

# The Messenger

Christ Lutheran  
Church  
5356 N. Hillside  
Wichita, KS  
67219



December 2025 Newsletter

Contact us at [office@Christ-Lutheran.org](mailto:office@Christ-Lutheran.org)

## **ADVENT IS HERE!**

Mark your calendars for the Advent Potluck Meal!

### **December 17th – Potluck**

Please sign-up using the sign-up sheet on the Opportunity Table so we have an idea of what everybody is bringing .

**Supper starts at 6:15pm with Service following at 7pm.**

Contact Juanita Freed 316-640-7892 or Mary Garrelts 316-640-7009 if you are able to help with set-up or clean-up.

**Let's bring our own table-ware/silverware to save some trees!**



### Fall Worship Schedule

9:00 AM- Contemporary Worship  
10:10 AM- Sunday School  
11:00 AM- Traditional Worship

### Men's Breakfast

We will be at Auntie C's, located at 61st and Broadway. We will be there at 8:00 AM on Saturday, January 10th for some good food and fellowship. If you have any questions, please contact Donn Bischoff at 209-2138.

### Quilt Day

Our next Quilt day will be on January 6th at 9:00 am. For questions, contact:  
Rosie Harder 316-200-3233  
Rosieharder14@gmail.com

This group of quilters is open to anyone who wants to join them. Sewing or quilting skill is not necessarily required. They meet once a month and you can come and go as your schedule allows. The morning is filled with conversation, laughter, encouragement, and by doing the important work of creating quilts for Lutheran World Relief.



### 2025 Bookkeepers Report



	November 2025	YTD 2025	Rolling 12 Months YTD
Receipts	\$15,941.27	\$210,594.19	\$238,910.18
Expenses	\$14,163.87	\$207,914.50	\$231,914.99
Variance	\$1,777.40	\$2,679.69	\$6,995.19

Respectfully Submitted, **Alan Wondra**



Secretary: Kali Mills

5356 N. Hillside, Wichita, Kansas 67219

Phone: 316-744-1242 Fax: 316-425-8875

[www.Christ-Lutheran.org](http://www.Christ-Lutheran.org)

E-mail: [office@Christ-Lutheran.org](mailto:office@Christ-Lutheran.org)

### Parish Nurse - Mary Garrelts



For any medical questions or concerns please contact **Mary Garrelts** at [mbgarrelts@cox.net](mailto:mbgarrelts@cox.net)

**THERE WILL BE NO  
SUNDAY SCHOOL ON  
DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> &  
DECEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>!**





## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Interested in doing social media for church? Kelsey Helmick is looking for someone to take over making Facebook events

and posting about the happenings at church. If interested, contact her via text (785) 408-6645 or email: [helmickkelsey@gmail.com](mailto:helmickkelsey@gmail.com)

Thanks!  
Kelsey Helmick

## **POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS**

**We are now receiving donations to help purchase poinsettias for Christmas. They are \$10/plant. The sign-up & envelope for money is at the Opportunity Table, or you can mark the Tear-Off and place your money in the Offering Plate (please mark it for poinsettias). Plants may be taken home after the Christmas Eve services. Thank you!**





## **LET IT SNOW!**

Let's "snow" Margaret Dietz with some cards while she is recovering! She is always so good at sending cards to all of us when we need... Now it's our turn! You can send Margaret a card to:

The Center at Waterfront  
Attn: Margaret Dietz

1541 N. Lindberg Circle  
Wichita, KS 67206

## **Endowment Fund**

**The Endowment Committee is currently taking requests from Committees or Groups within Christ Lutheran who would like to be considered for the 2025 Endowment Fund Interest allocation. The Endowment Committee will meet in January to allocate the funds.**

**Request forms can be submitted to Alan Wondra. Blank copies of the request form can be found on the information table in the narthex. The Endowment Committee will accept requests through December 31st, 2025.**

**Thank you!**

**-Alan W.**





## A New Opportunity for Community Service

Council has approved the request by Heights Students in FCCLA (Family, Career & Community Leaders of America) to use our Fellowship Hall for a Holiday Share Fair on December 22nd from 8am-6pm.

Students will be collecting:

- Gently Used Clothing
- Toys, Games & Stuffed Animals
- Non-Perishable Food
- Baby Items
- Coats & Blankets

There will be no charge for individuals to shop (highly desirable items will be limited).

You are welcome to donate items for this student led project. We plan to use the small Sunday School room by the sacristy for storage. Students may be bringing some items for storage as well. They will plan to work the sale & school security will be present. The remainder will be cleaned up by the students & taken for donation elsewhere.

We will plan to have a CLC member on site throughout the day.

Questions - Contact Mary Garrelts 316-640-7009, Outreach Chair



## **Call Committee Formed for Pastoral Search**



I am pleased to announce that the Council has selected the Call Committee members for our upcoming pastoral search. The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) has been completed and submitted to the Central States Synod of the ELCA. We wish to express our gratitude to the members of the Transition Team, who put in many, many hours to put the MSP together. We expect the Bishop to review our MSP in December, and to post a summary on the Synod website in early

January, which will allow interested pastoral candidates to express interest to the Bishop in learning more and being considered for potential application for our position. Once applications are received, the Call Committee will begin their work in earnest, reviewing applications and conducting interviews. We are hopeful that this will result in a call to a new pastor this spring. Following are the newly named Call Committee members:

Brian Miller (Chair)  
Alisa Baden  
Mary Garrelts  
Ben Gibbs  
Tucker Clouse  
Robin Pressnall

While the work of the Call Committee will be confidential in terms of applicants, if you have questions about the process, please reach out to a Council member or Call Committee member.

Respectfully,  
Jim Garrelts, President

# December

## Human Needs Collection Benefits:

### The Wichita Children's Home



WICHITA

Children's Home

The Wichita Children's Home is a non-profit organization that offers the only emergency, temporary, and residential care for children in our community. We are open 24/7 and rely on community support to continue to meet the needs of and ensure the safety of children in need.

Help make a child's Christmas extra special this year with a gift from our Holiday Wish List! Whether through gifts of clothing and necessities like diapers to entertainment gifts like craft kits and activity passes, your support ensures every child has a magical holiday season. See our list of requested items. Whether you shop in town or online, we're so grateful for your generosity.

### **The most requested items are:**

- Oversized plush throws
  - LEGOs for all ages, as they make wonderful Christmas gifts and make our children feel special!
- Lounge pants and Pajamas for all ages



## **DECEMBER NEWS FLASH 2025--- "HOPE IS A ROPE"**

**By: John Snow**

A STORY OF ADVENT AND HOPE FOR TODAY. A STORY OF SOMETHING TO CLING TO FOR ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PROMISES AND THINGS TO COME. HOLD ON TIGHT, HERE WE GO.

THE WORD HOPE IN HEBREW IS "TIKVAH" , IT MEANS A CORD OR ROPE, "TO CLING TO HOPE". "TO WAIT EXPECTANTLY" OR "TO LONG FOR" ISRAELITES USED THE TERM FOR ROPE AS A METAPHOR FOR CLINGING TO GOD'S PROMISES. GOD ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PROMISE, ALWAYS. WHEN HE SAYS HE WILL SENT JESUS BACK TO TAKE US HOME WITH HIM, HE MEANS IT. (1 THESS 4:13-18). HOLD ONTO YOUR ROPE OF HOPE, PATIENTLY WAITING FOR CHRIST RETURN. THIS ADVENT SEASON, AS WE CELEBRATE CHRIST BIRTHDAY, WE CAN TAKE HIM AT HIS WORD, HE'S COMING BACK.

WHAT CAN WE DO IN THE MEANTIME?? ROMANS 12:12 "BE JOYFUL IN HOPE, PATIENT IN AFFLICTION, AND FAITHFUL IN PRAYER". TO HOPE MEANS I DON'T GIVE UP, EVEN WHEN I CAN'T SEE WHAT'S AHEAD.



JESUS IS BUILDING ME A LOG CABIN ALONG SIDE A SMALL RIVER WITH LOTS OF CATFISH IN IT. MY CABIN WILL BE BIG ENOUGH TO SERVE UP TO 50 PEOPLE A NIGHT. OUT BY MY MAILBOX BY THE ROAD TO MY CABIN, I HAVE A SIGN THAT HAS A MENU ON IT : THURSDAY EVENING - RIBEYE STEAKS AND JUMBO SHRIMP-- FRIDAY NIGHT-- CATFISH FILLETS, FRIED OKRA, FRIED POTATOES AND DINNER ROLLS WITH BUTTER AND HONEY-- SATURDAY NIGHT IS ALL YOU CAN EAT CRAB LEGS WITH LOTS OF BUTTER-- SUNDAY IS FRIED CHICKEN , MASHED POTATOES, CORN ON THE COB, DINNER ROLLS-- ALL SERVED BUFFET STYLE. DESERTS WILL BE FRUIT BOWLS FROM THE TREE OF LIFE. OPEN NOON UNTIL WHENEVER. YOU MIGHT WANT TO CALL FOR A RESERVATION. DRESS IS CASUAL (TOGA'S AND SANDALS)

THIS IS YOUR HOMEWORK----

**WHAT'S YOUR HEAVENLY PLACE GOING TO LOOK LIKE?**

TELL ME WHICH DAY YOU WOULD LIKE TO COME TO MY CABIN FOR DINNER.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO IN HEAVEN?

HOBBIES THAT YOU LIKE TO DO NOW, PAINTING, SINGING, REUNITED WITH FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES, LAUGHING, RUNNING, GOING ON LONG WALKS, HELPING IN THE NURSERY, PLAYING GAMES, PLANTING GARDENS, HAVING FRIENDS OVER FOR HOMEMADE ICE CREAM, POPPING SOME POPCORN AND WATCHING A MOVIE. USE YOUR IMAGINATION, WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO?

PLEASE LET ME KNOW, I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

JUST SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT THIS ADVENT SEASON.

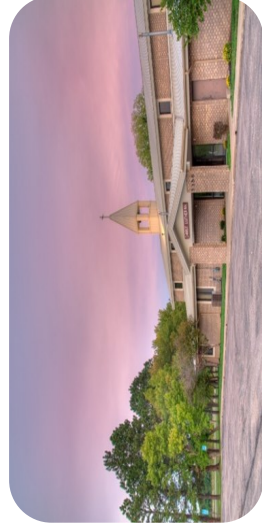
PRAISE BE TO GOD!!!!!!

# Christ Lutheran Church

SINCE 1951

## Church Council

**President** Jim Garrelts  
**Vice President** Julie Stiebner  
**Secretary** Mitch Neuenschwander  
**Treasurer** Alan Wondra  
**Worship** Juanita Freed  
**Human Needs** Beverly Krasselt  
**Resource** Nick Baden  
**Property Care** Alan Schmidt  
**Parish Education** Kelsey Helmick  
**Outreach** Mary Garrelts  
**Youth** Emily Pector



**Organist** Margaret Dietz  
**Cantor/Choir Director** Jared Pector  
**Ostodian** Patty Wheeler  
**Bookkeeper** Alan Wondra  
**Parish Nurse** Mary Garrelts  
**Secretary** Kali Mills  
**Parish Ministry Associate** Jody Helton

## Staff Relations Committee

**Council** Mallory Fowler  
**Staff** David Lechner  
**Pastor** Forrest Ehrke

## Staff

## December Worship Volunteers

Date	Time	Usher	Greeters	PPT	Soundboard	Leader	Reader	Goodies	Altar Guild	Tellers/Offering
12/7	9:00	Landon Clouse	Jody Helton	Justin Clouse	Jim Garrelts	Mary Garrelts	Julie Stiebner	Mary Garrelts	Juanita Freed	Donn B & Bonnie J
	11:00	Paul Shaw	Deb Bischoff	Maynard Peterson	Matt Becker	Donn Bischoff	Jamie Gibbs	Bonnie Johnson	Schweitzers	
12/14	9:00	Justin Clouse	Landon Clouse	Mary Garrelts	Jim Garrelts	Alan Wondra	Robin Pressnall	Kari Clouse	Janet Miller	Donn B & Cindy T
	11:00	Donn Bischoff	<b>NEED ONE</b>	Paige Gibbs	Courtlynn Dykstra	Bonnie Johnson	Rosie Harder	Deb Bischoff	Chandra Entwisle	
12/21	9:00	Landon Clouse	Justin Clouse	<b>NEED ONE</b>	Jim Garrelts	Jody Helton	Lantana Howell	Jo & Audry	Derek Farris	Donn B & Jamie G
	11:00	Rich Harder	Taylor Cook	Casey Dykstra	Entwisles	Maynard Peterson	Steve Slipsager	Jamie Gibbs	Dionne Becker	
12/24	4:30	Justin Clouse	Jody Helton	Landon Clouse	Jim Garrelts	Mary Garrelts	Alan Wondra	<b>NEED ONE</b>	Deb Bischoff	Donn B & Paul S
	7:00	Ben Gibbs	Donn Bischoff	<b>NEED ONE</b>	Gibbs	Annabel Entwisle	Jean Beal	Kelsey Helmick	Deb Bischoff	
12/28	10:00	Paul Shaw	Becky Dykstra	Justin Clouse	Jim Garrelts	Donn Bischoff	Shannon Banta	Mary Garrelts	Deb Bischoff	Donn B & Becky D

# December 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<b>1</b> Falcon Falls HOA 7 PM 	<b>2</b> Men's Bible Study 10:30am 	<b>3</b> Women's Bible Study 10:30am Advent Meal 6:15pm Service 7pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	<b>8</b> Council 6:00pm 	<b>9</b> Quilters 9 AM Men's Bible Study 10:30am	<b>10</b> Women's Bible Study 10:30am Advent Meal 6:15pm Service 7pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Men's Breakfast 8 AM 
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Men's Bible Study 10:30am 	<b>17</b> Women's Bible Study 10:30am Advent Meal 6:15pm Service 7pm Worship meeting following !	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Winter Begins! 	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Men's Bible Study 10:30am 	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Services 4:30 PM & 7:00 PM	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas! 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Men's Bible Study 10:30am 	<b>31</b> Women's Bible Study 10:30am New Years Eve			



## December Birthdays

Wednesday, December 3– Janice Cross	Wednesday, December 3– Terry Leonard	Saturday, December 6– Christopher Smith
Monday, December 8– Alan Schmidt	Thursday, December 11– Haley Ketchum	Friday, December 12– Matt Becker
Saturday, December 13– Becky Dykstra	Sunday, December 14– Rosie Harder	Sunday, December 14– Julie Stiebner
Monday, December 15– Dorothy DeMent	Tuesday, December 16– Jim Garrelts	Tuesday, December 16– Holly Smith
Thursday, December 18– Michelle Stucky	Friday, December 19– William Callison	Saturday, December 20– Bev Krasselt
Tuesday, December 23– Kari Clouse	Wednesday, December 24– Jody Helton	Thursday, December 25– Cortney Harris
Friday, December 26– Forrest Ehmke	Saturday, December 27– John Foster	Monday, December 29– Bonnie Johnson
Monday, December 29– Kristina Hysell	Wednesday, December 31– Catherine Ehmke	

## December Anniversaries

Friday, December 19– Matt & Kelsey Helmick	Thursday, December 25– Michael & Ana Lechner	
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## December Baptism Anniversaries

Monday, December 1– Jean Beal	Monday, December 1– Dawn Remme	Monday, December 8– Brett Albright
Tuesday, December 9– Nancy Muther	Thursday, December 11– Rhonda Moravec	Friday, December 12– Sandra Zabel
Friday, December 12– Adalynn Axman	Saturday, December 13– Brady Helton	Sunday, December 14– Jean Mertins
Monday, December 15– Wanda Unruh	Tuesday, December 16– Leo Brown	Wednesday, December 17– Andrew Clouse
Thursday, December 18– Juanita Freed	Friday, December 19– Jeanette Harding	Friday, December 19– Cheryl Shaw
Saturday, December 20– Dionne Becker	Saturday, December 20– Terry Leonard	Saturday, December 20– Darinda Leonard
Tuesday, December 23– Michael Carlstedt	Wednesday, December 24– Beatrix Spicer	Saturday, December 27– Victor Harding