



# The Messenger



CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OCTOBER 2023

## Call Committee Update

✝ On Wednesday, September 6, our Call Committee met with Pastor Mitch Phillips, Assistant to the Bishop, for interview training. As a result, the Call Committee is preparing a plan of pertinent questions for first interviews of candidates. The hope is to have a practice interview by October 1<sup>st</sup> with a rostered pastor who will help shape the proposed interview plan and questions as need be. Meanwhile, Pastor Mitch is reviewing rostered ministers' mobility papers. He will contact candidates who seem to have the best gifts for our faith community as the Holy Spirit guides. It is projected that we will begin interviewing candidates in October.

It was emphasized that we are *calling* a pastor, which is different than *hiring* a candidate as would a business. All involved in the call process, including our members, must be aware of the work of the Holy Spirit, as we continue to discern what God is working out for us. To do otherwise is to risk that we will not have the pastor our congregation needs at this time. Please continue to be united in prayer, asking for God's direction as the call process continues. May God's will be done.

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**Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Congregation Council Meeting Minutes September 11, 2023**

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

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

Quorum was met.

The in person meeting was called to order by Council President Ryan Smarsh at 6:32 p.m. and opened with prayer.

Review and officially accept minutes from previous Council meeting

**Motion:** Accept minutes of the August 14, 2023 Congregation Council Meeting.

**Motion:** Tim Gottshall

**Second:** Chuck Heindrichs

**Motion passed.**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Financials thru August 31, 2023**

	August	YTD	
Income	\$14,310	\$147,704	
Expenses	\$22,907	\$182,501	
Net Income	-\$8,597	-	\$34,797
Organ Loan	\$19,794	Pledges Reserve of 8/31/2023	\$2,394
External Funds	\$858,871	(As of 7/31/2023)	
Internal Funds	\$40,537		

**Property**

Tim Gottshall reported several repairs around the property, along with the purchase of a new riding lawn mower. Tim signed a contract to have the trellis removed and other minor repairs completed. There was also some mechanical damage to insulation around the duct work noticed; Tim has contacted a company to come and inspect it.

**Pastor's Report**

Pastor Laura reported that Adult Sunday School has started and the first session went really well. She also reported that Synod will be offering Lay Ministry classes and will be getting more information out to the congregation for those who would be interested.

### **Previous Business**

There is \$23,000 available for the Endowment grants this year. Applications are due by October.

Council has decided to ask for \$2,000 for pastoral interviews and travel expenses, with the remainder of the money put towards a New Pastor Reception.

The Constitution Review Committee has been formed and the members have been given a copy of Constitution and Bylaws to start reviewing.

### **New Business**

The Call Committee has a meeting with Pastor Mitch Phillips from Synod in September, as he is currently reviewing potential candidates. The Call Committee is planning on having a practice interview during September, with the projection of actual interviews starting in October.

Pastor Laura's contact is coming up in October. Going forward, her contract will be extended on a month to month basis.

The Total Eclipse is happening on April 8, 2024 - discussion took place on how we want to utilize the parking lot and property for this event.

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting.

**Motion:** Amy Lodge

**Second:** Chuck Heindrichs

**Motion passed.**

Ryan Smarsh adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Date for the next council meeting will be Monday, October 16, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katie Koch  
Secretary





Carol M	2
Sydney C	4
Mark S	4
Cathy M	5
Madeline W	6
Anita H	11
Barbara R	12
Mike P	14
Randi S	14
Jonah F	16
Owen I	19
Johanna M	20
Matthew L	21
Paul C	30

## PUMPKIN PRAYER

Dear God...

Open my mind so I can learn about  
You.

Take all my sin and forgive the  
wrong that I do.

Open my eyes so Your love I will  
see.

I'm sorry for times I've turned up  
my nose at what You've given me.

Open my ears so Your word I will  
hear.

Open my mouth to tell others  
You're near.

Let Your light shine in all I say and  
do!

Amen.

### Sunday School News

✝ **Sunday School has resumed!** If you are interested in helping to teach once or twice a month, see Julie Pressnell or call her 440-242-7528.

### 2024 ASP Youth Mission Trip News

✝ **We have started to plan for next year's ASP trip.** The week that the trip will happen next year is 6/17 through 6/23. For more information see Eric Mohney.

### 2023 Cleveland West Cluster Fall Gathering Saturday, October 28

✝ **The Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church will hold their Fall Gathering** at Divinity Lutheran Church, 11877 Blossom Avenue, Parma Heights, Ohio 44130, on October 28 starting at 8:30 a.m. All women are invited to attend and fellowship with other women of the ELCA. To attend please RSVP to Mary Ann Filipow, 440-845-6428, by Monday, October 23. More information can be found on the bulletin board in hallway.

# October 2023 Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00am Adult Sunday School with Pastor Laura 10:00am Holy Worship 10:00am Prek-6th Grade Sunday School during worship Preschool Stroller Pastry Fundraiser 11:30am Choir Practice	<b>2</b> Preschool Stroller Pastry Fundraiser	<b>3</b> Preschool Stroller Pastry Fundraiser	<b>4</b> Preschool Stroller Pastry Fundraiser 6:15pm Bell Choir Practice	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Pastor Appreciation Day</b> 9:00am Adult Sunday School with Pastor Laura 10:00am Holy Worship 10:00am Prek-6th Grade Sunday School during worship 9:30am Choir Sing	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:15pm Bell Choir Practice	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 10:00am Holy Worship 10:00am Prek-6th Grade Sunday School during worship	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6:15pm Bell Choir Practice	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 10:00am Holy Worship 10:00am Prek-6th Grade Sunday School during worship 10:00am Belts Play	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6:15pm Bell Choir Practice	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10:00am Holy Worship 10:00am Prek-6th Grade Sunday School during worship	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 6:15pm Bell Choir Practice	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>4</b>

## Worship Assistants and Volunteers

### October 1

Usher: Chip Crout

Lector: Eric Klenz

**Cantor:**

Live Stream: Bill Higgins

Altar Care: Carol Meiners

Bulletin Folding: Katie Koch

Grass: Bob Olds/ Eric Mohney

### October 8

Usher: Betsy Floyd

Lector: Marilyn Culler

Cantor: Angela Pedersen

Live Stream: Bill Higgins

Counter: Julie Skaggs

Altar Care: Carol Meiners

Bulletin Folding: Katie Koch

Grass: Tim Gottshall and Chip Crout

### October 15

Usher: Brian Knip

Lector: Michelle Young

Cantor: Julie Pressnell

Live Stream: Bill Higgins

Altar Care: Carol Meiners

Bulletin Folding: Katie Koch

Grass: Rob Nordman and Dan Ingraham

### Pastor Appreciation Day

October 8th, 2023

The month of October is Pastor Appreciation month, with a special day of Sunday, October 8 as the official day. We encourage you to take a moment and thank Pastor Laura and her continued leadership of our congregation.



### Congregation News

✠ **All Saints Sunday** will be held on November 5, 2023. Please contact the church office if you have had a loved one pass since last All Saints Day. Please submit names and relation to you by October 22. Thank you.



### October 22

Usher: Eric Mohney

Lector: Beth Lecorchick

Cantor: Michelle Young

Live Stream: Ryan Smarsh

Altar Care: Carol Meiners

Bulletin Folding: Katie Koch

Grass: Frank Lee and Brian Knip

### October 29

Usher: Ryan Smarsh

Lector: Frank Lee

Cantor: Angela Pedersen

Live Stream: Bill Higgins

Counter: Brenda Crout

Altar Care: Carol Meiners

Bulletin Folding: Katie Koch

Grass: Marty Koch

# **Learning Opportunities for CELC Members from The NEO Synod: Please email [pastorlaurak@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlaurak@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating!**

**Growing in Faith is a ministry within the ELCA committed to fostering learning environments for followers of Jesus to grow in faith.** We believe that lay members of our parishes are integral to healthy discipleship in our churches and communities. Thus, we gather followers across congregations to grow in faith together. Growing in Faith is a series of classes that you can take all in one year or over the course of many years. This Fall, the classes are being offered online through other synods. We will begin offering these courses through our pastors and in person in the Spring. Each course runs for 5 weeks and costs \$65/course. **This fee can be covered by the church for those interested.** This year (2023-2024) we are offering the following courses via Zoom:

***Worship Matters Thursdays from 6-9pm – Sept. 21 Oct. 19*** Why do we worship Sunday after Sunday? Is worship intended for an ‘in group’ to comfort and console? Is worship intended to equip for mission and service? Is worship for God or for us? As we explore these questions, we will discover tensions in worship: a God focus or a communal focus, a head focus or a heart focus, a structured worship or a free worship, a universal church focus or a focus on the local assembly and its needs.

***Christianity in a Lutheran Key Thursdays from 6-9pm – Nov. 2 - Dec. 7 (NEW) Tuesdays from 7-10pm - Sept. 12 - Oct. 10*** While all Christians share a common set of theological beliefs, Lutherans look at things through a filter of grace. In this course we will discover more about our Lutheran roots. We will also look forward to challenges that face us in the future.

***Introduction to the Old Testament Thursdays from 6-9pm – Dec. 14 - Jan. 25 (NEW) Tuesdays from 7-10pm - Oct. 17 - Nov. 21*** The aims of this course are to give the students an overview of the structure and theology of the Hebrew Scriptures and present the varieties of forms used to communicate the truth of God’s Word contained in them. Special attention will be given to covenant theology and to relating Old Testament theology and history to our understanding of the New Testament.

***Introduction to the New Testament – TBD*** The goals of this course are to understand the gospel message as revealed in the New Testament (NT), to explore the life and faith of the Christian church in the first century, to understand how the Bible came down to us in its present form, and to understand and use a variety of tools for interpreting the Bible. Throughout the course students will reflect on how the New Testament Gospel has shaped our Christian lives.

***Lutheran Creeds and Confessions – TBD*** This course provides an analysis of the historical context and theological content of the Book of Concord (the Lutheran Confessions) with an eye to establishing the importance of its witness for Christian mission and ministry.

***Living as a Christian in the World – TBD*** Students will discuss and explore their role as a member of a Christian community and the community at large. This course allows students to explore their place in a community that is not necessarily predominantly Christian. Begin discernment on future service and ministries in their congregations and communities.



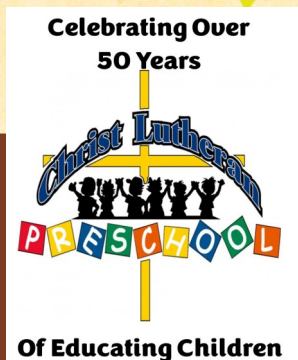
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440-933-6263



celc.mainoffice@gmail.com  
www.christlutheranavonlake.org

**Worship**  
**10:00 a.m. Sunday**

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**



**Support our CELC Preschool**



You can help support our church preschool, Christ Lutheran Preschool by ordering from their annual Stoller Pastry fundraiser from September 20 until October 4. Please stop by the office to pick up an order form. All money must be turned in at time of placing order.

Delivery and pick up will be on November 7, 11.am.-1 p.m.

If you have any questions contact Terri Pienoski at 440-933-6714.