



The Watchman



**December
2023**

Christ Lutheran Church, Pascagoula, MS

Friends in Christ,

Merry Christmas to all of you. The holidays are upon us again and it seems to come earlier and earlier each year. This is just our perception of time and my imperfect recollection of its passing. Probably the latter.

While writing this letter a lot of our congregation are suffering from various maladies. Covid, viruses and head colds are interfering with our plans. With this in mind, I am going to bring back the prayer chain by phone. This is a more personal method that conveys your feelings in the spoken words to each other. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the church. I would like to get this started as soon as possible.

We are going to make every effort to maintain our normal holiday schedule. Midweek Advent services with soup suppers and the Christmas Eve candlelight service are planned. As well as the Christmas Dinner and Nativity Walk. We hope to see you at some or all of these events.

Blessings,
Kevin Rademacher, Congregation President
Jay Torries, Head Elder



- 3 Kevin Rademacher & Dave Griffin (Elder)
- 10 Roger Cox & Jay Torries (Susan R.)
- 17 Shawn Robbins & Bobby Trehern (Cathy G.)
- 24 Dave Griffin & Kevin Rademacher (Lin J.)
- 24 Jay Torries & Roger Cox (Special Service)
- 31 Bobby Trehern & Shawn Robbins (Elder)



- Anna Jacobson 3
- Donna Krebs 5
- Makenzie Linn 8
- Shawn Robbins 12
- Sandy Welty 13
- Tina Hamilton 14
- Minna Linn 14
- Tammy Carnley 15
- Sheila Williams 21
- Emma Pellegrin 25
- Lionel Dale 26
- Lin Jacobson 27
- Gracie Davis 27
- Haley Reeves 28

HAPPY Anniversary!

- 3 Bob & Betty Andrews
- 17 Robert & Martha Socha
- 19 Rocky & Michelle Southern
- 24 Marion & Thyne Brown
- 29 Louis & Marlene Bontly



- 3 Crystal Robbins
- 10 Aletha Schollian
- 17 Debbie Schulte
- 24 Marilyn Trehern
- 31 Cathy Groff



Rita Shepherd



November Birthdays and Anniversary:

Left to Right:

Jonathan Torries, Bobby & Marilyn Trehern, & John Tetreau.

Mary Martha News



The ladies of Mary Martha used a Thrivent grant to generate twenty \$100 gifts cards to be distributed to victims of the Moss Point tornados who suffered untold losses in the June severe weather event.

With tremendous support from the Congregation and various local businesses, over 100 pulled port sandwich plates were sold to generate the funds used to support our community members who suffered so much.

The ladies will be conducting an Advent 'In-Gathering' for a local woman's shelter. Baby items such as diapers and wipes, along with personal hygiene items, household cleaning products, and gift cards of any sort are suggested. As usual, a large box will be in Memorial

Hall to collect donated items. Donations needed for community care network: Sue's Home in Ocean Springs, MS

The ladies of Mary Martha will not meet in December but extend the warmest of wishes to everyone for a blessed and peaceful Christmas season!

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, December 17, 2023

After worship service, a team of dedicated volunteers is being sought to help set up and decorate the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary. In words taken from Nehemiah, one of Israel's great leaders: Many hands make light work (See Chapter 3).

OTHER NEWS

- **PRAYER CHAIN REQUEST:** A new prayer chain is currently in the works.
- **NURSERY:** Nursery is provided for children during worship service.
- **CHURCH EMAIL:** The office email is CLC1888@outlook.com
- **CHRISTMAS DINNER:** December 10th after the worship service.
- **ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES:** Soup Supper at 6:00 and Service at 7:00.
- **LWML:** No December meeting.
- **BIBLE STUDY:** Adult Bible Study every Wednesday at noon.
- **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:** We will celebrate December's birthdays and anniversaries on December 3 after the service. Please join us for fellowship and cake.
- **ATTENDANCE REGISTERS:** Please complete the attendance register in the pew.

Advent Midweek Services

Soup Suppers 6:00 pm
& Services 7:00 pm

Sign up list in Memorial
Hall to bring soup.

- 6 Elders
- 13 Council
- 20 Volunteers



December 10th @ 11:30

Invite a friend!!

*****NATIVITY WALK SET UP WILL BE THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30*****



Church Council Meeting: 11/20/2023 8 attendees

Kevin Rademacher participated via remote call in. Vice President, Roger Cox, called the meeting to order and Donna Krebs opened with prayer. Copies of the October minutes were distributed. Motion made, seconded, and carried to waive reading.

Pastor's Report: Position vacant

President - Kevin Rademacher

Participating by call-in, Kevin talked about the possibility of the Hickory Hills Country Club's offer to purchase 'advertisement' on their score cards. At a price of \$425 per year, the Council declined to participate.

Members were reminded of the November 26, 2023 Voters' meeting when Pastor Johnson will be present to discuss the 'call process'.

Vice President - Roger Cox

No report; however, volunteers to serve as Ushers are still needed. There is an Usher and Flower sign-up sheet at the back of the church.

Elders - Jay Torries

The Elders had discussed the possibility of returning to the previous 'person to person' prayer chain method. After discussion, Jay agreed to review and master the auto-phone messages as this is the preferred method to reach all members of the Congregation.

The tentative schedule for visiting Pastors is:

Pastor Gilliland- 1st Sunday of the month (12/3)

Pastor Cooper - 2nd Sunday of the month (12/10)

Lay Service - December 17

Pastor Weier - 4th Sunday of the month (12/24)

Pastor Gilliland - December 31

The Christmas Eve service is still undetermined but may be a Lay Service. This schedule is subject to change as there are many Churches in our District with vacant pastoral positions.

An Advent Soup Supper calendar has been set and a 'sign up' sheet will be posted.

December 6 - Elders (with set up for Christmas Dinner); December 13 - Council; and,

December 20 - Mary Martha

Members are reminded that it is important to keep attendance and participation strong and on-going during this pastoral vacancy period.

Financial Secretary - Carl Erichsen

October collections: \$11,340.00 general fund; \$1000 for self-insurance;

November to date: \$6270.00 -general fund; \$900 for self-insurance

Year to Date: \$95,710.00; \$9950 - Self Insurance

Treasurer - Lin Jacobson

With all bills paid, the checking balance is \$9014.48.

CEF/Self Insurance fund balance - \$20,828

The freezer has a bad compressor. That estimate to repair is in excess of \$2600. A non-commercial replacement freezer can be purchased for approximately \$1000. Motion made (Rita Shepherd) and seconded (Jay Torries) to purchase a new upright, self-defrosting freezer was carried.

Trustees - Dave Griffin

Roger Cox reported for Dave Griffin that the Landscaping Committee has decided on azaleas and wax myrtle trees with cypress mulch for the south side of the sanctuary with a crushed limestone border between the bed and the church to prevent potential termite issues and to save the mulch from washing away. The estimated cost is \$1200 and the best time to plant is either January or February.

Roger also reported that Dave Hamilton had replaced the water-stained ceiling tiles in the Fellowship Hall and had repairs a pipe in the men's room sink. The lighting in the pastor's office has been converted to LED.

Church Secretary: Lindsay Tetreau - No report due to illness

Safety Committee

Kevin Rademacher reported for Shawn Robbins that his research on AEDs continues. For some units a doctor's prescription and oversight may be needed; however, the units made by Phillips may resolve that issue. In addition, Shawn is getting First Aid/AED qualified through an opportunity at work. Roger Cox is looking into First Aid and/or Mass Trauma kits.

Evangelism - John Tetreau - No report due to illness.

Mary Martha - Donna Krebs

The 'pulled pork sandwich plates' generated approximately \$2000. The ladies purchased twenty (20) \$100 gift cards which were presented to Moss Point Mayor Billy Knight for distribution to victims of the June tornados.

The ladies are sponsoring a reception for Pastor Johnson on Sunday, November 26, in conjunction with the Voters' Meeting.

The ladies will participate in the Nativity Walk event. Set up of nativities to be completed by Thursday, Nov. 30, with the event on Friday evening from 5:00 to 7:00. Take-down and clean-up will follow Friday evening to be completed by Saturday, December 2. Someone will be at church Thursday beginning at 9:00. John Tetreau and Dave Griffin will host the church's tent downtown to remind visitors of the opportunity to view the nativities.

Youth - position vacant

Education - Donna Krebs - no report

Social Ministry - Kathleen Cox

Kathleen continues to send out birthday, sympathy and get-well cards as needed. She also distributed the ‘Harvest Sunday’ in-gathering to The Lord Is My Help in Ocean Springs.

Stewardship - Rita Shepherd & Cathy Groff

Rita reminded everyone of the Nativity Walk schedule and the Christmas Dinner scheduled for December 10th. She also spoke of the importance of remaining involved in Church activities in the absence of a pastor and the need to pass along information about various event, such as the Nativity Walk, to the next generation.

Endowment Fund - Members: VP, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, At-large Council member (D. Krebs) & Pastor.

No report

Old Business:

Nativity Walk - details above.

New Business:

The Men’s Prayer Breakfast for December is cancelled.

The Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary will be set up Sunday, December 17th, after worship.

With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned upon motion and closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Krebs for Susan Rademacher, Secretary

Christ Lutheran Voters Meeting Minutes 11/26/2023 **Christ Lutheran Church Voter’s Meeting Agenda**

Voters Meeting November 26, 2023

Kevin Rademacher called the meeting to order

Reading of the minutes from the last meeting was waived.

Visiting LCMS Southern District President Pastor Johnson opened with prayer. The congregation enjoyed a light lunch presented by Mary Martha Society

Pastor Johnson presented an overview on the LCMS ministry strength, and provided some key points in his discussion of the pastoral call process:

- Follow our constitution on the call process
- Form a call committee (done)
- Survey congregation members
- Pastor Johnson will use the survey results to determine pastors who might be a good fit, and will provide candidates to our congregation for consideration
- Our congregation may choose to issue a call to one or two of those candidates
- We can also nominate pastors to Johnson for vetting to determine if they can be call candidates
- Let this be a time to come together as a congregation

- Pray

Treasurer: Lin Jacobson

- Checking account balance: \$6854.48, all bills are paid
- CEF Self-insurance fund: \$21826
- Endowment fund approximately \$35k-\$37k, Lin will work with Pastor Waffel to change account access.
- We have a \$27K CD that will mature next year
- Baum scholarship- approximately \$2700.
- Lin presented a proposed budget, including a pastor salary and insurance for reference. Since we do not currently have a pastor, any extra funds will go into the CEF self – insurance fund. We used approx. \$15k from the CEF self-insurance fund for roof repairs, so this will replenish those expenses. The Congregation approved the 2024 budget

President: Kevin Rademacher

- Election of council of members: all current members agreed to serve another year. Moved to accept the current slate of council members, congregation approved.
- Suggested secretary Lindsey Tetreau attend council meetings

Vice President: Roger Cox

- No report

Elders: Jay Torries

- Thanked Shawn Robbins and Bobby Trehern for continuing to serve as elders.
- Soup suppers and lay Advent Service on Wednesdays begin next week. Supper at 6pm, service at 7pm. Come join us!
- Soup supper schedule: 12/6: Elders, 12/13: Council, 12/20: Volunteer
- Christmas Potluck Lunch December 10 after service. Church will provide meat, please sign up to bring your favorite sides and desserts.
- Prayer chain under reorganization. Details coming soon.

Financial Secretary: Carl Erichsen

- Total Deposits: \$105,718
- General Fund: \$98113
- Building Fund: \$615
- Memorials: \$295.50
- Self-Insurance Fund: \$9950
- CEF Benevolent Fund: \$5000
- Endowment Fund: \$1820

Trustees: Dave Griffin

- Thanked everyone for assistance: Bobby Trehern repaired rusted out ductwork for the ac unit, and replaced LED lights in the offices. David Hamilton replaced ceiling tiles and repaired the sink drain in the men's restroom.
- Landscaping Committee: The committee selected low maintenance, hardy trees and shrubs: wax myrtles and azaleas to be planted on the south side of the sanctuary in February. They will add limestone and mulch when planting. The projected cost is approximately \$1200. The committee will also determine if a

memorial garden will be a part of the new landscape. Kathleen Cox will head up the memorial garden committee.

- The commercial freezer died. We will replace with a new upright residential freezer (not commercial) for a much lower price point.

Safety: Shawn Robbins

- Researched AEDs—do we require a physician to oversee the program?

Evangelism: John Tetreau

- Share the love of Christ with the world.

Mary Martha

- Gave \$2K in gift cards to Moss Point mayor Billy Knight to distribute to tornado victims. These were proceeds from the pulled pork sale last month.
- Please plan to attend the Nativity Walk Friday, December 1st 5-8 pm
- LWML encourages everyone to participate in the Christmas Luncheon December 10

Education:

- Dave Griffin is continuing to lead adult Sunday school.

Social ministry: Kathleen Cox

- Sent 14 birthday, sympathy, and get-well cards to retirees and shut-ins.
- Still using Thrivent grant funds for cards and stamps.
- Collected food for Harvest Sunday and donated to The Lord is My Help in Ocean Springs.

Stewardship: Rita Shepherd

- Give, time and talents as well. This can be a good time for us to grow.

New Business:

- December men's prayer breakfast canceled.

Adjourned with The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully,

Susan Rademacher

Visiting Pastor's Service Schedule

12/03/23 – Pastor Gilliland

12/10//23 – Pastor Cooper

12/17//23 – Lay Service

12/24/23 – Pastor Weier (Christmas Eve Morning)

12/24//23 – Lay Service (Candlelight Christmas Eve)

Weekly Evangelism Challenge Verses



Week of December 4, 2023 – John 1:6-15

"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'")

Week of December 11, 2023 - John 3:1-8

"Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him."

Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So, it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Week of December 18, 2023 - Isaiah 42:1-8

"Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;

a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it:

"I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols."

Week of December 25, 2023 - John 3:16-21

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

December Sunday Scripture Readings

ADVENT 2023	Dec 3, 2023	First S. in Advent	Isaiah 64:1–9	Psalms 80:1–7	1 Cor. 1:3–9	Mark 11:1–10 <i>or</i> Mark 13:24–37
	Dec. 10	Second S. in Advent	Isaiah 40:1–11	Psalms 85	2 Peter 3:8–14	Mark 1:1–8
	Dec. 17	Third S. in Advent	Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11	Psalms 126	1 Thess. 5:16–24	John 1:6–8, 19–28
	Dec. 24	Fourth S. in Advent	2 Sam. 7:1–11, 16	Psalms 89:1–5 (19–29)	Rom. 16:25–27	Luke 1:26–38
	<i>or</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord <i>(Christmas Eve)</i>	Isaiah 7:10–14	Psalms 110:1–4	1 John 4:7–16	Matt. 1:18–25
CHRISTMAS 2023	Dec. 25 <i>Midnight</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord <i>(Christmas Midnight)</i>	Isaiah 9:2–7	Psalms 96	Titus 2:11–14	Luke 2:1–14 (15–20)
	Dec. 25 <i>Dawn</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord <i>(Christmas Dawn)</i>	Isaiah. 62:10–12	Psalms 98	Titus 3:4–7	Luke 2:(1–14) 15–20
	Dec. 25 <i>Day</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord <i>(Christmas Day)</i>	Isaiah 52:7–10	Psalms 2	Heb.1:1–6 (7–12)	John 1:1–14 (15–18)
	Dec. 31 <i>(Day)</i>	First S. a Christmas	Isaiah 61:10–62:3	Psalms 111	Gal. 4:4–7	Luke 2:22–40
	Dec. 31 <i>(Eve)</i>	Eve of the Circ. and Name of Jesus <i>(New Year's Eve)</i>	Isaiah 30:(8–14) 15–17	Psalms 90:1–12	Rom. 8:31b–39	Luke 12:35–40

2023 Poinsettias



Anyone wishing to place a poinsettia on the altar for Christmas Eve, in honor of or in memory of a loved one, may purchase one for \$12.00. Please give the money to Tanya Hamilton or Rita Shepherd with your information for the bulletin, before December 17, 2023. The flowers may be picked up after the Christmas Eve Service or the following week.

This Poinsettia is given by	
In honor of	
or	
In memory of	
or	
To the Glory of God	

DECEMBER



2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				30	1	2
				Nativity Walk Set-up	Nativity Walk 5:00-8:00	Nativity Walk Clean-up
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:15			Soup Supper 6:00 Advent Midweek Service 7:00			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00  POTLUCK DINNER Christmas 11:30			Soup Supper 6:00 Advent Midweek Service 7:00			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:15 Elders 11:15 Christmas Decorating After worship	Council 6:00		Soup Supper 6:00 Advent Midweek Service 7:00			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:15  Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 7:00 p.m.						