



5987 Williams Lake Rd
Waterford, MI 48329

All are welcome...
...no really!

SUNDAY WORSHIP
10AM

OFFICE HOURS
Monday—Thursday
9:00am to 2:00pm

PHONE
248-673-7331

CHURCH EMAIL:
office@christwaterford.org

WEBSITE:
www.christwaterford.org

WATCH ONLINE
<https://christwaterford.org/online-worship/>

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!
www.facebook.com/ChristutheranWaterford

INSTAGRAM
[@christlutheranwaterford](https://www.instagram.com/christlutheranwaterford)



Parish Caller

CLC's Monthly Newsletter

January 2026



Christ Lutheran Church
Airport and Williams Lake Roads
Waterford ~ Michigan

2026 Theme: "Where Love Makes Space"

Beloved Church,
Happy New Year! As the calendar turns and January opens before us like a blank page ready for God's handwriting, I find myself pausing - breathing - and giving thanks. Not the quick kind of thanks we whisper in passing, but the deep-in-the-bones gratitude that rises when one realizes: this is not something I have to do ...this is something I get to do. To be your pastor...To share life...and faith...with you. And for that, I am so grateful to God.

This past year, our theme "**Belong. Believe. Become.**" carried us through remarkable transformation. We watched new faces join our community, old stories find healing, long-time members rediscover calling, and young people rise to new growth. We became a church that wasn't just busy...**we became a church that was alive.**

And as I look back, I want to say something personally: **Thank you.**

Thank you for blessing me in ways seen and unseen — with cards and handwritten notes that reminded me I am loved, meals that sustained my family, and acts of kindness that only God saw.

Thank you for showing up - again and again - with your hearts, your time, your prayers, and your presence. Pastoring is sacred work, but it is never work done alone.

Pastor Stephanie Newman
pastorsteph@christwaterford.org

Secretary Edelyn Rose
office@christwaterford.org

Treasurer Judi Baptista
treasurer@christwaterford.org

Bookkeeper Karen Hillestad

Custodian Dave Kane

Music Ministers

John Joannette and Tracy Hoffman
music@christwaterford.org

Church Council

President: Charlie Moritz

Vice President: Edelyn Rose

Administrative

Charlie Moritz

Children & Youth

Kathy Reddeman

Community & Cong. Life

Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach

Communications

Edelyn Rose

Education

Stephen Cooperrider

Finance

Lisa Kargol-Stephens

Property

Hayleigh Baptista

Worship and Music

Cindy Edwards

You held me. You honored me. You supported me. And I feel it - deeply.

As a church, together we lived God's mission - feeding the hungry, lifting up the hurting, and loving the neighbor in tangible, holy ways. We give glory to God as we boldly proclaim: **This past year was truly extraordinary!**

Introducing the Theme for 2026:

"Where Love Makes Space"

I believe this is God's vision for Christ Lutheran in this next season.

"Where Love Makes Space" is the natural next breath

Because belonging isn't only an idea ... **belonging is space.**

Space made for us ...*first* by God. Space made in Christ's arms, long before we ever earned or understood a thing.

Space where we can be unfinished, imperfect, tired, joyful, grieving, searching —and still divinely loved.

Cont. pg. 3

Members lifted in prayer Chuck Roller, Annie Chachich, Karen DeRousse, Joan Dort, Cindy Edwards, Steve Fante, Dale Folsom, Robin Hansen, Barbara Harris, The Hess Family, Carol Hollis, Fred Jones, Nadine Keway, Pat Kinnison, Jane Madsen, Andy Nestor, Lynn Norton, Butch Reddeman, Ashley Wichtman, Rita Zettel.

Our Armed Service and support personnel: Aaron Butora; Cole Nichols (Fred & Jill Jones), Kurtis Barney (Terry Young)

Gerry's Shoutouts!

To all the CLC Christmas Eves who decorated the church it looks great. Those Elves knew what to do and got'er done. Next up is putting it all away til next year, see you soon!

Gerry

A Special Message from the Young Family

Thank you all who called, sent cards and texts. Your kind expressions of sympathy was appreciated and your thoughtfulness will always be remembered

Upcoming Events

Weekly Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, Jan 21st at 1pm

WELCA Meeting Sunday
January 11th, 11:30am

Noisy Offering is Sunday, January 18th. This month offering goes to the Baldwin Center

Annual Meeting Sunday
January 25th after service

Mens Food & Fellowship
will meet Monday, January 26th,
6:30pm

Chili Cook Off is February 21st
More details coming soon!

President's Message

The New Year is upon us, both the Calendar year that starts January first and the Church liturgical year that started on the first Sunday in Advent. It is common to make resolutions at this time, to be a better person, exercise more, or eat better. Sometimes these resolutions last years and sometimes a few days. A way to keep your resolutions or goals for the year is to enlist an accountability buddy – someone who can motivate you to help keep you on track. If you do not have an accountability buddy or want an accountability buddy, you can include this on the info slips in the weekly bulletin and the office can try to match you with someone else from the congregation. This and prayer can be a way to include God as your accountability buddy. Is your resolution to become more involved in the Church? There are lots of ways you can help. The Tech Team, Altar guild needs people and will teach you everything you need to know – a little at a time. Want to start a small group to go to movies, camp, or just get together, we need that too. Not sure how to write something like this down, talk with me, Edelyn, Pastor, or any Council member.

Charlie



Visit with Santa



Blue Christmas Service



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Because when love makes space for us, **we will make space for our neighbor.**

Space for those who have been told they were not good enough, not worthy enough, not welcome.. **until they discover here that they are, and always have been, God's beloved.**

Dear church: we all belong **because God first made space for us.**

Our Call in 2026:

So this year — our call is both simple and seismic:

We will be the kind of community Where Love Makes Space.

We will widen our welcome with Christ's radical love — until our life together looks more like the Kingdom of God.

A place that holds:

- Space for those who've never believed they could fit inside a church
- Space for those carrying grief that has no timeline
- Space for children not only to attend — but to belong, lead, and participate
- Space for elders to be respected and speak wisdom
- Space where LGBTQ+ individuals, bodies, and families are not merely tolerated — but celebrated
- Space where doubters sit beside lifelong disciples and both are held by grace
- Space where you never have to pretend to be okay in order to belong

Because this is what God calls us to do.

What This Year Will Look Like

"Where Love Makes Space" will shape us through practices, not slogans.

This year we will:

- Deepen Biblical study into soul-nourishment, not just information
- Build ministries that move from welcome-at-the-door to belonging-as-culture

- Create tables — literal and figurative — where neighbors sit side-by-side
- Expand our hands-in-the-dirt service to Waterford and beyond
- Train disciples of every age to pray, serve, lead, and bless
- And ask - regularly, bravely, humbly:

Who is missing? Who do we need to make space for? Where is the Spirit widening us next?

We are not called to be a museum that preserves what once was. We are called to be **a living garden - stretching toward light, bearing fruit, offering shade.**

A Word Of Encouragement:

Let me say this clearly: **I am proud of you.** Proud of your courage to remain open to the Spirit. Proud of your tenderness toward one another. Proud of the way you love — in casseroles, in cards, in hugs, in prayers. I see Christ Lutheran — growing, stretching, learning, and becoming more fully who God calls us to be. And I believe — God is still shaping us, still widening us, still preparing us for more. This is who we are — and who we are becoming: **a church Where Love Makes Space.**

A Blessing as We Begin

May we sink our roots deep into God's unconditional love May we rise — not by effort, but by Spirit. May love widen us — and loosen whatever has become too small. And may this be the year where: **Love makes space.** And we become a church where everyone - truly everyone - is welcome. So, with courage, tenderness, and holy imagination - **let us create God's Kingdom on earth - one welcome, one table, one act of love at a time.**

With deep gratitude for another year to serve you, and love and anticipation,

Pastor Steph

If you cannot be there on your scheduled day, please switch with someone or find a substitute and let the church office know of the change.

Lay Assistants

1/4 - Stephanie Radtke

1/11 – Ole Anderson

1/18 – Edelyn Rose

1/25 – Mike Mitchell

Ushers

1/4 – Ron & Kris Goetze
Sharon Morse, Gerry Cleasby

1/11 – Hanna & Riana Forbing
Norm Kinnison, Jim Austin

1/18

Todd Cooper, Gerry Cleasby
Vicki Hill, Catherine Roller

1/25 Jacen Schnitzer, Jim Austin
Julie Zarembo, Anna Findley

Altar Team for January

Linda Jensen, Betty Lotan
Kathy Reddeman

Greeters

1/4 - Hanna & Riana Forbing
Vicki Hill, Jill Jones

1/11 - Linda Jensen
Carol & Jerry Scrivo

1/18 - Ron & Kris Goetze
Roland Jakel, Linda Martin

1/25 - Diane Harris, Linda Jensen, Jill Jacobson

Coffee Hour

1/4 – Edelyn Rose
Doug & Melanie Keisman

1/11 – Council Team 1
Charlie Moritz, Kathy Reddeman

1/18 - WELCA

1/25 – Men's Group

Counters for January

Jim Austin, Betty Lotan
Gerry Cleasby, Walter Schoenbach

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Tech Team January 2026

1/4

Switcher: Olé Anderson
Projection: Krystal Edwards
Sound Up: Charlie Moritz
Cameras: Carol Segal,
Emmet Morse

1/11

Switcher: Krystal Edwards
Projection: Edelyn Rose
Sound Up: Ole Anderson
Cameras: Brian Domain
Tracey Barney

1/18

Switcher: Ole Anderson
Projection: Kerri Kinneberg
Sound Up: Charlie Moritz
Cameras: Cindy Edwards
Edelyn Rose

1/25

Switcher: Olé Anderson
Projection: Edelyn Rose
Sound Up: Charlie Moritz
Cameras: Brian Domain
Tracey Barney

Communion Assistants

1/4 – Mary Bratun, Joan Kossman,
Karen Hillestad

1/11 Julie Hanneman Schoenbach
Stephen Cooperrider, Janet Dennis

1/18 – Linda Jensen,
Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach,
Phyllis Folsom

1/25 - Vickie Hill, Joan Kossman,
Stephen Cooperrider

Join Our Tech Team!

Are you looking for a meaningful way to give back to our church? We need YOU to help us enhance our services by joining the Tech Team!

No skills or experience? No problem! We will provide all the training you need.

Your support will help us create a welcoming and engaging environment for our congregation. This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved and make a difference!

Interested? Please contact the office for more details or to sign up.

Community Dinner

Dates 2026

January 31st

April 25th

August 8th

November 25th

All dinner times are
5-7pm



February Sermon Series!

Week 1: Love Makes Space... for the Overlooked



Week 2: Love Makes Space... to See and Be Seen

Week 3: Love Makes Space... for Transformation

Week 4: Love Makes Space... for Our Humanity



JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 	2	3 8pm AA
4 10am Service Christmas 2	5 7pm Boy Scouts	6	7 7pm Choir 8pm AA	8 TOPS 5-6pm	9	10 8pm AA
11 10am Service Epiphany WELCA Meeting	12 6:45 Grief & Loss Support Group 7pm Boy Scouts	13 7pm MS Support Group	14 7pm Choir 8pm AA	15 TOPS 5-6pm	16	17 8pm AA
18 10am Service Epiphany 2	19 Alzheimer's Support Group 6:30-9pm 7pm Council Meeting 7pm Boy Scouts	20	21 6pm SCSA 7pm Choir 8pm AA	22 Yoga 11am-12:30pm TOPS 5-6pm	23	24 8pm AA
25 10am Service Epiphany 3 CLC Annual Meeting	26 6:45 Grief & Loss Support Group 7pm Boy Scouts	27	28 7pm Choir 8pm AA	29 Yoga 11am-12:30pm TOPS 5-6PM	30	31 5-7pm Community Dinner 8pm AA