

# February 2026

## Christ Lutheran Church Christ Chronicles

### **Mark your calendars!**

- **Bible Study** is held every Thursday at 10:00 am both in person and online via zoom.
- **Food Pantry** is also held the first and third Wednesdays of each month. We are in need of donations due to being used heavily. Hours are 9:00am-10:30am.
- **Choir practice** is every Wednesday, 11:00am-12:00pm. All are welcome to join! Looking for some females to join! Any questions contact Sue Hand or the office.
- **Wild Church** is in full swing! A new Facebook Page "Awake In The Wild of Penn Forest" has been created for all things wild church. Watch Facebook and emails for upcoming events!
- **Grace Notes** will meet on **Thursdays** around 6:30 during Lent. If you are interested in joining the band please contact Dave for more info: [daverepecki@yahoo.com](mailto:daverepecki@yahoo.com) or 570-401-7662
- **Sunday School** is going well.
- **Confirmation Class** is going well. Confirmation will be held on Sunday, May 24th during our 9:00am service.
- **Men's Breakfast** will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at Terra Cottage, Lake Harmony at 9:00am.
- **Lenten Services** will be held every Wednesday in Lent at 7:00pm at CLC. All are welcome to join for a service of evening devotion!
- **CLC and St. John's councils** are exploring a book study on **Growing Young**. If you are interested in participating, please contact the CLC office.

### **Altar Flowers**

Flowers are available to be sponsored on throughout March and April. If you are interested in sponsoring one week, please sign up in the Narthex or contact the office. The price is \$27 for vases.

### **January Weekly Offerings:**

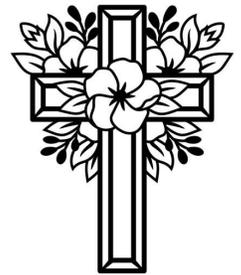
*These amounts are what we collect in the offering plate and also simply giving.*

**January 4th- \$ 1,549.65**

**January 11th- \$ 1,991.96**

**January 18th- \$2,377.56**

**January 25th- no church**



"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?"  
Psalms 42:1-2

"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. ."  
John 16:33

"Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him."  
Psalm 98:1

"Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long."  
Psalm 25:5

"Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him."  
Psalm 62:5

**WORSHIP SERVICES** are held every Sunday at 9:00 am  
**Sunday School and Confirmation Classes** are ongoing through June! All are welcome.

## Important Information

### From the Food Pantry:

Thank you to those of you that donated an Advent food box or made a donation of any kind to the pantry recently. We gave out 37 Christmas dinner boxes with hams in December and now are back to giving our regular food boxes on the first and third Wednesday of the month. Thank you to our volunteers that have braved the cold in order to make sure our neighbors don't go hungry. The pantry is being used hard and the shelves are not as plentiful as they were in the fall. Please keep the pantry in mind as you shop for your own groceries and also as you fill your new offering envelopes, which have a line item for Food Pantry. Every little bit helps and is appreciated. Thank you!

### From the Choir:

You may have noticed that our choir is in need of female singers, especially since soprano Jo Strausser has moved away. Ladies, if you like to sing and can read a little bit of music, we could really use your help. Gents are welcome too, of course. Practices are at 11 am on Wednesdays. See Sue Hand (570-325-4888) if interested.

### From the Band:

Grace Notes is looking for a keyboard player and backup singers. If interested, please contact Dave Repecki at (570) 401-7662. They practice every Wednesday evening at 6:30pm. During Lent— they will practice Thursday evenings! Locations do change, so for more information, please contact Dave at [daverepecki@yahoo.com](mailto:daverepecki@yahoo.com) or call 570-401-7662.

### Sunday School and Confirmation Classes:

Classes began Sunday, September 21st. Sunday school is for anyone Pre-K (potty trained) and up confirmation class is for any one entering 7th grade and up. Please contact the office with any questions or concerns.

### Wild Church:

Wild Church is a return to nature as a spiritual practice. We gather in nature for prayer, meditation, songs, wandering and wondering and communion with nature and with each other. Services have restarted! Every one is welcome to join!

### Memorial garden update:

Final touches will continue once the weather improves, followed by a dedication ceremony.

### Property Committee:

A frozen pipe in the kitchen caused minimal damage and expense. Touch-up painting and minor basement repairs were also completed at minimal cost.

### Outreach & Community Care:

Family Promise continues to need donations such as food gift cards, cleaning supplies, and other essentials. ● Homebound visits are being made by the pastor, and a visitation team is being formed. ● The Food Pantry is being heavily utilized. Thank you for your continued donations that allow us to meet community needs. ● Prayer Chain and Prayer Shawl ministries are both going well.

### Scholarship Committee:

Abigael Kuhn and Gretchen Cox are eligible for scholarships this year.

### Worship & Music Committee:

**Worship:** Average monthly attendance increased from 575 (2024) to 660 (2025)

**Music:** The committee continues to do well. Members are actively addressing some sound-related challenges

## Council Meeting Highlights

### Committees

#### Worship & Music Committee

- *Worship: Average monthly attendance increased from 575 (2024) to 660 (2025)*
- *Music: The committee continues to do well. Members are actively addressing some sound-related challenges*
- *Planning is underway for the Easter Egg Hunt, VBS, and family events. Please share any*
- *suggestions with the office. By email or phone call!*

#### Finance Committee

**Income vs Expenses:** Monthly income was impacted by winter weather and came in under budget. Weather-related conditions led to one Sunday service being canceled and another with very low attendance. Expenses remained on target for January.

**Youth Funds (Dileo)** are being transferred to a Thrivent account.

Tithe distribution will be as follows:

- \$250 to Penn Forest Fire 1
- \$250 to Penn Forest Fire 2
- \$250 to KidZone
- \$250 to Lehighon Ambulance
- \$1,870.75 to the Benevolence Fund
  
- **Investments:** Experienced a small increase.
  
- **Attendance** – We’re seeing encouraging growth in attendance at our in-person services!
  
- **Facebook**– Events have been added to the CLC Facebook page. There is a new Wild Church Facebook Page “Awake In The Wild of Penn Forest” if you haven’t already, give it a like and a follow!
  
- **Homebound** - Pastor has been meeting with our homebound members. If you know of anyone needing assistance please reach out to the church office.
  
- **Food Pantry Here to Help, Here to Serve**  
At Christ Lutheran Church, we believe that no one in our community should go hungry. If you are struggling to put food on the table, please know that our Food Pantry is here for you—open to all who are in need, no questions asked. Our pantry is not government-funded; it is a labor of love, stocked entirely by the generosity of our neighbors to support those in need. If you would like to help, donations of non-perishable food items are always welcome and greatly appreciated. Together, we can make a difference and ensure that no one in our community goes without. Thank you for being a part of this mission, whether as a recipient or a supporter.
  
- **Prayer Chain – Help Needed!**  
Our Prayer Chain is an important ministry that provides comfort and support through the power of prayer. We are still looking for someone to assist with this effort. If you feel called to help coordinate and share prayer requests with our church community, please consider volunteering. Your support can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need of prayer. If you’re interested or would like more information, please contact the church office. Thank you for helping us lift others in prayer!
  
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry – Sharing Comfort & Love**  
Our Prayer Shawl Ministry is a beautiful way to share God’s love and comfort with those in need. Each shawl is lovingly handcrafted and blessed before being given to individuals facing illness, loss, or difficult times. These shawls serve as a tangible reminder that they are wrapped in prayer, support, and God’s Grace. If you or someone you know would benefit from a prayer shawl, or if you’d like to contribute by knitting or crocheting, please contact the church office. Together, we can offer warmth, hope, and healing—one stitch at a time.

## Council Meeting Highlights

### New Business

**Ministry Teams:** Social Ministry, Visitation Team, Gardening/Landscaping, and the Growing Young Book Club are forming. If you would like to help in any of these areas, please contact the church office.

**Family Promise** continues to need donations such as food gift cards, cleaning supplies, and other essentials.

### Church Envelopes

for 2026 will be printed in house. Printing has started. We have 3 month packets available for pick up in the Narthex!

Any questions for concerns, please contact the office.

### Wild Church Spiritual Director:

Pastor is working on the licensing.

### Church Weekly Cleaning:

**CARES** has taken over cleaning the church weekly! They are being provided snacks and drinks as a thank you for their services.

### Upcoming Events:

- **Lenten Services:** Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran
- **Holy Week (Week of April 1):**  
Maundy Thursday – 7:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran  
Good Friday – 2:00 p.m. at St. John's; 7:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran

### Outreach:

**Family Promise**– send requests to individuals for donations  
**Homebound** is good.

**Food Panty** received a large donation and is going well.

**Community Breakfast** - Our community breakfasts are going wonderfully! We've had an amazing number of volunteers, great feedback, and generous donations. Thank you to everyone for your support. We purchased two additional prep tables to continue improving our work and prep area in the kitchen. **The next breakfast will be held on Sunday, February 15th!**

### Next Council Meeting

The next Council Meeting is being held in the new year on March 17th, 2026.

## Collaborating with St. John's Lutheran Church

We are working closely with St. John's on joint events and services, as well as exploring ways to better meet the needs of our local community. Together, we aim to strengthen our outreach and community presence.

### Visioning Committee

Pastor is in the process of organizing a Visioning Committee. The purpose of this committee will be focused on shaping the long-term direction of the church. They help define the church's mission and goals, plan for future growth, and ensure that all efforts align with the church's purpose.

## Financials

Full financial statement is available on the bulletin board in the narthex.

	January 1, 2025	December 31, 2025	Change in Balance
Youth Fund	\$84,865.53	\$84,865.53	\$0.00
Total DA Thrivent Scholarship Fund	\$131,806.44	\$132,567.65	\$761.21
ELCA Endowment Fund	\$586,984.37	\$637,944.43	\$50,960.06
Thrivent Building Fund	\$36,221.41	\$40,645.34	\$4,423.93
Thrivent MSK Scholarship Fund	\$31,854.64	\$35,745.25	\$3,890.61
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>\$871,732.39</b>	<b>\$931,768.20</b>	<b>\$60,035.81</b>

### Financial Overview

Positive financial growth in 2025 compared to 2024.

Total income and expenses increased slightly.  
Total Income 2024 - \$122,831.91 2025 - \$129,653.00  
Total Expenses 2024 - \$141,755.69 2025 - \$147,736.06

### Investments Summary (2025)

After all approved fund transfers were completed, total investments in 2025 increased by \$60,035.81, ending the year at \$931,768.20.

## 2026 Council Members

**President/Worship**—John Willaims [beelee.williams@gmail.com](mailto:beelee.williams@gmail.com)  
**Vice President/Financials/Property** - William Kovolenko [wkovolenko@gmail.com](mailto:wkovolenko@gmail.com)  
**Treasurer/Financials** – Anita Repecki [anitarepecki@gmail.com](mailto:anitarepecki@gmail.com)  
**Secretary/Youth Member**- Abby Kuhn [abbyball89@icloud.com](mailto:abbyball89@icloud.com)  
**Council Member/Scholarships/Property** - Luke Eggert [lukeeggert123@gmail.com](mailto:lukeeggert123@gmail.com)  
**Council Member/Property** - John Strupcewski [dj86@ptd.net](mailto:dj86@ptd.net)  
**Council Member/Property** - Serge Hill - [shill60@ptd.net](mailto:shill60@ptd.net)  
**Council Member**- Jordan Behrens— [jbehrens93@gmail.com](mailto:jbehrens93@gmail.com)