

February 2023

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

# The Messenger



*"A new command I give you: Love one another.  
As I have loved you, so you must love one another."*

*~ John 13:34*



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**Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church Congregation Council**  
**Meeting Minutes January 9, 2023**

*Draft version. Minutes not officially approved until the following Congregation Council meeting.*

**Present:** Pastor Laura Kuntz, Ryan Smarsh, Amy Lodge, Chuck Heindrichs, Eric Mohny, Tim Gottshall and Katie Koch

Quorum was met.

The in person meeting was called to order by Council President Ryan Smarsh at 6:30 p.m. and opened with prayer.

Review and officially accept minutes from previous Council meeting

**Motion:** Accept minutes of the December 5, 2022 Congregation Council Meeting

**Motion:** Tim Gottshall

**Second:** Chuck Heindrichs

**Motion passed.**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Financials for December 31, 2022 (Total)**

	December	YTD	
<b>Income</b>	\$20,753	\$280,079	
<b>Expenses</b>	\$22,529	\$295,281	
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-\$1,776</b>	<b>-\$15,202</b>	
<b>Organ Loan</b>	\$22,392 (\$475/ month)	Pledges as of 12/31/2022	\$1,894
<b>External Funds</b>	\$790,047		
<b>Internal Funds</b>	\$50,593		

Chuck Heindrichs reported that \$10,000 will be divided evenly to each of the four benevolences (\$2,500 each), and the NEO Synod will receive \$5,000 for the Mission Partner.

**Property**

Tim Gottshall reported that the Property Committee met in December and developed a plan for 2023. They will meet again in January to finalize their plan and divide up jobs, both inside and outside.

**Pastor's Report**

Pastor Laura reported that five of the seven Confirmation students have picked their mentors, and classes are going well. A date for Confirmation Sunday has not yet been picked.

**Previous Business**

Council completed the Annual Report to the NEOS.

(Continued on next page.)

## **New Business**

Council discussed entering Phase 2 of the Interim Period. Ryan Smarsh will be in contact with Pastor Smith to get more information about how to proceed with the call process (Transition Team and Call Committee).

The recognition of the Church's 75th Anniversary will be Sunday, February 5, 2023, and the celebration will be Sunday, April 30, 2023.

Due to Covid and delayed elections, Council terms and elections no longer align with the Constitution. Council set dates for future elections of each council position. Amy will draft a letter to inform the congregation of each member's standing, when their term limit is up, and when elections will be held for each position.

Due to the lack of a formal Altar Committee, it has been decided that instead of ordering flowers for Easter services, members of the congregation can bring their own flowers in to make a flower cross.

Announcements through March have been assigned. Announcements, along with wording in the bulletin, will now include the mention of the offering plates in the back of the Sanctuary.

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting.

**Motion:** Amy Lodge

**Second:** Tim Gottshall

**Motion passed.**

Ryan Smarsh adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Date for the next council meeting will be Monday, February 6, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katie Koch Secretary





## Congregation News

### Prayers

✠ **For prayer requests** please fill out a prayer request form found in the gathering area and place it in the offering plate during the service, contact Sharon Davidson at 440-933-3923, skid440@yahoo.com or contact the church office.

✠ **Share Your Gift of Hospitality.** The Northeast Ohio Synod Council will be meeting at CELC on Saturday, March 25, from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. This group, made up of our Bishop and elected volunteers, totally 26 people. **Volunteers are needed** to provide a light breakfast, 8:00 to 9:00 am, and a lunch, approximately 11:30 am-12:30 p.m. It's helpful to have a volunteer host prepare the serving table, and refill as needed. Typically, the breakfast is a continental assortment of pastries or breads, fruit, juice, water, and coffee. The lunch may consist of two or three soups, sandwiches and cookies or a simple dessert. If you are willing to share your gift of hospitality, providing food and/or hosting either of the meals, please contact Susan Frantz (susan.frantz@yahoo.com or call 440-961-0000). Your offerings will be gratefully received.

*choose  
love* 

✠ **Celebrating CELC's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2023.** We were established on February 10, 1948. We will have a recognition of this anniversary on Sunday, February 5. Along with a celebration on Sunday, April 30. Please See Ryan Smarsh for more information.

✠ **Do you have a student in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade? Have they received a Bible from our congregation?** If not, please look for a signup sheet in the communication corner and sign your child up for the Beginning Bible Class. Students will learn how to use the Bible and receive their very own Bible. The class will be held during Sunday School on February 12. The Bibles will be presented to the students during the worship service that day. Please sign up by February 5 so we can ensure we have enough Bibles for everyone.



✠ **We honor our military among us.** Please lift in prayer all who serve in the military, past and present, along with their loved ones. Currently serving: Marty Koch, Coast Guard; and Dylan Lysefski, Army.

## February Birthdays

Ed B	1
Addison C	1
Daniel L	1
Jacob L	4
Jacob M	4
Bill R	5
George M	8
Adam L	8
Drew F	9
Lisa P	12
Kay S	12
Karen L	20
Melissa I	21
Paul O	22
Rainer F	25



### Vacation Bible School 2023

**2023 VBS is coming soon!** It's never too early to think about Vacation Bible School. We will be using the "Stellar" curriculum prepared by Group Publishing. VBS will be held June 12-16 (tentatively).

We need volunteers to make this mission possible. Please prayerfully consider how you will support this amazing outreach. Please find a volunteer sign up sheet in the gather area near the communication corner.



### Volunteer Opportunities

What are your special gifts or talents? Where do you feel that you can plug in and help feel and feed the pulse here at CELC? What best suits your time availability? Do you work better solo or with a team? We want to help you feel connected and wanted here at CELC.

There are a wide variety of volunteer opportunities here at CELC. From baking to handyman work, from teaching to listening, from solo work to team efforts, from inside work to outside work. There is a place for everyone.

We encourage everyone to prayerfully consider what gifts and talents that they can share with the church family. Each of us are needed and wanted here at CELC. Each of us are special and loved. Please contact the church office to get connected.

# February 2023 Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:15 a.m. Sunday school 10:00 a.m. Holy Worship	30 Preschool conferences	31 Preschool conferences	1 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir Preschool conferences	2 Preschool conferences	3 Pastor's day off	4
5 9:15 a.m. Sunday school 10:00 a.m. Holy Worship 75 <sup>th</sup> CELC Recognition	6 6:00 p.m. Council	7	8 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir	9	10 Preschool conferences	11
12 9:15 a.m. Sunday school 9:15 a.m. Beginning Bible Class 10:00 a.m. Holy Worship	13	14	15 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir <i>Newsletter deadline</i>	16	17 Pastor's day off	18
19 9:15 a.m. Sunday school 10:00 a.m. Holy Worship	20 <i>Preschool Closed</i>	21	22 Ash Wednesday 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir	23	24 Pastor's day off	25
26 9:15 a.m. Sunday school 10:00 a.m. Holy Worship	27	28	1 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir	2	3 Pastor's day off	4



**February 5**

Usher: Chip Crout  
Lector: Bob Olds  
Cantor: Anita Hlava  
Live Stream: Ryan Smarsh  
Altar Care: Nadine Carlson  
Bulletin Folding: Nadine Carlson

**February 12**

Usher: Brian Knip  
Lector: Bob Olds  
Cantor: Johanna Markko  
Counter: Brenda Crout  
Live Stream: Barb McCain  
Altar Care: Nadine Carlson  
Bulletin Folding: Nadine Carlson

**February 19**

Usher: Ryan Smarsh  
Lector: Beth Lecorchick  
Cantor: Sue Frantz  
Live Stream: Ryan Smarsh  
Altar Care: Nadine Carlson  
Bulletin Folding: Nadine Carlson

**February 26**

Usher: Eric Mohney  
Lector: Laura Knight  
Cantor: Rob Pedersen  
Counter: Julie Skaggs  
Live Stream: Bill Higgins  
Altar Care: Nadine Carlson  
Bulletin Folding: Nadine Carlson

**March 5**

Usher: Chip Crout  
Lector: Sharon Davidson  
Cantor: Michelle Young  
Live Stream: Barb McCain  
Altar Care: Jan Wunderle  
Bulletin Folding: Katie Koch

**March 12**

Usher: Bob Olds  
Lector: Bob Olds  
Cantor: Julie Pressnell  
Live Stream: Bill Higgins  
Counter: Eric Mohney  
Altar Care: Jan Wunderle  
Bulletin Folding: Katie Koch

**March 19**

Usher: Brian Knip  
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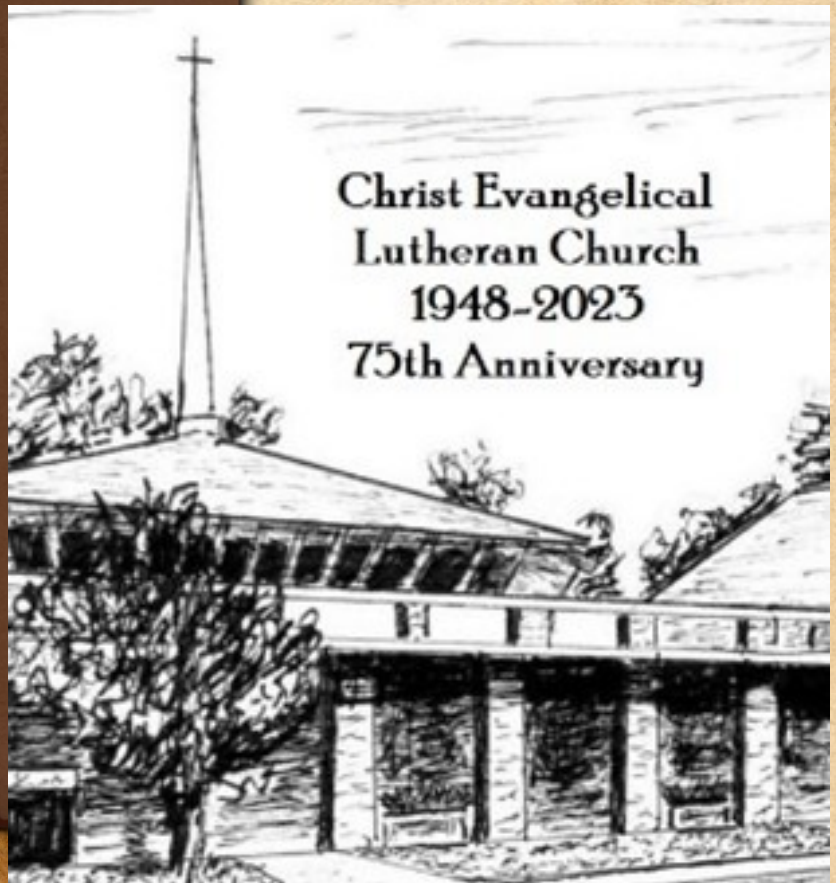
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Worship  
Sunday 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday school for all ages  
9:15 a.m.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Christ  
Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
75th Anniversary  
February 10, 2023



LOVE