

March 2024

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.
- **There are Wednesday services** at 11:15 am on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.
- **Food Pantry** is also held the first and third Wednesdays of each month.
- **We are also having Wednesday evening services**, at 7:00 pm, every Wednesday during Lent.
- **Choir practices** are held every Wednesday at 12:00 pm. If you are interested in joining the choir, please stop in!
- **Wild Church** is on hold until after Easter.
- **Grace Notes** meets every Wednesday around 6:30. If you are interested in joining the band, consider checking them out at practice!
- **We will be having a soup, baked goods, and homemade candy sale** on March 16th from 9:00 am-1:00 pm. The sales benefit the youth going to the National Youth Gathering. Please come out and show your support!
- **First Communion** will be held on Palm Sunday, March 24th. If you or someone you know has a child in first grade or older, that has not yet received first communion and would like to, please contact the office.
- **We will be again collecting donations for the Valor house.** More information can be found on the next page of the newsletter.
- **We will be having an Easter egg hunt.** Date and time TBD. If anyone would like to donate candy, it would be greatly appreciated!
- **Our Holy Week schedule** will be as follows:
 - ◇ Maundy Thursday- 7:00 pm service
 - ◇ Good Friday-7:00 pm service
 - ◇ Easter Sunday-9:00 am service

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. The price is \$27 for vases.

February Weekly Offerings:

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

February 4th- \$1,225

February 11th- \$1,183

February 18th- \$2,511

February 25th- \$977.97 **Family Promise Fund-**\$450.00



*"Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants."
Deuteronomy 32:2*

*"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!"
Psalm 150:6*

*"Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth."
Hosea 6:3*

*"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,"
Ecclesiastes 3:1-2*

*"They waited for me as for showers and drank in my words as the spring rain."
Job 29:23*

WORSHIP SERVICES are held every Sunday at 9:00 am and every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 11:15 am.

Sunday School and Confirmation Classes are held each Sunday from 10-11 am.

Important Information

From the Food Pantry:

Many thanks to all of you that have donated to the food pantry recently. The filled boxes you made during Advent and the food donated for "Souper Bowl" were a real help, as are any donations received anytime. Our food pantry is being used heavily (27 families this past pantry morning) and the need is ongoing, so anytime you are able to make a donation of food or money, it is appreciated. If you are shopping and can afford to pick up a few extra staples, we thank you. Perhaps when you see "Buy One, Get One" and you only need one, you could donate the additional item to the pantry. Just a heads up also: We hope to give our families a ham and some fixings for an Easter meal again this year. We will apply for Thrivent Action Team funds, but could use donations of canned yams, applesauce, canned pineapple and small bottles of oil (to make boxed cake mixes). Any and all donations are greatly appreciated!

From the Choir:

Perhaps you would like to try singing in the choir without making a full commitment. Now is your opportunity to do just that. If you can hold a tune and read a little bit of music, might you consider singing in the choir on Palm Sunday and Easter (March 24th and 31st)? We have nice anthems planned that would sound even nicer with a few more voices. The choir is willing to find a time to practice with you, perhaps after church on a Sunday. We know that Wednesday afternoons don't work for everyone. If you are interested, please talk to Sue Hand (570-325-4888). Thank you.

Valor House Stand Down Event:

Once again, we will be collecting items for the Valor House Stand Down Event from now until Palm Sunday, March 24th. Similar to what people did in Mathew 21:1-11, "A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road," we will bring out clothing to the front of the church on Palm Sunday. Containers will be available outside of the church or you can bring your items when you attend one of our services. So that we can collect a variety of items in a variety of sizes and types, there is a sign up sheet online that will be emailed out or you can pick a card from the clothesline that is hanging in the Narthex and purchase/provide that item. New or gently used clothing will be accepted. We thank you in advance for your support for this wonderful event!

Items requested; deodorant (men and women's), toothpaste, blue jeans (men's 30-38 size), hoodies (L, XL, XXL), Q-Tip's, women's and men's underwear (new only), thermal underwear (new only), tampons/maxi pads, winter coats, sweatpants, peanut butter, canned fruit (with pop tops), V-8 juice, sneakers, and warm boots (for children, women, and men).

Sunday School:

Our Sunday school class has been busy following along with the stories each week that are read in church. They have made a story vine outlining the timeline of Epiphany, they made "tackle boxes" with prayers and snacks to follow the stories of Jesus "fishing" for disciples, and just last week they learned the meaning of Ash Wednesday and Lent and then wrote down a sin they would like to be forgiven and burned them into ashes. They are looking forward to the Lenten season and learning more about the time leading up to Easter.

2023 Tithe

Each year we tithe a portion of the earnings on the Endowment Fund. We are asking your input for suggestions on how the tithe might be divided. Please submit your requests to the church office before March 1st for consideration.

Council Meeting Highlights

Commitments

Mission Support "Go Beyond 2023" (Benevolence)- budget of \$3,500 per year/\$875 per quarter

Family Promise - \$1200.00 per year/\$300.00 per quarter

Committees

Christian Education committee

Sunday school is working on making a lego examples of children's sermons

Memorial Garden Committee

Meeting scheduled for March 10th following Sunday service. All interested please attend.

Finance Committee

Council will work together to examine finances and report concerns and suggestions

Outreach Committee

Family Promise - Next quarterly donation due March 2024 - Special Collection

Property Committee

Repeated septic back-ups being addressed.

Dishwasher is in need of repair

Rugs downstairs have been reglued.

Downstairs main are floor cleanup needed. Looking into cleaning the floor without stripping it.

Garbage bin outback needs to be cleaned out before spring. It is 1/4-1/2 full of loose garbage

The flag in the cemetery has been repaired. Will continue to monitor for additional needs.

Grass cutter is needed for the 2024 season. One solution being discussed is to hire a part time person to address grounds needs as well as property needs throughout the year.

Worship and Music Committee

Wednesday Lenten night service on the first Sunday of Lent

Clothing drive for Palm Sunday

Maundy Thursday will be a traditional Maundy Thursday Service

Traditional Good Friday service

Scholarship Committee - No eligible student for this year

Youth Group

Soup sale was successful bringing in @ \$1000.00

\$10,000 will be pulled from the DiLeo Youth fund to assist with Youth trip expenses over the next 3 months while the youth is conducting their fund raising.

Next Council Meeting March 19th at 7:00 PM

Cemetery Financials 12-31-23 1-31-24

Thrivent Account Balance \$56,745.85 \$57,119.47

JTNB Checking \$12861.31 \$13,061.89

Financials

Income & Expenses	2022 Year	2023 Year	January-24
Income			
Contribution Income	\$ 133,822.00	\$ 125,536.84	\$8,952.65
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 10,162.08	\$ 9,784.90	\$1,527.00
Total Income	\$ 143,984.08	\$ 135,322.59	\$10,479.65
Expenses			
Benevolence	\$ 3,440.00	\$ 3,464.00	\$865.00
Building & Property Expenses	\$ 9,020.30	\$ 8,699.46	\$1,910.31
Christian Ed	\$ 1,385.84	\$ 1,014.18	\$61.28
Fellowship	\$ -	\$ 82.10	\$0.00
Insurance	\$ 6,524.07	\$ 6,905.72	\$0.00
Office	\$ 2,753.90	\$ 2,561.35	\$606.30
Salaries & Stipends	\$ 103,449.97	\$ 106,382.71	\$14,024.97
Simply Giving		\$ 571.36	\$40.92
Utilities	\$ 15,237.45	\$ 12,424.68	\$524.62
Worship Supplies	\$ 290.69	\$ 500.38	\$0.00
Youth Commitment	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$0.00
Total Expense	\$ 142,602.22	\$143,105.94	\$18,033.40
Investments			
Building Fund	\$ 32,806.66	\$ 33,482.01	\$33,880.62
MSK Scholarship	\$ 30,368.91	\$ 29,445.51	\$29,819.49
Vanguard Youth Fund	\$ 73,271.20	\$ 71,445.34	\$71,370.67
DA Scholarship Fund	\$ 130,037.15	\$ 143,361.50	\$143,876.03
ELCA Endowment	\$ 504,346.89	\$ 570,366.40	\$571,884.31
	\$ 770,830.81	\$ 848,100.76	\$850,831.12

2024 Council Members

President/Property –Serge Hill shill60@ptd.net
Vice President/Financials/Property - William Kovolenko wkovolenko@gmail.com
Treasurer/Financials – Anita Repecki anitarepecki@gmail.com
Secretary/Youth Member- Abby Kuhn abbyball89@icloud.com
Council Member/Scholarships/Property - Luke Eggert lukeeggert123@gmail.com
Council Member - John Strupcewski dj86@ptd.net
Council Member - Meeghan Sloss meeghan.rossi7@gmail.com
Council Member - John Williams - beelee.williams@gmail.com

Tithe – Please send suggestions for Tithe distribution to the church office.

Barnabus has seen an increase in need over the last couple years averaging @ \$1000-\$1500.00 per year. This year we are at @ \$600.00 as of 1-31-2024