



CELC Weekly Gospel in Action Moments

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church



**For the week of
Sunday, February 25, 2024**

Welcome to Worship

✚ **We are happy to have you with us** and wish you a warm welcome. If you would like more information about our church and its ministries, please contact our church office, 440-933-6263.

✚ **Attention families:** We encourage you to have your children participate in worship. They learn about worship and faith by being involved. If you or your children need a break, we have Wiggle Beach off to the left of the sanctuary. If you need assistance, an usher will happily direct you.

✚ **We honor our military among us.** Please lift in prayer all who serve in the military, past and present, along with their loved ones. Currently serving: Marty Koch, Coast Guard.

Prayers

✚ **For prayer requests** please fill out a prayer request form found in the gathering area and place it in the offering plate during the service, contact Sharon Davidson at 440-933-3923, skid440@yahoo.com or contact the church office.

CELC Call Committee Update

✚ **The discernment process continues.** Our Call Committee continues to meet, to spend much time in prayer and in listening and watching for God, as we together with our primary candidates, try to discern who is to be our next pastor. Thank you for uniting in prayer with us.

Congregation News

✚ **Christ Lutheran church will be hosting an Easter egg hunt** for the kids of Good Kids Childcare and Christ Lutheran preschool on Friday, March 22nd from 6pm-7pm. If you are interested in volunteering to fill eggs please come Wednesday night March 13th at 5pm. If you are interested in volunteering for the event or participating with your family please sign up on the outreach board entering the preschool area. Any questions, contact Kristen Luciano, Kristen.a.Luciano@gmail.com

✚ **CELC Council is looking for three members to join the nominating committee.** The nominating committee will prayerfully consider other church members to nominate and to serve as the next council President and Financial Secretary. If interested in serving on the nominating committee, please see any member of church council. Elections will be held May 5 at the Spring Congregational Meeting.

✚ **The CELC Council is looking for two representatives** from our church to attend the annual Northeast Ohio Synod Assembly. This year, Synod Assembly will be held Saturday June 1 at the John S. Knight Center in Akron. Please see any member of church council if interested.

✚ **We welcome all members to participate in the reading of the Passion Story** according to Saint Mark, on Palm Sunday, March 24. Everyone present will have the opportunity to be one of a group of eyewitnesses. There are still a few reading parts available for those who would like to read an individual's part. If you would like to offer your gifts as an individual reader, please sign-up and get your script after worship in the Gathering Space. Sue Frantz near the exit door, and ready to assist you.

✚ **We are God's Church, Waiting for God.** Theme of Our Synod Assembly: Waiting and Watching Although the Book Study/Discussion Group has ended, our work has only begun. A list was made of 26 ways our congregation could be more intentional about serving God as the church in our community and in the world. The Fall Group initiated one suggestion, our church's 8:26 p.m. prayer time. The unity in prayer is proving to be powerful. Another suggestion to be more supportive of our preschool, its teacher, parents and children are being explored, and acted on. We have only begun. Please watch for opportunities beyond worship and prayer to gather and be God's church.

ALL ARE WELCOME HERE

CELC Preschool News

☩ **The PRESCHOOL ART SHOW is coming!** Make sure that your calendar has Friday, March 22 from 5:00-7:00 pm. You can help by donating a wrapped prize basket or donating a gift card to an area restaurant, store, or business. The gift cards will be used to make gift card raffle baskets. Please drop your donations off in the church office before March 8. Contact Teri

2024 Lent Schedule

Palm Sunday- 10 A.M. March 24th

Maundy Thursday- 5:30 P.M. March 28th
Children, youth, and their families are invited to bake bread before the service. Gather at 5:30 and meet in the kitchen.

Maundy Thursday- 7 P.M. March 28th

Good Friday Cross walk- 5 P.M. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church 32929 Lake Rd.

Good Friday- 7 P.M. March 29th

Easter Morning- 10 A.M. March 31st Bring cut flowers from your yard or purchase some cut flowers to be used to decorate the flowering cross! Bring them to the cross in front of the Altar by 9:45 on Easter morning to be included for the service.

Healing Service- 10 A.M. March 10th prayers of healing will be available during our regular service.

Sunday Mornings Feb 25th- March 24th 9 AM
Special Lent activities for all ages! Each week will include: Breakfast treats and drinks. A bible verse to meditate on, memorize and questions to discuss. An activity, craft or art to work on.

Congregation Calendar

Sunday, February 25

9:00 a.m. Special Lent Activity
10:00 a.m. Holy Worship
10:00 a.m. Prek-6 Grade Sunday School

Wednesday, February 28

6:15 p.m. Bells
8:26 p.m. Unite in Prayer

Friday, March 1

Pastor's day off

Sunday, March 3

9:00 a.m. Special Lent Activity
10:00 a.m. Holy Worship

10:00 a.m. Prek-6 Grade Sunday School

11:15 a.m. Choir Practice

Christ Lutheran Preschool

Monday-Friday 9 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Good Kids Childcare Calendar

Monday-Friday 7a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Worship Assistants and Volunteers

February 25

Greeters:

Usher: Ryan Smarsh

Lector: Laura Knight

Cantor: Sue Frantz

Live Stream: Bill Higgins

Counter: Brenda Crout

Altar Care: Nadine Carlson

Bulletin Folding: Nadine Carlson

SS Teachers:

Bread Maker: Laura Knight

March 3

Greeters:

Usher: Chip Crout

Lector: Eric Klenz

Cantor: Julie Pressnell

Live Stream:

Altar Care: Jan Wunderle

Bulletin Folding: Marilyn Culler

SS Teachers:

Bread Maker:

March 10

Greeters:

Usher: Betsy Floyd

Lector: Betsy Floyd

Cantor: Rob Pedersen

Live Stream: Bill Higgins

Counter: Chuck Heindrichs

Altar Care: Jan Wunderle

Bulletin Folding: Marilyn Culler

SS Teachers:

Bread Maker:

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www.christlutheranavonlake.org

Interim Pastor: Rev. Laura Kuntz

Office Administrator: Heather Nordman

Organist: Randi Smarsh **Custodians:** Bill Higgins and Beth Lecorchick



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Financial Summary 2023

The church budget for 2023 called for a deficit of \$39,000 and a projected reduction in monthly contributions. We qualified for the Employee Retention Credit (ERC) program which provided funds for small business and churches. Our application was approved and we received \$32,000 in October of 2023. We were prepared to apply that to our deficit at the end of the year. December contributions saw three large contributions of \$16,000 above normal monthly giving reducing the projected budget shortfall.

A “next year” budget at our church is drafted and presented at the September Council meeting of the year prior to the budget year and approved for congregational presentation in the October Council meeting. The mailing goes out before the Fall Congregational meeting. The 2023 budget was done when utilities costs were rapidly rising for everyone, snow removal was about \$9,000 in 2022 so it was made \$6,500 for 2023 and, luckily, we experienced a mild winter. Office Expenses and services did not rise as inflation slowed a bit and a more efficient copier was put into use. Listed below are the more significant budget items where expenditures were below budgeted amounts.

1. \$6,500 for snow removal and spent less than \$4,700
2. \$18,000 for Electricity and spent \$13,000
3. \$17,000 for Gas and spent \$11,500
4. \$7,000 for General Maintenance and spent \$4,500
5. \$25,000 for Office Expenses and spent \$18,000.

The overall deficit for 2023, with a strong December contribution showing and expenses in some areas below budgeted amount, was a minus \$77. As well, the Employee Retention Credit of \$32,000 was not used and will be held in reserve. The 2024 approved budget was prepared with a set of assumptions concerning a new full-time pastor with perhaps a wife and family as well as speculation as to a start date.

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Benevolence for 2023

The generosity of the members and friends of our church in 2023 was truly an expression of a commitment to support others in need in our community. Our benevolence giving to the organizations designated by the congregation was \$6,140 which was divided equally or \$1,535 to each of the organizations listed below:

1. Haven Center (the Lorain County homeless shelter) Our church housed and fed homeless families for a decade under the Family Promise program in Lorain County
2. Redeemer Crisis Center on West 25th Street where our members assist with packaging food for distribution
3. Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio, Lorain
4. Community Resource Services of Avon Lake

Mission Partner

For 2023, our Mission Partner was the Northeast Ohio Synod (NEO Synod) which may not be as familiar to members as some of our benevolence organizations. The NEO Ohio Synod has over 150 churches in an area ranging from Youngstown in the east, to Akron and Wooster in the south, and to Lorain in the west. Our involvement with our Synod is significant. Our church member, Sue Frantz, is a member of the Synod Council and is very active. The Synod is also the central place for our church and the Call Committee in seeking a new pastor. The call process has Synod assisting in identifying potential candidates and helping us along in the process. Each church is asked to provide support to the Synod and for 2024, we have pledged \$6,000. Approximately 50% of our pledge to Synod is sent to the ELCA church in Chicago by Synod.

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