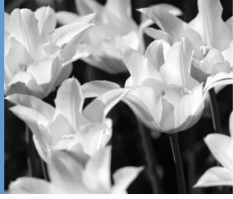




ONE IN CHRIST

Week of December 6 - December 12, 2021

PASTOR'S WORD



Messengers of Hope

This Advent Season, as we await the coming of Christ, we will reflect on the voices of those who waited, 2,000 years ago, for Jesus to come. Each of them longed for the mysterious Spirit of God that would reveal itself to the world in a whole new way in Jesus's birth, life, death, and resurrection. Mary, Zechariah, Elizabeth, and Simeon and Anna prophetically proclaimed the coming of the creator of the universe in the tiny, vulnerable little baby. They knew, and sang for all of creation, the promise that Christ's presence on earth would transform this world. Join us as we take time this Advent season to let these voices resound in our hearts and spirits. For their time, for all time, for us in our time, as they proclaim the truth of God incarnate, they are **Messengers of Hope**.

This week, we reflect on Zechariah, the husband of Elizabeth, and the words he spoke when John the Baptizer was born. Read this passage several times, out loud if you can, and then reflect on the questions below.

Luke 1:67-80

⁶⁷ Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: ⁶⁸ "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. ⁶⁹ He has raised up a mighty savior^[a] for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰ as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹ that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. ⁷² Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, ⁷³ the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴ that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸ By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon^[b] us, ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." ⁸⁰ The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

Questions for reflection

Where do you hear hope in the words of this messenger?

Where do you feel challenged by these words?

How do you feel invited to carry this message of hope to others?



WORSHIP

Sunday, December 12, 9:30 am, Worship

Access Online Bulletin

Join us for Worship in the Sanctuary and the baptism of Hank Borden.

OR

You may also attend virtually using the Zoom link or call the number noted in the bulletin to join us!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/278217453?pwd=azE2dkNHVE9WSzdaeDM5Yzh4RGRvdz09>

One tap mobile

+13126266799,278217453#,1#,971744# US (Chicago)

Call in From Any Phone: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 278 217 453

Password: 971744



Seeking Stories of Hope

As we enter Advent this year, our theme is Messengers of Hope. We want to collect stories of hope as we prepare for Jesus, who brings the hope of God to this world. Do you have a story to share?

Tell a story of someone who is a messenger of hope for you.

Tell a story of a situation or an event that brought you hope.



Sunday School and Nursery

We plan to start Sunday School in January, and are so excited to welcome the children officially back to the building! We plan to meet during the education hour after 9:30am Worship, and more details will be coming soon.

We recognize that there may be families for whom returning to the building in January will not be the right choice, and want to be sure that we meet the needs of ALL of our children and families. In addition, some parents have asked when nursery will be available again. Please let Jesse and Pastor Meagan know as soon as possible:

Will your child be joining Sunday School in January? If not, how can we best meet their needs? If nursery is available, will your child attend nursery?



Important Congregational Meeting Regarding Sale of the Mead Center

Sunday December 19, 2021 following worship, In –person and Zoom Access

In September we held a special congregational meeting to discuss whether to solicit purchase offers for #17 Selma. We voted overwhelmingly that day to authorize the Council to proceed with that process.

I'm pleased to say we have progress. Webster Groves school district has expressed interest in purchasing the building, and after back and forth negotiating, we have arrived at an agreed price of \$875,000. That number is subject to appraisal – it's part of their requirement. They are also open to leasing back space short term for Sunday school, although we have yet to work through details.

The challenge we face now is that in order for the school to complete its due diligence, which means spending money, they need to have confirmation we're willing to proceed. So, we are convening another special congregational meeting two weeks from today, 12/19, after the 9:30 service. The goal that day will be to consider authorizing the Council to proceed with a sale of #17 Selma at the \$875k price.

The renovation Committee will be meeting next Thursday 12/9, to dust off our prior renovation plans and talk through near and long term accommodations for Sunday School. White Paper and the Q&A summary will be available in the Narthex or via e-mail on request.

Per our constitution, this coming week we'll also be sending out a notice of the 12/19 congregational meeting via email and snail mail where appropriate. We'll have a reminder again of the meeting at our service on 12/12, and the church council will be convening on 12/14 to review progress and plan for the congregational meeting the following Sunday.

While we don't have all details worked out yet about next steps after a sale, we're committed to getting that done as soon as possible. Many of you have offered to help with the process, and that's great! We're on the cusp of some major changes and opportunities to move our congregation forward. Please feel free to reach out to Kevin Drollinger, a Council member, or Pastor Meagan with further questions.

Stewardship & Offerings

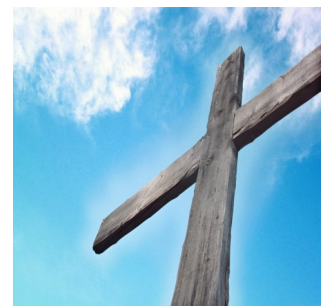
We continue to worship and reach out to people in different ways than we're traditionally accustomed. Staff and members are reaching out proactively to make sure everyone in our congregation is cared for, and connected, as much as possible. We are re-imagining ministry! Now more than ever, it takes all of us to make that happen.

We can continue to fund our church and the important work we're doing with a few easy clicks:

1. Visit [our donation website](#) directly or go to www.christwq.org and scroll down to the 'Give Now' button.
2. You may make a one time or recurring gift. There are NO FEES to withdraw directly from your bank account. Fees do apply for debit/credit card transactions.
3. Optional: set up a profile to be able to change your recurring gifts at any time or view your giving history.
4. Want to walk through the steps with someone? Contact Kate Hoerchler, 314-805-1751, katehoerchler@gmail.com

If you prefer to make your offering by check or cash, there are mailing envelopes included in your offering envelope package.

Joan O'Brien and Lynnae Ruff, Stewardship Chairs



Help Volunteer and Share the Christmas Cheer!

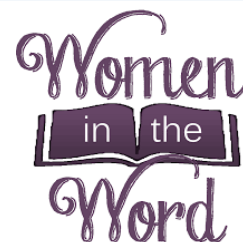
We are excited to offer an in-person volunteer event for those who wish to share in the Christmas spirit and help the local community! On **Saturday, December 11th, we will be working with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri** to help coordinate gifts from donors to recipients. There will be two shifts (10am-12pm and 12pm-2pm), and we are looking for about 10 volunteers for each shift. If you are interested, please arrive 15 minutes prior to your shift and make sure to bundle up and dress warm, as we will be working outside to help unload/load the presents. School-age kids are welcome to help if families would like to volunteer together! Masks will be required. The address of the BB/BS location is **501 North Grand** (right next to the Fox Theatre), and there is a covered garage across the street. (Please bring your parking stub in case parking can be validated). Please sign up for a spot below if you can make it! Any questions, please contact Erin Eftink at erineftink@sbcglobal.net.

[Big Brothers/Big Sisters Volunteer Event](#)

Women's Group

The women of Christ Lutheran are invited to join our meetings taking place the second Thursday of each month at 7pm. More details to come!

Any questions? Reach out to Becca Jordan at beccajedwards@gmail.com.



Advent Wednesday Services

Wednesday, December 8, 6:00 pm Light Supper, 7:00 pm Advent Worship, Holden Evening Prayer.

Wednesday, December 15, 6:00 pm Light Supper, 7:00 pm Advent Worship, Holden Evening Prayer.

Wednesday, December 22, 6:00 pm Light Supper, 7:00 pm Advent Worship, Holden Evening Prayer.

Join us for worship in-person or on Zoom at 7pm:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/278217453?pwd=azE2dkNHVE9WSzdaeDM5Yzh4RGRvdz09>

Meeting ID: 883 9051 5821

Passcode: 685325

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,88390515821#,,,,*685325# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)



POINSETTIAS ON SALE FOR CHRISTMAS



This year we again have beautiful multi-bloom poinsettias, in six-inch pots, for sale. You can purchase one or more plants for \$7.50 each, which the church will use for decorating the altar on Christmas Eve (Friday, Dec. 24). You may take home your plant(s) after the 9pm service. Or, you can give your plants to our homebound members, to be distributed during Christmas week. Return this form to the office with your payment by Dec 22nd.

Your name: _____ Number of poinsettias: _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

I will be taking _____ home with me. I will be leaving _____ for the homebound.
Cost \$7.50 per plant TOTAL \$_____

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2021 Messengers of Hope

You are invited to join us for worship in-person or on Zoom.

Wednesday, December 8, 6:00 pm Light Supper, 7:00 pm Advent Worship, Holden Evening Prayer.

ZOOM Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/278217453?pwd=azE2dkNHVE9WSzdaeDM5Yzh4RGRvdz09>

Meeting ID: 883 9051 5821
Passcode: 685325

Sunday, December 12, Third Sunday of Advent- 9:30 am Worship with Cantata—*Morning Star* by Joseph Martin

Wednesday, December 15, 6:00 pm Light Supper, 7:00 pm Advent Worship, Holden Evening Prayer.

ZOOM Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/278217453?pwd=azE2dkNHVE9WSzdaeDM5Yzh4RGRvdz09>

Meeting ID: 883 9051 5821
Passcode: 685325

Sunday, December 19, Fourth Sunday of Advent - 9:30 am Worship, and the Children's Christmas Pageant "Las Posadas: A Journey to Hope."

Wednesday, December 22, 6:00 pm Light Supper, 7:00 pm Advent Worship, Holden Evening Prayer. **ZOOM Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/278217453?pwd=azE2dkNHVE9WSzdaeDM5Yzh4RGRvdz09>

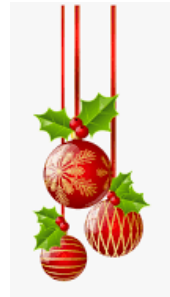
Meeting ID: 883 9051 5821
Passcode: 685325

Friday, December 24, 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion.

Friday, December 24, 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion.

Saturday, December 25, Merry Christmas! No Services.

Sunday, December 26, First Sunday of Christmas- Worship at 9:30 am.





In person Adult Forum will be held in the Fellowship Hall and will also be available on Zoom. If you choose Zoom just stay connected after the Sunday morning service. We anticipate a 10-15 minute break between the end of the postlude and the beginning of Adult Forum.

Upcoming Forums:

December 12-January 2 No Adult Forums

January 9 Adult Forum resumes

"It's not just Catholics," Diane Drollinger told us at Adult Forum on Sunday Dec. 5. Clergy sexual predators are found in all denominations including the ELCA.

Diane told her story: During the 1970's she was a victim of sexual abuse by a member of the Clergy. She was 14 and the abuser was her congregation's Youth Pastor. The abuse continued until she was in college. Later when she began to share her story she was sometimes believed, sometimes dismissed. But nothing happened.

Statistics say 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men—20% of the adult population—have experienced sexual abuse. Within the church the problem is not detected for several reasons: kids don't talk; warning signs are ignored; and a culture of niceness prevails so that abusers, especially members of the Clergy, are given the benefit of the doubt. Also, churches are seen as sanctuaries—safe places—where no one is on their guard. And a church building is big, with many isolated spots for abuse to happen.

Diane listed measures that can aid in preventing sexual abuse by clergy and help the victims when it does occur. Among them: have policies that define boundaries and delineate procedures such as avoiding one on one situations; screen workers; be alert for signs of trauma and believe a person who comes forward to report sexual abuse. Talking about it is a difficult thing to do. Also have a system to report abuse. She said if you see someone who seems to be in distress, talk to the Pastor or a Stephens Minister.

Diane was able to see that her abuser is no longer on the roster of ELCA clergy. She relied on her experience and knowledge of non-profits and was able to document her experience. But not many victims have her ability to persevere.

She found working through the reporting process difficult. It was hard to find the place on the ELCA website to report abuse, only one person, a part-time consultant, investigates the reports submitted. Then the responsibility for dealing with abusive clergy rests with the Bishop of each Synod. In Diane's case once the abuse was established and her abuser lost his status as a Pastor, there was no tracing to find other victims nor was there an offer of spiritual counseling.

Now Diane sits on the ELCA sexual abuse panel, made up of survivors and Clergy. The panel's first project is to commission a piece of art that delves into the trauma of clergy sexual abuse and illuminates the ongoing struggle of survivors. The panel hopes to create materials for congregations to use and make parishioners aware that sexual abuse happens and how to help those who have endured it.

What can we as members of Christ Lutheran do? Diane gave several suggestions: accept anyone who struggles (we don't know what they are dealing with), educate the public on clergy sexual abuse, and outline appropriate behavior. Above all look to the Scriptures. God's word is the guide on how to relate to each other.

2022 Council Openings

We have several openings for the 2022 Church Council, which will begin meeting in late January. We would love for you to consider being a part of this special group! Each chair serves a two-year term and meets once a month with the rest of Council (the past year through Zoom) to discuss important church issues. Below is a description of all the positions that are open. We hope that you will prayerfully consider joining the Council in continuing the good works at Christ Lutheran Church.

If you are interested, please contact Sandy Hoyer at hoyer.sandra60@gmail.com or Kate Hoerchler at katehoerchler@gmail.com.

President: Manage the overall Council process, prepare agendas, deal with larger issues as necessary, helps to recruit volunteers for various positions, and interface with Pastor Meagan.

Secretary: Takes notes at the monthly Council meetings, at the Annual Congregational meeting, and sends out minutes to Council members via e-mail.

Fellowship: Coordinates Christ Lutheran activities and events throughout the year. A few of those events include: Wurstfest, Trunk or Treat, Advent Brunch, Wednesday Advent and Lenten dinners, Easter brunch, 4th of July and various other activities, like Winter Wonderland carriage rides, celebrations (Pastor Meagan's Welcome party), themed parties (St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo), pool parties, etc. While you are the main coordinator, there are plenty of members throughout the congregation willing to serve on committees and offer their time and expertise.

Christian Services: Helps organize and coordinate donation drives that help local non-profits, such as Webster RockHill Ministries. In addition, the chair helps plan congregational activities that bring people together to serve the local community. The Christian Service chair is also responsible for working with the Treasurer and Council to determine which organizations and non-profits receive donations (benevolences) from Christ Lutheran Church. Some specific drives and activities we have done in the last few years include: school supply donations for WRHM, Adopt-a-Family at Christmas through WRHM, buying gifts for the ladies of the Mary Ryder house at Christmas, helping clean up local Webster Groves parks, donating masks to the Rockwood Retirement Community and participating in the 2019 Crop Hunger Walk.

Stewardship: Stewardship is the judicious management of the time, talents and money that the Lord has given each of us to use for his glory. Our committee plans an annual pledge campaign - usually early in the year to encourage members to pledge and to monetarily contribute toward our benevolences and the mission of our Church. In addition, we encourage each member to volunteer to charities and to use their talents as needed within our Church, our community and the world.

Youth: The Youth Chair is the voice for the youth and their parents, helps with getting information to the youth and families about mission trips, and gathers the money and paperwork that is due for these trips. The Youth Chair has, in the past, lead the youth group on Sunday mornings, joined by Pastor Meagan.

In-Reach: The chair is responsible for ensuring a fulfilling experience at Christ Lutheran for current members, during and outside of the services. This involves making sure people have access to the service and soliciting ideas for possible improvement. In-Reach also provides support to other committees, especially the Fellowship and Worship committees, as there is a fair amount of overlap between them. During COVID, In-Reach has helped coordinate all the technology for the Zoom church services. Other jobs include the following (with Joan O'Brien's help): monthly Anniversary/Birthday cake & balloons in Fellowship Hall (once allowed again); monthly mailings of Anniversary/Birthday/Get well/ Sympathy cards; periodic updates for the printed and web directories; planning welcome parties for new members; and organizing our 4th of July parade involvement (either IN the parade or opening our Church's restrooms for organizers and parade participants; followed by a BBQ rib picnic lunch with pot luck side dishes for church members and friends.

Outreach: The Outreach chair is responsible for helping promote Christ Lutheran Church in the local community, raising awareness and piquing interest with potential new members in the community in CLC services and events. A few common and primary responsibilities of the Outreach Chair include: Assisting with the promotion of CLC Easter and Christmas services, and special events; determining, planning and promoting events such as "Views and Brews" speaker series, Trivia Night, CLC's 120th anniversary, etc.

Helping Afghani Refugees - Many Families are Arriving Now!

CLC Congregation:

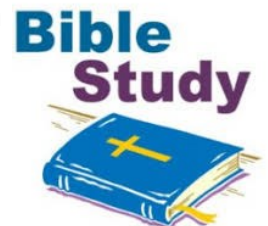
If you have been watching the news, you are probably aware that Afghani refugees are beginning to arrive in greater numbers in St. Louis, and that this will continue for awhile. In September we collected donations and had a small group volunteer at the House of Goods - Baitulmal, a non-profit that works with the Islamic Foundation of Greater St. Louis. Representatives from the organization spoke at our Adult Forum on 11/21 and they are in emergency need of donations to help the incoming families. We will have a blue bin in the Narthex to collect donations every Sunday until the end of the year (and possibly longer). Please help if you are able - see below for more details!

- 1) You can mail a check, or gift cards to House of Goods - Baitulmal. Their address is 5911 Southwest Avenue. St. Louis, MO 63139. Gift cards from Walmart, Aldi, Target, and Schnucks would be greatly appreciated. If you are sending a check, please make the check out to the Islamic Foundation of Greater St. Louis and write "House of Goods - New Arrivals" in the memo line.
- 2) You are also welcome to drop off donations to House of Goods - Baitulmal (see address above), or drop them off in the blue bin in the church narthex. These are the donations that are needed right now:
 - bottles of water
 - juice boxes
 - snacks (gelatin free)
 - tea bags
 - electric water boilers
 - gift cards (Walmart, Target, Aldi, Schnucks)
 - hygiene products (shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothpaste, toothbrush)
 - kid toys (gently used or new)
 - winter coats
- 3) House of Goods is also in need of in-person volunteers to help organize donations and help in other ways. If you are interested, please reach out to Sherry Mitchler or Erin Eftink for more information. Thank you!

Tuesday Bible Study

The Tuesday morning Bible study group will meet at 10:15 a.m. Dec 7 and 14th in the Parish Hall. Most recently, we've been studying Hebrews.

There will not be a meeting the rest of December due to Christmas.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please include the following people in your prayer life during this week.

ONGOING HEALTH CONCERNS: Those who are suffering from chronic pain & diseases, Shelly Madden, Linda Armstrong, Gege Brightman, Christine Austin, Kate and Brian Bates (John Hoffmann's sister and brother-in-law), Edith Cooper, Michael Cooper (Edith Cooper's grandson), Evan Deck, Helga Hayes, John Hoffmann, Elsie Johnson, Gerri Mac (Sharon Hornbeck's aunt), Bev & Al Marcus (friend of John Hoffmann), Doris & Harry Rahlfs (Karen Wood's parents), Edward Ruebeck (Rooocks' grand-nephew), Ken Ruppert (friend of Mark Roock), Flo Saeger, Sherri Swanson, Shirley Wolf, Mary Stough (Sharon Hornbeck's aunt), and Wayne Wellman (Susanne Reimer-Fey's brother).



IN BLESSED MEMORY: For all of those who have died, especially Edith Cooper, and all of those who grieve at a distance in this time.

IN MILITARY SERVICE: Josh Duncan, Chris Hudson, Jesse Proctor, Scott Warr.

Vigil For Black Lives

Every Friday from 6:00-6:30, congregations on Lockwood join together to stand for black lives, in our community and beyond. We take a short half an hour each week to be visible on Lockwood with signs of solidarity with our black siblings. It is a small way for us to make it known that we stand against racism in all the ways it impacts all of us. Please join us!

Choir Practice

All who love to sing are welcome at church Wednesday evenings on at 7:30 pm. You must be fully vaccinated and two weeks past your final vaccine to participate. For questions, I can be contacted at dianedrollinger@gmail.com. Thanks!



CLC Suggestion Box

Have an idea for how Christ Lutheran Church can make your experience better? Submit an anonymous note at <http://freesuggestionbox.com/pub/stwuunh> and we will do our best to help!



ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS!

LET'S CELEBRATE DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS!

Congratulations and Best Wishes! Christ Lutheran family wants to celebrate you!

Our apologies if we missed anybody! Please let us know if we did.

ANNIVERSARIES:

12/26 Robert & Joan O'Brien

BIRTHDAYS:

12/02 Luther Ciorba
12/05 Martin Allen
12/07 Michael Bude
12/07 Liz Drollinger
12/10 Catherine Gunther
12/13 Paige Meadows
12/17 James Gilliland
12/17 Rachel Helton
12/18 Linda Elkin
12/19 Brett Bussler
12/20 Jeffrey Kuziel
12/22 Christopher Lindquist
12/24 Lynnae Tanner Ruff
12/24 Loralie Blaser
12/24 Jodi McCarty
12/25 Jesse Wood
12/30 Pastor Stephanie Doeschot
12/31 Joe Bartek





December 2021

Sun
Mon
Tue
Wed
Thu
Fri
Sat

			1 6p Advent Supper in Fellowship Hall 7p Advent worship	2	3	4 2p Women's Advent Tea in Mead Center
5 9:30a Worship 9:15a Adult forum 11:45a Coffee fellowship	6 12p Sr. Fellowship at Laclede Groves 6p Fitness Group	7 10:15a Bible Study-Fellowship hall	8 6p Advent Supper in Fellowship Hall 7p Advent worship 7:30p Choir practice	9 6p Fitness Group	10	11
12 9:30a Worship with Choir Cantata 9:15a Adult Forum 11:45a coffee fellowship	13 12p Sr. Fellowship at Laclede Groves 6p Fitness Group	14 10:15a Bible Study-Fellowship hall 7p Church Council meeting in Conference room	15 6p Advent Supper in Fellowship Hall 7p Advent worship 7:30p Choir practice	16 6p Fitness Group	17	18
19 9:30a Worship, Kids Pageant 9:15a Adult forum 11:45a coffee fellowship	20 12p Sr. Fellowship at Laclede Groves 6p Fitness Group	21 No Bible Study 12p Stephen Ministry Holiday lunch at Laclede Groves 7p Church Council meeting in Conference room	22 6p Advent Supper in Fellowship Hall 7p Advent worship 7:30p Choir practice	23	24 Christmas Eve 5:00p Worship 9:00p Worship	25 Christmas Day 
26 9:30a Worship, No Adult forum	27 12p Sr. Fellowship at Laclede Groves 6p Fitness Group	28 No Bible Study 7p Church Council meeting in Conference room	29	30 6p Fitness Group	31 New Year's Eve	



Christ Lutheran Church, ELCA
1 Selma Avenue at Lockwood
Webster Groves, MO 63119-3199

TELEPHONE: 314-962-6011

E-MAIL:
 OFFICE@CHRISTWG.ORG

WEBSITE:
 WWW.CHRISTWG.ORG

WORSHIP SCHEDULE:
 SUNDAY AT 9:30 A.M.

RESIDENT PASTOR: MEAGAN
 MCLAUGHLIN OFFICE
 HOURS: MON-WED, FRI 8:30-
 4:30
 APPTS BY
 ARRANGEMENT

COUNCIL PRESIDENT:
 KEVIN DROLLINGER

DIRECTOR OF SENIOR
 ADULT MINISTRIES AND
 FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE:
 CAROLYN CROWE

DIRECTOR OF CHOIRS:
 DIANE DROLLINGER

ORGANIST:
 MARK RUFF

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:
 LISETTE KREITLER

FINANCIAL SECRETARY:
 TAMMY PRYOR

CUSTODIAN:
 KELLY LAKIES

WEBMASTER:
 PERRY YEE

Christ Lutheran Church Mission Statement

Deepening people's connection to Christ,
 Bringing meaning to daily life, and
 Making a difference in our community.

Altar Flower Sign-up

If you wish to donate flowers for a particular week, please attach a check for \$50 made payable to Christ Lutheran Church with "Flower Fund" in the memo and mail this form to the office. The cost of an arrangement can be shared by two families or individuals if you wish.

Name _____

Date donating flowers _____