



Good News

A Joint Newsletter for Christ and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches

Christ Lutheran
Our Savior's Lutheran
1860 Wisconsin St
Oshkosh, 54901

OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Friday
9:00 am-1:00 pm

SUNDAYS
9:00 am Worship
In-Person Service
On-Line: FB & YouTube

CONTACT
INFORMATION:

CHURCH OFFICES

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Megan Hafenbreadl
920.235.4850

secretary.coslc@gmail.com

Christ Lutheran
Barb Schneider
920.231.6570
clcoshkosh@gmail.com

PASTOR
Rev. Connie Weiss
920.904.5919
pastor.cweiss@gmail.com

PRESIDENTS

Toby Kamark
920.495.0594

Kevin Harvot
920.379.0829

Dear Friends,

Already, I'm seeing signs of gift-giving! The store aisles are filled with givers on a mission. Wrapped packages are beginning to build under festive trees. And, I'm reminded often by children that Santa will soon be delivering special presents meant for just them. Yes, this is one sign of Christmas - the human conceived Christmas that glitters and shines. Trust me, I have enjoyed many moments like these as my girls were growing up. Often, we romanticize this time when we feel better about ourselves and others. And it works, when we remember that we give out of love.



Then, I walk into the sanctuary of our church building. I not only encounter the Advent wreath, but towering over it is this beautiful wooden cross that is backlit by strips of lights. And I think, "Oh there you are God." You are the greatest gift-giver of them all! And in that moment, a wave of gratitude washes over me and I ponder - "How can I honor such a gift - this beautiful gift we have in Jesus?"

This Advent, our Worship and Music team decided to focus on giving in a broader sense. The brochure from ELCA World Hunger caught our attention. How do we honor the gifts God has given us? Why, we join in the fun and the sentiment! We pay attention to those in need and we pass the gift along. We can buy a giving ornament to buy a family food, fresh water and other resources in this moment in time. We give gift cards to those in need. And, we feed our community both literally and also in the many ways we show hospitality to those we encounter.

But what about all the other times? I can only share with you that I find the gifts others have given me so meaningful in the ordinary moments of my life. That's when giving seems extraordinary to me. As followers of the crucified and risen Christ, we are called not only to give and, give generously, but we are called to see the JOY in it! To be a cheerful giver is one who is thankful and recognizes God's blessings in their daily lives and all around them.

My Friends, I am thankful to be called to a ministry where I see gift-giving in such beautiful ways. You give your time and you share your God-given talents in ways that constantly amaze me. And, you financially support our ministry that continues to find meaningful ways in carrying out God's mission. And for all that and so much more, I find myself often in quiet response praying... "Thanks be to God!"

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Connie

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

ELCA Ministry Growth Fund

The ELCA Foundation is proud to announce the relaunch of its Endowment Fund Pooled Trust — also known as Fund A — under a new name, the [Ministry Growth Fund](#), that better represents the Foundation’s goals for the future. “This re-naming of the fund is an exciting step in engaging even more members and supporters of the ELCA in the life — and future — of the church and its partner organizations,” said Kathy Freeman Summers, president and CEO of the ELCA Foundation. “We hope that, through this change, we will more effectively communicate the purpose of the fund: to support and grow the ELCA’s ministries for generations to come.” Learn more at [ELCA.org/foundation](#).

Watch “A People of Hope: Until All Are Fed”

The recording for "A People of Hope: Until All Are Fed," the Oct. 14 benefit for ELCA World Hunger with Rick Steves, is now available to view at [ELCA.org/EndHunger](#). This World Food Day celebration offers compelling interviews, stories from those who do the dynamic work of fighting hunger, and musical contributions from some of our favorite artists. Be sure to check out the video if you missed this great event or want to watch it again.

#Giving Tuesday - In This Together



This Christmas give a gift that keeps on giving. Kicking off on Giving Tuesday, every gift received marked with the memo "Giving Tuesday" will be split 50/50. Your support will be shared with Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan as they continue to teach us all about refugee resettlement and supporting families arriving from across the globe. The other half will bolster mission support for the ECSW. Make a gift today by scanning the QR code with your phone's photo app or visit [www.ecsw.org](#) - look for "GIVE" in the top right corner. You can also share a gift by mail with the memo, "Giving Tuesday." Thank you for your generous spirit!

Joining us on the Journey



Pastor Grant Applehans, our synod’s new Director of Evangelical Mission, will be joining our two congregations as we hope to be moving towards consolidation. Pr. Grant joined us for worship on the 21st and then stayed to discuss how the synod will be helping to lead us as we take the steps to becoming one congregation.

We will be keeping you up to date on what steps we are taking as we move towards consolidation. The two congregations will be voting on moving forward with this process during their Annual Meetings.

Family Systems Program Ends



Four years ago, our synod recommended that Pastor Connie become a part of an ELCA study designed for first call rostered ministers. This program helped leaders learn family systems theory and apply it to their personal lives, as well as to work in their ministry sites. The three year program included small cluster meetings, online learning and coaching calls. Due to the pandemic, the program took four years to finish. During this time, Pastor Connie was so thankful for the program as she helped lead through so many changes for both congregations.

A Leading Well Journey Begins



Our Synod recommended Pastor Connie to participate in the ELCA Leading Well program. The Leading Well initiative focuses on helping pastors and church leaders live and lead well. The 2-year program involves both onsite and online learning community that includes annual retreat experiences, coaching opportunities, and most recently, the addition of master classes.

This November, Pastor Connie attended their annual retreat in Carefree, AZ. She will be sharing the resources and her experiences as she journeys with them.



We've entered into the season of Advent - a time of waiting, watchfulness and wonder. It's also a time where we look not only ahead to the arrival of the Christ child, but get comfortable in this most intentional time where we look for signs of God's presence with us now. As we journey through Advent, we also will be focusing on our connection with God and with our neighbor. In our Midweek Advent Worship at 6 pm on Wednesday nights, we will connect with those outside of our neighborhood. We will hear their stories and broaden our focus on what it means to be Christ in the world as we stay Fully Connected. Join us on the journey!

Advent Midweek Services

December 1, 8, 15, 22
6-6:30 pm
In-Person & on Facebook Live

Christmas Eve Services

3, & 5 pm
In-Person & on Facebook Live



Pick up Advent devotionals, donate to ELCA Good Gifts. You can find devotional booklets on a table in the narthex. Please pick one up for your family. You can also grab a spare to share with a neighbor or friend. These booklets can be used at home for weekly devotions throughout the season of Advent.

Also there are gift tags and order forms for ELCA Good Gifts. Choose a tag from the tree with a gift you'd like to donate for yourself or in honor of someone. (Some people give an animal in the name of children or grandchildren.) Pick up an order form from the nearby table with your tag. Then you can fill out the form for whatever you are donating and send it with a check to the ELCA (as noted on the back of the order form). You can pass along the tag ornament to the person you are giving in honor of.

A PRAYER FOR A NEW SEASON

We're inviting members to engage in a daily prayer as we work toward consolidation. When a big change is on the horizon, it's always good to call on God's Holy Spirit to lead the way. We will be closing all of our worship services praying this special prayer together.



Loving God: Send your Holy Spirit to guide us as we move forward in faith. We place ourselves in your hands. May we be of one mind and one spirit. Prepare our hearts to live out your new vision for us as one body in Christ. Strengthen and inspire us for the journey ahead. Amen.



4 Ways to Join!

- 1 In Person Worship**
9 am Sundays
Church Sanctuary
- 2 Facebook Live**
9 am on both FB Pages
- 3 SPECTRUM CH. 2**
Sundays - 10 am
Tuesdays - 2:30 pm
Wednesdays - 9 pm
Thursdays - 10 am
- 4 YOUTUBE**
Christ Lutheran's Channel
Our Savior's Channel

PLEDGE SUNDAY December 8th



Each year, we have the opportunity to consider our financial commitment to the Lord prayerfully. Enclosed is a 2022 Pledge card. We will be collecting those cards Dec. 8th.



WEBSITE UPDATE!

The website, and its content is always being updated! We have added lots of new pages recently. Check them out!

If you cannot access certain things on our weekly emails, please refer to our website. Things get updated daily on there and if a formatting issue occurs on our emails, it is fixed on the website.

Thank you for all your feedback and patience!

2 Opportunities to Lead...



COUNCIL MEMBERS NEEDED FOR 2022

It is almost time to install new council members! We are still looking for Parish Council Members for the upcoming year. If you are interested or want to talk to a current Council President, use the information below

Contact:

Toby Kamark (OSLC) 920.4950594

Kevin Harvot (CLC) 920.379.0829

Pastor Connie 920.904.5919



CONSOLIDATION TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED

We are in need of a Consolidation Team moving forward. This team would be in charge with helping the church move forward in consolidating and helping with whatever we need to consolidate our two churches into one per the synods request. If you are interested even in one part of consolidation, email or call Kevin Harvot.



Our Annual Meetings are quickly approaching. There are two separate meetings for both churches. They will be held on January 23rd for Christ Lutheran and January 30th for Our Savior's.

Please have all documents/reports submitted to Megan (OSLC) or Barb (CLC) by January 4th so they can prepare their report for the annual meetings.



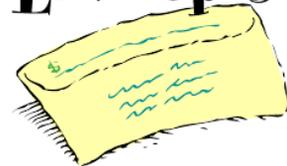
THE WELCOME PLACE FOR NEWCOMERS

Sunday, December 5th

10:15 am in Sanctuary

If you are someone who wants to find out more about becoming a member or just learn more about who we are and where we are headed, we will be holding a special gathering following worship on December 5th in the Sanctuary. This will also be a great opportunity to get to know each other outside of our worship service.

Offering Envelopes



We have ordered Boxed Offering Envelopes for 2022. Unfortunately, we will not receive them until our Annual Meetings. Until then, we have generic envelopes available in the Narthex and also one included in this newsletter. Thank you for the gifts you share for the sake of supporting God's mission & ministry!



MILESTONES

Birth of Waylon Arthur to Fred and Brittany Knapp

Confirmed on November 14th:

Sam Englund

Ben Grill

Emelia Levezow



Notes on the Women's Meeting November 10, 2021

C&OSLC women met on November 14, 2021. They covered these subjects;

Barb Schneider and Deb Reichenberger presented reports from the Synodical Women's Biennial Convention. They gave information from the organization and gave spiritual insights. It was decided there will be a cookie sale at church on December 5th.

Cookies for shut-ins will be packaged and delivered on December 11th with home communion kits if possible. Still need 2 more members for the kitchen committee. Thank you was received from Trinity Episcopal for our church donation to the Loaves and Fishes program. They also need volunteers for the program.

Confirmation class was bringing out Advent and Christmas decorations, Wednesday the 18th. It was decided that at this point we cannot participate in the Rise Against Hunger program until we get more sponsors.

People are needed to count offering money after service. Please sign up!



SHARE THE LOVE

BAKERS, PACKERS & DRIVERS NEEDED!

On December 11th, the ladies of CLC and OSLC will be getting together to pack cookies for the shut-ins from both churches. We'll gather at 9:00am, and we should have everything packed and ready to go by 11:00.

We are asking all who can to bake 1 or 2 batches of cookies/candy and bring it to the church on Friday, December 10, between 9:00am and 12:30pm or on Saturday morning.

There is also a need for drivers to help deliver the cookies to members of our church family who cannot get to church. It is a time to say hi, visit and share God's love. Deliveries do not have to be completed on that Saturday but should be done by the 17th.

Please call the church office or talk to Susie Smith if you can help with this.

COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR or HOME VISIT



In an effort to seek better sabbath time, I would love to get together with individuals or families so we can get to know each other more deeply. I hope to be reaching out when I can. But if you would like a visit in the near future, please give me a call. I would love to spend some time with you!

- Pastor Connie



Hello, Hello Dear Ones!

Faith Formation/Sunday School ministry continues adventures with gatherings in Fellowship Hall with students/families masked and stationed 1 family per table. We are still following the Gospel stories that grownups hear in worship each week. It seems to be a helpful tie-in as families encourage faith in God. Each week there is an at-church activity to participate in. Sometimes they are pretty wacky like cutting pairs of eyes from magazines and gluing them in a collage! In correlation to "Bartimaeus Sees," we learned that believing in Jesus is/was even for the blind and that all of 5 senses can be so helpful in spreading the Good News! Each Sunday includes a 30 minute gathering with scriptures being read from the SPARK Story Bible. Each child is sent home with a "learner leaflet" that is age/grade level appropriate and not specifically dated which allows for continued learning and sharing about God outside our community walls.

The faith formation ministry has recently created a new email address that can be utilized now and by Kids Ministry Leaders in the future. That new address is:

kidsministry.coslc@gmail.com

Please contact the Director for Faith Formation with any questions, comments, or offers to assist in the programs. Maria can also be reached by texting/calling 920 216 2738. Please leave a message.

As the Covid-19 Pandemic continues, leaders are carefully and considerately looking towards the future when it is safe for longer gatherings held in the newly-reimagined Sunday School room. If you don't know where it's located, try beyond the church Library and look for the brightly painted blue hallway! The latest we are hearing is that children ages 5-11 can be vaccinated quite soon, or maybe already as of this writing. We encourage your consideration to ensure the safety of all children interacting in our spaces.

We can't wait to be together in the place that makes space for our youngest of God's family! Thank you for your continued prayers and support of this important piece of our church family! If you are looking to support this ministry further, please see the yellow box and flier in the narthex (gathering space outside of worship) for a Wish List specially created for items we are looking to use in the near future.

-Maria



CONGRATULATIONS CONFIRMANDS!

We had a wonderful Confirmation Sunday as three of our youth affirmed their faith at worship on Sunday, October 14th. Congratulations Ben Grill, Emelia Levezow and Sam Englund. We can't wait to see what God is doing with you next!

DECEMBER CLASSES & MIDWEEK WORSHIP

Confirmation Classes this December will still begin at 5:30 on Wednesday nights. However, classes will end at 6 and students will move in to the sanctuary for Advent Midweek Worship from 6-6:30.



CONFIRMANDS TO RING BELL FOR CHARITY

December 8th 4-6pm

Confirmation students will be ringing bells at the Pick-n-Save for their service project on December 8th from 4 to 6 pm. Please note the slight difference in time from our usual meeting's time for confirmation and dress warm!



BIRDIE'S BOX MINISTRY

Thank you to everyone for their continued contributions to Birdie's Box!

If you have extra plastic bags from Menards, Festival Foods, Woodman's or Aldi, please drop them off at the church office. Birdie's Box is also stocked with items that we all take for granted, like toilet paper, rain ponchos, hand warmers, can openers, and all kinds of personal care items.

Greeting Everyone,

I would like to give you an update on Birdies Box.

We are no longer able to get food donations from the Oshkosh Food Pantry as we have in the past. They have gone through some management changes and have different criteria for their food donation program.

Deb Stephany and Barb Rothenbach are waiting to speak to someone at the pantry to find out what we need to do to continue the support. With the holidays around the corner many folks dread the thought of shopping. Deb, Barb & myself would like to help if you want to give and just can't get out. A cash donation or gift card in any denomination would be appreciated.

Here are some examples of what a \$20 donation would buy.

58 boxes of Mac N Cheese, 20-30 rolls of Toilet Paper, 20 packages of tooth brushes (5 brushes per pack), 25 tubes of toothpaste, 50 cans of Vienna Wieners, 20 jars of peanut butter, 12 boxes of Pancake mix, 30 cans of tuna, 27 boxes of soda crackers, 40 cans of vegetables & fruit, 12 cans of chicken, 6 canned ham, 8 large cans of beef stew, 30 cans of spaghetti and meatballs, 22 cans of spaghetti sauce, 20-30 boxes/bags of noodles and the list goes on. The need is great.

Thanks to all the volunteers who are filling the box daily and those that are making food donations, it is very much appreciated.

Please consider giving this holiday season. Peace be with you.

Debbie Kamark



Stephen Ministry is a confidential one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in trained and certified congregations such as ours. We equip and empower lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. Meetings are generally 1 hour a week.

A Stephen Minister will listen to you

After the phone call you hoped you'd never get, After the funeral when everyone has left, After the relationship falls apart, After the doctor says "I'm sorry", After the nursing home director says "welcome to your new home", After the last child waves and drives away, After the gavel comes down and handcuffs go on, After the baby arrives demanding more than possible, After you find the pink slip in your final paycheck, or After your family and friends have heard your story too many times.

If you would like a Stephen Minister or would like to become a Stephen Minister, Contact Pastor Connie at church or Linda Tedlie at 920-410-0745 / tedliel@gmail.com



On November 13th, Barb Schneider and Debbie Reichenberger attended the convention held at St Mark's Lutheran in Neenah. Many people attended as well as many organizations such as AMMPARO, LOPPW, and national WELCA. Speakers such as Laura Krueger and Rev. Jenn Pockat were there to speak. Breakout sessions were provided as well as fellowship time with lunch.

At the end, there were 22 out of 65 in attendance that were voting members. The budget was approved for next year and the four proposed resolutions passed (continue to fight human trafficking, donate \$500 to Crossways Ministries, Focus on Ally-ship and work to end racism.) Elections were held for Synod board members, Conference representatives, and Triennial voting members.

Elected Synod Board members are as follows: President-Deb Martin with 22 votes. Vice-President-Pam Schuelke with 22 votes, Secretary-Lois Hilger with 18 votes and Treasurer- Carol Grom with 15 votes. Conference Representatives remain the same.

Total offering from the convention was \$1,650. The host church for 2023 Synod Biennial is St John's in De Pere.



Day by Day Warming Shelter

Just a quick update on our participation in the volunteer schedule at the shelter in Oshkosh for our homeless. When we first discussed this, we were not sure we would be needed. That turned out to not be so. We were able to sign up for two days to prepare and serve meals. Our Confirmation students were able to sign up for one additional day.

The first meal service was on October 28; and because of some very generous souls in this congregation, we were able to serve 41 people. The meal consisted of barbeque sandwich, bubba's beans, fresh fruit, pickles, cookies, donuts, and a beverage. It was most graciously received.

Our next meal will occur on March 18, 2022. Help is always needed, so listen for the requests to come. As a side note, the evening that we served, the shelter was full and 2 people had to be turned away. I am sure that this happens throughout the winter, and because of this we took the winter coats donated by the Hall family and gave them to the shelter. If you feel compelled to help, the shelter is always in need of hand and foot warmers that they give to those who will be spending the night outside. These are easily purchased at the hardware stores, and you can leave them at church for us to get them to the shelter.

We have received a "Thank You" letter from the Day By Day warming shelter thanking us for our donation of coats to their shelter. They are grateful for the donation and wanted to thank everyone who has helped their mission so far.



Memorial Gift from the Shirley Simonson Family

A BIG THANK YOU for the Memorial Gift that was given in Shirley Simonson's honor to Christ & Our Savior's quilters. Shirley was a faithful member of the quilters group for over 30 years and did many tasks during that time. We have missed her greatly, and are so thankful for the gift of money of which we were able to buy a brand new sewing machine. She would have been very proud and happy to know that her gift could continue this service to Lutheran World Relief countries around the world.

Grateful C&OSL Quilters .



The Prayer Chain is an on-line ministry. A wonderful, loving, caring, tenacious group of "Prayer Warriors" who take time each day to pray for the needs of others.

If you are interested in participating in this email ministry, please contact Eileen Kuehl at 235-6393 or eileenkuehl4@gmail.com or 920-573-7205. Or you may contact: Diane Schmude at 920-235-4689 or diane4689@att.net.

These are also the people to contact if you wish to ask for a specific prayer need to be addressed.



A Colorful Ministry Opportunity!

Consider signing up to sponsor the flowers for a Sunday. The sign up sheet is located in the narthex. See Christine Esselman about the flowers. The cost is \$20.00. Christine will take care of the rest. If you are interested in a special flower, just let Christine know and she will do her best to accommodate. Flowers come from Festival Foods.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS UPDATE



Building and Grounds met on November 16th and discussed some improvements that are being done on the building. The Building and Grounds team is working on outdoor lighting at the main entrance and on the east side of the building. They are trying to figure out the lighting in the sanctuary. They want to remind everyone, If you turn lights on please turn them off when leaving the building.

Building and grounds is anticipating lots of snow this winter. They would like to let everyone know with winter coming, you may have to shovel the walkway or salt the walkway if it is slippery and no one is here. These will be provided outside the building.



Thank you Dennis Weisbrick and Kevin Harvot for helping maintain our building and for helping fix lights outside and in the sanctuary. We appreciate your help and dedication to our church and church building.

CUSTODIAL REQUEST FORMS

For anyone needing special help from our custodian, Hayden, please try to give him some notice. There are request sheets on his door to fill out. While Hayden is around from 9-1 pm every day, he most likely can help while he's there. However, he also has a cleaning schedule and would appreciate some advance notice when possible.



On Sunday, December 5, the ladies of Our Savior's and Christ Lutheran will be holding a cookie sale. We will offer cookies, candies, and other treats for \$2.50 per package of 6. There will also be some craft items available for purchase.

Ladies who will be contributing treats should bring them to the church, packaged in groups of 6, on Saturday morning, December 4, between 10:00 and noon. You can also bring them Sunday morning before church.

Come on the first Sunday in December – hungry and ready to shop!

con·sol·i·da·tion

/kənˌsɒləˈdʃ(ə)n/

If you would like to access the consolidation steps that Pastor Grant from synod gave us on November 21st, we have copies in the office and the link is on our website at www.christsaviorsoshkosh.com under the "Better Together" tab or at the top of the home page.

A NEWSLETTER ARTICLE REQUEST

When submitting articles, please try to keep them brief when you can. We are receiving many articles and want to make sure everything makes it into our monthly newsletter.

January articles due by:
December 17th



Notes on Our Financial Reports: The Christ Lutheran figures do not reflect the funds invested from the sale of their building. Currently, CLC is paying for 3/4ths of Pastor Connie’s salary.

Our Savior’s Lutheran Church

October 2021

Total Income	\$ 8,377
Total Expenses	\$ 13,066
Net Profit/(Loss)	(\$ 4,689)

Year-to-Date

	Year-to-Date	Annual Budget
Total Income	\$ 117,513	\$ 158,445
Total Expenses	\$ 120,050	\$ 139,435
Net Profit/(Loss)	(\$ 2,537)	\$ 19,010

Christ Lutheran Church

October 2021

Offerings	\$ 2,919.00
Other Income	\$ 1,988.33
Expenses	\$ 9,578.24
Net Profit/(Loss)	(\$ 4,670.91)

Year-to-Date

	Year-to-Date	Annual Budget
Offerings	\$ 43,642.37	\$59,500.00
Other Income	\$ 20,109.18	\$6,320.00
Expenses	\$ 95,323.46	\$134,460.60
Net Profit/(Loss)	(\$ 31,571.91)	(\$68,640.60)

Council Updates

At our November joint council meeting, we received a report on some church business and what the future is looking like in our church.

We are looking forward to the Christmas and Advent season and seeing where/how our church is going with the consolidation.

We are still looking for members to join council next year and are looking forward to having new faces on the council.

We are still updating Power Church and getting it to where it needs to be in the church building and making sure that everyone who needs it, has access to it so we can update it as time goes on.

We are looking into getting boxed sets or mailed out envelopes for the new year for families. We are still looking into the best options cost wise.

Parish Council is looking forward to seeing all the new faces at the “Fresh Start” meeting for newcomers on December 5th.



Have you suggestions for content for our newsletter?

Let us know:

Mark Arend: mwarend@gmail.com

Maryla Karl: mjkdrk124@gmail.com

3 WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRY

- Mail in a Check
- Mobile Give+ App (also on website)
- AHC Bank Payment



“A gift opens the way and ushers the giver into the presence of the great.” *Proverbs 18:16*