



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](mailto:office@christwaterford.org)

**WEBSITE:**  
[www.christwaterford.org](http://www.christwaterford.org)

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

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**  
[www.facebook.com/ChristutheranWaterford](https://www.facebook.com/ChristutheranWaterford)

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

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day



## 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 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

*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?

*Cont. pg. 3*

*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 stream 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 7<sup>th</sup> 2:30pm

**WELCA Meeting** Sunday February 8<sup>th</sup>, 11:30am

**Grief & Loss Support Group**  
Monday's February 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>  
6:45pm

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

**Mens Food & Fellowship**  
will meet Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>,  
6:30pm

**Chili Cook Off** is February 21st  
5:00pm



## President's Message

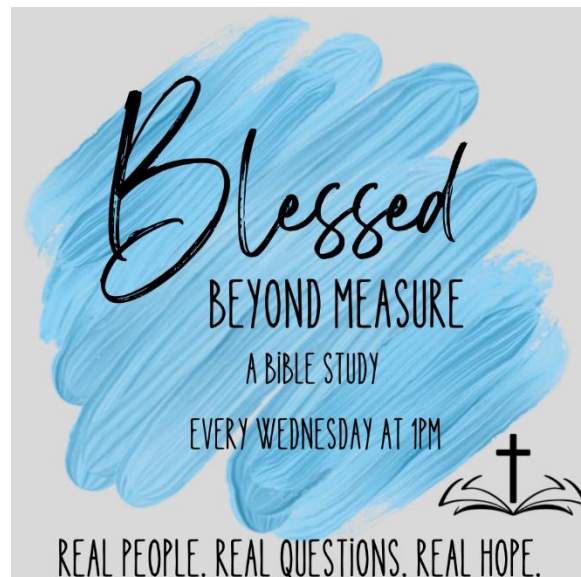
Have you ever invited someone to Church?

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.

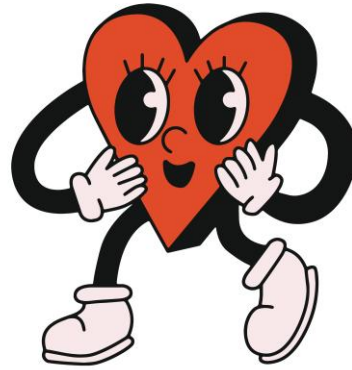
So, this February, we lean into love...not as a slogan, **but as a way of life.** Not as something passive, but as faith made visible. Not as a Hallmark moment, but as holy work. This is who we are becoming as a church. This is what it means to live our vision: **Where Love Makes Space.**

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**



*Where Love  
Makes Space*

## WORSHIP SERVANTS

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

**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 Zarembo, Anna Findley

### Counters for February

Dale Folsom - Head Counter  
Jackie, Karen Hillestad

### 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

### 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 31<sup>st</sup>

April 25<sup>th</sup>

August 8<sup>th</sup>

November 25<sup>th</sup>

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

