



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/
ChristLutheranWaterford](https://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranWaterford)

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

Happy Valentine's Day



Christ Lutheran Church
All Are Welcome, *no really!*

Parish Caller
CLC's Monthly Newsletter

February 2026

Christ Lutheran Church
Airport and Williams Lake Roads
Waterford ~ Michigan

February: Love That Makes Space

It is not hard to name the truth: the world feels heavy right now. Many of us are tired in ways that do not go away with rest. Besides all the things we carry personally through this world, the exterior noise is constant. With all the banter of bad news lately, conversations can feel sharp. Trust can feel fragile. Even breathing can feel like work some days.

And then February arrives - with pink hearts and candy displays, with conversation hearts and cards and slogans. A month about love that can feel trite or disconnected from the weight so many of us are carrying. But maybe - just maybe - this month of love is not meant to distract us from reality. Maybe it can call us deeper into it.

As followers of Christ, love is proof of our faith. It is not just a theme or a pleasant sentiment. Love is the way Jesus lived, the way Jesus taught, and the way Jesus still calls us to live today.

I have said it before, and I believe it more deeply each time I say it:

Whatever the question, love is the answer.

Whatever the problem, love is the solution.

Whatever the situation, love is the response.

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 Joanette 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

Cont. from pg. 1

These words are not naïve. They are not simplistic. They are faithful. Love cannot be empty words with zero action...because love, as Jesus lived it, is never passive. It is faith in motion.

Love **moves** toward people rather than away from them. It shows up when it would be easier to stay silent. It acts when apathy would feel safer. Love does not stop at compassion - it takes shape in courage, care, and presence.

So this February, when we see pink hearts in store windows or on candy wrappers, may we let them become gentle reminders - not of romance or little catchy Hallmark sayings, but of calling. Our calling as followers of The Way. Quiet prompts that invite us to ask ourselves: How am I living and loving like Jesus today? Who is my neighbor in this moment? Where am I being asked to love - especially when it is uncomfortable?

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In Our Prayers

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!

Every Sunday Morning as gather for worship there is heat in the building, lights to see by, a projection system to lead the service, a beautiful altar and lectern to preach from, and a live steam system to get to those who cannot attend. All thanks to Ole Anderson!

Easter Breakfast

Easter is coming up on April 5th and that brings us up to Easter Breakfast. Looking for cooks, servers, setup crew cleanup crew, decorations crew, and your favorite breakfast treat for the buffet table. Let me know which crew you would like to be a part of, See you at church

Gerry

Upcoming Events

Weekly Bible Wednesday's at 1pm

Women's Tea Saturday February 7th 2:30pm

WELCA Meeting Sunday February 8th, 11:30am

Grief & Loss Support Group
Monday's February 9th & 23rd 6:45pm

Noisy Offering is Sunday, February 15th. This month offering goes to DRAW

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

Chili Cook Off is February 21st 5:00pm

President's Message

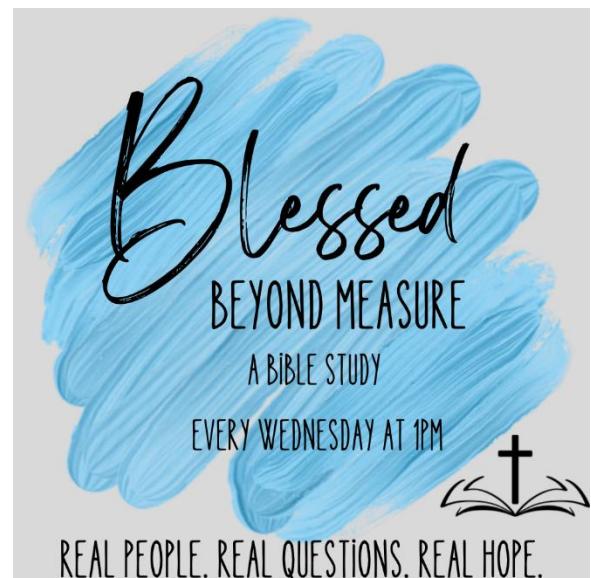
Have you ever invited someone to Church?

Growing up I was taught never to discuss religion or politics in mixed company. I'm not actually sure what my parents meant by mixed company but even today these topics are only discussed among good friends and family. The good news is that 96% of "unchurched adults" would be somewhat or very likely to attend church if personally invited. Only a 4% chance of rejection for those looking at the glass half empty. The bad news is that Lutherans as a denomination have the lowest number of members not inviting others to church.

We do a lot of the other things right for visitors that are looking for a church who do not congregational members, welcoming website, online presence to preview service, etc., and we get a fair number of visitors, but just think how many more we would have coming through our doors if we all invited one other person in 2026.

D.T. Niles, a Sri Lankan pastor wrote that "Evangelism is just one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread." Inviting others is not about numbers, it's about love, it's about inviting someone to a community where love makes space.

Charlie



Cont. from pg. 2

It can happen in small, tangible ways every day:

- It looks like listening instead of interrupting.
- It looks like pausing before reacting.
- It looks like refusing to reduce someone to a label or a talking point.
- It looks like showing kindness when it is not returned.
- It looks like staying curious instead of hardened.
- It looks like speaking truth with care rather than cruelty.

Jesus consistently looked people in the eye - people the world had dismissed, feared, or misunderstood - and called them beloved. And then, guess what? Astonishing as it may feel sometimes; He asks us to do the same.

That means we are called to look into the eyes of those we disagree with. Those we do not understand. Those the world tells us are "other." Not to erase truth. Not to excuse harm. But to see what Christ sees: a beloved child of God, deeply loved, infinitely valued.

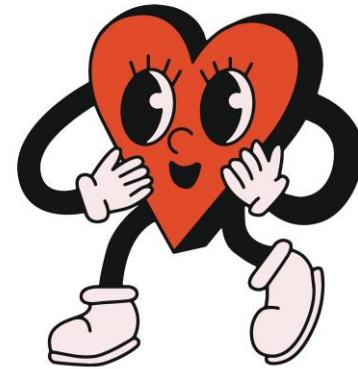
That kind of love does not always come naturally. It is practiced. Chosen. Returned to again and again. It is how we teach the world to get along. It is faith in motion. And it is exactly the kind of love the world is starving for.

So, this February, we lean into love...not as a slogan, **but as a way of life.** Not as something passive, but as faith made visible. Not as a Hallmark moment, but as holy work. This is who we are becoming as a church. This is what it means to live our vision: **Where Love Makes Space.**

And man, is that hard and holy work, but with the Spirit as our guide we can do anything. Dear Church, this month May love shape our words. May love guide our responses. May love move our feet and soften our hearts.

Because in a heavy world, love is not extra. Love is not an accessory to faith - it **is the evidence of it.** ...And it is essential.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Steph



WORSHIP SERVANTS

Greeters

2/1 - Hanna & Riana Forbing
Vicki Hill, Jill Jones

2/8 - Linda Jensen
Carol & Jerry Scrivo

2/15 - Ron & Kris Goetze
Roland Jakel, Linda Martin

2/22 - Diane Harris, Linda Jensen, Jill Jacobson

Lay Assistants

2/1 - Donna Butora

2/8 - Ole Anderson

2/15 - Mike Mitchell

2/22 - Edelyn Rose

Ushers

2/1 - Ron & Kris Goetze

Sharon Morse, Gerry Cleasby

2/8 - Elisabete Nestor,

Norm Kinnison, Jim Austin

Christopher Nestor

2/15 Todd Cooper, Gerry Cleasby

Vicki Hill, Catherine Roller

2/22 Jacen Schnitzer, Jim Austin

Julie Zaremba, Anna Findley

Counters for February

Dale Folsom - Head Counter
Jackie, Karen Hillestad

Coffee Hour

2/1 - Christ Lutheran

2/8 - Council Team 2

Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach
Hayleigh Baptista
Cindy Edwards
Lisa Kargol-Stephens

2/15 - WELCA

Sharon Morse - Chair

Carole Scrivo, Jamie Schutt

2/22 - Men's Group

Altar Team for February

Mary Bratun, Marsha Fante
Janet Dennis



WORSHIP SERVANTS

Tech Team January 2026

2/1

Switcher: Ole Anderson
Projection: Krystal Edwards
Sound Up: Edelyn Rose
Cameras: Tracey Barney
Emmet Morse

2/8

Switcher: Krystal Edwards
Projection: Edelyn Rose
Sound Up: Charlie Moritz
Cameras: Brian Domain
Tracey Barney

2/15

Switcher: Ole Anderson
Projection: Courtney Keisman
Sound Up: Charlie Moritz
Cameras: Kate Smith
Edelyn Rose

2/22

Switcher: Krystal Edwards
Projection: Kim Harris
Sound Up: Ole Anderson
Cameras: Brian Domain
Tracey Barney

Communion Assistants

2/1 – Mary Bratun, Joan Kossman, Karen Hillestad

2/8 Julie Hanneman Schoenbach
Stephen Cooperrider, Janet Dennis

2/15 – Linda Jensen,
Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach,
Phyllis Folsom

2/22 - 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

What Your Pastor Has Been Up to Lately!

God has been busy - and so has your pastor!

We are delighted to share that Pastor Steph has recently been **invited to join the Board of Directors of FedUp Ministries!** FedUp is a Michigan-based nonprofit dedicated to addressing hunger, food insecurity, and the systemic issues that keep families from thriving. It is a true honor for our congregation to have Pastor Steph serve in this wider ministry.

In January, Pastor Steph was invited to present at the national **“Nevertheless, She Preached” Virtual Showcase**, sharing on **polarity management** and how congregations can faithfully balance **tradition and innovation** in parish life - honoring where we have been while boldly stepping into where God is leading. Looking ahead to this summer, Pastor Steph has also been invited to help lead at Living Waters Ministries’ new camp, *In God’s Image*, a ministry focused on helping young people explore faith, identity, and belonging through the lens of God’s unconditional love.

She has also participated in leadership trainings at the ELCA Extravaganza in St. Louis, and continued vision planning for Christ Lutheran Church, and helped guide us into our new congregational theme for 2026: **Where Love Makes Space.**

And while all of this is exciting, Pastor Steph will tell you her favorite work remains the most personal: **pastoral care** - hospital visits, bedside prayers, listening deeply, and walking with people through both holy joy and deep grief. Please remember to pray for our sick and homebound.

February 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10am Service	2 7pm Boy Scouts	3	4 1pm Bible Study 7pm Choir 8pm AA	5 9am Quilting Group Yoga 11am-12:30pm TOPS 5-6pm	6	7 2:30 International Dinner 8pm AA
8 10am Service WELCA Meeting	9 6:45 Grief & Loss Support Group 7pm Boy Scouts	10 7pm MS Support Group	11 1pm Bible Study 7pm Choir 8pm AA	12 9am Quilting Group Yoga 11am-12:30pm TOPS 5-6pm	13	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i> 8pm AA
15 10am Service Noisy Offering Ushers Meeting after service	16 Alzheimer's Support Group 6:30-9pm 7pm Council Meeting 7pm Boy Scouts	17	18 1pm Bible Study 6pm SCSA 7pm Choir 8pm AA	19 9am Quilting Group Yoga 11am-12:30pm TOPS 5-6pm	20	21 5pm Chili Cook Off 8pm AA
22 10am Service	23 6:45 Grief & Loss Support Group 6:30 Men's Fellowship 7pm Boy Scouts	24	25 1pm Bible Study 7pm Choir 8pm AA	26 9am Quilting Group Yoga 11am-12:30pm TOPS 5-6PM	27	28 8pm AA