

ACTIONS TO DATE OF CALLING A PASTOR TO CHRIST LUTHERAN

A Call Committee has been formed to assist the congregation in the calling of a new pastor. A first meeting was held Wed., Nov. 19, at 7:00 p.m. with the Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador, President of the LCMS South Wisconsin District, explaining the call procedure. Also attending was the Rev. Mark C. Wilkens of Delavan, who is our Circuit Visitor. Each committee member has received a packet of guidelines, forms, and congregational assessment material to consider.

The next step was a Special Voter's Meeting on Sunday, Nov. 30, to decide the direction our congregation will take in seeking a new pastor. At that meeting it was voted to apply for a seminary candidate.

On Dec. 22, the Call Committee met and submitted the formal application for a candidate from the seminary, complete with a description of the Role of the Pastor and a Congregational Profile and Purpose. The placement of candidates will be made in April of this coming year. Please be in prayer that the Lord would provide us with a shepherd of His choosing and that our congregation would remain faithful in fear, love and trust in Him above all things.

Please be in prayer for our congregation and for the Call Committee that we may faithfully seek and follow the Lord's will in all matters. Please pray that the Lord would reveal to us the next Shepherd of our flock.

Any questions or concerns may be directed to the committee. The members are David Burno, Chair; Bill Kase, Bryce Kitzman, Martin Newhouse, Elaine Rather, John Shorts, and William Uffenbeck, and we thank them for this service.

ANNUAL VOTERS MEETING

Sunday, January 25

The Annual Voters Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25 with lunch to be served as the meeting is going on. Plans concerning the lunch are still being decided. Please watch the January bulletins for more information regarding the start time, which will likely be 11:00 or 11:30 am.

Please join us for this important once a year meeting. Remember this is YOUR congregation; please come to voice your thoughts.

If the meeting is postponed due to inclement weather, it will be held instead on the following Sunday, Feb. 1.

ANNUAL ELECTIONS

The following Church Council positions will be voted on at the 2026 Annual Meeting (January 25):

President

The duties of the president shall include presiding at all meetings of the Voters' Assembly, appointing committees according to the instructions of the Bylaws or the resolutions of the Voters' Assembly, and responsibility for seeing that the resolutions of the Voters' Assembly are carried out.

Board of Deacons (1 position)

The Board of Deacons, as assistants to the pastor, shall be concerned with the spiritual life of the congregation and, under his direction, shall be charged with the supervision of public worship, church discipline, and all missionary education and endeavors within the congregation. To that end they shall:

Annual Elections, cont'd

1. be an example of Christian conduct and conversation.
2. admonish members who are neglecting the means of grace and who fail to share in the support of congregational endeavors (including the financial support of the church).
3. direct and supervise the visitation of newly-received.
4. encourage the development of a Bible Class program in the congregation and do all that is possible to increase the participation of the congregation in organized Bible study.
5. supervise the music for all services and cooperate with the organist, the choir director, and choir members in maintaining high standards for all services
6. supervise the work of the ushers and cooperate with the members of this group in maintaining proper church decorum at all services.
7. sponsor periodic canvasses of the community of the congregation and see that an up-to-date list of prospects is maintained in the church office.
8. provide for a systematic and continuous program of lay visitation of prospects to win them for Christ and for active membership in the congregation.
9. supervise the work of public relations of the congregation.
10. be authorized to appoint annually such officers and committees as are necessary to carry out the above duties, subject to the ratification of the Church Council. The Deacon that has held this position the longest (per elected term(s)) shall be the Chair.

Financial Secretary

The financial secretary shall:

1. be responsible for supplying envelopes to all communicant members for contributions toward the support of the Church.
2. be responsible for the proper counting and

recording of all monies received and depositing them in financial institution designated by the congregation.

3. supervise the maintenance of proper and up-to-date records of all contributions made by individual members of the congregation.
4. provide reports to the Church Council at the meetings and to the Voters' Assembly at its annual meeting.
5. turn over to their successor in office all books, papers, and money belonging to the congregation.

Board of Fellowship (1 position)

Duties include:

1. see to it that programs of adult and youth activities are sponsored by the congregation and that the programs to the spiritual edification of the participants, and that every effort be made to all members in the congregation to participate in these programs.
2. promote, plan and supervise VBS and other educational agencies within the parish which would enlarge the opportunities of the congregation in the field of Christian education.
3. plan, implement, and advertise possible activities such as: Christmas decorations; church picnic, teacher appreciation dinner; hayride; Sunday School children Christmas treats; bowling' etc.
4. the Officer that has held this position the longest (per elected term(s)) shall be the Chair. It shall be authorized to appoint annually such officers and committees as are necessary to carry out the above duties, subject to ratification by the Church Council.
5. turn over to their successor in office all books and papers belonging to the congregation for this Board.

SATURDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP

Men's Group will meet on the first and third Saturday at 9:00 am of each month in 2026. Their next meeting will be January 3, 2026, with Bible Study. If you have questions, please contact Dan Ludeman (608-931-8304).

2025 – MEN'S GROUP YEAR IN REVIEW

Mercy Pennies collected	13,442 (\$134.42)
Mercy Meals shipped	4,481

Culvers Scoopie night in February
to raise money for Teacher Kits
distributed through OGT 73 kits sent

Culvers Scoopie night in July
to raise money for Housing4OurVets
\$1,473.33

October Diaper Drive 3,819 diapers
& 1,480 wipes
(Given to the Willow Womens Center
and Caritas-Beloit Diaper Bank)

"They will know we are Christians by our Love."

MERCY PENNIES

Thank you to all who have donated toward Pennies for Mercy Meals in recent months. This project is sponsored by Christ Ev. Lutheran Men's Group. Every 3 cents ships a meal. Remember to save your pennies when you get change back. Pennies are collected at the back of the sanctuary the first Sunday of each month. Our next collection will be January 4.

CHURCH “UN-DECORATING”

January 4, 11:30 am

Christmas decorations will be taken down on **Sunday, January 4**, after Sunday School / Adult Bible Class (about 11:30 am). Please consider helping with this necessary task. Pizza will be provided afterward.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN



Thank you to all who donated items in the past year.

The next collection date will be February 13, from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm in the church parking lot. If you would like to volunteer at St. Paul's on February 14, please contact Dan Ludeman at 608-931-8304 for details.



Epiphany Worship Service Tuesday, January 6 at 6:30 pm.

Come join us as we celebrate the first revelation to the Gentiles of God Incarnate, Jesus Christ!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



January Birthday

Jenna Uffenbeck (age 7)..... Jan.15

Baptism Birthdays

Jenna Uffenbeck..... Jan. 20, 2019
Scarlett Pohlman..... Jan.22, 2017

*May the Holy Spirit ever keep our students in
His baptismal grace and faith unto life
everlasting.*

WOMEN'S SOCIETY

1:00 pm January 13

All women are invited to attend as we meet to discuss and plan our schedule for 2026.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY NEWS

Thanks be to God for the successful Harvest Luncheon & Cookie Walk on Nov 22! Thanks be to God for you, our Christ Lutheran members; the hard-working committee: Cindy Linney, Danielle Christensen and Donna Hahn; and all the time, gifts and hard work each person donated to benefit missions and service work here at home and abroad. Here are the financial results:

Income:

Meals (125 adult; 6 children)..	\$1,280.00
Cookie Walk.....	1,123.00
Craft Table	158.00
Monetary Donations	141.00
<u>Food Sales</u>	<u>230.00</u>
Total Income	\$2,932.00

- Total Expenses (groceries, publicity, Supplies)	\$ 274.30
Total Funds	\$ 2,657.70

At the December meeting, the Women's Society approved mission contributions of \$300 each to Lutheran Bible Translators, LWML South Wisconsin District Journeys Project (school for special education), Mission Central, Orphan Grain Train of Wisc., and World Lutheran Deaf Outreach. The purchase of new faucets for the kitchen sinks was also approved. Election of officers resulted in the re-election of Donna Hahn as President and Jenny Ludeman as Secretary. Patty Van Stone was welcomed to serve the rest of the Vice President's term (1 year). Elaine Rather continues in her term as Treasurer.

In December, red roses were given for the funerals of Teresa Seach and Beverly Hahn, and memorial gifts of \$30 were given to the LWML-South Wisc. District TLC fund (scholarships for young women events) in their memory.

The Women's Society is especially grateful for all the support, food donations, and willing volunteers for funeral luncheons, most recently served for the families of Edward Reible and Beverly Hahn. Serving funeral luncheons is a "labor of love", and we would not be able to serve them, or do all that the Society does, without our congregation's generous support.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY MISSION COLLECTIONS

2025 Report of Total Contributions

Throughout the year the Women's Society has been collecting used ink cartridges, the receipts from the purchase of "Box Tops" products, and the Loaves for Learning UPCs from Country Hearth breads. From your contributions, several cases of paper for the church office have been received and Lutheran schools have received cash funds. Thank you!

Total items collected during 2025 were the following:

- 56 ink cartridges
- 98 Box Tops receipts
- 41 Loaves4Learning UPCs

In the new year, please continue to place your contributions in the container located in the north entryway cloak area. Any questions may be directed to Elaine Rather (608-676-4984). Thank you!

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Please throw away any remaining 2025 envelopes as your envelope number may have changed for 2026.

Action Team Cards

Attention Thivent Members

Have you used the Thivent Action Team Cards you were entitled to in 2025? If you have not, please contact David Burno (608-728-4675). There are events in early 2026 that you may use your cards for. Each card is worth \$250 toward event costs. Dave will be happy to help you choose an event to sponsor and also to help you complete the application process.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are interested in being part of the Nominating Committee for the annual meeting elections, please reach out to David Burno (608-728-4675) or Michele Burno (608-728-2815). The main task of this group is to talk to members by phone or in person, to see who is willing to be on the 2026 Church Council election ballot. Are you willing to be put on the ballot? Please call Burnos! Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

REMINDER:
2026 ANNUAL VOTERS
MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 25
(watch bulletins for start time)

WE NEED YOUR CANS!

Do you have aluminum beverage cans to recycle? We are collecting aluminum (beverage only) cans to raise money for the Bell Tower fund. **These should be rinsed out and dry.** The collection bin is located in the kitchen next to the utility sink.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



Thank you to Patty Van Stone for the photos

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY

January 18, 2026

***“I praise you, for I am Fearfully and
Wonderfully Made.”***

Jesus speaks these comforting words to us to remind us that we have nothing to fear, not even death itself. God, in His divine omniscience, knows all the details of our lives. And, because He loves us, He uses that omniscience to guard us and keep us safely in His kingdom. After all, if God guards and keeps even the sparrows, how much more will He keep you, who are of more value than the sparrows?!

But this comforting word from Jesus also raises the question, why are you of more value than the sparrows? The answer to that question is the foundation for our understanding of the sanctity of all human life. We are all of more value than the sparrows because we have each been **“fearfully and wonderfully made”** (Psalm 139:14) in the image of God.

Unlike the rest of creation—like the sparrows—which God spoke into existence and upholds with His mighty Word, mankind was wonderfully **“made and fashioned”** by the hands of God (Psalm 119:73) from the **“dust of the ground”** (Genesis 2:7).

Even now, God continues to show great care in making each human being, **“knitting”** every one of us together in our mother’s womb (Psalm 139:13). Therefore, from the moment of conception when God knits us together until the moment of our death, at every stage and in every condition in between, each person is precious to God. We are each so precious that God was willing to send His only-begotten Son to bear the **“sin of the world”** (John 1:29) and invite us all into His eternal kingdom.

As we are each valuable in the eyes of God, we can receive every single neighbor as a gift from the Lord regardless of their size, abilities, impairments, or age. Likewise, as we have

been called and redeemed by Christ, we act as precious gifts—loving, defending, and protecting each one of them.

***“Fearfully and Wonderfully Made” is
Lutherans for Life’s theme for
Sanctity of Human Life
Sunday, January 18, 2026.
Join us as we observe that Sunday.***

**65,464,760 babies have been killed in
abortions since Roe v. Wade in 1973.**

*As Linda Ault used to say:
“From Ye Olde Church Secretary...”*

First of all, I want to express my sincere gratitude for all who have stepped in to help in many ways in the past 4 months, and especially since mid-November. It’s been very busy in the office with the extra activities that happen with Advent and Christmas preparations, as well as unplanned happenings such as my dad’s passing and subsequently helping my mom move, then Rev. Harris’s move, along with the funerals of 3 of our dear members.

I am so thankful that the Lord has provided us with Rev. Ron Rather as our vacancy pastor. He has worked to make our transition a smooth one. I am also thankful that the Lord has provided so many hard working volunteers to step in wherever needed: with food pantry, funeral lunches, helping to staple and fold the many bulletins, etc., and most of all giving encouragement and prayer on behalf of our congregation and our members. Your help has been very appreciated!

God’s Blessings to you all in 2026,

Jenny

JANUARY		CHRIST LUTHERAN				2026	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
				1	2	3	
				9:00 Men's Group with Bible Study			
		<i>Choir and Handbell Practices: Watch for bulletin schedules and emails</i>					
4 9:00 Worship 10:30 Sunday School & Bible Class 11:30 Christmas Decoration take-down with pizza after	5	6 <i>Epiphany</i>	7	8	9	10	
11 9:00 Worship 10:30 Sunday School & Bible Class	12 (Winkel Meeting--A.M.)	13 1:00 Women's Society	14	15	16	17 9:00 Men's Group with Bible Study	
		6:30 Church Council 7:00 Dartball (Here)					
18 <i>Sanctity of Life Sunday</i> 9:00 Worship 10:30 Sunday School & Bible Class	19 8:30 Food Pantry Packing	20 9:00 Food Pantry Distribution	21	22	23	24	
25 9:00 Worship 10:30 Sunday School & Bible Class ANNUAL VOTERS MEETING (time to be announced)	26	27 <i>Food Pantry "snow date"</i>	28	29	30	31	
		7:00 Dartball (Here)					