

Never Retreat. Never Surrender.

One of my favorite movies is the 1970 film, “Patton,” starring George C. Scott. The real General Patton had one standing order for his troops: Never dig in. In other words, the general always wanted his troops on the offensive, always putting pressure on the enemy. There would be no time to dig foxholes on the battlefield because they were always advancing, always moving forward, always fighting for victory. Patton’s 3rd Army was very successful in Europe during World War II. They endured the horrific Battle of the Bulge outside of Bastogne and broke through the enemy lines breaking up the German offensive in 1944.

While this order might be problematic at times for worldly conflicts and for standing armies on the battlefield, it is true for Christians. Never dig in. Never retreat. Never surrender. As I write this, we’re a little over three weeks past Christmas. The Scripture lessons and hymns of that glorious season are fresh in my memory. Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent is approaching quickly. This year Ash Wednesday falls on St. Valentine’s Day, February 14th. So will begin the 40-day journey following Jesus through the wilderness as He is tempted by the devil and as He succeeds where ancient Israel failed on their 40-year wandering in the wilderness. For you, the fight of Lent is against the flesh, heart, and mind that are turned against the Lord. The fight is against sin that lurks within our members. The fight is against the devil who lies, cheats, and steals. Against sin, death, and the devil: NEVER RETREAT! NEVER SURRENDER!

During Lent, we hear “*our Lord’s call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that prevents us from trusting in God and loving each other*” (Holy Thursday liturgy). While this fight goes on every day of our lives, Lent is a time the church sets to intensify that fight as we prepare for the events of Holy Week and the resurrection of our Lord. Jesus fights the devil in the wilderness and He is victorious. Jesus fights the temptations of the flesh and He is victorious. Jesus strives with death and He conquers death by swallowing up death forever by death. That victory is made yours through faith. Jesus is by our side upon the plain (LSB 656:4). Jesus is with us on the battlefield, shielding His people from every harm (LSB 401:5). Jesus, who changes not, His arms are near (LSB 664:4). Follow Christ, your Lord, and take the cross appointed. Cling firmly to His Word and in suffering be undaunted. For you who bear the battle’s strain, you will receive the crown of heavenly life (LSB 688:5) because Jesus lives! The victory’s won! (LSB 490).

You may have noticed lately that I’ve begun wearing a metal bracelet on my right arm. On it, there are engraved the words, “NEVER RETREAT | NEVER SURRENDER” along with an engraving of a cross. It’s a reminder to me of my baptism. It’s a reminder to continue to fight against temptation and sin and that I don’t fight alone. Jesus stands with me. The holy angels stand around me. Sin and death no longer have dominion over me (Romans 6:9).

As we enter the season of Lent, never dig in. Heed your Lord’s call to intensify your struggle against sin, death, and the devil.

Christ is King!

Pastor Fitzner

Caring for My Neighbor

If any of the Ten Commandments might tempt us to think that keeping the Law is easy, it would be the Fifth Commandment. After all, how hard is it to get through life without murdering somebody? The vast majority of people can handle that!

But Jesus famously blows up this notion by pointing out that the command, “you shall not murder,” goes much deeper — down to the heart.

You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matt. 5:21–22)

Hatred and disdain come from the same sort of crookedness of heart as murder. With both murder and hatred, you look down on another person and think them of little worth.

In the Small Catechism, Luther also points out that every “do not” in the commandments also includes a “do this:” “We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but *help and support him in every physical need*” (SC, Fifth Commandment, emphasis added).

We are not called merely to avoid evil; we must also do positive good.

So when Jesus drew near to us and became our neighbor by taking up our humanity, He came not only to avoid harming us, but He came to positively help us, bless us and serve us.

We are now called to show the love to our neighbors that Christ showed to us. Your neighbor is yet another gift that God has given you that requires your stewardship. We are called to show mercy, to be kind, to love and serve our neighbor. One aspect of this stewardship is financial: our neighbors need us to support the church’s work so that they can hear the Gospel and come to faith. Our neighbors need the church’s alms and mercy work. Our neighbors need our faithful service in all we do in the name of Christ.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

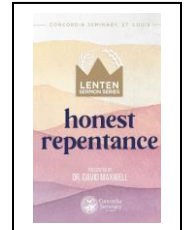
As a part of the LCMS Together in Mission program, Christ Lutheran is supporting the Reverend Doctor Quintin Cundiff’s mission work in Riga, Latvia. Dr. Cundiff teaches at the Luther Academy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia, an LCMS partner church. At the Academy, Dr. Cundiff serves as the Dean of Students. He assists in the pastoral formation of ministry candidates who live around Eurasia and parts of Africa and attend the Academy. He has also been involved in starting an English-language worship service in Riga for English speakers. He is also studying for his PhD in Missiology at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne.

Dr. Cundiff’s wife, Lindsay, assists with editing their newsletter as well as the newsletters from all the other Eurasia missionaries. The Cundiffs have one son, Carter, who attends middle school at the International School of Riga.

Please keep the Cundiffs in your prayers as they teach and minister in Latvia.

FEBRUARY 2024 PULPIT PROGRAM

FEB. 3/4	SEXAGESIMA/ H.C. (All Chanted) LITURGY: D.S. 2 READINGS: Isaiah 55:10-13; 2 Corinthians 11:19-12:9; Luke 8:4-15
FEB. 10/11	QUINQUAGESIMA/ H.C. LITURGY: D.S. 2 READINGS: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; 1 Corinthians 13; Luke 18:31-43
FEB. 14	ASH WEDNESDAY/ H.C. (Chanted @ 12:15pm & 6:30pm) LITURGY: D.S. 3 READINGS: Genesis 1:1-10; 2 Peter 1:2-11; Matthew 6:16-21
FEB. 17/18	FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT/ H.C. (All Chanted) LITURGY: D.S. 2 READINGS: Genesis 3:1-21; 2 Corinthians 6:1-10; Matthew 4:1-11
FEB. 21	MIDWEEK OF LENT 1 (12:15pm & 6:30pm) LITURGY: Service of Prayer and Preaching READINGS: Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13
FEB. 24/25	SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT/ H.C. LITURGY: D.S. 2 READINGS: Genesis 32:22-32; Romans 5:1-5; Matthew 15:21-28
FEB. 28	MIDWEEK OF LENT 2 (12:15pm & 6:30pm) LITURGY: Service of Prayer and Preaching READINGS: Genesis 22:1-18



NEWS & NOTES

PRIVATE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION is available to members and catechumens
by appointment with our pastors.

Note: The Pastors are bound by their ordination vows to keep all sins confessed confidential.

LENT begins on Ash Wednesday ~ February 14th

Midweek Lenten Services start that day at 12:15pm and 6:30pm. They will continue weekly on Feb. 21, 28, March 6, 13, & 20 at 12:15pm & 6:30pm.

2024 Lenten Series – “Honest Repentance”: What does true repentance look like? “Repentance starts with being honest before God and ourselves about who we are. When it comes to sin, everyone has a natural impulse to hide, but repentance means finding the courage to be honest.” Each text draws from Scripture readings traditionally assigned for the Easter Vigil to explore what repentance is — and what a life of repentance looks like. “In the context of the Easter Vigil, these readings capture the broad sweep of God’s saving acts in the Bible, culminating in Baptism, which traditionally takes place at the vigil.”

1. February 14: Ash Wednesday - Law (Creation: Gen 1:1 – 2:3 or Gen 1:1-10)

2. February 21: Midweek of Lent 1 - Chaos (The Flood: Gen 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13 or Gen 7:6-12, 17-21; 8:1)

3. February 28: Midweek of Lent 2 - Faith (Abraham & Isaac: Gen 22:1-18)

4. March 6: Midweek of Lent 3 - Repentance (The Repentance of Nineveh: Jonah 3:1-10)

5. March 13: Midweek of Lent 4 - Purification (The Three Men in the Fiery Furnace: Dan 3:1-30 or Dan 3:13-30)

6. March 20: Midweek of Lent 5 - Salvation (The Crossing of the Red Sea: Ex 14:10 – 15:1)

NEWS & NOTES

PREPARING FOR LENT BIBLE STUDY... Led by Pastor Huehn in the parish hall. A one-time Bible study will be offered on **Wednesday, February 7th, 10:30am-12:00pm or 7-8:30pm**, on some ways we can prepare for the Lenten season. We will also look at the Midweek series theme and briefly at the Sundays in Lent.

MEMORIALS... No memorials were received this past month.

December 2023 Financial Report

INCOME		EXPENSES	
<u>December</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
\$86,100.77	\$720,077.92	\$51,767.72	\$688,779.17

Flower Reminder

The 2024 flower chart is posted on the bulletin board outside the Parish Hall. You can sign up to help beautify the altar area in memory of or in honor of a loved one or to acknowledge an anniversary, birthday, or any special occasion.

FEBRUARY WOMEN'S EVENTS.... Mark your calendars for these upcoming women's events.

Come and join us for Women's Bible Study. We will be studying Rebekah on **Thursday, Feb. 1st, at 11am and 6:30pm** in the church library. We will also meet Thursday, March 7th, at 11am & 6:30pm.

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!

MEN'S NIGHT OUT... **Monday, February 5th, at 6:30 pm**, will meet at **Alexander's Steakhouse**, 1503 E College Ave, Normal. Please, join us! If you have any questions, contact Chris Turner at chrtur@msn.com.

MARY MARTHA CIRCLE... Our meetings resume on **Thursday, February 8th, at 7pm in the Parish Hall**. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Refreshments will be served. We will share in God's word with a short devotion, discuss our spring events/business, and enjoy lots of fellowship! Ladies, if you haven't been to a meeting before you are more than welcome to join us. If you have any questions contact, Karla Timm at ktcare@live.com or call 309-664-0568.

NEWS & NOTES

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (LWR) QUILTERS... will meet **Thursday, February 15th, from 9-11am and Sunday, February 18th from 1-3pm.** Please, join us as we sew and tie quilts to be given to LWR for distribution around the world. If you have any questions, contact Andrea Couillard, 309-530-3396.

SOUP SUPPERS... Join us for dinner and fellowship before attending the Lenten services each Wednesday! **We will serve from 5:00-6:00pm. The first soup supper will be on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14th.** The menu includes a variety of soups, salad, bread, and dessert. If you would like to donate items for the dinner, please sign up on the board in the Christian Fellowship Area. There will be a free will donation which will go towards the youth trip to Higher Things next summer. Thank you!

HOUSING FOR LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL BAND & CHOIR... Christ Lutheran will be hosting the band & choir from Lutheran High School North in St. Louis on **Wednesday, February 14th, Ash Wednesday.** We are looking for housing for them. We will need 12 homes for them to stay overnight in, 2 students per home. If you have room for more that would be great! They will join us for the Soup Supper on Wednesday evening, play/sing during the 6:30pm church service and then they will go home with you. They need to be back to church by 7:30am on Thursday and you will need to provide them breakfast. Please, let the church office, clcms@christlutherannormal.org, know if you are able to host some students. We look forward to hosting the students from Lutheran High School North.

MEN'S BREAKFAST... All men of the congregation are invited to the Men's Breakfast for food and fellowship. We will meet **Saturday, February 17th, at 7:30am at Garden of Paradise,** 1412 Empire St, Bloomington, 61701. If you have any questions, contact Stuart Nerby at stu652@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT...

Women's Night Out will be on Thursday, Feb. 22nd at 6:30 pm at BloNo Pizza Company, 1304 Cross Creek Dr, Normal.

Hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please contact Doris Kothe at doris.l.kothe@gmail.com or text at 309-530-4360.

Did you know that Christ Lutheran's Ladies Guild and LWML are one and the same?

LWML stands for Lutheran Women's Missionary League. This coming year we will be referring to the LWML more often, as it helps state part of our goals. Over the next year, we hope to meet the goal of encouraging all women 18 and over to find a way/ways to "Serve the Lord with Gladness" here at Christ Lutheran and in ways that extend to our community, district and even globally!

Stay tuned! 🕊️💕





The Youth of The Church ~ February 2024

Ash Wednesday & Lenten Soup Suppers

Please mark your calendars.

On Wednesday, February 14th, the youth will be helping serve and clean up at the soup supper before the Ash Wednesday service. We will continue to help serve at every soup supper during Lent. There will be a free-will offering to help offset costs for the Higher Things trip this summer. All students who will be attending must sign-up to help at least **twice**. All other students are encouraged to help. If you will not be attending Higher Things, **you may earn service hours by helping.**

February Dates to Remember

14 – Ash Wednesday
Soup Supper from 5:00 – 6:00. Please arrive at 4:30 to help. Service begins at 6:30.

21 – Lent Soup Supper
from 5:00 – 6:00. Please arrive at 4:30 to help. Service begins at 6:30.

28 – Lent Soup Supper
from 5:00 – 6:00. Please arrive at 4:30 to help. Service begins at 6:30.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1 - Isaac Baker
Annette Cherry
Dan Kastendick
- 2 - Jacob Marvel
- 3 - Rosemary Laesch
- 4 - Katelyn Sunderland
Kristin Sunderland
- 5 - Anne Dameron
Ava Weinkein
- 6 - Joy Dominguez
- 7 - Evan Brown
Ryan Leischner
- 8 - Wesley Weinkein
- 10 - Megan Baker
- 11 - Joseph Couillard
Chloe Turrentine
- 12 - Jackson Cherry
- 13 - Natalia Sobery
Demetrius Turrentine
- 14 - Dillon Crosier
Allene Laesch
- 15 - Jennifer Bartnik
Evelyn Fitzner
- 16 - Jean Bodien
Sarah Vest
- 17 - Joshua Weinkein
- 18 - Jameson Filey
Ben Light
- 19 - Brittney Cavinder

- 22 - Anthony Duran
- 23 - Scott Newberry
- 25 - Mark Cordani
Elaine Hester
Carleigh Wellenreiter
- 28 - Colton Turner

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HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 5 - Steve & Sharon
Quiram
- 9 - Paul & Andrea
Couillard
- 25 - Frank & Gretchen
Quistgaard

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BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - John Pogge
Tim Schwier
Candice Stahl
- 2 - Russell Hanan
Stuart Nerby
- 3 - Nicholas Paez
- 4 - Annie Downey
- 5 - Darcelle Pogge
Linda Walker
- 6 - Hayden Judy
Emma Nerby
- 9 - Phil Bocock
Grace Nord
- 10 - Katrina Fifer
Dan Kastendick
Marvin Laesch
- 13 - Tori Back
- 14 - Russell McKinney

- 15 - Luke Fitzner
- 16 - Maren Bartnik
- 17 - Debbie Katchmar
Sarah Runyan
- 18 - Ben Light
Sandi McKean
- 19 - Leah Alexander
- 20 - Jonathan Krueger
John Sunderland
- 21 - Brandy Capsel
Alyssa Nerby
- 22 - Amy Wert
- 25 - Jennifer Bartnik
- 27 - Evan Brown
- 28 - Brian Runyon
Mary Ellen Schmidt



February 2024

Christ Lutheran Church, Normal, IL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 11am & 6:30pm Library: Women's Bible Study	2 6:30pm Women's Pickleball Event @ Evergreen Racquet Club	3 5:30pm Worship/HC
4 Worship/HC 8am (live-streamed) & 10:45am SS/Bible Class 9:25 am 12pm PH: SS Staff Mtg	5 10am PH: Sharing Joys 6pm Children/ Youth Board 6:30pm Men's Night Out @ Alexander's Steakhouse	6 3pm Adult Ministry 6:30pm Trustees 6:30pm Mission/ Evangelism	7 10:30am & 7pm Preparing for Lent Bible Study 6pm Handbells 6:45pm YA & Adult Choir	8 10am PH: Miriam Circle 7pm PH: Mary Martha Circle	9	10 7am PH: HCE Tea ~ Linda Conder 5:30pm Worship/HC
11 Worship/HC 8am (live-streamed) & 10:45am SS/Bible Class 9:25 am	12 10am PH: Sharing Joys	13 9am PH: Circuit Pastors Conf. @ Trinity, El Paso 6pm Exec. Comm. 7pm Council	14 <u>ASH WEDNESDAY</u> VALENTINE'S DAY 12:15pm & 6:30pm Midweek Lenten Services 5-6pm PH: Soup Supper	15 9am PH: LWR Quilters	16	17 7:30am Men's Breakfast @ Garden of Paradise 1pm PH & Kitchen: Anna Trimpe 5:30pm Worship/HC
18 Worship/HC 8am (live-streamed) & 10:45am SS/Bible Class 9:25 am 1pm PH: LWR Quilters	19 10am PH: Sharing Joys	20 NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE	21 12:15pm & 6:30pm Midweek Lenten Services 5-6pm PH: Soup Supper 5:45pm Handbells 7:10pm YA & Adult Choir	22 6:30pm Women's Night Out @ BloNo Pizza Co.	23	24 5:30pm Worship/HC
25 Worship/HC 8am (live-streamed) & 10:45am SS/Bible Class 9:25 am 12pm PH: VOTERS MTG w/potluck	26 10am PH: Sharing Joys	27 7pm Elders	28 12:15pm & 6:30pm Midweek Lenten Services 5-6pm PH: Soup Supper 5:45pm Handbells 7:10pm YA & Adult Choir	29		

THOSE WHO SERVE IN FEBRUARY 2024

ELDERS:

8:00 a.m.
Feb. 4 Alan Sobery
Feb. 11 Jonathan Kothe
Feb. 18 Henry Scheltens
Feb. 25 Jonathan Kothe

10:45 a.m.

Roger Jones
Steve Trimpe
Roger Jones
Steve Trimpe

ALTAR CARE: Jean Baumhardt

FILL CANDLE OIL: Marilyn Wiechmann

SAT ELDERS:

Feb. 3 Henry Scheltens
Feb. 10 Kevin Kothe
Feb. 17 Alan Sobery
Feb. 24 Kevin Kothe

SAT USHERS:

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

SAT / SUN ORGANIST:

Patty Downey
Patty Downey
Patty Downey
Patty Downey

USHERS:

8:00 a.m.
Feb. 4 Gary Gruber
Stuart Nerby
Chris Turner
Feb. 11 Joshua Kothe
Daniel Timm
Wayne Timm
Feb. 18 Gary Gruber
Stuart Nerby
Chris Turner
Feb. 25 Joshua Kothe
Daniel Timm
Wayne Timm

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

NURSERY:

Suspended for February

KITCHEN DUTY:

Don & Jeanne Holzhauer
Ethan Blankenship

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14

12:15 pm ~ Elder: Roger Jones

Usher: Jan Imig

6:30 pm ~ Elder: Henry Scheltens

Ushers: Jonathan Blankenship

Gary Gruber

Joshua Kothe

Daniel Timm

Wayne Timm

MIDWEEK LENT: 12:15p.m. 6:30p.m.

Feb. 21st ~ Usher: Jan Imig

Feb. 28th ~ Usher: Jan Imig

Gary Gruber

Daniel Timm

MONTHLY KITCHEN CLEAN-UP: Elders

ACOLYTES:

Feb. 4 Katie Russell
Rachel Russell
Feb. 11 Sadie Mehn
Juliana Nord
Feb. 18 Allie Cunningham
Ethan Cunningham
Feb. 25 Will Davis
Liam Scott

Ben Allyn
Paul Hambleton
Evan Brown
Austin Richardson
Landon Rustemeyer
Luke Smart
Morgan Fifer
Anna Gerrietts

MONEY COUNTERS:

Lisa Scheltens
Brenda Vest
Mary Rustemeyer
Vanette Schwartz
Gary Baumhardt
Don Holzhauer
Gary Gruber
Ron Krueger

GREETERS:

Feb. 4 N&D Clausen
Feb. 11 Doris Kothe
Feb. 18 C&J Cagley
Feb. 25 Margaret Durry

G&C Gruber
Karen Harsha
A&D Katchmar
T&M Richardson Family
Huehn Family

FLOWERS:

No flowers ~ Lent

No flowers ~ Lent



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

FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

STAFF

Senior Pastor

Pastor Jonathan Huehn

Associate Pastor

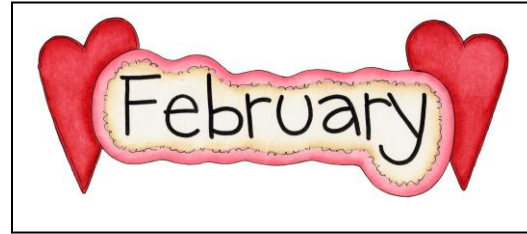
Pastor Timothy Fitzner

Deaconess

Elizabeth Froh

Music Director

Patty Downey



Christ Lutheran Church exists to nurture disciples of Jesus Christ.

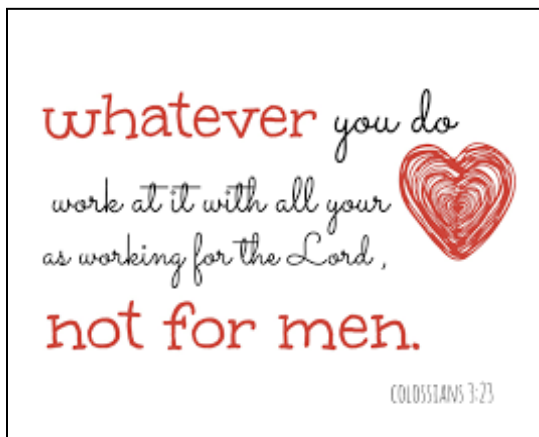
To this end, and with the help of God, we will do this through

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 - 5:30pm

Sundays – Worship - 8:00am and 10:45am

8am ~ livestreamed

Sunday School and Adult Bible Classes – 9:25am

Ash Wednesday Services – Feb. 14 @ 12:15pm & 6:30pm

Midweek Lenten Services – 12:15pm & 6:30pm

on Feb. 21 & Feb. 28