

The Messenger

CEL C

CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
DECEMBER 2023

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
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Ron S	2
Amy L	5
Chip C	5
Betty W	6
Carl M	10
Benjamin M	11
Nathan B	11
Rob N	12
Faye W	13
Eric M	15
Sharon D	20
Becky G	20
Barb M	22
Camden P	24
Nathen B	29
Laura K	30

December Birthdays



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Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Congregation Council Meeting Minutes November 13, 2023

*Draft version. Minutes not officially approved until the following
Congregation Council meeting.*

Present: Pastor Laura Kuntz, Ryan Smarsh, Amy Lodge, Chuck Heindrichs, Eric Mohny, Tim Gottshall and Katie Koch

Quorum was met.

The in person meeting was called to order by Council President Ryan Smarsh at 6:30 p.m. and opened with prayer and devotion.

Review and officially accept minutes from previous Council meeting.

Motion: Accept minutes of the October 16, 2023 Congregation Council Meeting.

Motion: Eric Mohny

Second: Chuck Heindrichs

Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Financials thru October 31, 2023

	October	YTD	
Income	\$22,932	\$194,359	
Expenses	\$8,151	\$219,841	
Net Income	\$14,781	-\$25,482	
Organ Loan	\$18,656	Pledges Reserve of	\$1,970
External Funds	\$832876		
Internal Funds	\$42,645		

The ERC Fund will be applied to the Net Income at the end of November to give a \$0 balance.

Motion: To recommend to the Investment Committee that it approve the expenditure of \$7,400 from the Mitchell E&E Fund for the High School Association fees of \$4,000 and tuition assistance of \$3,400 for current students.

Motion: Ryan Smarsh

Motion: Amy Lodge

Motion passed.

Continued on next page.

Property

Tim reported that the trellis was removed at the end of October. He is seeking quotes for repairs for the ductwork insulation as well as for snow removal. There are a few minor repairs that the Property Committee will be working on this month, such as a ceiling fan, leaking sink, and an office light. Fall clean up will be scheduled within the next few weeks.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Laura finished up a four week book study about the Post Quarantine Church. She will be starting another book study in January. The Preschool will be hosting a family education night on December 5th. The Preschool Board has also hired a consultant to assist with filling the Preschool Director position.

Previous Business

Amy highlighted the combining of Mission Partner and Benevolences, and will have a ballot for the Fall Congregational Meeting for the three additional recipients.

Amy discussed the information obtained from the city in regards to the solar eclipse in April 2024. Council has decided there should be a committee to handle the planning and fundraising opportunities.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Amy Lodge

Second: Chuck Heindrichs

Motion passed.

Ryan Smarsh adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer. Date for the next council meeting will be December 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Koch
Secretary



ANNOUNCEMENTS

‡ **Photos please!** As we begin to prepare for our next pastor, we are encouraging members to take a photo of their families, along with each person individually, saved in .jpg format. Those photos will be uploaded into our membership records to create a pictorial directory for reference moving forward. Please send all photos to celc.mainoffice@gmail.com Thank you.

‡ **Ryan Smarsh will stay after church both 11-26 and 12-3** to take pictures of church members who need assistance with their photo for the online directory. Photos will be submitted to Heather in the office.

‡ **Altar flowers are given in honor of Randi Smarsh's 43rd anniversary** as organist at Christ Evangelical Lutheran. She started her music ministry at CELC the first Sunday of Advent 1980 (November 30). Thank you for your dedication and music all of these years! Flowers given by the Smarsh and Pete families.

‡ **2024 Giving Envelopes are ready** to be picked up in the Communication Corner.

‡ **As we begin to prepare for the advent season,** we invite our church family to come together and volunteer their time and talents in any of the many volunteer opportunities. One of those areas will be decorating our sanctuary. If you would like to bring in a poinsettia you can do so starting Sunday, December 10 and can be taken home with you after Christmas Day.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hangin' of the Greens

Join us Sunday, November 26 after the worship service. to help 'spruce up' the church. All ages are welcome! It's an enjoyable time and the work goes quickly. Hope to see you there!



Redeemer Crisis Center Food Pantry

Annual holiday food packing at Cleveland's Redeemer Crisis Center will be on Friday, December 15. Food packing will begin at 7 p.m. We need 16 volunteers for our group. Please see Ryan Smarsh with any questions and with your RSVP.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Help Needed

✝ **Christ Lutheran Preschool will be hosting a Parent Education Event on Tuesday, December 5** at 7p.m. The parents are invited to bring in their Christmas gifts and volunteers will wrap them while they are in the meeting. We are looking for our members to donate wrapping paper, supplies as well volunteers to wrap gifts. A free will donation will be collected and donated to CRS. Please contact Pastor Laura with any questions.

Advent Readers Needed

✝ **Pastor Laura is looking for volunteers for advent readers this year.** The first Sunday in Advent is December 3. If you and your family would like to volunteer to read and light the advent candle please see Pastor Laura. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

✝ **We invite you to pick up a 2023 Advent Study book** and calendar found by the Welcome Center TV. Also available is a kit to make an advent countdown craft. Feel free to grab for yourself, family, or friends.

An Invitation: Please Join Us!

✝ **The Post Quarantine Church book discussion group invites you** to join them at 8:26 p.m. every Wednesday night by stopping wherever you are and praying together for our congregation and for our community. Why Wednesday? Wednesday is midweek, a good day to re-focus on God's grace and love for guidance through the rest of the week. Why 8:26 p.m.? Romans 8:26 reads, Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. Remembering this verse and united by the power of the Holy Spirit, may God fan the fire of our faith in service. Through name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen!

Benevolence Update

The votes have been counted for our Benevolence recipients.

Our four organizations for 2024 are:

- CRS
- Haven Center
- Redeemer Crisis Center
- ELCA Northeast Ohio Synod





CHRIST LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL'S

GIVING TREE TO BENEFIT COMMUNITY RESOURCE SERVICES (CRS) HERE IN AVON LAKE

Christ Lutheran Preschool is sponsoring a Giving Tree to support Community Resource Services (CRS). Their ongoing mission is to offer a helping hand during times of need to people living in Avon Lake and Avon. Check out their website at aalcrs.org to learn more.

Please place your **UNWRAPPED** gifts and donations in the box outside of the gym from Nov. 20-Dec.7. You may also order directly from their Walmart link and have the items shipped directly to them by going to:

<https://www.walmart.com/registry/RR/401846e5-da8c-4db4-ac3b-03b1935bf604>

or search for "CRS Santa's Workshop-Holiday Assistance Program" to begin shopping.

The toys and other things that CRS is most wishing for:

Board, picture, chapter books, and young adult books.

Duplo and Lego Play Sets

Hot Wheels Sets

Stuffed Animals-medium size, Baby Dolls (all races)

Puzzles (from toddler "peg" type up through 500 piece)

Board Games (any type from Preschool through teen)

Barbies and Barbie Play sets

Bluetooth Headphones/Speakers, RC Cars or inexpensive drones

Bath and Body Works type sets (for both girls and boys)

Gifts for teen boys are especially needed including fast food gift cards, AXE and Old Spice sets

Please consider also donating NEW COATS and PAJAMAS size NB to 2X

Donations of gift-wrapping supplies are also needed.

Thank you for helping us to help Community Resource Services!





Christmas Prayer

*Lord, bless us,
this Christmas with
Peace that passes all
understanding,
Joy that is beyond
material possessions,
Love that knows no
boundaries, and
Strength that emanates
from faith in You.*



Finish The Christmas Song



Fill in the blanks with the lyrics to these classic Christmas songs

1. Oh ___ _____ have a holly jolly Christmas
2. And if you ever ___ ___ you would even say it glows
3. Giddy-up jingle horse pick up your _____
4. With the kids jingle belling, and everyone telling you be of _____
5. A corncob pipe and a _____ nose two eyes made out of _____
6. It's beginning to look a lot like _____
7. Away in a manger no _____ for his _____
8. Last Christmas I gave you my _____
9. But as for me and _____ we _____
10. I don't care about the _____ underneath the Christmas _____
11. Let _____ receive her king, let every _____ prepare him room
12. I'll have a blue Christmas _____ you, I'll be so blue _____ about you
13. I wanna wish you a _____ Christmas from the _____ of my heart
14. From now on our _____ will be out of _____
15. Vixen and _____ and all his reindeer are pulling on the _____
16. Please have _____ and _____ and presents on the tree

December 2023 Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 10:00am Holy Worship 10:00am Prek-6th Grade Sunday School during worship Giving Tree Collecting for CRS 11:00am Hanging of the Greens	27 Giving Tree Collecting for CRS	28 Giving Tree Collecting for CRS	29 Giving Tree Collecting for CRS 6:15pm Bell Choir Practice 8:26pm Congregation Prayer in Place	30 Giving Tree Collecting for CRS	1 Giving Tree Collecting for CRS Pastor's Day Off	2 Giving Tree Collecting for CRS
3 10:00am Holy Worship 10:00am Prek-6th Grade Sunday School during worship Giving Tree Collecting for CRS 11:30am Choir Practice	4 Giving Tree Collecting for CRS	5 Giving Tree Collecting for CRS 7:00pm Volunteers needed to wrap presents.	6 Giving Tree Collecting for CRS 6:15pm Bell Choir Practice 8:26pm Congregation Prayer in Place	7 Giving Tree Collecting for CRS	8 Pastor's Day Off	9
10 10:00am Holy Worship 10:00am Prek-6th Grade Sunday School during worship 9:15am Choir Sing	11	12	13 6:15pm Bell Choir Practice 8:26pm Congregation Prayer in Place	14	15 Pastor's Day Off 7:00pm Redeemer Food Packing	16
17 10:00am Holy Worship 10:00am Prek-6th Grade Sunday School during worship 10:00am Bells Play	18 Office Remote	19	20 6:15pm Bell Choir Practice 8:26pm Congregation Prayer in Place	21 Office Remote	22 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off	23
24 10:00am Holy Worship 10:00am Prek-6th Grade Sunday School during worship 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service Choir Sing for Eve Service	25 Christmas Office Closed	26 Office Remote	27 8:26pm Congregation Prayer in Place	28	29 Office Remote until noon Pastor's Day Off	30
31 10:00am Holy Worship 10:00am Prek-6th Grade Sunday School during worship	1 New Years Day Office Closed	2	3 6:15pm Bell Choir Practice 8:26pm Congregation Prayer in Place	4	5 Pastor's Day Off	6

December 3

Usher: Ryan Smarsh
Lector: Beth Lecorchick
Cantor: Julie Pressnell
Live Stream: Bill Higgins
Altar Care: Marilyn Culler
Bulletin Folding: Marilyn Culler
SS Teachers: Melia and Katie
Bread Maker: Marilyn Culler

December 10

Usher: Brian Knip
Lector: Sharon Davidson
Cantor: Pastor Laura
Live Stream: Bill Higgins
Counter: Julie Skaggs
Altar Care: Marilyn Culler
Bulletin Folding: Marilyn Culler
SS Teachers: Barb and Elizabeth
Bread Maker: Kelly Pedersen

December 17

Usher: Ryan Smarsh
Lector: Frank Lee
Cantor: Michelle Young
Live Stream: Bill Higgins
Altar Care: Marilyn Culler
Bulletin Folding: Marilyn Culler
SS Teachers: Marilyn and Katie
Bread Maker: Nadine Carlson

December 24

Usher: Betsy Floyd
Lector: Betsy Floyd
Cantor: Angela Pedersen
Live Stream: Bill Higgins
Altar Care: Marilyn Culler
Bulletin Folding: Marilyn Culler
No Sunday School
Brad Maker:

Fellowship and



Worship Opportunities

December 24

Christmas Eve Service 7 p.m.

Usher: Eric Mohny and Brian Knip
Greeters: Beth Lecorchick
Lector: Aubrey Luciano
Cantor: Rob Pedersen
Live Stream: Bill Higgins
Altar Care: Marilyn Culler
Bulletin Folding: Marilyn Culler
Bread Maker:

December 31

Usher: Chip Crout
Lector: Laura Knight
Cantor:
Live Stream: Bill Higgins
Counter: Brenda Crout
Altar Care: Marilyn Culler

Welcome to Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

CELC Staff

Pastor: Laura Kuntz, Interim
Office Admin: Heather Nordman
Organist: Randi Smarsh
Custodians: Bill Higgins and Beth Lecorchick

Congregation Council

President: Ryan Smarsh
Vice President: Amy Lodge
Secretary: Katie Koch
Treasurer: Chuck Heindrichs
Property: Tim Gottshall
Finance: Eric Mohney

Sunday School

September-April
Julie Pressnell

Prayer Chain

Sharon Davidson - Chair

Endowment Committee

Chuck Heindrichs - Chair

Preschool Board

Laura Musat – Chair

CELC Preschool

Director: Teri Pienoski

Good Kids Childcare

Director: Julie Skaggs



CELC Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

32747 Lake Road

Avon Lake, Ohio 44012

440-933-6263

celc.mainoffice@gmail.com

www.christlutheranavonlake.org



Worship

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Sunday school for all ages

During Sunday Worship

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Advent Schedule

1st Sunday of Advent, December 3 at 10:00 a.m.

2nd Sunday Advent, December 10 at 10:00 a.m

3rd Sunday Advent, December 17 at 10:00 a.m

4th Sunday Advent, December 24 at 10:00 a.m

Christmas Eve Schedule

Sunday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m.