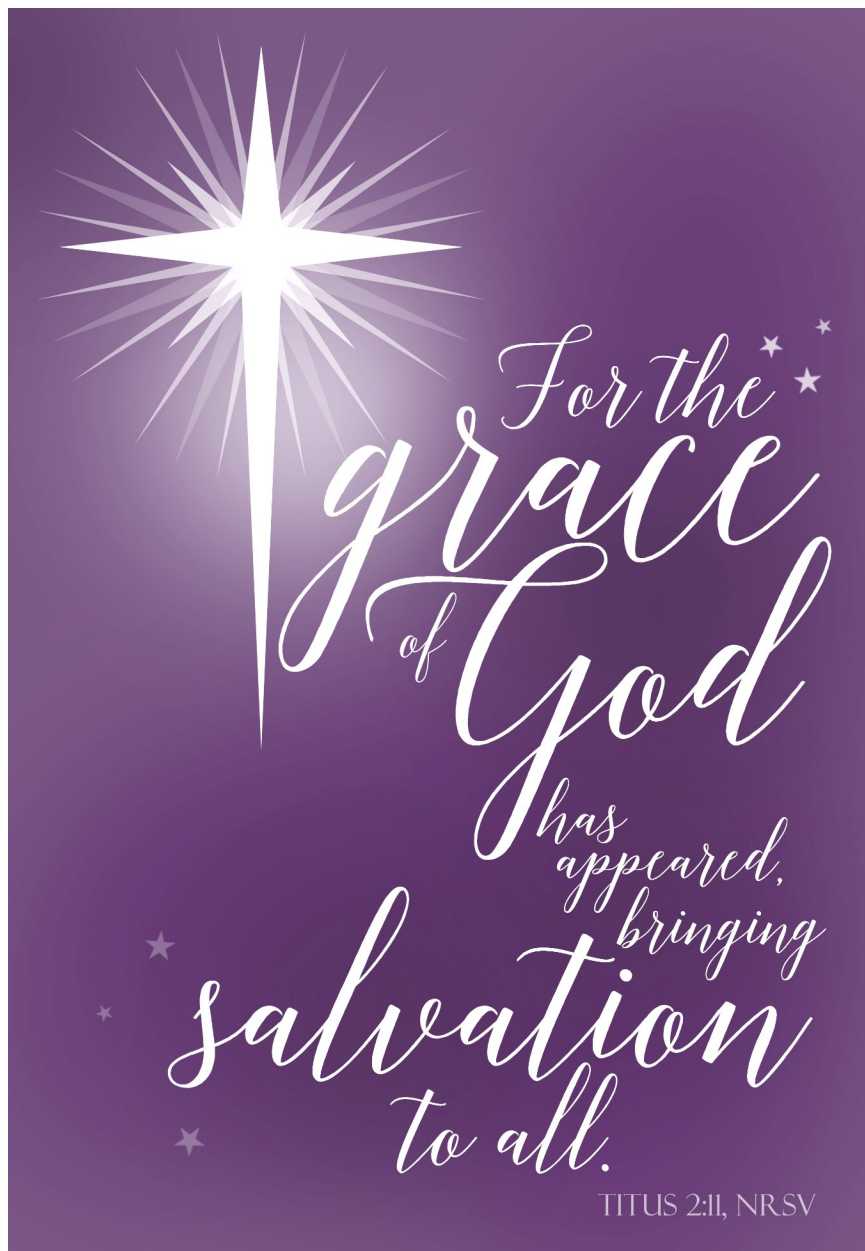


the Messenger



Christ Lutheran Church, LCMC
Maple Plain, MN 55359



December 2018



FROM THE PASTOR

The Real Story of Christmas...

Our calendars are based on Jesus' life and history in this world. He is still the center of time and history. *Christmas is history.* It was the physical visitation of the creator of the world, Jesus was born, as one of us. It was the creator visiting those whom he had created, and he and his kingdom were rejected. But He did not reject us! Some believed him and chose his name and lived as he lived.

Christ lived truly as a humble person. He chose humility as the way of life. He was also full of life. He was filled with God's Spirit. Even though he only loved his enemies, he was hated by others. Hate begets hate. Love gives birth to love. Christmas is love being born into this world in face of hatred and evil. Evil could not stop it!

Christmas was also the fulfillment of history. As we have been studying and discussing in our Sunday morning discussions, God the creator has His one and only plan to restore his people and his reign over them. God would send his Son as the redeemer and restorer of righteousness to the people who had rejected God and believed the lie that God was not totally good for them.

All of us have sinned and gone from trusting in God to trusting in something far less. Sin has a grip on us. But God in Christ comes to free us from that grip. To break the strongholds of self-determination and hatred. God has created us to reflect His ways. It takes daily surrender and to realize we are in a battle.

Jesus came into this world and his parents had to save him from Herod the king. The chosen people and the people of the faith in the one true God rejected Jesus, not realizing what a mess they had made of their faith and God's intentions. Yet God had not rejected them even though they crucified him. God was redeeming the whole world. Paying for the cost of sin and brokenness.

That should raise hope in our hearts that Jesus has truly come to make peace for us with God. *Christmas is history.* It is God loving the world and us in the midst of our selfishness. The true Christmas is passed on when we receive the Father's forgiveness in Christ, and when we pass on His love to others who do not deserve it. Remember Scrooge, he made amends. He chose to be humbled and he followed the path of humility. That path overcomes the world! *Christmas is the new history* that does overcome the world, but the price is not cheap. It is true discipleship and sacrifice that brings Christmas to light.

Mary was humble. Joseph was humbled to take pregnant Mary as his wife. The Magi were humbled to go all the way to lowly Bethlehem. The angels were humble to go visit the shepherds. God was humbled to become one of us and born in the midst of strife. God's humbling of us, is probably the best gift we can receive.

A blessed Advent Season to you!

Pastor Ron Boettner



The greatest story of
humility started here.

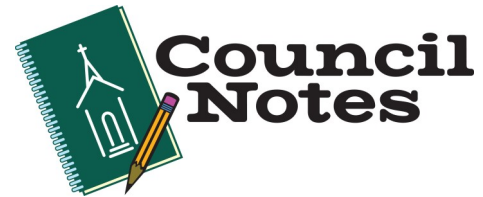
November COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

* CLC will join fellow congregations of the LCMC with the Three Days of Prayer on January 3,4 and 5

* The new chapel at the new "Haven Home" will be one of our monthly missions in the coming year.

Greg Rietow and Pastor Ron are researching a Mission Trip for adults for this summer.

* The church council received a \$5,000 gift from the former West Lakes Assembly of God Church as they closed their books. They decided to give the monies to the new chapel at the new "Haven Home" in memory of Elaine Wipf.



Lutheran World Relief is our *December* **Benevolence Partner**

Financial Update of Christ Lutheran Church through October 2018:

Our giving for October was below our average for the year. The monthly offerings were \$16,970. Our average monthly offerings this year have been about \$21,222. So we are really depending on a big December. Please remember our offerings go towards sharing God's word and ministry to our community, to our members, and that our Mission partners depend on us to support their ministries.

Our expenses for October were \$18,742 which is below our average of \$23,000 in the budget. For the year we are \$10,994 in the red. That sounds tough, but it is a great improvement over the past few years. We are thankful for your help in this.

Month	Name	Term	Committee Assignment
January	Brad Sim	16-18	President Staff Support
February	Danielle Thomas	2018	CLW
March	Tom Zulkosky	17-20	Property
April	Greg Rietow	16-18	Worship & Music
May	Molly Sartor		Youth Director
June	Nancy Wood	18-20	Finance/Secretary
July	Dale KenKnight	17-20	Vice President/ Cemetery
August	Yvonne Breeschoten	18-20	Furnishings
September	Mark Mundahl	17-20	Treasurer/ Mission & Outreach
October			Adult Ed Thank You's
November	Rich Mickschl	18-20	Benevolence/ Endowment
December	TBD		
	Pastor Ron Boettner		

December

Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat						
<p>2</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>10am - Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>10:15am - AIC</p> <p>10:15am - Good Life</p> <p>10:30am - Intergenerational</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9am - Quilters</p> <p>6:30pm - Prayer Team</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12pm - Seniors Lutealisk</p> <p>5:15pm - Confirmation</p> <p>6:30pm - Men's Bible Study</p> <p>6:30pm - Women's Bible</p> <p>6:30pm - Youth Group</p> <p>7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:15am - Charis</p>	<p>7</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>6:30am</p> <p>MEN'S BREAKFAST FAITH, FOOD & FELLOWSHIP</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10am - Decorate church!</p> <p>Help Us Decorate!</p> <p>2pm - CLW Lucia Tea</p> <p><i>Christmas Tea</i></p>
<p>9</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>10am - Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>10:15am - AIC</p> <p>10:15am - Good Life</p> <p>10:30am - Adult Study</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9am - Quilters</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7pm - 3 Days of Prayer</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5:15pm - Confirmation</p> <p>6:30pm - Men's Bible Study</p> <p>6:30pm - Women's Bible</p> <p>6:30pm - Youth Group</p> <p>7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:15am - Charis</p> <p>6pm - Pre-Council</p>	<p>14</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>10am - Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>10:15am - AIC</p> <p>10:15am - Good Life</p> <p>10:30am - Adult Study</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9am - Quilters</p> <p>6:30pm - Prayer Team</p> <p>6:30pm - Youth Committee</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30pm - Women's Bible</p> <p>6:30pm - Youth Group</p> <p>7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:15am - Charis</p> <p>7pm - COUNCIL</p> <p>COUNCIL MEETING</p>	<p>21</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>6:30am</p> <p>MEN'S BREAKFAST FAITH, FOOD & FELLOWSHIP</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>10am - Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>10:15am - Good Life</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>5pm - Candlelight Worship</p> <p><i>Candlelight</i></p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>CHRISTMAS DAY</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30pm - Youth Group</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>10am - Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>10:15am - Good Life</p>	<p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Happy New Year</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>

DECEMBER 2018 Volunteer Schedule

Dec. 2

Greeters: Burlets

Lector: Karleen Boettner

Coffee: M. Carlsons/Michschls

Dec. 9

Greeters: Cousers

Lector: TBD

Coffee: *Christmas Cookie Ladies!*

Dec. 16

Greeters: Zulkoskys

Lector: Mark Mundahl

Coffee: *Will You Serve?*

Dec. 23

Greeters: Hawkinsons

Lector: Dale Anderson

Coffee: *Will You Serve?*

Dec. 30

Greeters: Carsons

Lector: Jean Flatten

Coffee: Olsons/*Will you Serve?*

*Thank
You*



Council Representative: TBD

Sunshine Caller: Bonita Heilman

Altar Guild: Dolores Peterson, Vicki Burlet, Marsha Evans

Ushers: Rich & Linda Mickschl, Kevin Hawkinson,

Gary Mutchler, Denny Grenell

WE WISH YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!

QUILTERS

You are invited to join our QUILTERS, who meet every Monday morning from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the Fellowship Hall. Come for the fun, fellowship and coffee and be a part of this creative ministry. No sewing ability is necessary.

2019 BENEVOLENCE GIVING

At our October 23rd Annual Meeting, we voted to give the following benevolence gifts:

*CLC Youth camperships & mission trip (\$100 per person)	\$ 1,400.00
*School Lunch Accounts for Orono, Delano, Watertown-Mayer & Westonka School Districts @ \$300.00 each	1,200.00
*Smile Train (this gift received a <i>triple matching grant!</i>)	500.00
*St. Stephen's Human Services (homeless shelters)	500.00
*363 Days (sandwich distribution program)	500.00
*The Sandwich Project of MN	500.00
*Turkeys for Love, INC., Thanksgiving baskets	250.00
*Sponsor a meal for a Love, Inc., special program	300.00
*CLW discretionary fund	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total:	6,150.00

Note: We received a lovely thank you from St. Stephen's, telling us how much they appreciate our check to purchase blankets. We in turn thank you for supporting our fund-raisers that allow us to make these benevolence gifts.



CLW MISSION STATEMENT

We open our hearts to God,
by worshiping and hearing His word.

We serve Him and worship in work,
by extending our hospitality to others
and sharing His word.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, December 5, 12:00 noon: Lutefisk Luncheon for ages 65+
(Please be sure to sign up on the sheet in the narthex.)

Saturday, December 8, 2:00- 4:00 p.m.: Lucia Tea and Prayer Partner re-veal/exchange

Saturday, February 16, 2019, 5:30 p.m.: Potluck dinner & 6:30 p.m.: Bunco party

Tuesday, April 30, 2019, 7:00 p.m.: Spring business meeting

*We, your sisters in Christ, cordially invite you
to join us as we worship God in service, in sharing
His Word and in fellowship.*

Danielle Thomas, Mona Hawkinson,
Bonita Heilman & Marilyn Rönkvist

Cindy Fulkerson	12/5	Pam Ballhagen	12/17
Maddie Pennaz	12/6	Elliot Anderson	12/18
Russ Jerde	12/7	John Oman	12/18
Ken Ohlsson	12/10	Mona Hawkinson	12/19
Mary Couser	12/11	Kim Muckenhirn	12/19
Mark Mundahl	12/11	Greg Michael	12/26
Ben Rietow	12/11	Becky KenKnight	12/27
Mark Carlson	12/14	Alicia Muckenhirn	12/29
Jane Brambilla	12/15	Zach Eckhoff	12/30



Dec. 5-Senior's Lutefisk Dinner-12 noon

Dec. 8-CLW Lucia Tea-2pm

Jan. 6-3 Days of Prayer Worship Service

Feb. 10-MNATC Worship & Brunch

Feb 10-Youth Bake Sale

Feb. 16-Potluck & Bunco! 5:30pm

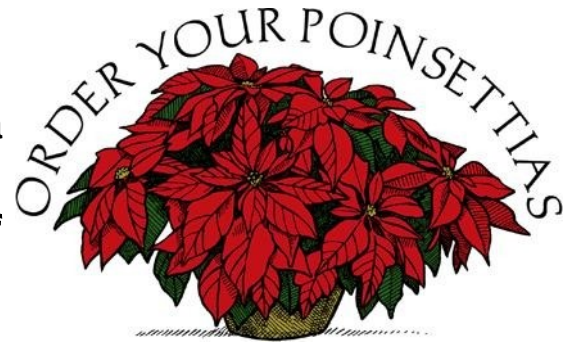
It is time to order your Christmas poinsettias which make our sanctuary such a festive place!

The poinsettias are available in your choice of red or white at a cost of **\$12.50**.

Your order must be in the church office no later than Sunday, **Dec. 16, 2018**. CASH or CHECK, payable to Christ Lutheran Church, **MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR ORDER**. The order and payment may be placed in the offering plate, mailed, or delivered to the church office.

Any questions, call the church office at 763-479-2373.

Thank you!



PICK-UP CHOIR DEC. 9!



**Come join a Pick-up Choir
on Sunday, Dec. 9.**

We will sing "*Prepare the Royal Highway*",

It is a well-known Advent hymn and is #264 in our worship book.

Meet in the choir room at 8:30 am.



There are still ornaments on the tree!

ADOPT-A-FAMILY 2018

We have adopted four families this year from WeCAN. Each child has a "need" list (\$25 limit) and a "want" list (\$25 limit), and they have a family gift (\$50 limit). Ornaments with each list will be on our **Giving Tree** on the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Select the child or family you want to buy for and bring your unwrapped gifts to church by **Sunday, Dec 9** labeled with your ornament.

Equity in giving is very important so please do not exceed the giving request and dollar amount.

If you want to give more, here is a list of suggested items that are always welcomed and no labels required:

- Diapers Size 5 or 6
- Pull ups
- Walgreens gift card \$20
- Grocery gift cards \$20
- Target gift cards \$20
- Gas card \$20
- Hats & mittens
- Tie blankets or quilts



**Thank you for making Christmas brighter
for our neighbors in need!**

"CLICKERS" NEEDED!

We need some additional volunteers to operate the power point remote on Sunday mornings. Please let the office know if you are able to serve in this way- approximately ONE time per month. Thanks!

2019 Offering Envelopes for 2019 are available.

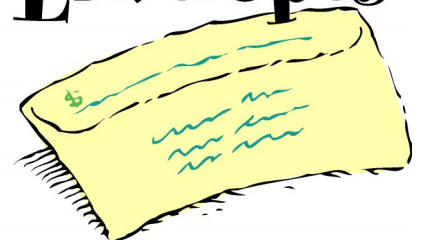
2019 offering books are on the narthex table next to the sanctuary windows. For those who have expressed an interest in receiving an offering book, you will find your book in *alphabetical order*.

If you currently do not have but wish to use an offering book, please call the office.

If you would like to support Christ Lutheran Church with regular electronic giving please contact the office administrator

Tami Greenwood who confidentially handles this process. Her email is tgreenwood@mpclc.org

Offering Envelopes





We will be decorating the church for Christmas **this Saturday, Dec. 1 at 10am.** No need to sign up....just show up and we will enjoy coffee & rolls afterwards!
Remember-Many hands make light work!!





THREE DAYS OF PRAYER

Each year we, as LCMC churches, set aside Three Days of Prayer to begin the New Year on our best foot. We have lived out the Three Days of Prayer in several different ways at Christ Lutheran. We have had prayer guides for personal use and prayers services in the evening or Sunday morning.

I am calling for you to think of joining us on **Tuesday night, December 11 at 7:00 pm** to help plan our Three Days of Prayer. Where, what and how shall we plan this out? What ideas do you have?

Please come and help.

Pastor Ron Boettner



Your "Food Shelf" Shopping List



Baking Mixes



Mayonnaise

Boxed meals



Pickles, Olives, etc.



Rice

Salad Dressings



Jello, Pudding mix



Toothbrushes

Boxed Pasta



Kleenex



Paper towels



Cocoa & Tea



ALWAYS NEEDED:
Grocery bags
for clients food!

December Food Items for the Maple Plain Food Shelf

**THANK
YOU!**