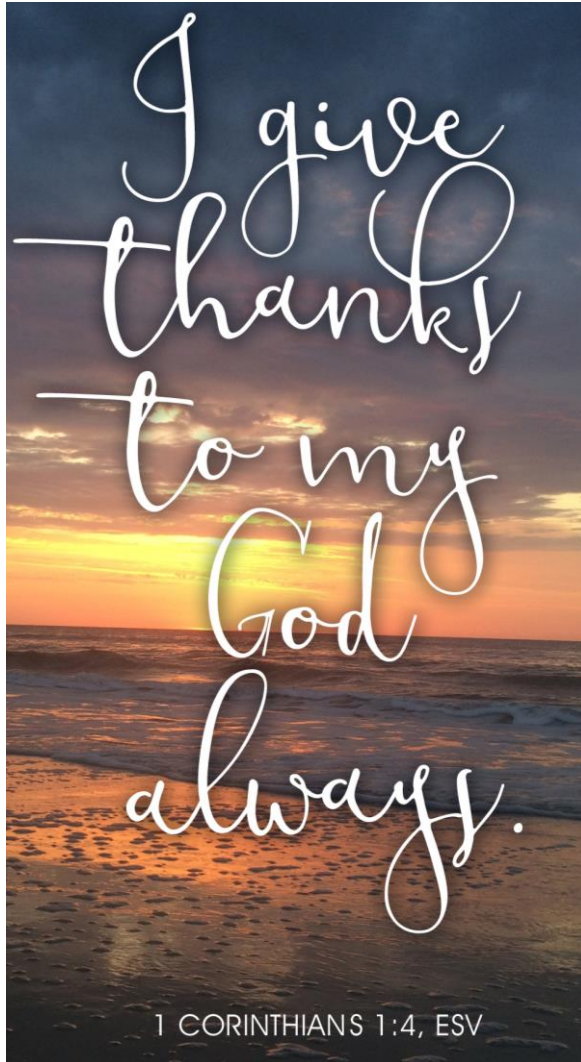


# Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church



## CONTEMPORARY

**Sunday, January 18, 2026 @ 8AM**

**4333 Cleveland Ave, Stevensville, MI 49127**

**Sunday Services @ 8AM & 10:45AM**

**Sunday Bible Class 9:30AM**

**Thursday Evening Service at 7PM**

**Christian Day School: PreK – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

## Second Sunday after Epiphany

### As We Gather

The full identity of Jesus, which is revealed during the Epiphany season, demonstrates beyond a doubt that He is both human and divine. In the nativity accounts, the Gospel writers focus on the humanity of Jesus—that He is born a human baby and grows up with full humanity. In Epiphany, His divinity is revealed as well through His miraculous acts. As Paul wrote to the followers of Christ in Colossae of Jesus: “In Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in Him, who is the head of all rule and authority” (Colossians 2:9–10). We rejoice in coming to know more fully the Christ who fills us with His Spirit and His love.

### *Opening Song*

#### What Kind of Throne

What kind of throne is a manger of hay,  
No majesty shown there, no dignity claimed,  
For one who deserves to be crowned  
and enthroned on our praise?

What kind of king is so modestly born,  
When glory unmeasured is humble and small?  
This is the hope of the world and the true light of all.

**So I'll bow down to worship the humblest of kings  
And I'll bring Him the best that I have.  
I'll say that I love Him and that I am His,  
And I'll give Him the throne of my heart,  
I'll give Him the throne of my heart.**

What kind of Savior makes weakness His strength,  
In frailty depending on those he would save,  
And veiling the power that always belonged to His name?  
What kind of child causes heaven to sing,  
With angels proclaiming the hope that He brings?  
This is the glory of God, this is Jesus the King

#### CHORUS

# Confession and Absolution

*Stand*

## Invocation

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

Matthew 28.19b; [18:20]

**P** O LORD, I call upon You; hasten to me!

**C** Give ear to my voice when I call to You!

**P** Let my prayer be counted as incense before You,

**C** and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!

Ps. 141: 1-2

**P** Blessed be the LORD, my rock,

**C** blessed are the people whose God is the LORD!

Ps. 144:1,15

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** O God our Father, we admit and confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought and in word and in deed.

**C** Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

**P** We confess that we have not always brought glory to You through our words and our deeds.

**C** Have mercy on us and forgive us, O God.

**P** We confess that we have been thoughtless in our judgments, hasty in condemnation, grudging in forgiveness, slow to seek reconciliation, unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.

**C** Have mercy on us and forgive us, O God.

**P** We confess that we have not always been defenders of the weak and the needy as advocates of those not yet born and defenders of those in the final stages of life.

**C** Have mercy on us and forgive us, O God.

**P** We confess that we have not used every opportunity given us to witness to the faith that is ours and have let the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh set the agendas for our lives and actions.

**C** Have mercy on us and forgive us, O God.

**P** We repent of all that is sinful in our lives, both that which we know and of those things unknown to us that are against Your righteous Law.

**C** Have mercy on us and forgive us, O God.

**P** Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** May the God of peace sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.

**C** **Amen.**

## INTROIT

**Pastor:** Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

**Women:** The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.

**Men:** *Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.*

**Women:** There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.

**Men:** *Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tent for the sun.*

**People:** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Pastor:** Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Psalm 19:1–4a, b; antiphon v. 14

*Preparation for Reading*

## Lift Up Your Eyes

Lift up your eyes and look for him  
Jesus the coming saviour-king  
Born to redeem the world from sin  
Bringing his peace to all

Now if you walk in darkest night  
Look for his dawn that's breaking bright  
Nothing shall ever stop this light  
Bringing new hope to all

**Oh lift up your eyes see the King  
Worship the saviour come praise him  
Jesus the Lord of all  
Oh once in a manger he lay  
Now lifted high he is reigning  
Jesus the Lord of all**

Soon you will see him come again  
Not as the child of Bethlehem  
But the returning King to reign  
Glorious Lord of all

**Oh lift up your eyes see the King**  
**Worship the saviour come praise him**  
**Jesus the Lord of all**  
**Oh once in a manger he lay**  
**Now lifted high he is reigning**  
**Jesus the Lord of all**  
 Come worship him  
 Come bow down before him  
 Come praise him Lord of all  
 Lift up your eyes and look for him  
 Jesus the coming saviour-king  
 Now in your heart make room for him  
 Worship him Lord of all  
**Oh lift up your eyes see the King**  
**Worship the saviour come praise him**  
**Jesus the Lord of all**  
**Oh once in a manger he lay**  
**Now lifted high he is reigning**  
**Jesus the Lord of all**

## Collect of the Day

**P** Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*Sit*

## Reading from the Book of Concord

*An explanation of what we believe as Lutherans*

*Apology of the Augsburg Confession,  
Article IV, Justification, 103*

Here and there among the Fathers similar testimonies exist. For Ambrose says in his letter to a certain Irenaeus:

Furthermore, the world was subject to God by the Law because, according to the command of the Law, all are indicted. And yet, by the works of the Law, sin is perceived, but guilt is not taken away. The Law, which declared all people sinners, seemed to have done harm. But when the Lord Jesus Christ came, He forgave to all people the sin, which no one could avoid. And, by the shedding of His own blood, He blotted out the handwriting that was against us. This is what he says in Romans 5:20, “The law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.” Because after the whole world became subject, Christ took away the sin of the whole world, as John testified, saying in John 1:29, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

## Readings from Holy Scripture

### Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 49:1–7

- <sup>1</sup>Listen to me, O coastlands,  
and give attention, you peoples from afar.  
The LORD called me from the womb,  
from the body of my mother he named my name.
- <sup>2</sup>He made my mouth like a sharp sword;  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow;  
in his quiver he hid me away.
- <sup>3</sup>And he said to me, “You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”
- <sup>4</sup>But I said, “I have labored in vain;  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my right is with the LORD,  
and my recompense with my God.”
- <sup>5</sup>And now the LORD says,  
he who formed me from the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him;  
and that Israel might be gathered to him—  
for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD,  
and my God has become my strength—
- <sup>6</sup>he says:  
“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to bring back the preserved of Israel;  
I will make you as a light for the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”
- <sup>7</sup>Thus says the LORD,  
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation,  
the servant of rulers:  
“Kings shall see and arise;  
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves;  
because of the LORD, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

**P** Praise the LORD, all nations!

**C** Extol him, all peoples!

**P** For great is his steadfast love toward us,

**C** and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

**P** Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

**C** bring an offering, and come into his courts!

*Ps. 117:1–2a; 96:8*

## Epistle Lesson

## 1 Corinthians 1:1–9

<sup>1</sup>Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

<sup>2</sup>To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— <sup>6</sup>even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— <sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup>who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Preparation for the Gospel*

## Alleluia, Lord

Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life! Alleluia!

*Stand*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>29</sup>The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup>This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ <sup>31</sup>I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” <sup>32</sup>And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup>I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>34</sup>And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

<sup>35</sup>The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup>and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” <sup>37</sup>The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup>Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” <sup>39</sup>He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. <sup>40</sup>One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. <sup>41</sup>He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). <sup>42</sup>He brought him to Jesus.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ**



Sit

*Sermon Song*

## God Knew Your Name

Before the break of day  
Shined on your little face  
God knew your name  
When no one else could see  
How precious you would be  
God knew your name  
And He held you so close  
In His loving hand  
And He wanted all to see  
That before the light of day  
Shined on your little face  
God knew your name



On that special day  
when your sins were washed away  
God knew your name  
Before you walked around  
Before you first fell down  
God knew your name  
And He took your sins  
to the cross with Him  
And He died that you might live,  
Before the light of day  
Shined on your little face  
God knew your name  
  
Before those wedding bells  
Rang out their story well  
God knew your name  
Before the first new home  
And children of your own  
God knew your name  
And through all the times  
Both good and bad  
He held you in His hand  
And before the light of day  
Shined on your little face  
God knew your name  
  
As you gracefully grew old  
You know you have been told  
God knew your name  
And one day when you died  
Your friends and family cried  
God knew your name  
And My angels carried your soul to Me  
And I said welcome home  
You were one of Mine I love you all the time  
I knew your name

Sermon  
**“What Are You Seeking?”**  
John 1:29-42a

*Stand*

## Apostles' Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life  $\text{✝}$  everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Online Giving

## Gathering of Our Tithes and Sacrificial Offerings

*There will be no passing of the offering plates.  
Please place your offering in the plates in the narthex.  
Scan the QR code to set-up automatic giving.*



Offertory

## White As Snow

White as snow, white as snow,  
Though my sins were as scarlet, Lord I know,  
Lord, I know that I'm clean and forgiven.  
Through the power of Your blood,  
Through the wonder of Your love,  
Through faith in You I know that I can be  
White as snow.  
*REPEAT*

Prayer of the Church | *You may be seated if necessary.*

## Lord's Prayer

**C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.

## Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**C** Amen

## *Closing Song*

### Across The Lands

You're the Word of God the Father,  
from before the world began  
Ev'ry star and ev'ry planet  
has been fashioned by Your hand.  
All creation holds together  
by the power of Your voice:  
Let the skies declare Your glory,  
Let the land and seas rejoice!

**You're the author of creation,  
You're the Lord of ev'ry man;  
And Your cry of love  
rings out across the lands.**

Yet You left the gaze of angels,  
Came to seek and save the lost,  
And exchanged the joy of heaven  
For the anguish of a cross.  
With a prayer You fed the hungry,  
With a word You stilled the sea.  
Yet how silently You suffered  
that the guilty may go free.

#### CHORUS

With a shout You rose victorious,  
Wrestling victory from the grave,  
And ascended into heaven  
Leading captives in Your wake.  
Now You stand before the Father  
interceding for Your own.  
From each tribe and tongue and nation  
You are leading sinners home.

#### CHORUS

+ Silent Prayer +

**SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:**

**THE PREACHER & THE LITURGIST** ..... Rev. Martin P. Measel

**CONTEMPORARY SONG LEADER(S)** ..... Fred Huff, Joan Kern

**ELDER(S) ON DUTY** ..... Denny Kern

**ALTAR GUILD** ..... Deb Appelget, Laura Geyer

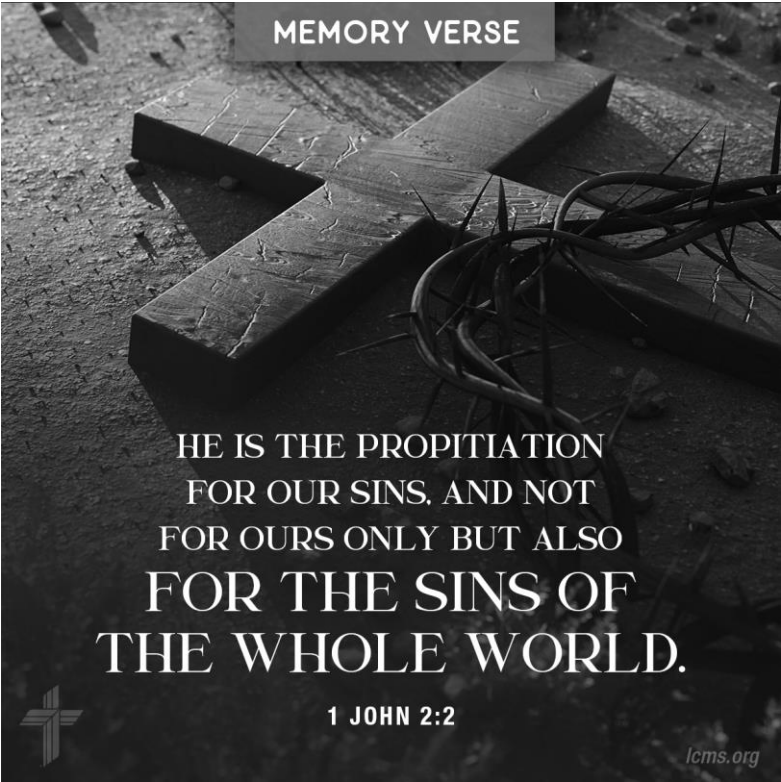
**USHERS** ..... Steve Huycke – Captain, Tom Ulmer, Andrew Gerken, John Schulz


**John 1:29** – “The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’” The Israelites of old offered a lamb to God at Passover so that death might pass over them and do no harm. Over those long centuries of sacrifice, did they understand that this was actually God’s gift? That God would be the true Giver of the true Lamb? Truly, we can never out-give God, for all that we have is His.

MEMORY VERSE

HE IS THE PROPITIATION  
FOR OUR SINS, AND NOT  
FOR OURS ONLY BUT ALSO  
FOR THE SINS OF  
THE WHOLE WORLD.

1 JOHN 2:2





lcms.org

*Church News!*

**Greetings! Whether this is your first Sunday with us or your five-hundredth, we're so glad you're here! Every time we gather to worship is worth celebrating. If you're visiting today, we extend an extra warm welcome and hope you'll stop by for coffee and conversation after the service — we'd love to meet you!** If you are visiting, please sign our guest book located on the *welcome* center desk.

**FLOWER CHART** – You have the opportunity to sponsor altar flowers by adding your name to the flower chart located in the commons. Consider honoring a family member or special occasion by sponsoring Sunday altar flowers (\$40). After church services, the bouquet is delivered to a shut-in members or individuals on our prayer list.

**RADIO SPONSORSHIP** – Christ Lutheran records two radio broadcasts per month. Consider sponsoring a broadcast for \$150.00 to share with a family member or friend. Be sure to sign-up in order to secure a specific date! Our *Local Lutheran Worship Service Broadcasts* are now on **WSJM 94.9 FM on Sunday mornings from 8AM – 9AM**. The services can also be heard by visiting [www.wsjmsports.com](http://www.wsjmsports.com) and clicking on *listen live*.

### **THE PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN IS POWERFUL AND EFFECTIVE.**

*We remember the following Missionary in our prayers this week:*



The Rev. Michael (Lyons, KS) and Shanna Hageman (Kirksville, MO) serve the Lord through the LCMS as missionaries in Tanzania. Michael is a theological educator at a new seminary in Shinyanga, Tanzania, where he teaches classes and assists in forming pastors for service in Africa. Shanna is a director of Christian education (DCE), and she teaches English as a Second Language (ESL) to non-native English speakers. These ESL classes provide practical assistance while also serving as a vehicle for the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, running, hunting and working on home improvement projects. During her career, Shanna has served as a DCE, worked as an ESL teacher, and owned and operated her own business. In her free time, she enjoys reading, cooking and traveling. She and Michael have two adult daughters: Selah and Kiera. Pray for Michael and Shanna as they serve in Tanzania by asking God to be with them as they adjust to life in a new country and learn a new language. Pray also for the students and people they will meet, that God would open their hearts to the Gospel.

**2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES** – Please note that the new 2026 Offering Envelopes are in your church mailbox. You'll notice a few differences as we are using a new vendor this year and some envelope numbers may have changed. Thank you!

**THE GIVING TREE THANK YOU** - The Christ Lutheran School staff is overwhelmed and inspired by the generosity of our congregants. This is our note of gratitude that does not do your kindness justice as we cannot say THANK YOU enough.

**MIDWEEK BIBLE CLASS UPDATE** – Pastor Measel's midweek bible class is back in session on **Tuesdays at 7pm** and **Wednesday at 9:30am**. We hope to see you there!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TOPIC THIS WEEK [LESSON 2]** - "Comfort in Captivity" is the theme for our lesson this week. When Nebuchadnezzar takes the Israelites into exile in Babylon, Jeremiah writes to the exiles, assuring them of God's continuing care for them. Through Jeremiah, God promises a new covenant where His people will live eternally through Jesus. Discuss, "How does God comfort us today?"

**ADULTS DINE OUT** – An Adults Dine Out will be held on **Friday, January 23rd at 5:30pm** at **D'Agostinos Navajo Bar and Grille in Bridgman\***. Make sure to sign-up on the sheet in the commons area. Thanks! *\*Please note this correction as the wrong location was listed in the January Christ Times.*

**MOVIE NIGHT** – Join us **Saturday, January 24th at 3PM** in the all purpose room to watch "The Chosen." Hope to see you there!

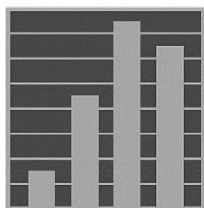
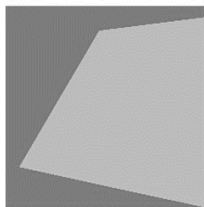
**CHURCH EXTENSION FUND TAX TIP** - January is a great time to make a prior year's contribution to your IRA! If you're talking with someone with an IRA at CEF, you can contribute for 2025 up until Tax Day in April. Church Extension Fund offers something other investment institutions do not; a ministry dividend. While earning competitive interest, your investments are used to further the expansion of God's Kingdom through loans to new missions, childcare centers, schools, and local congregations. For more information, contact (Fred Pieplow | 269-369-2081) or call 800-242-3944.

**LUTHERAN WOMEN ON A JOURNEY!** Are you a woman who dreams of a travel adventure, loves our Lutheran heritage, and welcomes the chance to widen your circle of friends? Join us for *Frauen auf Reisen*, a women's tour of Germany, **May 7-16 2026**, planned for Lutheran women, young and old, mothers and daughters, sisters and BFFs and women single, widowed or married. Tour hosts are two LCMS deaconesses who are experienced world travelers. To learn more and secure you place on this journey, check out this link; <https://lutheranwomenonajourney.org/> or call 314-413-1055.

**CHRIST LUTHERAN'S SOCIAL MEDIA** – Do you have an event you want Christ Lutheran to promote on our Facebook page or our Instagram? Please feel free to email [clcoffice@christstevensville.com](mailto:clcoffice@christstevensville.com) with your event (garage sale, etc.) details. Thank you!

**[www.christ-luth.blogspot.com](http://www.christ-luth.blogspot.com)** – Looking for a bulletin from a month ago? Archived Christ Times? Or unable to find our online streaming service?! Check out our blogspot as it has a wealth of information!

**VOTERS' MEETING**  
**@ 9:15 today!**

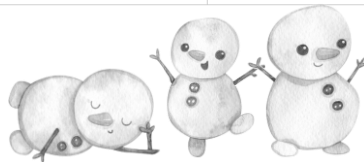
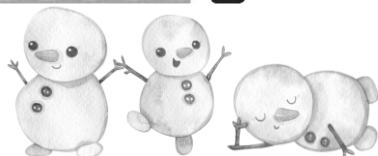


# CHURCH CLERK'S REPORT

## Weekly Services

## Attendance

Thursday 01/08/26 <i>Online Attendees: 10</i>	7PM	55
Sunday 01/11/26 <i>Online Attendees: 19</i>	8AM 10:45AM	88 74
Tuesday Bible Class	01/06/26	14
Wednesday Bible Class	01/07/26	28
Thursday Bible Class	01/08/26	22
Sunday Bible Class	01/11/26	36
*Week of 01/11/26 total budgeted receipts		<b>\$38,939.52</b>
YTD Contributions		\$507,483.79
YTD Budget		\$484,615.38
YTD Over   Under		\$22,868.41
Weekly Budgeted Plate & General Fund Memorials		\$17,307.69
Over   Under		\$21,631.83



Sunday, Jan 18 <i>The Second Sunday after Epiphany</i>	8AM <b>9:15AM</b> 9:30AM 10:45AM	Contemporary Worship Service <b>VOTERS' MEETING</b> Sunday School <b>Morning Prayer</b> Worship Service
Monday, Jan 19 <i>MLK Day</i>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>	
Tuesday, Jan 20	<b>7PM</b>	Bible Class
Wed, Jan 21	<b>9:30AM</b>	Bible Class
Thursday, Jan 22	<b>10AM</b> <b>6:30PM</b> 7PM	Bible Class Choir Practice Communion Worship Service
Friday, Jan 23		
Saturday, Jan 24	3PM	Movie Night: The Chosen 
Sunday, Jan 25 <i>The Third Sunday after Epiphany</i>	8AM <b>9:30AM</b> 9:30AM 10:45AM	Communion Worship Service <b>Bible Class</b> Sunday School Communion Worship Service



**Rev. Martin P. Measel, Pastor**

(269) 429-7222 ext. 112

mmeasel@christstevensville.com

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Kristie Koehn, Church Secretary

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**Neil Webb, Principal**

principal@christstevensville.com

**School Office (269) 429-7111**

Amy Cole, School Secretary

crusaders@christstevensville.com

**Mark Steffens, Director of Music**

Home Phone (269) 429-5487

**Prayer Team, Terri Gerken**

picklegirl6@gmail.com

**www.christ-luth.org**

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