

# Winter 2023/2024 Newsletter



Christ Lutheran Church – Cottonwood, Minnesota

Christ Lutheran Church Location: 126 Front Street

**Mailing Address: P.O. Box 166,  
Cottonwood, Minnesota 56229  
Office Phone and Voice Mail: 507-423-5100**

**[www.christcottonwood.org](http://www.christcottonwood.org)**

**Find us on Facebook: Christ Lutheran Church Cottonwood MN**

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## Behold

The word *behold* is not one that we often use anymore. The Oxford Dictionary does attribute its meaning to be “*to see or observe especially a remarkable person or thing.*” If you are looking for amusement, try working it into your conversations today. What might you ask others to “*Behold!*”? Somehow, our everyday

actions do not seem worthy of this word. “*Behold*, I picked up a gallon of milk on the way home,” just does not seem to work.

Sources I found said that the word *behold* appeared in the King James Version of the Bible 1,298 times. But *behold* is used less and less in contemporary translations. In the New King James version, *behold* is used only about half as often – 586 times. And in translations that more closely echo contemporary English, the word is a rarity, appearing only 27 times in the New Revised Standard Version (the one we use at CLC) and only once in the New International Version.

Perhaps we have lost something with the disappearance of the word *behold* from our Scripture translations and its corresponding erasure from our culture. Do we really know how to *behold*? How to stop still, to cease all else, to give our full attention and searching gaze to what is before us? In our multi-tasking, fast-paced world, we are in the habit of looking everywhere at once with the result that nothing (and no one) truly has our deep and undivided attention. As I think of the Advent and Christmas season, I wonder what I should give my attention to in order to *behold* Mary and Joseph on the way to Bethlehem, baby Jesus in the stable, the angels singing, the shepherds on the mountaintop, the magi paying homage. Can you not hear them all exclaiming, “*Behold!*”?

During this season, may we all exclaim “*Behold*” as we see and observe a remarkable child, the Christ child, that came to save the world.

Advent and Christmas blessings,  
Pastor Janel



## **Christmas Cantata**

*“Presenting Love”*

**Saturday, December 16 2:00 pm**

A Gospel Christmas Celebration performed by Area Community Members including some of our CLC’s own singers. This event will be recorded and converted to YouTube.

## **Children’s Christmas Program**

The children ages Preschool through Sixth Grade will present a Christmas Program called *“Deck the Halls and Trim the Tree”* **during the 9:30 a.m. worship on Sunday, December 17.** Please come and see them remember the story of the birth of the Christ child. Come early to see the nativity in the front entry. Treats following worship from Carl’s Bakery.

## **Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship**

**Sunday, December 24 9:30 a.m.**

Come and prepare the way for the Lord in this shortened (about 30 minutes) Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship service.

## **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services**

Tucked into the midst of your Christmas gatherings, we hope you will make plans to attend Christ Lutheran’s very special Candlelight Christmas Eve with Holy Communion worship services at either **5:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 24.**

## **Lessons and Carols**

On **Sunday, December 31 at 9:30 a.m.** Let’s sing those favorite Christmas Carols one more time during our **Lessons and Carols** service. They will be woven throughout worship with lessons read AND.....then after worship let the **Celebration of Festive Christmas Wardrobe and Sweaters** begin. Tokens of appreciation in different categories will be given.

## **Epiphany Sunday—Sunday, January 7 at 9:30 a.m.**

We celebrate Epiphany while retelling of the story of God’s glory revealed through the light of the star that led the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ.

## **Worship With Us**

- ♦ In person on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.
- ♦ Check the church's FaceBook page at "Christ Lutheran Church Cottonwood, MN" on Sunday afternoons for the YouTube weekly worship link
- ♦ If you would like a copy of the worship service on DVD, please contact the church office



## **Worship Schedule:**

Sun, Dec 3 - Advent 1 Worship with Holy Communion

Sun, Dec 10 - Advent 2 Worship

Sun, Dec 17 - Advent 3 Worship with Holy Communion and Children's Christmas Program

Sun, Dec 24 - 9:30 am Advent 4 Worship (30 minutes)

Sun, Dec 24 - 5:00 and 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

Sun, Dec 31 - First Sunday After Christmas - Lessons and Carols Worship

Sun, Jan 7 - Epiphany of Our Lord Worship with Holy Communion

Sun, Jan 14 - Time After Epiphany Worship

Sun, Jan 21 - Baptism of Our Lord Worship with Holy Communion and Remembrance of Baptism Milestone

Sun, Jan 28 - Time After Epiphany Worship and Annual Meeting following worship

Sun, Feb 4 - Time After Epiphany Worship with Holy Communion and Children Sing

Sun, Feb 11 - Transfiguration of Our Lord Worship

Wed, Feb 14 - 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

Sun, Feb 18 - First Sunday in Lent Worship with Holy Communion

Wed, Feb 21 - 7:00 pm Midweek Lenten Service with Holden Worship

Sun, Feb 25 - Sunday in Lent Worship

Wed, Feb 28 - 7:00 pm Midweek Lenten Service with Holden Worship at

## Advent Is Upon Us *“The Glory of the Lord Shall be Revealed”*

Advent began on December 3, and it continues for the following three Sundays.

The theme chosen for this year was chosen in part by some of the words that appear around the base of our Advent Wreath. If we all got up really close and personal to it, you would see that it reads, *“Behold the Lord shall make the glory of his voice to be heard in the joy of your heart.”*

These words are loosely connected to words of faith from Isaiah chapter forty that reads this way, *“And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all humanity will see*

*it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”* People of God, the goal of our faith is to bring glory to God so that it might be revealed to others.

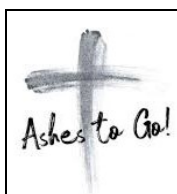


Come and join us for Advent worship where each Sunday we light one additional candle as we wait for *the glory of the Lord to be revealed.*



## Looking Ahead to Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday this year is **February 14th**. It is the day that marks the beginning of the Season of Lent, and once again we will gather in worship and celebrate Holy Communion as we begin the journey to the cross with Jesus. As we enter into the Lenten period of 40 days, our worship also includes a time when we mark with ashes the sign of the cross on one's forehead, a ritual which has been part of Ash Wednesday worship over all the centuries. This visible sign not only identifies us as followers as Christ Jesus, but also reminds us of our deep need for God's love and mercy in our lives. The worship service on Ash Wednesday is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.



### Ashes to Go

However, if you would prefer to receive ashes and Holy Communion, Pastor Janel will be offering the following times listed below to receive ashes in the drive through area in the front of the church.

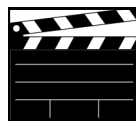
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Or by appointment, call the church office 507-423-5100

## Lent 2024 - Calling All Actors!

Would you be interested in sharing your dramatic gifts at one of the Wednesday services. Pastor Janel is gathering the cast together now, so please let her know of your willingness. Most weeks we will need two actors. And don't worry about skill level. Experience is not final criteria – only desire!



### Lenten Fellowship Meals

Is this you? We are currently looking for a meal coordinator for the Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday evening meals. Meals will be served at 6:00 pm prior to worship. You will be asked to help coordinate soup makers and other fixings for sandwiches and beverages. You will also be coordinating servers and clean up crew. So, is this you?



## ANNUAL MEETING

### **The 2024 Annual Meeting Is Scheduled...**

**Annual Meeting Notice:** The Annual Congregational Meeting of Christ Lutheran Church will be **held on Sunday, January 28, 2024**, following our 9:30 a.m. worship service (backup date will be February 4).

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The **Nominating Committee** is already at work. Please pray for their tasks and prayerfully consider any of these open positions:

- Vice President
  - Deacon
  - Trustee
  - Stewardship Committee
  - Nominating Committee
- 

### **Annual Reports Due**

All **annual reports** of committees are due in the church office **by Wednesday, December 20**. The **Audit Committee** will be available to look over treasurer documents. Please submit all bank statements and financial reports **by Sunday, January 7**. Electronic format is preferred and all reports can be emailed to [christlutheran@christcotton.com](mailto:christlutheran@christcotton.com).

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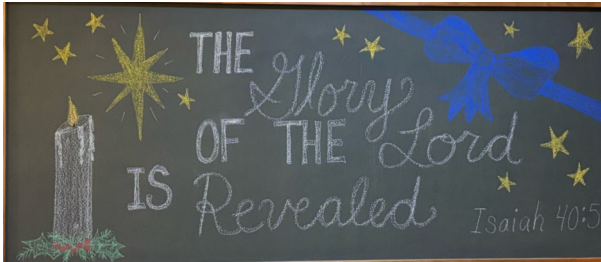
### **Save the Date - Installation Sunday**

All Elected Leaders of the congregation—those who are continuing to serve and those who will be newly elected at the Annual Meeting—**will be installed in worship on Sunday, February 11**.



## Fair Trade Coffee

Don't forget that you can purchase Fair Trade Coffee at the Coffee Counter. If you would like Decaffeinated Ground or Whole Bean, please contact Carolyn Olson at 507.828.2643.



### Decorating Art by Susanne Lee.

Susanne is a quiet behind the scenes decorator of the front planters, the blackboard, the table tops and the front entry. Give her a shout out sometime!



## Prairie Conference and Southwestern Minnesota Synod News Save the Dates

**Saturday, February 18 2:00 pm** - Prairie Conference Assembly at First Lutheran, 100 Church Street, Marshall

**Friday, June 7 and Saturday, June 8, 2024** - Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter. Two voting members from the congregation will be needed.



Southwestern Minnesota Synod





Thank You Bunches: Thanks for the two great hot dishes and Pastor Janel's visit to our home when Steve was ill.

~Steve Hagen and Sharon Stevens~

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness: Thank you for the freezer meals. Your kindness and thoughtfulness did not go unnoticed and was very much appreciated.

~Shalesha Himley~

Thank You...thank you for the meals delivered and all the prayers for me following my knee replacement.

~Ione Olson~

Christ Lutheran church, we want to thank you for the beautiful hope chest filled with so many items we are excited to share with Bentley as he gets older.

Bentley's baptism was incredibly special, and we really want to thank Pastor Janel for making it so personal.

We appreciated the special touch of sealing Bentley with the sign of the cross using the Jordan River water.

Thank you all for playing a special role in our child's life.

~The St Aubin's ~



The handbell choir is planning to play in February or March. Why not give it a try?

Contact Traci Olson (507-828-4100).

## **Financial Snapshot**

Because of your generosity in sharing of time and resources, we have been able to reach out with God's never-failing love in countless ways, both inside and beyond our congregation.

We are grateful for your financial gifts which allow us to continue the many ministries that we hold in common inside of God's mission for us here in this faith community. We have some reserves, but we want to be transparent that we are running behind as of the end of November.

### **Through the end of November**

<b>Giving</b>	\$158,591.97
<b>Expenses</b>	<u>\$168,054.99</u>
<b>Year To Date</b>	<b>(\$ 9,463.02)</b>

End of year gifts can be received until Sunday, December 31 to be included on your 2023 giving statements.

## **Offering Envelopes Available Soon!**

In early December, you will be able to pick up your 2024 box of Offering Envelopes. If you exclusively choose to give online, please contact the church office to let us know that you will not need a box prepared for your household.



See next page for details  
about Giving Options.

## Giving Options

- 1) You can give in the offering basket on Sunday morning.
- 2) You could also mail in your giving to the church address.

-OR-

### The Following Online Options.



3) Go to the home page of the church website ([www.christcottonwood.org](http://www.christcottonwood.org)) and look for this image in the upper right hand corner: Click on the image and set up either a one time or recurring online offering gift.

4) Use your bank's online bill pay to set up giving and direct them to Christ Lutheran Church, PO Box 166, Cottonwood, MN 56229. We also receive investment dividends.

5) Open the camera on your smart phone and click the QR Code yellow link that appears on the screen [osvhub.com]. It will take you directly to Christ Lutheran's Online Giving. You can set up either a one time or recurring online offering gift.



These options are a convenient, safe and simple way for households to make contributions to the ministry and life of Christ Lutheran. Not only will it bring consistency and ease to the way you make your regular gifts, at the same time, it provides much needed consistency of giving for our congregation throughout the year.

Thank you for your continued gifts to the life, ministry and mission of Christ Lutheran Church.



## New Members

**Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church.**

- Cody St. Aubin
- Linda Hagen
- Jack, Dana, Tucker and Brynlee Davis



If you are **interested in church membership** or know someone interested, please contact Pastor Janel at the church office 507 423 5100 or her cell phone 651 726 4003.  
Email: [pstrjanel@gmail.com](mailto:pstrjanel@gmail.com)

## Weddings Celebrated

*On October 28, 2023,  
Pastor Janel covered a wedding at Hope  
Lutheran Church in Minneota who does  
not currently have a pastor.*

*Congratulations to  
Danny and Jennifer Hennen.*



## Celebration of Life Services

Betty Lovesness (St. Lucas Lutheran) 8/20/2023

Gary VanWinkle 10/12/2023

*Peace be with them and their families as they grieve.*

## Baptisms

### Named and Claimed through the Waters of Baptism



*Left: Everett Merkins  
9/24/2023*

*Below: Bentley St. Aubin  
9/26/2023*



*Left: Memphis Horejsi  
11/5/2023*

*Right: Oakley Risa  
11/11/2023*





## The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree at Christ Lutheran has ornaments on the tree in the front entry with requested gifts on them ready for you to pick up.

Monetary donations may also

be given to the church. Please be sure to mark them clearly for “*The Giving Tree*.” Gifts with their ornaments attached need to be returned to the church by **December 17**.

Wrapping of items is not required, but please put the tag on any that are wrapped. Thank you for your generosity to the children and families in our community. More ornaments are being added.



## A Reminder About Inclement Weather

As we prepare for inclement weather, the following are details to know for the church:

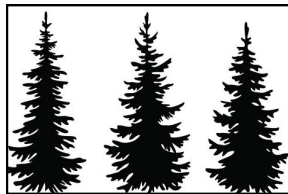
**For *Sunday morning worship and Preschool Sunday School programming***, you can find details on worship being canceled on both the “Christ Lutheran Church Cottonwood, MN” FaceBook page and on Marshall Radio. If weather makes worship unsafe, a truncated worship service will try to be recorded and made available on YouTube.

**For *Wednesday evening programming***, we follow the school district. If school is canceled, an early out (due to weather) or no evening activities, there will be no Mission Possible or Confirmation sessions that evening.



## Cemetery Trees

Thank you to our cemetery committee who diligently watered the new pine trees at the cemetery all summer long.



### ***Committee Members:***

Marvin Kremin, Kelvin Listul, Zach Pringle, Jeff Varpness, Parry Bossuyt and Roger Breyfogle.

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## Worship Assistants

Each month, worship assistants are emailed reminders. If you are currently serving in the following roles and have not been receiving emails, please contact the church office at [christlutheran@christcotton.com](mailto:christlutheran@christcotton.com).

- P.A.
- Video
- Ushers
- Communion Assistants
- Acolytes
- Offering Counters

If you are interested in serving in one of these ways, please contact Pastor Janel to learn more. Many hands and feet make the work light for everyone.



## Devotional Books Available

Advent devotional books are available to pick up on a table at the back of the sanctuary. There is something for all ages. Please help yourself.

The January-March 2024 Christ in Our Home devotional books will be available to pick up mid-December.

Both large and regular print are always available.



## Kids Sing In Worship

The students present their Christmas Program during worship on **Sunday, December 17** at 9:30 a.m. Details have already been emailed to families.

Preschool Sunday School and Mission Possible are scheduled to sing in worship on **February 4 and on Palm Sunday, March 24.**

More details will be emailed out to families closer to these dates. If you are not receiving these emails, please contact the church office.

## Give Thanks!

Mission Possible partnered with the Cottonwood Food Pantry to help fill their patron's Thanksgiving boxes. Items included were fresh from the Olson farm squash, stuffing mix, jello, potatoes, gravy, vegetables, chicken broth and cranberry sauce. Northstar Insurance generously provided the turkeys. Thank you to our students for showing God's love in such a tangible and nourishing way.



In worship on Sunday, October 1,  
the students sang *“Rejoice In The Lord Always.”*



On the same Sunday, the Second Graders received  
their Milestone Ministry Spark Bibles.



Four Year Olds Received their Milestone Ministry  
Prayer Books on Sunday, October 15. Do you not just love  
that they sat right down to look through their new books?



## Preschool Sunday School December-February Schedule

Please bring your students up to the Preschool Classroom  
(located on the upper level) at 9:00 am  
and pick them up promptly at 9:25 am.

Sun, Dec 10	<b>"Jesus is Born!" – Christmas Story</b>
Sun, Dec 17	<b>Christmas Practice &amp; Christmas Program in Worship</b>
Sun, Dec 24	<b>NO SUNDAY SCHOOL – Xmas Break</b>
Sun, Dec 31	<b>NO SUNDAY SCHOOL – Xmas Break</b>
Sun, Jan 7	<b>"An Amazing Star!" – Wise Men</b>
Sun, Jan 14	<b>Read Golden Book Stories</b>
Sun, Jan 21	<b>"Follow Me" – Jesus and Disciples</b>
Sun, Jan 28	<b>SSB "The Disciples" p 258</b>
Sun, Feb 4	<b>"The Greatest Gift" – Woman at the Well</b>
Sun, Feb 11	<b>SSB "The Woman at the Well" p 420</b>
Sun, Feb 18	<b>"A Better Thing to Do" – Mary and Martha</b>
Sun, Feb 25	<b>"Stormy Sea" – Jesus and Disciples"</b>



Two Year Olds receiving their  
Milestone Ministry Spark Story  
Bibles

## Milestone Ministry

<b>Milestone Dates – MARK YOUR CALENDARS</b>	
Sun, Jan 21–9:30 am	<b>Remembrance of Baptism (all baptized in 2023)</b>
Thurs, Mar 28 – 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship	<b>First Communion celebrated for 5<sup>th</sup> Graders (First Communion class is scheduled for Sunday, March 3 following worship)</b>

## Mission Possible December-February Schedule

Wed, Dec 13	Christmas Program Practice
Sun, Dec 17	Christmas Program shared in worship at 9:30 a.m.
Wed, Dec 20	NO MISSION POSSIBLE – Xmas Break
Wed, Dec 27	NO MISSION POSSIBLE – Xmas Break
Wed, Jan 3	Lesson – Epiphany Extravaganza
Wed, Jan 10	Lesson – John the Baptist
Wed, Jan 17	Service Project – Homebound Lent in a Bag
Wed, Jan 24	Game Night
Wed, Jan 31	Lesson – The Four Friends
Wed, Feb 7	Lesson – Zaccheaus
Wed, Feb 14	NO MISSION POSSIBLE – Ash Wednesday Worship at 7:00 p.m.
Wed, Feb 21	Lesson – God's Gift of Love Worship at 7:00 p.m.
Wed, Feb 28	Lesson – God Loves Us Worship at 7:00 p.m.

### Bring Your Bibles, Please!

Each “lesson” week on the schedule, we invite your students to bring their Bibles: K-1st Grade Spark Story Bibles and 2nd-6th Grade Spark Bibles.

### Mission Possible Drop Off and Pick Up Policy

We value the safety of all students and therefore, students must be walked into the church building for drop off and to be picked up inside the building after session time is over. Students should not be left unattended and should not be left at **the church prior to 5:55 p.m.** as teachers may still be setting up classrooms and not available to supervise your children until then.



## Confirmation September-November Schedule

Please bring your Lutheran Study Bible to class each week.

Wed, Dec 13	Christmas Caroling
Wed, Dec 20	NO CONFIRMATION – Christmas Break
Wed, Dec 27	NO CONFIRMATION – Christmas Break
Wed, Jan 3	The Apostles' Creed – Small Catechism
Wed, Jan 10	The Apostles' Creed – Small Catechism
Wed, Jan 17	The Apostles' Creed – Small Catechism
Wed, Jan 24	Mentor Week
Wed, Jan 31	Pontius Pilate: The Troubled Politician
Wed, Feb 7	The Walk to the Cross
	NO CONFIRMATION – Attend 7 pm Ash Wednesday Worship and meet with Mentor
Wednes- days: Feb 21, 28, Mar 6, 13 and 20	NO CONFIRMATION these weeks during Lent: Attend 7 pm Lenten Worship .Students meet with Mentor to discuss their Lenten devotional book.*

\*Lenten Devotional Booklets will be  
given out the beginning of February.

### Junior High Youth Gathering

Twenty-six youth and chaperones attended the overnight  
**Junior High Youth Gathering** in Willmar November 17-18.

The theme was

*“Where God Guides,  
God Provides,”* based  
on Isaiah 58:11.

Rachel Kurtz was the  
musical guest and  
Pastor Jodi Houge  
from Humble Walk  
Lutheran Church was  
the speaker. Fun and  
Faith together!





## Christmas Caroling

Confirmation students will meet at the church on Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30 pm. We will be riding buses and going immediately to pick up our St. Mary's Catholic Church friends. Then, it is on to spreading cheer and caroling at Fieldcrest, West Prairie Apartments and possibly other homes along the way.

## Bible Camp Opportunities

It is time to begin to make your plans for Summer Bible Camp opportunities at our local ELCA Bible Camps.



### **SHETEK LUTHERAN MINISTRIES**

Located near Slayton on Lake Stetek  
Early Bird Registration Rates through January 31  
Visit [www.shetek.org](http://www.shetek.org)

~or~

### **GREEN LAKE BIBLE CAMP**

Located near Spicer on Green Lake  
Early Bird Registration Rates through February 15  
Visit [www.gllm.org](http://www.gllm.org)

Remember that the church provides an opportunity to cover some of the cost of camp tuition, if needed. Please contact Pastor Janel if you would like to discuss this opportunity and financial assistance.

### **CAMP STAFF**

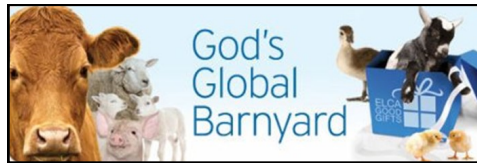
Both camps listed above are looking for summer staff.



## God's Global Barnyard

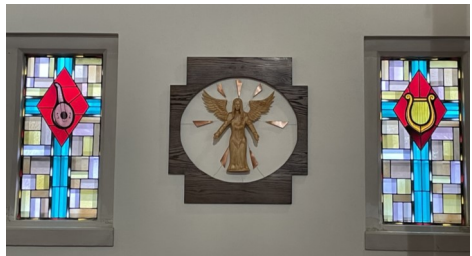
The Sunday School and Mission Possible students invite you to participate in their collection for God's Global Barnyard. The money the students collect is used to help people around the world by purchasing animals. Donations can be made by marking envelopes for "***God's Global Barnyard***" or in your check memo line.

Do you have a person who is hard to find something to get them for Christmas? The students invite you to find the decorated Christmas Tree in the Lakeside Room covered in animal ornaments to give as gifts and cards to let others know you have gifted them an animal. Your shopping opportunity has been extended until **Sunday, December 17.**



Last year the students were able to get:  
6 chicks, 3 goats, 3 shares of a cow, 1 rooster, 4 piglets  
3 honeybee hives and seeds and gardening tools

Artist Ron Felt, a member at Pastor Janel's last church in Stillwater, MN, contacted her about a wooden sculpture he made of a floating angel. Ron has made and donated sculptures to 88 religious



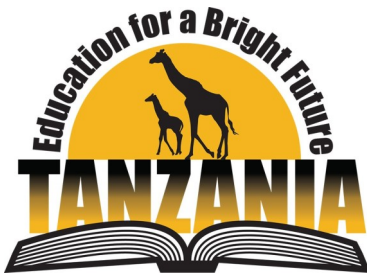
locations. This sculpture is made from Australian Pine which is different than pine in our area because there are no knots in the wood. The outside is made from oak and the angel is suspended on wires with specially treated copper light beams. It has been hung in the chapel at Christ Lutheran. Take a closer look sometime at the intricacies of the carving and suspension used. She looks like she is floating. Thank you, Ron Felt, for your lovingly made gift.





## Prairie Conference Companion Mfolozi Circuit

On Sunday, September 24, *Agrippa Ntombela*, a visiting ambassador who serves as the Diaconal Coordinator for ELCSA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa) and also acts as the Circuit Coordinator for the Partnership Committee for the Mfolozi Circuit came to CLC to share words of encouragement of rebuilding our relationships together.



## Kikatiti Secondary School

Christ Lutheran has had a long-term relationship with The Kikatiti Secondary school in Tanzania. The school is a Christian based school and works with the Lutheran Church of Tanzania. The support helps students further their education. It was eight years ago that Christ Lutheran had a team visit Tanzania to see and help at the school. The students are very glad to be there. Many of the students are boarded at the school. The monies primarily help with tuition (to those who can't afford school), provide textbooks, and food. Bill Koeckeritz, formerly of New Ulm, led our group. He makes regular visits, and went there again this past summer. He says, *"The student's passion, enthusiasm, and gratitude for the opportunity remains steadfast."*

Christ Luther continues to send \$200 in missions support per month to the Kikatiti school. This fund is different than the general fund. To make gifts to the mission fund, please designate missions on your check memo. Additional gifts can be designated for the school if you label your checks as *"Kikatiti Secondary School."* Your continued support of the school and the missionary fund is greatly appreciated.

## Cottonwood Food Pantry

The pantry is an outreach by the communities of Cottonwood and Wood Lake to make groceries available to our neighbors who may run short of food. Guests are asked to complete a short, confidential registration form requesting standard information such as name, address and ages of those living in the home.

The Cottonwood Food Pantry is located next to Lotus 507 on the corner of First and Main Street.

### Hours of Operation

Second and Fourth Thursday of Each Month – 6:00 -7:30 pm

- December 14 & 28
- January 11 & 25
- February 8 & 22
- March 14 & 28



***Items Always Needed:*** Tuna, Noodles, Spaghetti Sauce, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Apple Juice, Cranberry Juice, Chunky Soups, Peanut Butter and Cereals

Thank you for your continued generosity in helping to make sure all in our community are fed.

For more information, please contact:

Tracy Sterner at 507.476.0215

Sylvia Jimenez (Se habla Española) at 507.828.8072

Pastor Janel Kuester at 651.726.4003





## THE GREATEST GIFT

This holiday season as we give and receive gifts let us remember that God gave us the greatest gift of all, the gift of love through God's Son, Jesus.

From the hymn *"Love Has Come"*  
Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love!  
Love is the gift of Christmas.  
Love! Love!  
Praise to you, God on high!

God's gift can never be taken away from us, it doesn't get lost, doesn't break, doesn't go out of style, always fits.

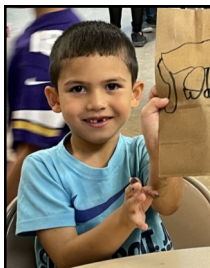
So in gratitude for God's love we can do something in return. God calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Consider giving a gift to the ELCA World Hunger Program. Designated envelopes are available or give online at [elca.org/hunger](http://elca.org/hunger).

God's love surrounds you this Christmas!

## Harvest Bags

Thanks to all of our donators, the Mission Possible students were able to fulfill their goal of putting together 250 Harvest Bags. The

smiles on the faces of the students and farmers alike is thanks enough!



## WELCA LADIES--WE NEED YOU!

As a woman of the Christ Lutheran Church you are a member of WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America).

A big thank you for your generous response of monetary gifts you have given this year. Your donations cover our expenses for serving funerals and other gifts given within our congregation, some of those being Clothed With Love, Altar Care, Missionary Fund, Bible campers, Christ in our Home devotional books. We also support mission projects outside of our congregation, some of those are Cottonwood Food Pantry, Prairie Home Hospice, Hope Harbor, Shetek and Green Lake Bible Camps.

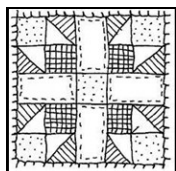
Thank you for being involved by serving at funerals, being on an Altar Care Team, and helping at Quilting Days.

What else could you do to become more active in our WELCA group? We are looking for co-chairs for our serving groups and Altar Care Team members. It is time for new ideas and new people to serve on our Executive Board. We also need to fill the position of Treasurer for our group.

Prayfully consider the possibility that YOU may be helping our group in a new way with new ideas and new enthusiasm.

Anne Isaackson will answer your questions and hear about how you would like to become more involved in WELCA.

Thank you.



### Quilting Days

December - No Quilting

January 16

February 20

March 19

No experience necessary.



## Are you a Thrivent member?

There are two opportunities that you do not want to miss out on.

1) Your ***Thrivent Choice Dollars*** can help Christ Lutheran Church. Eligible benefit members of Thrivent Financial can now help choose where Thrivent Financial distributes a portion of its charitable funds through a program called “Choice Dollars.” Choice dollars can be directed to thousands of non-profit organizations *including* **Christ Lutheran Church** and can be designated quarterly or annually. Potential amounts range from \$50 to \$2,500 per year for each eligible benefit member.

### Here is how it works:

Eligible benefit members receive a letter or email telling them how many Choice Dollars they are able to direct. The member can go online or call Thrivent to designate those dollars.

So, Thrivent members, please consider directing your Choice Dollars to Christ Lutheran Church. Your Thrivent Choice Dollars **expire each year on March 31**. If you should need any assistance, please see Pastor Janel who by the way already makes her designation to Christ Lutheran Church!

### And then...

2) ***Thrivent Action Teams*** can be created to give startup money to service projects, fundraisers and educational events that Christ Lutheran Church might offer. Each eligible Thrivent member has the opportunity each calendar year to support two action teams of \$250.00 each. ***The problem is that we as a church might not know that you are a Thrivent Financial member.*** If you are a member, please let Pastor Janel know as soon as possible as there are already opportunities needing an Action Team’s \$250.00 startup funds. The process is an easy, online registration that Pastor Janel has written directions to help. She can also help you in person.

Thank you!

*Christ Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 166  
Cottonwood, MN 56229*

Address Service Requested



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.