

“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16)

“Also they teach that this faith is bound to bring forth good fruits, and that it is necessary to do good works commanded by God, because of God’s will, but that we should not rely on those works to merit justification.” (Augsburg Confession Article VI. Of New Obedience, bookofconcord.org)

A new year, a new church theme! In 2024 our theme will be based around living the Christian life. First, we must understand that good works are never to be done to try and earn God’s favor and become adopted as His children. No, that’s impossible! As Christians, we do good works because we are already adopted as God’s children. We are baptized into God’s family! Christ is the vine, we are the branches. Christian branches produce and bear fruits of faith, not to become part of the vine, but because we are a part of the vine already by God’s grace in Christ. We are redeemed! Our sins are atoned for! We are created by God to do good works! And despite what you may have heard, Lutherans have a lot to say about the importance of good works in the Christian life, in our callings, our vocations, in holy living, and in the sanctification that God has called us to. We are freed in Christ to do good works God has prepared us to do. (Eph. 2:10) Christians are even zealous for doing good works in love because of their gracious and loving God’s good works on our behalf and in our place through Jesus, His only Son. And we are zealous for good works toward others, toward our neighbors because God first loved us. (Titus 2:14) As the theme verse for this year states, Christ is the light that shines in us and through us as justified believers, and we can let that light shine so that many others who aren’t believers might see the good works we do as Christ works in us and through us so that more may give all glory to God. (Mt. 5:16)

To better understand this important teaching, I encourage you to read along with the leaders of Christ Lutheran Church the book, *Faith That Shines in the Culture* by Alfonso Espinosa. This book explores how Christ’s light calls each of us to various callings/vocations in which Christ’s light shines through us and into the culture and those put in our path to serve. We are called to live as Christ’s light in three areas or estates — the family, the church, and the state. A signup sheet will be available for you to purchase the book in the coming weeks. Or you can purchase the book here: www.cph.org/faith-that-shines-in-the-culture. I encourage you to read it along with others in the congregation. Each of the boards at CLC will be following a monthly schedule of reading a chapter or two each month if you care to read along with us. Each of the chapters also provides a discussion guide.

Not all of you are familiar with the most important book in the Lutheran church, *The Book of Concord*. Your Pastors must be familiar with and continue to teach from this confession of our faith regularly as it is our Lutheran confession. Pastors subscribe in their ordinations to *The Book of Concord* as a true exposition of Holy Scripture. You as laity are confirmed in one of the teachings in *The Book of Concord*, *Luther’s Small Catechism*. But, did you know that there is more written in our Lutheran Confessions, *The Book of Concord*, on this topic of good works and living the Christian life than any other topic or teaching? That might be surprising to many who have the false perception that Lutherans don’t talk about or teach much about good works. We talk a lot about justification. We talk a lot about atonement. We talk a lot about repentance and the forgiveness of sins. We talk a lot about baptism and the Lord’s Supper. But good works? Really? Yes, really! One of the articles written much later in 1577, the Formula of Concord, deals exclusively with the necessity of good works, love, and obedience to God’s law in the Christian’s life. Another more familiar section in our Lutheran Confessions, *Luther’s Large Catechism*, deals at length and devotes more space than any other topic to the Ten Commandments and God’s will for our Christian lives. And for those familiar with *The Augsburg Confession* and *Apology*, you might think that justification through faith is what Philip Melancthon spends most of his time teaching. However, he spends more time talking about the new obedience, love, and good works and their relation to justifying faith in the life of a Christian than he does directly on justification, which is the central article of our Christian faith.

God be praised that 2024 will be another year of God's undeserved grace. God's grace in Christ leads us to shine Christ's light around us and to do good works He's called us to, so that more and more might have the light of Christ shine upon them, be saved by God's grace, and glorify our heavenly Father and Jesus Christ our Lord. Continue to shine that light!

Living in the light of Christ with you,
Pastor Huehn



LCMS Stewardship Newsletter

January 2024

The Chief Stewards of Humanity: Mom and Dad

St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the first commandment with a specific promise attached to it is, "Honor your father and mother so that it may go well with you, and you may live long in the land" (Eph. 6:2). This promise is one indication of the importance of this commandment. The other thing that highlights the special nature of this commandment is its placement within the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are clearly organized in two big categories. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God. This category is called the First Table of the Law. The last seven commandments, the Second Table of the Law, tell us how we should relate to other people. These two tables correspond to what Jesus calls the two greatest commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind," and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:37-39).

The order of the Second Table of the Law is also important. Murder is a greater sin than adultery, which is a greater sin than stealing, or lying, or coveting. But why is the Fourth Commandment first in the Second Table, ahead of "you shall not murder"? Is disobeying your parents really worse than murder? Or maybe we should give up on thinking these commandments are ordered?

The overall effect of this order is to get us to see our parents as a connection point between our neighbors and our God. Throughout our upbringing our father and mother stand between us and God and deliver His gifts to us: God clothes us, feeds us, protects us, and teaches His Word to us through our parents. So, parents have a very high calling from God. They are called to be stewards of the greatest gift: the gift of life.

Parenting thus gives us a keen insight into all our stewardship. Parents know that they have been given a great treasure in their children, a treasure that does not belong to them, yet for which they feel a great deal of responsibility. Truth be told, every gift we have been given is like this, because everything we have — whether our own personal skills and powers or our wealth and time — is all from God. He entrusts it all to us so that we can use it all and take care of it all for His great purposes.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

JANUARY 2024 PULPIT PROGRAM

- JANUARY 6** **EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD/ H.C. (Chanted) ~ Saturday @ 5:30pm**
LITURGY: Divine Service 3
READINGS: Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12
- JANUARY 7** **THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD/H.C. (Chanted) ~ Sunday @ 8am & 10:45am**
LITURGY: Divine Service 1
READINGS: Joshua 3:1-3, 7-8, 13-17; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 3:13-17
- JANUARY 13/14** **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY/ H.C.**
LITURGY: Divine Service 1
READINGS: Exodus 33:12-23; Ephesians 5:22-33; John 2:1-11
- JANUARY 20/21** **THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD / H.C. (All chanted)**
LITURGY: Divine Service 3
READINGS: Exodus 34:29-35; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9
- JANUARY 27/28** **SEPTUAGESIMA / H.C. (All chanted)**
LITURGY: Divine Service 1
READINGS: Exodus 17:1-7; 1 Corinthians 9:24-10:5; Matthew 20:1-16

NEWS & NOTES

AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP
PORTALS OF PRAYER...January to March
2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

COMING IN JANUARY
Installation of all Church Officers and Auxiliary Officers. January 7th, both services.
Annual Reports for 2023 are due in the church office by January 9th.

The **flower chart for 2024** is available to sign up on in the hallway by the kitchen.
What a wonderful way to remember a special event or person and beautify the church.

TAKE DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS... Come and join us to take down the Christmas decorations on **Sunday, January 7th from 1:30 to 4:30 pm** at church. If you have any questions, please contact Kevin and Doris Kothe – 309-663-8995.

ALL OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH ~ Present & Newly Elected

The **Officers' Workshop** is on **Saturday, January 13th from 9:00am-12:00pm** in the Parish Hall.
All Board members and staff should plan to attend.

JANUARY SS/ADULT BIBLE CLASS OFFERINGS...

Adult and children Sunday School offerings will be going towards Living Alternatives
Pregnancy Resource Center.

NEWS & NOTES

MEN'S BREAKFAST... All men of the congregation are invited to the Men's Breakfast for food and fellowship. We will meet **Saturday, January 20th, at 7:30am at Times Past Inn**, 1216 Towanda Ave, Bloomington, 61701. If you have any questions, contact Stuart Nerby at stu652@gmail.com.

The Mission & Evangelism Board of Christ Lutheran Church will be sponsoring **International Neighbors Night on January 20th at 6:30 pm at Wittenberg Lutheran Center**. We would like to invite the entire congregation to attend this event for a dinner, activity, and for fellowship with the International Students of ISU, IWU, and Heartland. For dinner, we will be hosting a potluck, and we would like everyone who attends to bring either a side dish or dessert (if you can). If you're interested, please sign up on the sign-up sheet by the church office or by the bulletin board for the Mission & Evangelism Board in the Christian Fellowship Area.

If you have any questions regarding International Neighbors Night in January, please contact Joshua Kothe by emailing him at joshua.a.kothe@gmail.com or texting him at (309) 434-0936. Wittenberg Lutheran Center is located on 201 S. Main St in Normal, IL.

MEMORIALS have been received this past month in memory of
Janet Revell (Jeanne Holzhauer's Sister)
MM Mike Wehrenberg

November 2023 Financial Report

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENSES</u>	
<u>November</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
\$69,760.07	\$633,977.15	\$55,556.97	\$637,011.45

FEBRUARY WOMEN'S EVENTS.... Mark your calendars for these upcoming women's events.
Come and join Women's Bible Study. We will be studying Rebekah on **Thursday, Feb. 1st, at 11am and 6:30pm** in the church library.

WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT... Ladies, let's play pickleball! Join us **Friday, February 2nd, from 6:30-9pm at Evergreen Racquet Club for some pickleball, fun, and food!** If you know how to play, great. If you want to learn, we'll teach you. If you just want to come hang out but not play, that works too. Cost is \$20 per person for court time. No charge if not playing. Paddles provided or bring your own. Bring a snack to share and beverage of choice (water bottles provided).
If you plan on coming or have questions, contact Lisa Wegner at (309)261-3989 or wegner.lisa@hotmail.com. See you on the courts!





The Youth of The Church ~ January 2024

As we prepare for the new year, people often talk about what their New Year's resolutions are. Do you have some? Have you thought about adding Jesus to your list? Why not resolve to pray or read a devotion every day? That's a resolution worth keeping.

Thank you to everyone who participated in Journey to the Manger. I was informed by many people how impressed they were with the acting this year, and how they were able to hear and understand what was being said. I have even heard it said that this was the best so far. Well done!

Ash Wednesday Soup Supper

Please mark your calendar.

On **Wednesday, February 14th**, the youth will be helping serve and clean up at the soup supper before the Ash Wednesday service. There will be more information in next month's newsletter.

Service Hour Opportunity

Come help take down Christmas decorations at church on Sunday, January 7th at 1:30.

Jr. High Lock-In

Attention 7th & 8th Graders

The Jr. High Lock-In will be **Friday, January 26th, from 6:00 – 10:00**. Come join us in the Activity Building for supper, games, and a Bible study led by Pastor Fitzner. There will be a signup sheet on the youth bulletin board outside the kitchen beginning January 7th.

January Dates to Remember

07 – Putting away the Christmas decorations at church at 1:30.

10 & 24 – Wednesday evening youth group resumes

21 - Parent and high school youth meeting for youth group planning *

26 – 7th & 8th Grade Jr. High lock-in. 6:00 – 10:00. This is a Friday night.

*Pastor Fitzner and Deaconess Froh would like your input on the youth group. Please join us for a brief meeting after the 2nd service to help plan for the upcoming year.



BIRTHDAYS

2 – Deaconess
Elizabeth Froh

3 - Tom Nord

4 – Paul Patzer

5 – Emma Couillard
Katrina Fifer
Donna Maaks
Daniel Timm

8 – Kennedi
Wellenreiter

9 – Sandra Braasch

11 – Mary Ellen Schmidt

12 – James Cherry
Ralph Huckstadt

13 – Andrew
Cunningham
Frank Quistgaard
Ezekiel Schwier

14 – Jeanne Holzhauer
Sara Piller

15 – Grace Nord

16 – Anna Gerrietts
Isaac Gerrietts
Timothy Schwier

17 – Tori Back

18 – David Cameron
Dale Karrick
Marvin Laesch

19 – Kara Frasier
Sandi McKean
John Pogge

21 – Marlene Baer

22 – Wendy Bocock
Gerine Phipps
Sharon Quiram
Sarah Runyan

24 – Madelaine
Quistgaard

25 – Gerald McKean
Mandy Richardson

26 – Karen Harsha

27 – Jonathan
Blankenship
Luke Fitzner
Russell McKinney

28 - Sara Baker
Lisa Cunningham

29 – Amber Conder
Avery Schwier

30 – Linda Gabbrants
Gracelyn
Wellenreiter

31 – Ellie Imig
Gale Imig

* * * * *

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

2 – Joshua & Megan
Weinkein

9 – Paul & Ellen
Patzner

27 – Norm & Elaine
Hester

30 – Roger & Judy
Augspurger

31 – Russell & Lois
McKinney

* * * * *

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

1 – Bruce Aho
Marlene Baer
Rachel Belsaas
Tamara Belsaas
Louise Cameron
Ruth Hansen
Gale Imig
Kaelyn Knoche
Marcia Laesch
Bill Rustemeyer

2 – Charles Cagley

3 – Clyve Baade
Tom Nord

5 – Chloe Hambleton

6 – Phyllis Reeves

7 – Mark Newberry

8 – Cadence
Hambleton

10 - Clayton Wellenreiter

11 – Jan Swafford

13 – Debbie Katchmar

14 - Claire Newberry
Jacob Newberry-
Lush
Justin Vest

15 – Frank Gunter

16 – Roberta Proc

17 - Alyssa Cunningham

18 – Jeanne Holzhauer

24 – Amy Manning
Emilee Martin
Samuel Scheltens
Karla Timm

25 – Kathy Stappenbeck

27 – Ralph Huckstadt
Nathaniel Sobery

28 – Joan Aho
Linda Baer
Karen Nafziger

29 – Amber Conder

30 – Deaconess
Elizabeth Froh

31 – Emma Couillard
Brian Imig

God's
Richest
Blessings on
your special
day!!



January 2024

Christ Lutheran Church, Normal, IL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Church Office Closed Pr. Fitzner Vacation	2 Pr. Fitzner Vacation	3 5:30pm Youth Choir 6pm Handbells 6:45pm Adult Choir	4	5	6 Epiphany 5:30pm Worship/HC
7 Church Officers Installation ~ both services 8am (livestreamed) & 10:45am Worship/HC 9:25am SS/Adult Bible Class 1:30pm Take Down Christ- mas Decorations	8 10am PH: Sharing Joys	9 <u>2023 Annual</u> <u>Reports Due</u> 9am Circuit Pastors' Conf. @ Trinity, Bloom.	10 5:30pm Youth Choir 6pm Handbells 6:45pm Adult Choir 7pm HS YAIC	11 Deaconess Out of Town	12 Deaconess Out of Town	13 Deaconess Out of Town 9am-12pm PH: Officers Workshop 5:30pm Worship/HC
14 8am (livestreamed) & 10:45am Worship/HC 9:25am SS/Adult Bible Class Deaconess Out of Town	15 Pr. Fitzner & Dcs. Froh ~ Symposia @ Ft. Wayne 10am PH: Sharing Joys	16 Pr. Fitzner & Dcs. Froh ~ Symposia @ Ft. Wayne	17 Pr. Fitzner & Dcs. Froh ~ Symposia @ Ft. Wayne 5:30pm Youth Choir 6pm Handbells 6:45pm Adult Choir	18 Pr. Fitzner & Dcs. Froh ~ Symposia @ Ft. Wayne 9am PH: LWR Quilters	19 Pr. Fitzner & Dcs. Froh ~ Symposia @ Ft. Wayne	20 <u>Newsletter</u> <u>Items Due</u> 7:30am Men's Breakfast @ Times Past Inn 5:30pm Worship/HC 6:30pm International Neighbors Night @ Wittenberg
21 8am (livestreamed) & 10:45am Worship/HC 9:25am SS/Adult Bible Class 12:15pm PH: Youth & Parent Mtg. 1pm PH: LWR Quilters	22 10am PH: Sharing Joys	23 7pm Elders Mtg.	24 5:30pm Youth Choir 6pm Handbells 6:45pm Adult Choir 7pm HS YAIC	25	26 6-10pm AB: Jr. High Lock-In	27 5:30pm Worship/HC
28 8am (livestreamed) & 10:45am Worship/HC 9:25am SS/Adult Bible Class	29 10am PH: Sharing Joys	30	31 5:30pm Youth Choir 6pm Handbells 6:45pm Adult Choir			

THOSE WHO SERVE IN JANUARY 2024

ELDERS:

Jan. 7 Jonathan Kothe
Jan. 14 Brandon Lacey
Jan. 21 Alan Sobery
Jan. 28 Jonathan Kothe

8:00 a.m.

10:45 a.m.

Roger Jones
Steve Trimpe
Roger Jones
Steve Trimpe

SAT / SUN ORGANISTS:

Patty Downey
Patty Downey
Patty Downey
Patty Downey

SAT ELDERS:

Jan. 6 Kevin Kothe
Jan. 13 Henry Scheltens

SAT USHERS:

Garry Smith
Jared Baumhardt
Jan Imig
Jared Baumhardt
Garry Smith
Jan Imig

FILL CANDLE OIL: Phil Bocock

ALTAR CARE: Suspended for January

USHERS:

Jan. 7 Gary Gruber
Stuart Nerby
Chris Turner
Jan. 14 Joshua Kothe
Daniel Timm
Wayne Timm
Jan. 21 Gary Gruber
Stuart Nerby
Chris Turner
Jan. 28 Joshua Kothe
Daniel Timm
Wayne Timm

8:00 a.m.

10:45 a.m.

Phil Allyn
Ron Krueger
Nyle Wiechmann
Jacob Baker
Paul Couillard
Jeff Smith
Phil Allyn
Ron Krueger
Nyle Wiechmann
Jacob Baker
Paul Couillard
Jeff Smith

KITCHEN DUTY: Ethan Blankenship Don & Jeanne Holzhauer

KITCHEN MAINTENANCE: Miriam Circle

NURSERY: Suspended for January

ACOLYTES:

Jan. 7 Allie Cunningham
Sadie Mehn
Jan. 14 Evan Brown
Austin Richardson
Jan. 21 Mason Lakamp
Reese Lakamp
Jan. 28 Liam Scott
Luke Smart

8:00 a.m.

10:45 a.m.

Will Davis
Juliana Nord
Morgan Fifer
Anna Gerrietts
Ben Allyn
Andrew Huehn
Joseph Blankenship
Paul Hambleton

MONEY COUNTERS:

Mary Rustemeyer
Vanette Schwartz
Gary Baumhardt
Don Holzhauer
Gary Gruber
Ron Krueger
Linda Conder
Bee Reinthaler

GREETERS:

Jan. 7 D&J Holzhauer
Jan. 14 Doris Kothe
Jan. 21 Vanette Schwartz
Jan. 28 S&R Nerby

8:00 a.m.

10:45 a.m.

Becky Hussemann
Bee Reinthaler
E&K Duran
Sandy Braasch
B&J Aho

FLOWERS:

Altar Guild



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
311 Hershey Rd
Normal IL 61761-2295
PH: 309-452-5609
A Church of the Missouri Synod

JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

STAFF

Pastor

Pastor Jonathan Huehn

Associate Pastor

Pastor Timothy Fitzner

Deaconess

Elizabeth Froh

Music Director

Patty Downey



Christ Lutheran Church exists to nurture disciples of Jesus Christ.

To this end, and with the help of God, we will do this through

preaching, teaching, and reaching.

Preaching the Word and administering the Sacraments.

Teaching all things Jesus has commanded in His Word through instructional opportunities.

Reaching out and serving others.



WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Saturdays – Worship - 5:30 p.m.

Sundays – Worship - 8:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School and Bible Classes – 9:25 a.m.