



5987 Williams Lake Road  
Waterford, Michigan 48329

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

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
10AM

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

**PHONE**  
248-673-7331

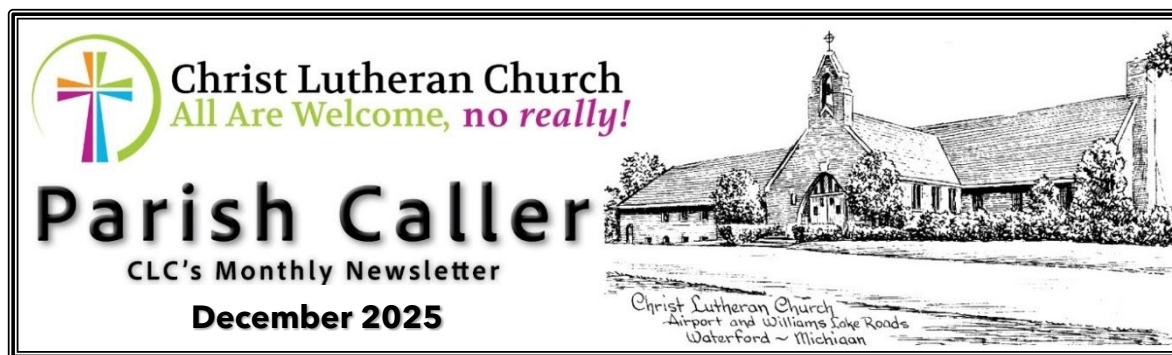
**CHURCH EMAIL:**  
office@christwaterford.org

**WEBSITE:**  
www.christwaterford.org

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

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@christlutheranwaterford



## Making Room for Wonder

As we step into December, I'm reminded how quickly this season can fill up with noise — lists, plans, gatherings, expectations, and the pressure to “make the holidays magical” even when our lives feel anything but magical. Some of us enter December with joy. Others limp into it with exhaustion. Many of us arrive carrying a mix of both.

And here's the good news:

**God meets us in all of it.**

Advent is the season of holy interruption — a time when God slips quietly into our busy, aching, ordinary lives and says, “*I am here.*”

This year, more than ever, I've felt how desperately we all need that presence. We need the reminder that God comes not to the already-prepared, the already-perfect, or the already-peaceful — but to real people with real fears, real schedules, and real hearts. He comes quietly, slipping into the cracks where our strength runs out and brings hope, joy, peace and love.

When Mary said “yes” to God, it wasn't because her life was tidy.

It was because she made a little room — a corner of her heart — for wonder.

That's our invitation this Advent.

**Not to do more. Not to decorate more. Not to accomplish more.**

**But to make room.**

Room for stillness. Room for hope. Room for the unexpected ways God is moving.

Room for kindness — both given *and* received.

Room for the Christ who comes to us in vulnerability and grace.

And friends, no matter **how** you show up this Advent and Christmas — whether you come hopeful or weary, overwhelmed or grateful, steady or stumbling, full of faith or barely holding on —

**there is room for you here.**

There is hope for you here.

There is a Savior coming straight into the middle of your real life, not the polished version

**Pastor's message continues on page 2**

**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 wish you had.

Because Jesus comes for *you* — as you are —  
and His coming is our hope.

Here at Christ Lutheran, we'll be celebrating that  
wonder in many ways:

- **Daily Advent Devotionals** — walking together  
in reflection and expectation.

- Our **“Blue” Christmas** service; sacred space  
for those not feeling merry and bright.

- **Gingerbread Houses, Cookie Decorating, the  
Advent Tea**, and all sorts of activities

- **Christmas Eve Worship** — lifting our voices  
in candlelight as we welcome the Light of the  
World.

My encouragement to you, is to find a place to  
plug in this Advent season. But know this:  
whether December finds you full of joy or  
carrying unseen burdens, my prayer for you is  
the same:

**May you feel God draw close.**

**May you find moments of quiet grace.**

**May you remember you are loved, not for  
what you do, but for who you are.**

**And may this church be a place where you  
can exhale... and belong.**

**Welcome home for the holidays.**

Blessed Advent, dear friends.

Let's make room for wonder together.

In hope and love,

**Pastor Steph**



## In Our Prayers

**Members lifted in prayer** 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, Norm & Pat Kinnison, Erwin Klopfer, 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)



**FRIENDSGIVING 2025**



open and welcoming, and allow us to dream boldly for the year to come.  
If God has blessed you in a particular way this year, I invite you to prayerfully consider a year-end gift - given from the heart, given as worship, given as a joyful response to God's goodness.

#### **For Those With Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)**

For those who are 70½ or older, the IRS requires you to take a **Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)** from your IRA each year. Many do not realize that you can give directly from that distribution to Christ Lutheran as a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)**.

And here's the blessing:

#### **A QCD can satisfy all or part of your RMD while reducing your taxable income.**

It can be a wise, faithful way to support the ministry you love while being a good steward of the resources God has entrusted to you. If this is something you're curious about, talk to your financial advisor and then let us know - our office can help point you to the right next steps.

#### **For Every Gift, From Every Heart**

Whether you give through a QCD, a year-end offering, or your regular weekly gifts...

Whether you give out of abundance or out of faith stretching itself beyond your comfort...

Whether your gift feels big or small...

**Your giving matters. Your giving makes ministry possible.**

#### **Your giving changes lives.**

Just as Jesus multiplied five loaves and two fish, God is still multiplying the offerings we bring - turning them into hope, healing, hospitality, and holy transformation in this community.

#### **A Final Invitation**

As this year comes to a close, I invite you to pray:

"God, how are You calling me to give as an act of worship?

How can my generosity reflect Your goodness in my life?"

Thank you for trusting God with your giving.

Thank you for believing in the ministry we share.

Thank you for being a church of open hearts, open hands, and open doors.

With deep gratitude,

**Pastor Steph**

Christ Lutheran Church

#### **Year-End Giving: A Holy Act of Trust and Gratitude**

Beloved in Christ,

As we near the end of another year at Christ

Lutheran, my heart is full. Truly full.

Full of gratitude for you.

Full of awe at what God has done here.

Full of hope for where the Spirit is leading us next.

When I look back over the last twelve months - the meals cooked and shared, the prayers whispered and answered, the worship that shaped us, the children who learned God's love, the neighbors welcomed through our doors - one truth rises to the surface:

#### **Your generosity makes ministry possible.**

Every single thing we do as a congregation is built on the faithfulness of people who choose to give from the heart. Not because they "have to," but because they believe that God can multiply what they offer.

#### **Giving as Worship**

Our offerings - whether given weekly, monthly, once a year, or whenever we are able—are not transactions.

They are **acts of worship**.

Scripture reminds us:

*"All must give as they are able, according to the blessings given to them by the Lord your God."*

Deuteronomy 16:17

When we give, we are saying:

**"God, I trust You. I trust Your provision. I trust Your mission.**

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Our regular WELCA meeting will be on Sunday, December 14th at 11:30 am

#### **WELCA Quilt Raffle**

Is Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

Tickets are on sale after

All services

Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5



WELCA is also collecting items for the women at Grace Center of Hope in Pontiac. They need the bare essentials such as regular size shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, lotions, feminine hygiene items.



## **Tech Team December 2025**

### **12/7**

Switcher: Ole Anderson  
Projection: Edelyn Rose  
Sound Up: Charlie Moritz  
Cameras: Emmet Morse  
Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach

### **12/14**

Switcher: Kystal Edwards  
Projection: Kerri Kinneberg  
Sound Up: Edelyn Rose  
Cameras: Carol Segal  
Tracey Barney

### **12/21**

Switcher: Ole Anderson  
Projection: Edelyn Rose  
Sound Up: Jon Horne  
Cameras: Krystal Edwards/Brian Domain  
Kim Harris

### **12/21 Blue Christmas**

Projection: Charlie Moritz  
Sound: Charlie Moritz

### **12/24 4pm**

Projection: Kerri Kinneberg  
Sound Up: Charlie Moritz

### **12/24 7pm**

Switcher: Ole Anderson  
Projection: Kystal Edwards  
Sound Up: Charlie Moritz  
Cameras: Kim Harris  
Tracey Barney

### **12/28**

Switcher: Edelyn Rose  
Projection: Kerri Kinneberg  
Sound Up: John Horne  
Cameras: Kim Harris  
Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach

## **Worship Servants for December 2025**

### **Communion Assistants**

**12/7** – Stephen Cooperidder, Paula Corrin,  
Phyllis Folsom

**12/14** – Karen Hillestad, Cindy Edwards,  
Ryan Christensen

**12/21** – Linda Jensen, Vickie Hill  
Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach,

### **12/21 Blue Christmas**

**12/24 4pm**

**12/24 7pm**

### **Altar Guild**

Paula Corrin  
Nicole & Brandon Middleton  
Jo Naylor

### **Counters**

Ron Goetze  
Kris Goetze  
Diane Harris  
Julie Zaremba

## **Worship Servants for December 2025**

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**

**12/7** - Ryan Christensen

**12/14** - Stephanie Radtke

**12/21** – Donna Butora

**12/21 - Blue Christmas** Edelyn Rose

**12/24 4pm** -

**12/24 7pm** – Edelyn Rose

**12/28** – Mike Mitchell

### **Ushers**

**12/7** – Jacen Schnitzer, Jim Austin  
Sharon Morse, Cathy Roller

**12/14** – Ron & Kris Goetze  
Todd Cooper, Gerry Cleasby

**12/21** Hanna & Riana Forbing  
Emmet Morse, Jim Austin

No ushes needed for Blue Christmas

**12/24 4pm** Cathy Roller

**12/24 7pm**

**12/28** - Jacen Schnitzer, Jim Austin  
Sharon Morse, Norm Kinneson

## **Greeters**

**12/7** - Anna Findley, Jill Jacobson  
Jerry & Carol Scrivo

**12/14** – Jim Austin, Linda Jensen  
Hanna & Riana Forbing

**12/21** - Sharon Morse, Cathy Roller  
Ron & Kris Goetze

**12/21 Blue Christmas** (1 Greeter)

**12/24 4pm** – Diane Harris, Linda Jensen  
Cathy Roller

**12/24 7pm** – Diane Harris

**12/28** – Jill Jones, Karen Hillestad  
Linda Jensen, Linda Martin

### **Coffee Hour**

**12/7** – Kathy Reddeman, Geri Moritz

**12/14** – Council Team 2  
Cindy Edwards, Hayliegh Baptista  
Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach, Lisa Kargol-Stephens

**12/21** - WELCA  
Julie Zaremba - Chair

**12/28** – Men's Group

Presidents Message

In council we have be discussing asset-based ministry, how can we do God’s work best with the Assets we have. Those assets might be a building with a large hall and a kitchen that can be used to feed the hungry, a parking lot with a basketball hoop that allows us to engage with our neighbors, appropriate investment strategies for the money given to the church.

Each of us brings various assets or gifts to church. Sometimes we call these the three T’s - time talents and treasures. During December we will be asking about your unique talents and also your needs. Just as a teacher needs students to fulfill their teaching talent, the church can match our skills with the various needs of the congregation and the staff. The two questions that will be included in the bulletin insert are:

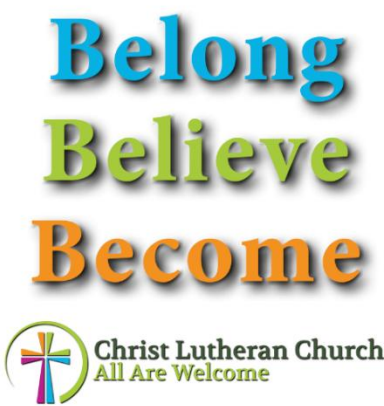
1. What is something you need, would like to have, or to learn?

This can include items like help with snow removal, buying groceries, prayer, a visit with Pastor, to learn more about being a Lutheran, to be confirmed (many of us who joined the Lutheran church later in life never went through confirmation), etc.

2. Question 2. What is something you can give, do or teach?

This can include things like help with snow removal, learn camera or other tech team skills, help with Altar Guild, make chili for the chili cook off in 2026, give more to the church (time, talents, treasure), teach a class for members and guests, etc.

Charlie



Congregational Care Ministry

We encourage members in need of assistance to contact us so we can attempt to help. If you need help or wish to serve on a team, please contact Vickie Hill  
Contact info is in directory

Gerry’s Shoutout

To our Music Directors John and Tracy amd all the members of the Choir for all the joyful music they give us every Sunday! Don’t forget about the Cookie Exchange after service Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

See you soon  
Gerry

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**I trust that my gift - no matter the size -  
can make a difference in Your  
Kingdom.”**

This is discipleship. This is faith in motion. This is worship lived out with open hands.

And church... I see that faith in you. I thank God for the way you give generously, joyfully, and quietly. Your faithfulness is the reason Christ Lutheran continues to be a place where people truly **Belong, Believe, and Become.**

**For Those Who Give Year-End Gifts**  
For some, the end of the year is a meaningful time to reflect on God’s blessings and offer a special gift of gratitude.

These gifts strengthen our ministries, support our outreach, keep our building open and welcoming, and allow us to dream boldly for the year to come.  
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DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 12/1 Nadine Keway
- 12/4 Vickie Hill
- 12/5 Donna Butora
- 12/5 Marsha Fante
- 12/5 Robin Hansen
- 12/10 Hayleigh Baptista
- 12/11 John Barnfather
- 12/12 Karen Kush
- 12/14 Stephen Cooperrider
- 12/18 Pat Scott
- 12/21 Erwin Klopfer
- 12/21 Jaime Pennington
- 12/28 Catherine Roller
- 12/29 Barbara Harris


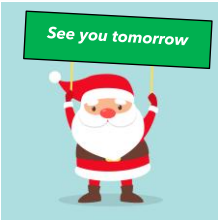


DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 12/11 Richard & Katherine Reddeman







Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<div>1</div> <div>7pm Boy Scouts</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div> <div>1pm Bible Study 7pm Choir 8pm AA</div>	<div>4</div> <div>10 WELCA Breakfast Ripples Restaurant 5pm TOPS</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div> <div>8pm AA</div>
<div>7</div> <div>10am Service/Advent 2</div>	<div>8</div> <div>6:45pm Grief &amp; Loss Support Group 7pm Boy Scouts</div>	<div>9</div> <div>7pm MS Support Group</div>	<div>10</div> <div>1pm Bible Study 5:30pm Cookie Decorating 7pm Choir 8pm AA</div>	<div>11</div> <div>5pm TOPS</div>	<div>12</div> <div></div>	<div>13</div> <div>12-2:00pm – Visit Santa! 3pm Gingerbread Houses 8pm AA</div>
<div>14</div> <div>10am Service/Advent 3 Cookie Exchage after Service</div>	<div>15</div> <div>7pm Council 7pm Boy Scouts</div>	<div>16</div>	<div>17</div> <div>1pm Bible Study 6pm SCSA 7pm Choir 8am AA</div>	<div>18</div> <div>5pm TOPS 8pm PRISM Concert</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div> <div>2:30pm Advent Tea 8pm AA</div>
<div>21</div> <div>10am Service/Advent 4 1pm Blue Christmas</div>	<div>22</div> <div>6:30pm Men’s Food &amp; Fellowship 6:45pm Grief &amp; Loss Support Group 7pm Boy Scouts</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div> <div>4pm Service 7pm Service</div>	<div>25</div> <div></div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div> <div>8pm AA</div>
<div>28</div> <div>10am Service/Christmas 1</div>	<div>29</div> <div>7pm Boy Scouts</div>	<div>30</div>	<div>31</div> <div>7pm Boy Scouts</div>	<div>1</div> <div></div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>

DECEMBER 2025

