

**CHRIST EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SAMUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

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Marshall, MN 56258

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*Office and Mailing Address:* 500 Village Drive  
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Rev. Keith Schreiner, Pastor (507) 828-3333  
Mr. Ryan Obry, Principal (402) 992-4419

## *From the* **PASTOR**—

### **Home For Christmas**

One of the secular songs popular at this season of the year states:

“Oh, there’s no place like home for the holidays,  
For not matter how far away you roam,  
If you want to be happy in a million ways,  
For the holidays you can’t beat home sweet home.”

Everybody, it seems, tries to get home for Christmas. Airline terminals and bus depots will be jammed again this year with travelers all trying to make it home for the holidays.

No one tries harder than mom and dad to bring the brood together. They affectionately maneuver, plead, promise an overflowing supply of yuletide delight and a house full of warmth and love – and if necessary they might even pay the way or at least part of it.

In a sense, this is what Christmas is all about. It’s about family, God’s family. God, who loved us so very much, went far beyond the limits of human comprehension to bring us home to himself. Because of our sin and stubborn disobedience, however, we were NOT heading to our Father’s home for the holidays, but rather, to the eternal home of the “father of lies,” “where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Does that sound like an enjoyable holiday? We were separated from God our Father, and were unable to find (or even desire to find) our way home to him.

But our Father affectionately maneuvered to give us the gift of his Son. “He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.” He pleads: “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household.”

He promised the faithful that there will be an overflowing supply of delight: "You will be with me in paradise". He even paid for our very way home: "The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Home for Christmas. It is because our Savior left his home for Christmas that we are assured we will one day live with him in his home. May that wonderful and comforting thought fill our hearts and minds this holiday season!

Come, Desire of nations , come, Fix in us your humble home;  
Oh, to all Thyself impart, Formed in each believers heart! Hark!  
The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King; Peace on  
earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Hark! The  
herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

## **COUNCIL CORNER**

This month we here from Rick Kobylinski, Evangelism

The Advent season offers great opportunities for Evangelism. In December there are a few events going on to help spread the message of our Savior's birth. On Wednesday, December 5th the Evangelism committee will be hosting a spaghetti supper before the first Advent service. Proceeds from this meal will go towards our summer music program. Also during this December 5<sup>th</sup> Advent service the WELS movie "To the Ends of the Earth" will be shown. After the service copies of this movie will be available to take home to be shared with family and friends as an outreach tool. On Wednesday, December 12th and 19th, the Samuel School PTF will be hosting suppers before the Advent services, a free will offering will be taken these evenings which any proceeds will go to the schools PTF group. The PTF supports the school with purchases of needed equipment and also helps plan activities for the kids throughout the year.

December 15th we will be holding our annual Christmas for Kids, a one day vacation Bible school, at Samuel School. It will take place from 11:00-1:30, after the children's Christmas service rehearsal. It will be an afternoon of faith and fellowship with music, lunch, crafts and, most importantly, the Christmas story. More information on this can be found later in this newsletter.

Have a Blessed Christmas Season.



## PASTORAL ACTS

*Baptism:* Peyton Rae, infant daughter of Benjamin and Courtney (nee St. Aubin) Blomme, became a child of God by the washing of Holy Baptism on November 4, 2018. She was born on October 3, 2018. We pray God continues to bless this young family.

*Marriage:* Joshua Hoflock and Danielle Petersen were united in marriage on Saturday, November 10, 2018. We pray God blesses their new life together.

## ADVENT SEASON

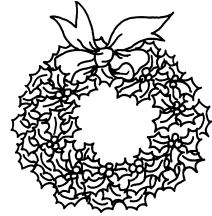
The Advent Wreath, which originated after the Reformation, is probably the most common used fixture for the season. Four Advent candles are used in an Advent wreath to mark the four weeks before Christmas. One additional candle is lit each week of the Advent season. The lighting of the candles symbolizes the coming of Christ, when the light of prophecy concerning the Messiah became brighter and brighter until he himself appeared. Originally four white candles were used, but now most churches, including ours, use either blue or purple to match the paraments. One pink, or rose-colored, candle is used and lighted the third Sunday in Advent. Our Advent wreath also has a single white candle in the middle of the wreath called the Christ candle. We pray that this wreath and all other church signs and symbols help focus our attention on the object of our worship – Jesus Christ, God’s Son our Savior. Our midweek Advent services will be on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM. The dates are December 5, 12, and 19. We hope you will take time and let God prepare your hearts to receive the Christ child during this most blessed season. This year there will be a meal served in the church basement before each of these services. The meal will run from 5:30 – 6:30.



Then a reminder of all the Christmas services taking place at your church. We start with the children’s service on Christmas Eve held out to Samuel starting at 5:30 PM. A favorite of many is the traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight service held at church at **9:00 PM**. There is something special about holding a candle (symbolizing the Christ child as the light of the world) and singing “*Silent Night*” with the lights of the church dimmed. If you have not experienced this before you might want to consider doing so.

## **CLYF**

As a group we are happy that we are able to offer the Christmas greenery to the members of Christ. This year we had orders for 86 items! The cross wreaths that hang outside of church at both entrances were also purchased by our group. We will not be meeting in December but want to wish all a blessed Christmas.



Just a reminder that you can also show your support for our high school aged youth by praying for them. The teenaged years can be tough and what could be better than asking God to bless these future leaders of our church and synod! Another way you can help is by purchasing the Hy-Vee gift cards. You get face dollar amount and we make 5% on the dollar. It is a GREAT deal. If you don't presently use these cards please consider doing so. Look for Jennifer Schreiner or Linda Onken, and their blue folders, before and after services and they can tell you more.

## **PIONEERS**

Last month the Pioneers along with the PTF of Samuel hosted an afternoon of ice skating at the Red Baron Arena. We had 30 participants join us. Many of the kids really enjoyed skating – even the beginners!

## **BUDGET/ELECTION MEETING**

This budget/election meeting will be held on Sunday, December 2nd at 7:00 PM at church.

## **CHURCH DECORATING**

Holiday decorating will start at 10:00 AM on Saturday, December 1st. Stick around after for a chili dump lunch. Everyone provides the chili – everything else is provided by the church.

## **PUBLIC SCHOOL CONFIRMATION CLASS**

Parents please remember that during the season of Advent, when we have midweek services, our Public School Confirmation Class is held from 5:00-6:15 PM on Wednesday evening AT CHURCH. I know that it is not always easy getting your child there at that time but please remember how important this class is for their spiritual growth.

## **SLS CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Sunday, December 2nd the children of Samuel will present their Christmas concert. The concert begins at 3:00 PM in the school gymnasium. Coffee and Christmas cookies will be served following the concert in the cafeteria.

## **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE PRACTICE**

Our first practice will be on Saturday, December 15th. Students in Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade will begin at 9:00 AM. Pre-K students are asked to be at practice at 10:00 AM. All students will be dismissed at 11:00 AM. Preschool – 4<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to stay for *Christmas for Kids* which begins at 11:00 AM (see below for details). The following Saturday, December 22nd ALL the students will practice from 9:00 AM-10:30 AM. Parents, on the 22nd we could use your help packing the Christmas bags while the children are in practice. We will do this in the cafeteria. On Christmas Eve the students need to be at school no later than 5:15 PM.

## **CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

Don't forget that a couple years ago we changed the time for our **Christmas Eve Candlelight service**. We moved the start of this moving service up to 9:00 PM in hopes that some who maybe felt it ended too late might be able to join us. This contemplative service always has special music and joy as we welcome the light of the world into our hearts and lives with candles illuminating the way.



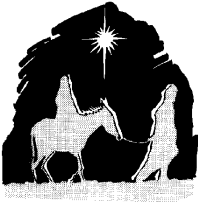
## **CHRISTMAS POTLUCKS**

You are invited to join the Ladies Aid on Thursday, December 6th at noon for a pre-Christmas turkey dinner. The meal will be furnished by the Ladies Aid. A free-will donation will be taken for the new Confirmation picture directory. All are invited to come and enjoy this meal and fellowship.

The Mission Society potluck Christmas party will be held on Thursday, December 13th at 6:00 PM. All are welcome to attend. Their freewill donation will support the Indonesia Project.

## CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

The Evangelism committee will be hosting it's "Christmas for Kids" one day Vacation Bible School on Saturday, December 15th for kids from Preschool through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. It will run from 11:30 AM (right after our first children's Christmas practice is over) until 1:30 PM. The purpose of this is to tell the story of the birth of Christ, to use it as an outreach tool for those who might not have a church home, and to provide an opportunity for anyone who sends their child to take care of any last minute Christmas related details. If you have friends with children be sure to invite them. There is a sign up sheet at church or you can call the church office to register. Lunch will be provided.



## NEW BIBLE STUDY

We are going to start a new Bible study on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. It will be a six week study that will take us to the "Ends of the Earth". The study is designed to go along with the WELS movie "To the Ends of the Earth" that we, as a congregation, will be viewing at our first mid-week Advent Vespers service on Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. The context is the mission journey of Paul to help us understand the purpose and power of sharing the gospel around the globe – beginning with people nearby. Although Paul is a primary character in this account, it is not so much about Paul but about God's powerful activity of bringing even the most unlikely people to faith in him.

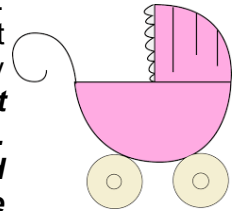
I hope you will consider joining us for this study and better learning how you can share Jesus with your neighbors. Class starts about 9:20 AM between services in the church proper

## MIDDLE SCHOOL FUN NIGHT

Pastor and Jennifer are once again going to be setting up a "fun night" for all Christ Lutheran children and our area WELS churches in **grades 5-8** on Thursday, December 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-9PM. We will play some games, get to know the other kids, maybe do a craft, have a Bible study and enjoy some snacks. Watch for more details and a signup sheet in the month of December. Talk to anyone who has attended in the past and you will find out that you won't want to miss out on the fun.

## BABY SHOWER

Please join us for a baby shower honoring Mrs. Nicole Kotecki on Sunday, December 9th at 1:00 PM at Samuel. They are registered at Buy Baby. ***Just one request, we hope it's not hard, please bring a book instead of a card. By signing your name, we'll remember and share, your special gift, even when you're not there!"***



## JESUS CARES MINISTRY

Jesus Cares Ministry, our ministry to the developmentally disabled, will hold its Christmas service on Thursday, December 20th starting at 6:30 PM at the church. The congregation is invited to attend and watch and listen to our JCM participants tell and act out the Christmas story. Bring the kids, they are sure to enjoy it.

## ANNUAL REPORT

Just a reminder for all church related organizations that you can start thinking about getting together what you would like to see in the 2018 Annual Report. The deadline will be January 10, 2019.

## ENDOWMENT FUND

Many times the end of a year is a time that people think about giving a special gift to the church. Many times it might just be to the general operating budget, other times it might be for a special cause. Don't forget about our relatively newly established endowment fund. There are many different ways that one can give to this fund. Bequests, memorials, stocks, bonds, life insurance, real estate and other special gifts can be used to contribute to this fund. For more information about our Christ Lutheran Endowment Fund be sure to take a brochure from the rack by the steps to the basement. Gifts can be designated to either the church or the school.



## **GOD'S GIFTS**

There is no question that everyone who reads this newsletter is richly blessed by God. First and foremost to be called God's children makes us rich beyond measure. That's not counting all the physical and material blessings we enjoy as well. I pray that you will prayerfully consider how God has blessed you and how you will respond as we close out another year. There is also no question that the church depends upon a strong financial finish to the year in order to make our budget. It's also a good time to consider what we will regularly and cheerfully return to him in the coming year. When was the last time you either as an individual or with your spouse took time to really look at and prayerfully consider your gifts to God?

Also a reminder that we offer the opportunity for you to give your weekly offerings online with our e-giving program. If you have any questions about this don't hesitate to talk to pastor or a member of the stewardship committee. More information about this can be found on our website. That is also where you go to sign up for the program as well. If you currently use this means to offer your gifts to the Lord you might need to see if you set an expiration date for these transactions to stop. For example if you set it up to take out funds for 12 months it will stop after that time frame has expired. So be sure to check that out so you can continue to support the work of the Gospel here at Christ.

Lastly, don't forget that it is not only financially that we spiritually have the opportunity to be good stewards. Our talent and time are also gifts to us from God. There are many, many ways that we can use those in service to God and our fellow Christians here at Christ.

## **NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE**

How wonderful it would be to have a full church at this service as we look back at the past year of God's blessings and look forward to a new year of his continual grace! If you have not been in the habit of attending this services why not think about spending less than an hour in devotional thought? The service time is 7:00 PM. You will still have plenty of time to get together with family and friends to welcome in the New Year!



## **CALENDAR(S)**

You will notice that this month on the back side of the December calendar is the January 2019 calendar. That is because the January newsletter has always been relatively “light” on the news side of things. We feel that we can easily convey all the information we need to for the month of January in the Sunday bulletins. We will also save the cost of postage for the month.

## **SNOW REMOVAL**

We are asking individuals and families to sign up for snow removal at church and at school. Would you be willing to pick a week or two? Please check out the signup sheets by the bulletin board in the church narthex. Snow blowers and shovels are available at both locations. If you have any questions, please call Pastor Schreiner (828-3333).



## **FACEBOOK**

Did you know that our church and school have a Facebook page? Have you checked it out? We do not go overboard with our postings so you won't get sick of us but we do have posts that we hope will be informative and at times inspirational. We also hope you will “like” us so that others too might be able to see that our church alive and active!

## **SLS NEWS AND NOTES**

The school would like to thank Mrs. Ellingson for all of her hard work again this last month in setting up, running, and taking down the book fair at school. There were many great books purchased ready for some good time spent reading. The 5-8 graders all did very well at the Forensics meet at MLC on Thursday, November 15. They were happy to finally be done with the practicing and be able to actually perform for the judges. The attention of our students and faculty now turns to prepare for both the Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 2 and for the Christmas Eve Service on Monday, December 24. We hope that you will be able to join us for these opportunities to see our students use their God-given talents in praising their Savior.

## LADIES AID

Submitted by Teri Knutson—November 1, 2018

The Ladies Aide November meeting began with the singing of hymn 405 “O for a Faith That Will not Shrink” chosen by Vivian Mix as her birthday hymn (Oct. 5).

Pastor presented an article found in a WELS publication about technology in worship – pros and cons suggesting we rethink how we think about technology.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Ronnie Meyer.

The treasurers report included list of Christmas gifts to students at Great Plains: Carlie Heil, Andrew Heil, Sarah Werner, Kristina Hagberg, Paxton Schultz, Bradyn Schultz **and** at MCL: Lucas Thooft

A \$85 gift was received from Joan Palmer with a note about her donation in remembrance of 30 plus years with our Ladies Aide group.

Funeral committee report included information that the committee donated their \$100 donation from the John Baumann and his family to Jesus Cares and Helping Hands funds in memory of John’s father, Martin. As a side note, the funds to the Helping Hands fund have already been distributed to someone needy.

Cards sent to members included birthday cards to Vivian Mix, Judy Ziegenhagen, Gary Radtke and Pastor Schreiner; anniversary cards to James and Gladis Jacobson for 59 years and to Gary and Mary Radtke for 53 years of marriage. A Caring for You card was sent to Rudy Kehren. Sympathy cards were sent to Karen Hays concerning her son and to Charlie and Heather Holflock concerning Charlie’s mother.

Sue Mitzner was elected to vice-president position for a two-year term. Teri Knutson was re-elected to secretary/treasurer position for a two-year term.

A reminder to the ladies that with our Christmas pot-luck at NOON on December 6, the ladies agreed to bring salads, desserts, and other side dishes to accompany the turkey (Sue) and potatoes (Darlene S). Ronnie will decorate.

Following much discussion, the motion to skip the March meeting in 2019 carried.

Roll call was answered by 8 members and Pastor Schreiner.

Darleen Gladitsch chose hymn 588 “Abide with Me” and Teri K chose hymn 610 “Now Thank We All our God” as their November

birthday hymns.

Motion carried to adjourn the meeting. Pastor Schreiner led the members in the Lord's Prayers.

As the ladies enjoyed the fabulous dessert served by Vivian M, Christmas cards were signed for shut-ins: Vi Braakman, Ruth Pagel, Maxine Wilmes, Elmer Ufkin and Erma Ellingson

## MISSION SOCIETY

Submitted by Julie Festerling—November 8, 2018

The Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, meeting of Christ Lutheran Mission Society began with the singing of CW309, "Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord". Pastor Schreiner then led us in a Bible study of Luther's 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> parts of Holy Communion: the Power of Holy Communion and the Reception of Holy Communion. We discussed how Holy Communion strengthens our faith and also talked about our practice of "close" communion. The Bible study ended with talking about outer preparations for taking communion such as fasting which, although not commanded, can help us focus on the Sacrament. Pam thanked Pastor for the Bible study and thanked Julie for playing the hymn.

The Secretary's report from the September meeting was read and approved. The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

**Committee Reports:** Kathy had nothing new to report for Altar/Communion Care.

Joyce had e-mailed the CAMM newsletter which was in 4 parts-one part written by each of the stateside committee member who were able to make a trip to Africa this past July. Each one wrote of their experiences-the main thought being how wonderful it was to see the love of the Savior brought to and shown by our brothers and sisters in the faith in Africa.

There was no report for MLC Auxiliary. Julie reported that the yearly dues for LWMS needed to be sent by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

There was no Old Business.

**New Business:** Elections were held. Amy is our new secretary and Ellen is our new vice-president. We also needed to dispense our mission money for the year. We had an ending balance in our treasury of \$516.00 and an offering of \$110.00 for this meeting for a total of \$626.00. It was voted to give \$75.00 to Lucas Thoofft, who is attending MLC and Pastor was given \$100.00. The rest of the money will be sent as follows: CAMM-

\$100.00, ACTS(Apache Christian Training Schools)-\$125.00 for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our mission to the Apaches, and \$125.00 to Proclaimers-devices used by missionaries to translate their message so people can hear the Good News of salvation. The free-will offering that will be taken on the evening of the Christmas Party will be sent to the Indonesia Project. Roll call was taken with 7 ladies and Pastor present. The next meeting will be our Christmas Potluck on December 13<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:00PM. Pam thanked Deb for serving. The meeting was adjourned and we closed with the Lord's Prayer and Common Table Prayers.

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Submitted by Wes Hoflock—October 8, 2018

**Members Present:** Pastor Schreiner, Dan Herrmann, Tom Werner, Wes Hoflock, Karl Baumann, Rick Kobylinski, Kevin Lee, Ryan Obry, Arlen Meyer, Tom Vanderwerf, Mark Patzer, Pastor opened with devotion and prayer.

Minutes from the board meeting were read modified and accepted.

### **Pastor's Report:**

Pioneers and CLYF\_ Pioneers went on a trip to Camden State Park. CLYF went on a downtown walk and scavenger hunt.

Coffee hour between services- Committee heads and activity director will meet October 9<sup>th</sup>.

Cathedral Crafts- stained glass inspection, have not heard from the yet.

LRPC- Will meet on Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018.

Alzheimer's seminar presentation- went well, had about 25-28 attend.

Nomination committee report- 59 letters sent out; 14 No; 2 yes to council; 1 BPE, 2 either. Nomination committee members are- Mark Patzer, Tom Vanderwerf, Dan Hermann, Craig Heil,(2) Nick Noble.

Reformation Rally- Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at Christ 4:00 p.m. with a meal to follow.

Mission Festival date is Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

Snow removal at Samuel will again be Mike Guerts.

Continuing Education- reformation lectures at BLC Mankato will be October 25-26<sup>th</sup>. Pastor will be attending.

Voters meeting will be Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Wi-Fi at church- Have it all hooked up by Spectrum.

**Board of Elders:**

In By Transfer-Veronica Bitter from Trinity LC Hoskins, NE-WELS, Patricia Huth from St, John's LC Jefferson, WI, WELS a motion was made, 2<sup>nd</sup> and approved.

Out By Transfer- Timothy Zander to Good Shepherd LC Sioux Falls, SD-WELS. A motion was made 2<sup>nd</sup> and approved.

**Financial Secretary:**

September was a good month for offerings.

**Treasurer:**

Report was given

**Stewardship/Endowment:**

No report

**Evangelism:**

SMSU parade went well.

**Education:**

Standardized testing will be coming up.

Kids helped out at the SMSU parade.

Working on the Christmas Concert at Samuel.

Kindergarten class went to the fire station for fire prevention week.

Teacher Conferences will be October 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>.

Need to replace a freezer at Samuel.

**Maintenance:**

Have an estimate of 2350.00 for repairing the ceilings in the parsonage. A motion was made to bring to the voters, could have some other repairs added to this, was 2<sup>nd</sup> and approved.

**Activities:**

No report

**Worship:**

Choir has started back up, they are looking for more members.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Newsletter Council Writer next month is Kevin Lee, Treasurer.

Council on duty next month are: 8:00 a.m. Arlen Meyer, 10:30 A.m. Tom Vanderwerf

Maternity leave policy for Nicole Kotecki - 12 weeks off, 2 weeks paid, 10 weeks no pay.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

In November we will be calling a Kindergarten teacher, and an ECC/Director. Ryan has been in contact with MLC, they have 19 students graduating with 5 on call duty starting in November.

Audit committee members are- Gary St. Aubin, Greg Lecy, Cecil Naatz.

Got the budget for 2019 from the budget committee, will bring to the voters.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

## **REMEMBERING OUR SHUT-INS AT CHRISTMAS**

Vi Braakman  
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# **Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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**Pastor Keith Schreiner** (507) 828-3333

## **Worship Services**

**Sundays: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM**

(Memorial Day-Labor Day: Sunday: 9:00 AM, Monday: 7:00 PM)

(Advent & Lent: Wednesdays - 7:00 PM)

**Holy Communion:** 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month

## **Service Broadcast times**

KMHL Radio Station at 8:00 AM on Sundays

VAST cable channel 17 and Charter cable channel 180

at 11:30 AM Thursday and 8:30 PM Friday

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500 Village Drive, Marshall, MN 56258

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**Principal:** Mr. Ryan Obry

**Teachers:** Mrs. Amy MacArthur Mrs. Nicole Kotecki

Miss Kali Gross



**EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*Samuel Lutheran School*

