			<b>CHURCH COUNCIL</b>		
		<b>HOME PHONE#</b>			<b>HOME PHONE#</b>
Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Ed Kloos	914.498.3012	President:	Rick Zimmer	868.4915
Parsonage		989.863.2105	V. President:	Tom Janson	868.9754
Office Manager:	Linda Lubaczewski	823.2495	Secretary:	Kelly Walz	771.3027
Office Asst:	Jessica Brink	989.529.5671	Gen. Treasurer:	Jan Histed	659.2833
Custodian:	Mark Hebert	684.5247	Spec. Funds Treas:	Maria Wagner	868.4672
			Ministry of Youth/Family	Ellen Schultz	868.3112
			Ministry of Cong. Life	Linda Babechenko	754.3615
			Property:	Kevin White	252.5036
			Communication:	Darla Kolomak	868.4311
			Social Min./Outreach:	Harold Avery	673.3129
			Education:	Dale Bremer	659.2497
			Worship & Music	Robbie Oldenburg	928-9838

In an effort to conserve on the use of paper and postage, we are offering to send the newsletter out via e-mail. Please e-mail the office with your current email information. If you no longer desire to receive this newsletter please email or call the church office. Thank you.

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