

The Beacon

January
2025

Christ Ev. Lutheran
Church

320 N 28th St E
Superior, WI
54880

Office Phone
715.398.3680

Web Site
Christlutheran-superior.org

Divine Worship
Services
Sunday - 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.



O God, Our Help in Ages Past

My, how time flies! Most of us say those words every year at the beginning of a new year, at a birthday, or some other annual milestone.

And here's what else you're probably thinking: It's 2025 already! At this time on our calendars we often take time to reflect on the past—and wonder about the future: what kinds of blessings or successes did we experience in the year now behind us? What challenges or losses did we encounter? What will happen as our nation inaugurates the leader we did-or didn't-vote for? What changes does the future hold for us, our family and our friends? Indeed, for our country or the world?

It isn't just our generation that feels this way—that time flies or wondering about the future. Isaac Watts, the author of the hymn *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* lived from A.D. 1674 to 1748. By the way, A.D. stands for Anno Domini—which translated into English from the Latin means “In the year of our Lord.” And for Christians, every year is “The year of our Lord.”

As we head into 2023 let's take a look at the verses of his hymn:

- 1) O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.
- 2) Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure,
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.
- 3) Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.
- 4) A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.
- 5) Time, like an ever rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream Dies at the opening day.
- 6) O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!

What more can I say? The words are self-explanatory. It's a hymn I like to sing or read to remember who God is and how gracious he has been to me. Here are just a few of God's attributes that I pulled from this hymn: He is “our help.” Here's a good one for us up here: He's our shelter from the stormy blast.” He keeps us- “saints” secure. He is powerful, the creator of everything. He is never-changing, eternal. Best of all, he is our hope, and he will guard us here until he takes us to our heavenly home.

I pray that since you can be certain that he is with us in the days and years ahead you will look forward with joy to what he has in store for you, both here on earth and in heaven forever! No matter what happens, you can be confident that God “is your help.” He has **you** in his hands! Amen.

In Christ's service I remain,

Pastor Kirk Schield

Guardian Angel Program 2025

We would like to invite you to join us on Sunday, January 12, 2025, following the Sunday service, for the Annual Guardian Angel Epiphany Brunch to be held in the fellowship hall.

If you would like to participate in the Guardian Angel drawing, please fill out a form located on the table next to the office in the Narthex, and submit the form "no later than" Sunday, January 5, 2025. You will select a name at the January 12 Brunch.

What do you do? We remember the person on special dates throughout the year, i.e., birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays, by praying for them, or giving cards or small gifts to the person, signed only **"From Your Guardian Angel."** Use the mailboxes in the Narthex to deliver your surprises. ***We do not reveal ourselves to the person we are praying for until next year, at the 2026 Guardian Angel Epiphany Brunch.***

A delicious pancake and sausage breakfast will be provided and served by the Board of Stewardship & Evangelism. Additionally, please let us know if you're planning to attend the breakfast by signing up on the office door. This attendance list will be used to determine breakfast supplies needed for the event.

God Bless and Thank You!

If you can't get to the church right now to obtain and fill out a form, feel free to contact Roni Hauser @ 715-398-3680, and she will take the information needed to fill out a form, you can also email clcoffice320@gmail.com your information.

Quilters

The Christ Lutheran quilters made a holiday donation of 47 quilts to various agencies, just in time for Christmas!

Christ's Men

Christ's Men's first Tuesday lunches have returned. They will meet on January 7, 11:30 AM, at Superior Family Restaurant, it is on the first floor, alley side of the Androy Hotel, at 1213 Tower Ave. Hope to see as many as possible there.

Lutheran Women's Mission League (LWML)

Join thousands of other Lutheran women who focus on missions and God's Word. Our Christ Lutheran LWML will meet on Tuesday, January 7 at 1:00 PM. Our emphasis is on Bible Study, mission projects, sharing faith and friendship with our "sisters-in-Christ". Pastor Bernecker will lead our Bible Study. If you have received a fall Quarterly, please bring it with you.

Valentine's Dinner

The Youth Group will be hosting a Valentine's Lasagne Dinner for the congregation on Sunday, February 9. There will be more information in the News & Notes and the February newsletter.

Church Council Minutes

December 12, 2024

Members Present: Pastor Shield, Paul Klomhaus, Mike Miller, Kim Klomhaus, Helena Frost, Chris Stumpf and Sharyn Vengrin

Call to order: Paul Klomhaus

Opening Prayer: Pastor Schield

Call for additional agenda items: None

Minutes from October 10, 2024 Council Meeting:

Mike Miller made the motion to accept the minutes of October 10, 2024 council meeting with spelling changes. It was seconded by Chris. All in favor. Motion Passed.

Pastor's Report: Brought the Deacon's gifts to Shut ins.

Treasurers Report: Ending Balance: \$62,751.83

Mike Miller made the motion that we accept the Treasurers Report as Written. Kim Klomhaus seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion Passed.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustees Report:

Replaced the heat tape in the southern gutter. (The lawn mower must have clipped the heat tape.)
Replaced the electrical plug for the roof heat tape over the multipurpose room side of the roof. (Was very corroded.)

All heat tapes are plugged in for the winter.

Ordered and received a pediatric battery and an additional adult battery for the AED. The pediatric battery expired in October. The adult battery is an extra in case the current one is used or is found to be no longer usable.

The snow blower started and was found to run well. Have a team to shovel and slow snow this year. Volunteers are Nate Fowler, Patrick Field, Brad Godding, and Don Hauser.

Placed driveway markers around the parking lot and driveway from 28th street.

Completed maintenance on Organ Humidifier.

Board of Deacons: Christmas bags for shut ins were filled.

Board of Stewardship & Evangelism:

Guardian Angel Brunch on January 12. Brunch after church.

Game Day January 19, 2024

Spiritual Conversations

Will do something for new members.

Board of Education:

November 23rd Craft Fair-9:00am to 2pm.

Had a full Fellowship Hall of vendors and crafters.

It seemed well attended and it made +\$1,000.00 towards the Youth Group's NYG.

Dec. 7th-Parents Night Out Event-4:45pm-7:00pm.

11 Children attended the event. Domino's pizza, apple sauce, and popcorn were served.

We watched the Christmas Movie "The Star". We did crafts with the kids. It was a fun and successful event bringing back in many of our VBS students.

Dec. 8th-Twin Ports Health services Nursing Home Gift Wrapping Event-1:30pm.

Deb W. said it went well. Sounds like there were plenty of gifts for residents to enjoy shopping through and caroling also took place during the event.

Dec. 14th-Christmaas Cheer Dinner and Silent Auction-1:00pm.

Silent auction will be set up the week before if approval from Deacons and Pastor.

Note-This is not a potluck, the meal will be provided and served by the youth.

Chimes will be played at the event by the Youth Group.

A few others will be performing during the dinner.

Dec. 15 Christmas Program Sunday during 9am service.

Christmas program is this Sunday during the 9am service. Students will help and hand out song sheet before service with ushers. They will be leaving during the final hymn and handing out a candy cane treat to congregation members as they leave. We have 5-6 students (not including youth.) Matthew and Jill Markee will play one song on clarinet during program as well.

I will be stepping down from my position as Sunday School Superintendent to focus more on Youth Group.

Dec. 18th-Soup and Sandwich.

Memorial Committee: Balance: \$8,013.25

Endowment Committee: As per report

Memorial Garden: Resting.

Old Business: None

New Business: Considering a new person to clean the church. This is due to the company we have doing a very poor job. Paul will talk with Don/Roni.

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, January 9, 2025, 5pm.

Adjournment: Lord's Prayer

Voter's Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2024

Call to Order: Paul Klomhaus

Opening prayer: Pastor Schield

Call for additional agenda items: None

Minutes: Approval of minutes from October 10, 2024. Len Campbell made the motion to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Mike Kraemer. All in favor. Motion passed.

Board and committee Reports: These reports are published in the monthly newsletter.

Approval of Treasurer's Report:

Motion was made by Len Campbell and seconded by Don Hauser that we accept the Treasurer's Report as written. All in Favor Motion Carried.

New Business:

Approval of Annual Budget: \$268,543.00

Sharyn Vengrin made the motion that we accept the budget with the Addition of \$1,000.00 to Building Insurance/Workman's Comp from \$8,000.00 to \$9,000.00. It was seconded by Nathan Klomhaus. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: Next voter's meeting, February 25, 2024.

Adjournment: Lord's Prayer

Stewardship

Fresh off the Christmas season and the retail frenzy that accompanies it, January brings a shot of frigid air into the lives of the people we know and love. This is not a meteorological statement either. While it is true that January is one of the colder months for those in North America, the cold front blast that hits us is the full force of credit card spending that fueled the retail frenzy. The bills for the gifts, the parties, the food and the travel have

now come due. The credit card makes things convenient, but it also requires more discipline than many can muster. When the bills come in January for December's celebration, it really puts a damper on things.

Congregations often make the same mistake in stewardship. We often charge forward in doing what we always do or starting new endeavors without counting the cost. But at the end of the month, or the end of year, when the bill comes due, the red ink on the congregational balance sheet smacks the people in the face like a stiff north wind in January. We hunkered down. We circle the wagons. We start to panic. The work of the Gospel suffers.

The fifth verse of "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (LSB 788) addresses this January situation. The words penned by William Watkins Reid are very needful for us to hear as we start a new year, while dealing with the bills of past efforts and expense.

"Forgive us, Lord for feast that knows not fast ..."
This hits us hard, doesn't it? We love when the money is flowing, the parties are going, and things are getting bigger and better. But there is a time in life, and most especially in our spiritual disciplines, that we need to fast. The purpose of a fast is to step back, lay something aside for a time, and replace it with meditation on Scripture and prayer. This is designed to keep us from turning something that may well be good into an idol that separates us from the God who loves us in Christ.

"For joy in things that meanwhile starve the soul ..."
In "The Parable of the Sower," we hear Jesus talk about how the worries and cares of life choke out the growth of the seed of the Word that was planted. We know how this happens in our lives. Professional and youth sports do this. Materialism does this. Travel and leisure do this. There is a list of things that we enjoy that starve the soul.

But it also happens in our congregations. When corporate stewardship is not managed in a responsible way, it can and does destroy individual stewardship. Is it good individual stewardship to support a ministry that doesn't take its corporate responsibility seriously?

"For walls and wars that hide your mercies vast and blur our vision of the Kingdom goal." This is the ultimate end of the idolatry of failed stewardship. We build walls between believers within the church and hamper those who are outside from coming to

the Light of Life that is Jesus. The wars we fight over money and its impact on ministry do the same. It eventually blurs our vision of what we are here to do: share the Good News of Jesus. When the wintry blast of January hits us in this fashion, we are called to repent.

When the Holy Spirit uses the cold front of the call to repentance, we meet the God who forgives and restores. That is what He does for individual and corporate stewards. When the bills hit, they call us back to Jesus. He is the One who indeed forgives us our shallow thankfulness and leads us into the bounty of His mercy yet again.

Opportunities to Serve

Altar Guild. Men and women who prepare the sacred vessels for Holy Communion and who care for the altar and its liturgical appointments. Their service beautifies the sanctuary and the sacred space in which God's people worship. They serve as assistants to the pastor and function under the authority of the Board of Deacons.

Communion Assistant and/or Worship

Assistant. This opportunity is open to qualified men who would receive instruction from the pastor and/or choral director to assist in parish liturgies and/or distribution of Holy Communion. They function under the authority of the Bd. of Deacons.

Grounds Maintenance. A beautiful and well-maintained building and grounds says "this is a church that cares." Who plants and cares for our flowers, who cuts the lawn, cleans the building, shovels the snow? Our members do. Speak to any member of our Board of Trustees to volunteer.

Prayer Chain. Members intercede to the Lord on behalf of others in need.

Quilting. Hands on sewing of quilts that are sent to Lutheran World Relief and used around the world. Meet on Tuesdays from 9am – noon.

Shut-In Visitation. Currently a member brings meals once a week to some. There is also opportunity for regular friendly visits to be made to one or more people.

Usher. This is a service of hospitality to members and guests. Ushers assist worshippers in our services of worship.

Lutheran Witness

The Lutheran Witness is a magazine about you and your church. Each month it brings you a wealth of information that's important to you as you grow in faith and service to the Lord Jesus. You can receive the Witness in your home for the cost of \$27.65 for eleven issues (\$2.30 per issue). You will find a sign-up form on the office door. When you sign up make your check payable to Christ Lutheran Church and leave it in the office. Any questions please contact the office. Sign up by January 26.

Annual Reports

It is time again to get your annual report ready. I will need everyone's reports by January 26. I will accept reports in whatever form they come in, but it saves me time if they can be emailed or saved to a flash drive. Thank you for your work.

Youth Upcoming Events

All 7th – 12th grade youth are invited to attend any or all events! We study God's Word in a variety of ways – music videos with today's current Christian artists, creative Bible lessons, and issues that relate to the youth! We meet on Sundays from 10-11 a.m. and on Wednesdays 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Join us! Bring a friend!

Leaving for Warmer Climate?

Take me with you! Kidding, sort of, but if you are one of our 'snowbirds' and you want to keep up on what's happening in your church you can get the newsletter emailed to you each month. Please email the church with your email address at clcoffice320@gmail.com.

The Heating Season

The heating season is upon us again, please double check that all doors are locked, all lights are turned off (including bathrooms), and thermostats are turned down before your group leaves the church. Thank you!

Defending the Faith, Teaching the Truth

Issues, Etc. is a talk radio show hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio. Recent topics include: Same-Sex Marriage, Reformation *Solas*, Depression, Radical Islam, What Boys Need, Pro-Life Women and more. Listen to what you want when you want at www.issuesetc.org.

Food for the Local Food Shelf

The first Sunday of every month is when you need to bring in your donations of non-perishable food items for the local food shelf. You may put your items under the table in the narthex. This is given to those in need and then to the local food pantry

Do We Have Your Current Email Address?

Are you receiving email from Christ Lutheran? If not, you are missing important and timely information from your church. We will not flood your inbox or share your email address (addresses are always hidden when sent from church). Please help us keep you informed! Call the office at 715-398-3680 or send it to clcoffice320@gmail.com

Looking for something?

The LCMS staffs the "Church Information Center", which offers a great deal of help and resources on a variety of topics. To contact the CIC with your questions, you may write: infocenter@lcms.org or call toll free 1.888.843.5267



- 3 Rose Matthias
- 5 Joan Pince
Jonathan Stumpf
- 7 Kathleen Field
Pastor Schield
- 8 Eric Mack
- 9 Martin Pfeil
- 10 Brandon Derick
- 12 Christine Stumpf
Jane Matthias
- 14 Simon Pfeil
- 16 Donna Klomhaus
- 18 Chris Kirchoff
Joshua Stumpf
- 19 Esther Anderson
Matthew Vengrin
Trevor Derick
- 20 Quinn Frost
Jeremy Winans
- 27 Kristin Kroll
- 30 Elijah Kroepelin

Puzzle!

Find and circle all the words horizontally. Then, starting on the top line and moving across from left to right, read John 6:35 (NIV). Put the words in order on the spaces below to complete the Bible verse.

JOHN 6:35

WORD LIST

am and be believes bread comes in whoever
hungry go life me me never to never the the of will
will thirsty whoever

T	E	1	R	S	U	V	W	A	M	X	Y	Z	A	B	T	H	E	I
J	K	L	M	B	R	E	A	D	N	P	O	F	Q	R	L	I	F	E
D	W	H	O	E	V	E	R	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
B	C	D	F	C	O	M	E	S	G	H	I	J	T	O	K	L	M	E
N	W	I	L	L	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	N	E	V	E	R	V	W
Z	Y	Z	B	C	A	G	O	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
M	H	U	N	G	R	Y	N	A	N	D	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	W	H	O	E	V	E	R
M	N	O	B	E	L	I	E	V	E	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A
V	W	X	Y	Z	I	N	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	M	E	U	V	W	X	Y	A	B	C	D
D	E	F	W	I	L	L	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	N	E	V	E	R	A	B	C	D	B	E	D
F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	T	H	I	R	S	T	Y	O	P	Q

" I _____

_____ "

- John 6:35, NIV

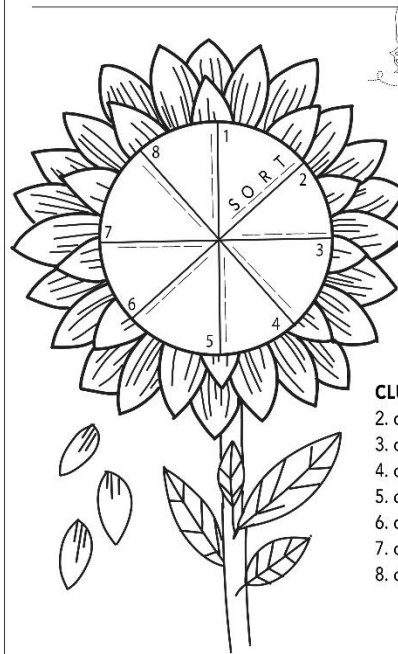
Answer: "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be thirsty." John 6:35, NIV



THE LOVE CYCLE

In 1 John 4, God instructs us to love other people. Where does our love come from?

Directions: Starting at #1 and going clockwise, solve each clue to create a new four-letter word. Then write the eighth word in both blanks below to complete 1 John 4:19, NIV.



We _____
because [God] first
_____ d us.

1 John 4:19, NIV

CLUES

- change 1 letter: a tent to play in
- change 2 letters: a crease in paper
- change 1 letter: a precious metal
- change 2 letters: a beautiful dress
- change 1 letter: opposite of up
- change 2 letters: a type of bird
- change 1 letter: God is this (see 1 John 4:16).

Answers: Fort, fold, gown, down, dove, love; We love because [God] first loved us. 1 John 4:19, NIV

Online Information

LC-MS Website

lcms.org

Minnesota North District Website

mnn.lcms.org

Lutheran Witness Online

www.lcms.org

Click on 'Lutheran Witness' in left column

LC-MS Synod Radio Stations

www.kfuo.org—or—classic99.com

www.issuesetc.org

Information on Pregnancy, Parenting & Adoption

getrealwithyourself.com