

## CHRIST LINE



# December Newsletter



## December Cause of the Month

### Companion Church in Peru – Sowing Seeds for the Future

Our Cause of the Month for December is our companion church in Peru. This is one of the poorest countries in South America and the small but vibrant Lutheran church there does good work among the members. Iglesia Luterana Peruana, ILP for short, is the core group that remained when the church split into two factions. Our Bishop Jim Arends recently led a small delegation on a week long visit to ILP. He reports a new confidence in their leaders. They met with the La Crosse delegation and some of them had to make a two-week trip to be there.

Their Sembrando program for children is going strong. (see below.) Bishop Jim reports that they could use folks from the US to teach English as a second language to ILP members. It would be a three month commitment on the part of a volunteer teacher. All in all ILP is growing, doing God's work in Peru and is certainly worthy of our strong support. Sembrando: Many children in Peru live in poverty, are malnourished, and have anemia.

ILP has a successful program to help these children. It's called Sembrando.

Sembrando provides children with: a healthy daily meal, a safe place to play, school materials, tutoring & a place to study, support for parents, and counseling by pastors for faith education.

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH IS ON  
FACEBOOK!!!**



**“Like” our page for information, events and updates!**

**Look for: Christ Lutheran Church -ELCA Arcadia, WI**

**- In Christ, All Things Hold Together -**

## Pastor Bob's Report

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### An Old Fashioned Christmas

*<sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. Gal 4:4-5*

Dear Friends,

How will you celebrate Christmas this year? Sometimes I wish I could go back to those days when I was a child. Christmas seemed to be different then. For one thing the Christmas decorations didn't come out before Thanksgiving. In our house the Christmas tree didn't go up until Christmas Eve day. It just seemed that things were a bit slower and a bit more relaxed.

Maybe this year we have an opportunity to celebrate an old fashioned Christmas. Maybe this year we can give our attention to the real reason for the season, at least for a while. An old fashioned Christmas was never about what gifts you could give to each other or what you were going to receive, but an old fashioned Christmas was first and foremost about God's love for you! The gift given at the Savior's birth was God coming down to earth to deliver you from bondage and enslavement to sin and to defeat death so that you would inherit eternal life. It seems however that this celebration is no longer focused on the gift of God, in the person of God's son Jesus, but on the gifts of people.

Specifically we wonder what will I get or how expensive should our gifts be? Will that person like the gift I am giving them? In my childhood sometimes I was tempted to complain when I received clothing for Christmas. I remember one Christmas in particular. At school we would always draw names for exchanging gifts during our school Christmas parties. As we opened our gifts one particular year everyone got something new and shiny like a game or a toy car or a book. I got a knit stocking cap. I was very disappointed. As I look back on that gift years later I realized that it was perhaps the best gift given that year. You see it came from a boy whose family was very poor. They couldn't afford to buy a gift, but his mother could knit and she made me that hat. It was a very special gift, but I didn't appreciate it until years later. During this season we are called to recognize that very special gift that God has given to us.

Now you might be asking, "Pastor, does that mean we should not give and receive gifts?" No, that is not what I had in mind when I invited you to celebrate an old fashioned Christmas. Rather I invite each family who reads this letter to celebrate this Christmas by giving priority to those things that are most important in this life, and in the life to come. I ask you to remember that Christmas is the time of the year, where we demonstrate like no other, that our faith is centered in God's generosity. By gifting us with the redemption accomplished through the birth of Jesus Christ, God has offered the final word on how no sin of ours can separate us from the eternal faith, hope, love, and joy offered in this special season.

May you all have a very joyous holiday season and may your home celebrate an old fashioned Christmas this year and always.

Merry Christmas to you all,

Pastor Bob Schoenknecht

## Youth

### Christ Lutheran Church's Christmas Program

The Christmas program this year will be **Sunday, December 16th**. Plan on attending and supporting our kids in their theatrical and musical performances!

# November Church Council Minutes

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## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL AGENDA

Wednesday, November 7th, 2018 @ 6:00pm

**Members:** Dan Reit, Tony Myers, Michele Ziegeweid, Dan Sampson, Connie Scharlau, Brad Duellman, Shanna White, Dale Howard, Pastor Bob Schoenknecht, and Pastor Thomas Bryan.

Also present Pastor Heriberto and his daughter, Leslie and Kay Wiemer, treasurer.

**Call to Order** – Meeting called to order at 6:20 p.m. by Present Dan Reit. Opening Devotions were given by Connie Scharlau who reflected on Rahab, the harlot, as told in the book of Joshua

**Mt. Sinai** – Pastor Heriberto requested the use of the basement worship space and kitchen for a special service Saturday, November 10 from 6:00 to 10:30 p.m. This service will replace their regular Friday night worship. Permission was given.

**Approval of Agenda:** **MSC** with the addition of #5 below.

**Announcements:** None

**Secretary's Report:** - October minutes **MSC** to approve the minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** **MSC** "Record the financial report as a faithful accounting"  
The Call Committee is considering a pay package for the new pastor we will call.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Bob submitted a written report. The pastors will put together a worship cancellation policy to be used in case of bad weather.

### Old Business:

Insurance: The quote from Church Mutual is out of date. They will give us a new quote.

Mt. Sinai Church: We were given a copy of the proposed new rental agreement with Mt. Sinai.

Blair Lutheran Church: There has been no further contact with Blair Lutheran Church

### New Business:

Call Committee: The committee has written a pastoral job description which they will forward to council members for comment. They will be conducting mock interviews November 20.

Budget: We will be working on the budget with Kay at our December meeting.

Review of Tiffany's job description: A review will be conducted by Dan R., Tony, Michele and the pastors on November 28th.

Dailey Family: The Dailey family has withdrawn its membership at Christ Lutheran. Ann Kirchner has been put on the inactive list as per by-laws.

Hand sanitizer: After some discussion **MSC** that we place a hand sanitizing station at the back of church and a small bottle of sanitizer on the altar for communion servers to use.

### Committee Reports:

Social Concerns Committee: Michele – Suggestion Box had the following note: *Looks like things around church physically and members are coming together to make this a better place to worship.*

Parish Ed: Shanna – There is a Butter Braid fund raiser in progress.

Property and Management: Brad – Brad provided a list of current projects, ongoing and completed.

Membership/Stewardship: Shanna, Connie, Dale – See #4 under new business.

Staff Support: Dan Reit – Things are going well.

Worship and Music: Dan Sampson – Next meeting will be Tuesday, November 13 at 4:00 p.m.

# November Church Council Minutes Cont.

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Youth Committee/Milestone Ministry – *Tony* The eighth graders are almost finished painting their blocks in the Sunday School hallway downstairs. The Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 16th

**Next Regular Meeting:** December 12th @ 6:00pm

**Devotions at next meeting:** Michele

**Cause of the Month: December** – Companion Church in Peru – Sowing Seeds for the Future

**Newsletter article for December:** November 23rd

**Adjourn with Lord's Prayer MSC**

## New Membership Class

### Join Us for Discover Christ Lutheran / There's a Place for You Here

"Discover Christ Lutheran" is a four-session course designed to introduce new people to our Lutheran traditions and our congregation's mission. We also welcome those members who would like a little refresher course in Lutheran teachings and church organization. The class will meet right after worship in the social hall from 10:30 until 11:15 and will begin in January. If you're looking for a faith community to provide you support, guidance, and growth in faith as well as joyful fellowship and opportunities to serve with people who love God, please join us! "Discover Christ Lutheran" is available for you to learn more about our church and become a member. If you are interested in being a part of this class please contact the church office at 608-323-3572 or email at [christlutheran@trivest.net](mailto:christlutheran@trivest.net). If you have any questions please contact Pastor Bob Schoenknecht at 715-797-3424.

#### **Week One: Basic Lutheran Theology – Sunday, January 6th**

1. Justification
2. Law and Gospel
3. Sinner/Saint
4. Theology of the Cross
5. Worship
6. Vocation

#### **Week Two: The Means of Grace – Sunday January 20th**

1. Confession
2. Baptism
3. Holy Communion
4. The Bible

#### **Week Three: Church Organization – Sunday February 3rd**

1. Polity
2. Christ Lutheran Organization
3. Where does the synod money go?
4. Rostered Leaders and Bishops

#### **Week Four: The Lutheran Church – Sunday February 17<sup>th</sup>**

1. Martin Luther and Reformation History
2. Lutheran History in America and Heritage
3. Why so many flavors of Lutherans and how to tell the difference?

# Parish Education Meeting

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November 4, 2018 - 11:15 a.m.

**Members:** Tony Myers, Jennifer Rotering, William Bremer, Dori Wenger, Heidi Hughes (not present), Shannon Ely, Shanna White (council), Tessa Lockington, Jason Lockington

**Call to Order** – Shanna White

**Announcements:** No announcements.

**Treasurer's Report:** No report.

## Old Business:

1. We will plan to do the Operation Christmas Child project next year. This will be discussed further at a later meeting date.
2. Students will be working on Christmas crafts next Sunday, November 11. These will be given to the congregation after the Christmas Program service on December 16.
3. Songs for the Christmas Program have been agreed upon. The children will be practicing them during class time on December 2 and December 9.
4. Butter Braid sales start today, November 4. Forms and an informational letter were sent home with all students that were in attendance today. Sales forms and money must be turned in to the church no later than November 25. Delivery is set for December 11 here at church.

## New Business:

1. Parish Ed students and teachers will be providing treats after the Christmas Program service on December 16. Each class will be responsible for bringing one or two dozen cookies, bars, etc. to share. They will also be handing out their gifts at this time.
  2. On November 11, students will be making hot cocoa gift jars for the congregation for Christmas this year. We received donations of jars and craft items that helped make this possible. A big **Thank You!** to all who donated.
  3. Pam Weltzien will be retiring from the Parish Ed music program next year. We thank her for her years of providing our children with music and fun! It was much appreciated and she will be missed. We will discuss other music options at a future meeting.
  4. A suggestion of holding Sunday School classes on Wednesdays after school was brought to the table. After a brief discussion, it was agreed upon that this option will not work for teachers and many students at this time.
- Adjourn. Next meeting will be held December 2, 2018.

## Updates & Events

### New Horizon Donations

We are still taking donations of small shampoos, conditioners, lotions, soaps for New Horizons. Please put them in the container in the back of the church.

### Donations

The Lioness is collecting reading glasses, prescription glasses, and hearing aids. Please put them in the bucket by the coats in the back of the church.

### Parsonage Rental

The Christ Lutheran Church parsonage will be available to rent as of **January 1st, 2019**. If you know of anyone interested in renting a house please call the church office at 608-323-3572 or Kathy Lockington at 608-484-0711.

# Updates & Events Continued...

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### Welcome, Rebecca!

Please welcome Rebecca Swanson, our new full-time organist. Rebecca has a request of the members of Christ Lutheran. If you have a favorite hymn that you would like to hear as a prelude or postlude, please let Rebecca know. She has a 'mailbox' in the copy room. Just leave her a note and she will do her best to accommodate your requests.

### W-ELCA - Looking Ahead

LaCrosse Area Synod W-ELCA Spring Convention —Saturday, April 6, 2019 at Bethany Lutheran, New Lisbon

### Christ Lutheran Church Website

Information about Christ Lutheran Church can be found at the Christ Lutheran Church website at [www.christlutheran-church.org](http://www.christlutheran-church.org). You can find information on coming events, pdf files of the latest Christ Line newsletter and newsnotes. There is also information on the history of our church, pastors who have served our church and well as information on the various groups in our church and organizations in the community that we support. There is information on the staff of the church also.

### Mission Store

The Mission Thrift store needs store volunteers to ensure that we are able to keep the store open on the following days of the month: **Fridays, from 3pm to 6pm and Saturdays from 10:00am to 1:00pm, 3rd, 4th, and 5th** Presently each volunteer hour brings about \$8.50 in receipts to the Mission. Working a 3 hour shift donates over \$25.00 to assist families and individuals struggling to make ends meet. Call Cyndy Jacoby at 715-530-0949 for more information. The Mission store is also in need of stockers to stock shelves. Please contact Cyndy Jacoby at 715-530-0949 if you are able to help!

### Thank you from the Trust Fund and Christ Lutheran Church

Thank you for your support of Christ Lutheran Church and Christ Lutheran Church Trust Fund over the year. FYI - We are 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Please talk to your tax preparer on how you can use disbursements from your Traditional IRA, Charitable Trust or other ways of donating to your church. God's blessing to your family during this holiday season.

### Adult Education

The adult Sunday School Class meets each Sunday and is open to anyone interested in sharing a time of Bible reading and discussion. We meet on the upper floor of the education wing in the classroom closest to the elevator. We begin about 10:25, after enjoying post worship coffee fellowship. You do not have to be present every week, just come when you can.

### 100 Quilts in 2019

Help the Christ Lutheran women make 100 quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Look for the sign at the back of church and take home a quilt top kit. Detailed directions are included. Everything is cut and all you need to do is sew simple seams and press. Put the completed top back in the original package and return it to church. We thank you for your help!

### Luther Park News

**Annual Meeting:** Church Delegates... mark your calendar to attend our annual meeting the morning of Saturday, January 26th. Stay the night at camp and attend our fun filled Sunday at Chili-fest! (register ahead, free-will donation)  
**ChiliFest, Sunday, Jan 27th:** We welcome you to attend this afternoon of fun for all ages; chili, hot dogs, hot chocolate, coffee, games, sledding, campfire, live music, fellowship and lots of fun.  
 We will have a day of raffle... please let us know if you would like to donate a basket or items for the event.  
 Returning this year is our **Chili cook-off**... now is the perfect time to test your recipes and pick your winning soup!  
 Please call ahead to register your chili and get more details to enter.

# Holiday Information

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## Christmas Schedule

**Christmas Eve Services will be held at 4:00pm and 6:00pm**

**No Christmas Day service**

## **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

Help Christ Lutheran welcome the newborn King by decorating our sanctuary with poinsettias!

Consider ordering one in honor or in memory of a loved one. All you have to do is call one of our local florists to place the order. They will deliver the flower to church and record the person or persons that you would like to remember or honor. Please place your order by **December 17th**



## **CHRISTMAS SPECIAL FUND GIFTS**

Another option for Christmas, instead of donating a plant to Christ Lutheran, is to donate a monetary gift to one of our special funds in honor or in memory of someone. Simply fill out the form on this page and designate:

**\*\* Whom you wish to honor or remember and**

**\*\* What special fund you would like to support.**

Place the form and donation in an envelope and get it to the church office by **Monday, December 17th.**

### CHRISTMAS SPECIAL FUND GIFT

In Honor of:

In Memory of:

Special Fund: \_\_\_\_\_ World Hunger

\_\_\_\_\_ Music

\_\_\_\_\_ Youth

\_\_\_\_\_ Trust Fund

\_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Given by:

# Keeping in Touch

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**with Christ Lutheran Church Arcadia,  
the La Crosse Area Synod, and the ELCA**

**Interim Pastor: Bob Schoenknecht**

*Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday*

Cell Phone-715-797-3424 / Church Phone: 323-3572

E-mail: rschoenk@luthersem.edu

**Interim Pastor: Thomas Bryan**

*Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday*

Cell Phone: 715-829-2624 / Church Phone: 323-3572

E-mail: prtwb@hotmail.com

**Church Office Secretary: Tiffany Lambright**

*Office hours: Mon through Friday - 8:30 am to 1:00pm*

Church Phone: 323-3572      E-mail: christlutheran@trivest.net

**Minister of Music: Rebecca Swanson**

**Bookkeeper: Kay Wiemer**

Leave a message on church phone or at home: 323-3916

**Caretakers: Mark & Lynn Finner**

Leave a message on the church phone: 323-3572

**Lutheran Social Services: Free assessment and referral** — For on-going care they accept insurance billing or, if you have no insurance, a sliding scale is available.      **La Crosse 608-788-5092**

## The OLPH Mission/Thrift Store

419 South Washington St. (the former convent on OLPH grounds)

### Volunteers needed at the OLPH Mission-Thrift Store

contact Cyndy Jacoby at 715-530-0949

**Thrift Store Hours:**

**Mon:** 9:00 to noon    **Wed:** 1:00 to 4:00    **Fri:** 3:00 to 6:00    **Sat:** 10:00 to 1

**Dial 211 Free/Confidential 24 / 7**

Help with: Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, Sexual Assault, Suicidal Thoughts, Other Crisis Situations  
Information about: Support Groups, Drug/Alcohol Abuse, Food Resources, Housing, Many other needs

**Web Sites:**

[www.christlutheran-church.org](http://www.christlutheran-church.org)

[www.lacrosseareasynod.org](http://www.lacrosseareasynod.org)

[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

**2018 Council Members**

Dan Reit- President .....608-484-1900

Tony Myers - Vice Pres.....608-797-1398

Michele Ziegeweid - Secretary.....608-323-3395

Dan Sampson - Treasurer.....608-323-2026

Brad Duellman.....507-458-5760

Shanna White .....608-863-1326

Dale Howard..... 608-863-1370

Connie Scharlau.....608-323-7297

Youth:

## **Prayer List**

- Norma Bautch
- Jay Wiltse
- Steve Kletzke
- Sherri Fredrickson
- Pauline George
- Roger Reichwein
- Florence Urbick
- Gary Bond—Friend of Karen Kletzke
- Robert Henson - Father of Janet Abts
- Jose & Family
- Kerry Tamke



Gods Work. Our Hands