



## Christ Lutheran Church

2350 44th ST SW, Wyoming MI 49519

# 2013 Annual Report

## God's Work. Our Hands.

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### **Looking Back**

What a year it has been! In some ways the year started with a walk on a beach in Florida with my wife Sarah wondering where God might be calling us. Within a couple of months, interviews, goodbyes and greetings, I find myself humbled repeatedly to be called your pastor. My greatest thanks must go to my wife Sarah who has put up with my ramblings and helped me keep focused on God's presence in our lives.

To the congregation of Christ Lutheran, you have shown us a most wonderful welcome. My first months here as your pastor have been filled with warmth and opportunity. The process of cultivating relationships takes time and I look forward to the coming years as we serve and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ together.

Our staff continues to grow into a ministry team. I cannot emphasize enough how much each person contributes to the overall work, each ministering in a special way through the work done at desks, on phones, working with volunteers, through the cleaning and preparing of materials—all is done well! Thank you staff!

### **Looking Forward**

What a year it will be! There is a palpable presence of the Holy Spirit in this place. God is doing something in and through the people of Christ Lutheran Church! It is awesome to see! We have increased some staffing positions and look forward to the fruit that will come from Patrick's work as our Outreach Ministries Coordinator, from Sarah as our Director of Family Ministries and Alex's help as our Youth Coordinator. These are a capable and excited group.

2014 will be a great milestone for Sarah and I as we welcome our first child into the world. Thank you for all your prayers and support during this time. This spring/summer we also hope to sell our house and move to the Wyoming area, which we greatly anticipate.

### **The Plan**

As I mentioned above, developing relationships takes time. Additionally, I am called as your

continued on page two

pastor, not a dictator. I will be spending substantial time in the early part of 2014 meeting and hearing from more of you. The office is coordinating a series of lunches that we hope members will host in their homes after church on Sunday. This will be a time that we can continue the work of friendship. I hope these meals flow in a fairly causal way, although I ask you to consider two questions that I hope to hear your feedback on, "What are the greatest strengths of this church?" and "Where do you see God calling us as a congregation?" Please, pray over these questions. Kick them around as a family over a meal. I am looking forward to gathering mass feedback on these thoughts. Then with the staff, council and others, through prayer and reflection we can put forth our goals for the next chapters of Christ Lutheran Church.

I am so thankful to God, to my wife, my family and the many, many people that have supported me on this journey. God bless, see you on Sunday.

*Pastor Dave Dockweiler*

## Parochial Report

### Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Tyler Bugai	Alexis Burns	Tyauna Cooks	Elise Dismuke
William Dutkiewicz	Roman Miller	Connor Smith	

### Christian Marriages

Steve and Hannah Lundquist	Ricky and Amber Nichols	Nicholas and Danielle Oostveen
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### Rite of Confirmation

Nate Blubaugh	Brian Byler	Emily Nichols	Brandon Roh
Cy Siebelink	Madison Torkelson	Susan Tuttle	Eric Wendland
Austin Wilterdink	Brett Windsor		

### Burial of the Dead

Don Ensing	Harry Johansen	Arthur Lilly	Charles Posthumus
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### Reception of Members

*Does not include those listed as received through Baptism, Confirmation.*

Howard Andrews	Muriel Andrews	Nancy Benchley	Brian Blank
Karen Blank	Robert Conat	Katelyn Conat	Raynard Cullin
Betty Cullin	Alison Dutkiewicz	Terry Dutkiewicz	Carrian Evele
Michael Evele	Dorothy Fetting	Has Fetting	Heather Glombowski
Tim Glombowski	Suzanne Hestikind	David Hogan	Debbie Hogan
Jackie Koehler	Keith Koehler	Kelly Leven	Scott Mousseau
John Naklizki	Tracy Naklizki	Bobbie Neubecker	Rich Neubecker
Andy Perry	Betsy Perry	Brenda Pugh	Meghan Pynnonen
Shawn Pynnonen	Brent Stodolak	Joe Uganski	Debra Uganski
Mary Whitehead	Andy Wicks	Anna Wicks	
Pastor David Dockweiler	Sarah Dockweiler		

### Removed by Transfer

Ray Hjelt	Bev Hjelt	Elliott Hjelt	Philip Malone
Vicky Malone	Jim Friesner	Norma Friesner	Kraig Spear
Christine Spear	Matt Gage	Sharrie Gage	Michael Demario
Heather Demario			

Placed on Inactive Status and Statistical Adjustments - None

Total Confirmed Membership as of December 31, 2013: 731





# Hard work has never been more rewarding

## Music Ministry Report

Among changes adopted in our Constitution by the congregation a year ago was a change in the name of the Worship and Music Committee to the Worship, Music and Arts Committee. It seems minor, but it has helped amplify the idea that we use all of our senses in worship, and that we want to celebrate and encourage a fuller expression of the Gospel message in worship through all of the arts whenever appropriate. We also want to make fuller use of the gifts that are present among our fellow worshippers to build up the body of Christ. My thanks to former Committee Chair Cindy June and present Chair Kristen Thornton (who is also our visual arts coordinator), as well as our Committee members, for lifting up these ideals.

I also give thanks for our talented and hard-working music staff: organist and Bell Choir director Marilyn Burgard, Junior Choir Director Betsy Perry, and Worship Choir Accompanist Hazel Rouker; the volunteer leaders in each of these ensembles; and to our Puppet Ministry and their leaders. Thanks, too, to the singers, ringers and instrumentalists in all of our ensembles who give of their time and talents on a regular basis to enhance and deepen our worship. And finally, thanks to our Sound and Video volunteers, whose behind the scenes work helps facilitate and encourage worship. They are seldom noticeable when things are going well, but we would certainly notice their absence if they weren't there.

Over the past couple of years, I've thought about becoming involved in musical leadership of the weekly Sunday School gathering time. We've had some great leadership in the past, but since there was an opening and we had a new pastor in place, the time has come. My immediate goal is to get to know the kids and make sure they get to regularly sing age appropriate songs about their faith. For the longer term, I want to begin developing some musical leadership among the kids that will lead to more regular participation in worship leadership among our youth.

Naturally, there is continuous turnover in the membership of our various ensembles and teams due to changes in life circumstances, and we always welcome new members into these groups. Please do not hesitate to ask us about becoming a part of our music and arts ministry. Our goal is to help you discover gifts you may have or that could be developed within you that will help build up the body of Christ in this place.

Much of my time during the week is involved in worship planning. This was even more so during our pastoral vacancies. My thanks to all who stepped up to assist during that time. Pastor Dave and I are continuing to work together more in this area as he settles into his role. I invite anyone who has an interest in any part of worship planning to speak with either of us about how you might participate.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary Sironen, Minister of Music



# Where will God's love take you?

## Christian Education

Another year has passed and what a year of celebration!! A new pastor who has brought great energy to our congregation; an amazing commemoration of the history that this family has had over its 50 years in existence; and of course many "small" moments where we saw the faith of a child grow in so many ways. Those really aren't small moments, but they happen in the quiet spaces of your average day and help us to see that God is continually working in each of our lives! As Christian Education Director for Christ Lutheran, I have continued to strive to provide programming for all ages that gives opportunities for each member of our CLC family to grow in their faith, but you will notice that I use the word "we" throughout this report. I am blessed by support from so many dedicated, amazing people in this congregation that I can't help but think of all that is accomplished as something that "WE" have done ... because of and through the grace of God!

Our Sunday School program continues to be a great experience and our congregation is incredibly blessed by the amazing volunteers who teach each week. Our offering program is successful again this year as our children and families support the Good Gifts program through the ELCA, with a focus on providing resources and help for those affected by natural disasters. We continue to provide ELCA Lutheran materials to our children and adult classes, making Lutheran Study Bibles available to all. We have tried new things to provide music to our Sunday School children each year and this year we are blessed with Gary Sironen's involvement with this first 10-15 minutes of our Sunday School time each week!

Our Confirmation class continues with 10 students confirmed in 2013. We also attended a Confirmation retreat in March and we are looking forward to a retreat in January 2014 for our current class. We are continuing to work on the mentor program for our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and we are grateful for their support for our program and these young people. A big thank you also goes out to our Confirmation team who provides lessons and team building to our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders each week and to our families who make this a priority in their busy schedules.

An opportunity arose to work with Rabbi Michael Shaddick from Temple Emmanuel in Grand Rapids. We were able to put together a wonderful Seder experience on Maundy Thursday for our congregation and many visitors who were also there to support the six young people who received their First Communion. Special thanks to the fellowship committee, many other volunteers who joined us for prep work and set up for our Seder, Rabbi Shaddick, Gary Sironen, and Pastor Michael Anton for facilitating a beautiful learning AND faith experience for all ages.

We continue to work on our efforts to expand the offerings of small groups here at Christ Lutheran. Our small group planning committee has been reenergized as Pastor Dave Dockweiler has joined our group and helped us to think clearly about our vision for this ministry. As a committee, we are doing a lot of research as we read resources to help us in growing this ministry. We are moving forward with some great ideas! Stay tuned for more information in 2014.

continued on page twelve

## President's Report

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for what turned out to be a great year. Everyone pitched in and we were able to stick together, once again, turning a period without a pastor into a time of progress. This year speaks highly to the members and the character of our congregation. Also I want to thank all the members for the patience and support during the year. It was not an easy job being President, but we were able to work through the problems and have ended in a better place.

And with that in mind, we had two great celebrations this year. The first was the arrival of Pastor Dockweiler and the second was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this congregation. We should all take a moment to thank God for the good things he has done for Christ Lutheran Church. I encourage everyone to remember these celebrations long into the future as they mark a turning point in this congregation. I see good things ahead.

Lastly, I want to remind everyone that the congregational committees still need members. Most committees have enough members to complete the work but new voices are needed to bring fresh ideas to the discussion. It is only through the sharing and discussion of new and bold ideas, will our programs and activities become stronger, remain current and grow. Please consider spending 1-2 hours once a month and sit in on a committee meeting.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your President. And I look forward to seeing all the great things we can accomplish together in the future.

Respectfully submitted, David Westover



## Vice President's Report

The celebration of 50 years highlights many transitions in the history of this congregation. 2013 was another year of transition for Christ Lutheran Church. We have started a new chapter as we begin the next 50 years. **"Planting Faith and Growing Family!"**

A new pastor and a renewed energy within the membership of Christ Lutheran are a lamp unto our feet. Now it's up to us to create the light unto our path.

During 2013 we were able to update the staff job descriptions and begin a process of meeting with each staff member to define roles and responsibilities. Each staff member participated in a formal job review.

The nominating committee, consisting of Jennifer Buddemeier, Joy Gianakura, Ray Panches, Julie Gillich, Linda McCullough, and Pete VanGessel, took on the task of putting together a list of candidates for the new council. We thank them for their time in recruiting the next group of leadership.

The original proposal of a "Director of Mission" was revised into the role of "Interim Office Coordinator" during the transition. That role has been expanded and further defined as the "Outreach Ministries Coordinator" with a formal job description.

Council is currently discussing the formation of a group to assist in setting the direction and goals of the Church within a framework that carries over from council to council. A group of people focused on defining the path and taking that from a plan into action.

Respectfully submitted, Pete VanGessel

# Youth and Family

## **Christ Crew**

Had a good year doing service and social outings once a month. Christ Crew helped donate their time to put together Thanksgiving Baskets for those who are in need in our very own community. Thanks to Karl Cuncannan and Jeff McKenney for heading this up.

## **TGIF**

This group meets once a month for social and service projects. One social outing that was a hit this year was the trip to the Witch's Walk in October. The Witch's Walk is a haunted corn maze. Thanks to Chris Boes and his helpers. (see detail report on page seven)

## **Mosaic**

This group meets almost every Sunday all year. They do a service project once a month; have a game night and a Bible study night. This group is lead by Melissa Bugai with help from Larry Knappen, Andy VanGessel, Steve Lundquist and Alex Polise.

## **Senior High Trip**

The 2012 Summer Mission Trip was in Indianapolis, IN with Group Ministries Week of Hope camp. There were three adult chaperones and nine youth. We had a great facility by the name of Christ Lutheran! We were split into two groups, with half of us at a Boys and Girls Club of Indy and the other half cleaning up the fairgrounds that had not been used for several years. Both groups loved what they did. There were approximately 60 others at the same camp with us, where we dined together followed by a small gathering each evening. After that we broke into our group for follow up discussion led by the youth of our group.

## **State Gathering**

This was held in Lansing again this year. We had a group of 15 youth and three adults. This event touched all of us in many different ways, between the inspiring messages, music, skill shops, recreation time and service project. For our service project this year we helped throw a party for underprivileged kids from Jackson. The congregation time was the best I have been involved in. Our youth are the best!

## **Fund Raisers**

Easter Breakfast made \$1,678.05

Bar-b-que made \$1,912.31

Nut sale made just over \$1,100

## **Thank you**

We say thank you to all who have helped out with our youth throughout the year. We are all a family and are continuing to grow thanks to the help and support from our congregation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alex Polise, Youth Ministry Coordinator

continued on page seven

Together we are the church





# Hard work has never been more rewarding

## Youth and Family - continued

### **TGIF**

I count myself very lucky to be able to be involved with our Church family kids! We have a great bunch of kids at CLC and a great bunch of parents who want to be part of their lives and help them grow together in Christ. I was involved in running the Christ Crew youth group for a number of years, and have now “graduated” to the TGIF youth group. I have known some of these kids since they were infants, and it is really a blessing to be part of their lives and watch them grow up into young men and women! TGIF is a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth group which meets once a month to do a fun fellowship event or service project. My goal is to give the kids a fun Christ-filled forum that is their own where they can spread their wings and build healthy Christian relationships with their peers. We currently have 12 kids and many friends that join us every month for our events.

We kicked off our 2013-14 year with a trip to Sky Zone in September. This was a really fun (and exhausting if you were a kid) trampoline fun house across town. In October we went to Witches Walk haunted corn maze up north of town. This maze was a perfect mix of haunted, scary, and fun for the kids – and turned out to be a real fun event for all. Even I went through the maze and screamed all the way through! In November, we gathered at the church for a mini service project to help Dave Byler sort and pack the wares from the nut fundraiser. We also had a nice pizza dinner, and played games after we were done sorting and boxing. We took December off since it is such a busy month for families. Looking ahead, we will be planning some fun winter and spring events which might include cross country skiing, sledding, swimming, and a host of other fun with our last event in May.

I would also like to thank the many parents who have been available to drive and chaperone for our events. Without dedicated parents who can help facilitate, it would be impossible to make these opportunities available to the kids. Thank you to Steve Gillich, Julie Gillich, Bob Holwerda, and Keith Koehler for sharing their time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Boes, TGIF Coordinator

## Fellowship

It was a very busy year for the Fellowship Committee. We held the annual potluck in January. We started the Easter season with Mardi Gras in February followed by the weekly Lenten soup suppers. Cake and coffee were served in March for the amazing bell choir concert. Refreshments were served for the new members classes in April and November. Fellowship helped with the church picnic in July, the tailgate party in September, and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary reception in November. In December we held the annual Advent by Candle Light for the ladies and helped with the Christmas cookie walk. There were three funerals. The event that brought much joy to our church family was Pastor Dave's installation in August.

Many, many thanks to all of the ladies who helped in the kitchen, helped set up, and prepared food for the funerals. There are too many of you to list but we appreciate every one of you.

Thank you to Karen Owens for being a leader and to Gerry and Jean for being loyal members of our committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tammy Davison, Council Liason

## Mission Support

The committee had a successful year as we worked toward completing our yearly goals. Those goals included following through on the Mission Tree ministry suggestion, planning our Rally Day with an emphasis on our Time & Talent survey and continuing to educate our congregation on our Stewardship component.

- We started the year with an LSSM Temple Talk to learn about their camp ministry and to encourage our congregation to help support that ministry with a special offering based on a suggestion from our 2012 Mission Tree.
- Our theme for Rally Day was "God's Work, Our Hands" in celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our synod. Our committee chose to emphasize our Time & Talent surveys in an effort to update that information for the various ministries of our church. We included a special project to support our Personal Care Pantry with donated items or a financial gift.
- We emphasized our Stewardship component with a Temple Talk on the Simply Giving program and the inclusion of that information on our website. We also included a Temple Talk on tithing or percentage giving this year.
- We also hosted a Tailgate event this fall in honor of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Thank you to our committee members Brian Crane, Council Liaison, Deb Park, Committee Chair and Becky Ebb-Speese. We appreciate the input that was given by our various guests this year and those who gave Temple Talks in support of our committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Park, Committee Chair



Hard work has never been more rewarding





# Together we are the church

## Worship, Music and Arts

The Worship, Music and Arts Committee continues to focus on providing meaningful worship at Christ Lutheran Church. This is accomplished in a myriad of ways, with many volunteers and dedicated staff. Change of staff at CLC, along with some special events and projects, have been the primary activities of 2013 for our committee.

Staff role changes in 2013 included: Kristen Thornton assumed the role of committee chair in May. Many thanks to Cindy June, the previous Worship, Music and Arts committee chair, for her hard work.

In August we were excited to gain a new permanent minister, Pastor David Dockweiler. Betsy Perry became the Junior Choir director in September. Also in September, Kim Holwerda became the representative for the Puppet Ministry and Brenda Pugh became the pianist for the Praise Choir.

Special Events in 2013 were: The Kalamazoo Ringers had a concert in March that was well received. Rally Day was a great success in September, in which the Worship, Music and Arts committee had strong representation and involvement. The Installation service for Pastor Dave took place in August, with special music offerings performed at that time. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CLC took place in November. Special musical offerings also took place at that time, including the Bell Choirs. The Visual Arts committee was involved with decorating the sanctuary and narthex for the celebration and for Advent as well.

Special projects in 2013 included: Upgrading the CLC website. All Worship, Music and Arts Committee members had special training for the website and sign ons for their individual pages by November. Another dedicated project involved reviewing and updating the Usher Corps duty list. Special music was chosen and performed for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and the Installation service. In December the Music ministries, including Praise choir, Bell Choirs and Junior choir, put together a moving Christmas program.

Continuing activities/goals for 2014:

- Upgrading and maintenance of the sound system.
- Offering communion at all services every Sunday affects Altar Guild resources and volunteers. Work continues to coordinate these activities.
- The production of "Voices" is set for February.
- The need for budget 'rollover' for staff continuing education will be reviewed by the committee with Church Council.
- The Junior Choir will perform a Spring Musical.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Thornton  
Chairperson - Worship, Music and Arts Committee

## Well-being and Social Concerns

In keeping with the E.L.C.A's 25 year Anniversary motto of *Gods Work Our Hands* we as a church have fulfilled this motto in many ways.

Our Cookies for Veterans had many volunteers that baked and delivered cookies for deserving Veterans that proudly served the United States of America. Many of our members gave their time and talents to Degage, a Inner City Ministry. We also had many members that rolled up their sleeves to donate blood in the Blood Drive.

We had great support from our members who supported Habitat for Humanity. We had volunteers who donated their time, talents, money, and food for the Thrivent Builds house, the two by four sale, and the Barbeque Cook-off that raised funds to provide affordable housing to deserving families. The Holiday Food Baskets had much support from our congregation. This ministry was able to increase the holiday baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas time from twenty five to thirty baskets this year. Many of our members participated in the Hunger Walk to help provide food to needy families.

Our members provided time, money and materials for the School Bag Ministry. The Christmas Store/Tree Ministry provided gifts from our members for children who would have not gotten any for Christmas. Our Prayer Shawl Ministry had many volunteers that made Prayer Shawls that helped to provide comfort for people in need. Our Earth keeping Ministry provided education and a means to help keep our planet green through recycling. Many of our members donated time, money, and personal care products to our Personal Care Pantry that served many clients throughout the year to provide them with products that they could not afford to buy for themselves.

I would like to thank all of our members and non-members of Christ Lutheran Church that supported our many Ministry's in any way. In closing, we have proven that the ministers of this church really are the people.

Respectfully submitted,  
Raymond Punches, Council Liaison

## Property

We continued our focus on large repairs, maintenance and upgrades during 2013. Accomplishments of note for the year:

- Repaired wear and tear on the exterior siding and enhanced window wells of the building.
- Installed an additional meter for watering the lawn resulting in reduced rates per consumption.
- Installed gutter guards, and one downspout on the north and east sides of the building.
- Converted existing parking lot lights to LED lights with the expense paid by Consumer Energy.
- Painted trim of the exterior corner sign, installed new glass, and purchased new lettering.
- Painted the sanctuary, narthex, secretary's office, foyer, nursery, and two bathrooms.
- Repaired several leaks and resealed seams on the flat roof.
- Purchased two rolling welcome center stations and one rolling ushers' station.
- Purchased a landscape design plan with a designated gift contribution.
- Designed, constructed, and installed a new "The Minister of This Church" sign.

Thank you to Dan Johnson, Pat Johnson, Ray Punches, Dave Westover and Alan Windsor for serving on the committee this year. Special thanks to Dan for his extra effort and hustle in completing many projects in time for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sunday.

Respectfully submitted:  
Jim Barritt, Council Property Liaison

Hard work has never been more rewarding



# Evangelism



## **Committee Members**

Pastor David Dockweiler, Patrick Blanchard, Joy Gianakura, Sharon Mack, Kathy Reister, Sharon Mack, Arlene Slagh

## **Welcome Center Volunteers**

Sharon Mack, Dee Bronson, Vivian Libby, Arlene Slagh, Charlotte Harrison, Haleigh Hielkema, Aimee Paulson, Emilee Fischer, Addy Laurent, Sandy Healey, Tom Powell, Maggie Fischer, Kathy Reister, Joy Johnson

## **Welcome Center**

2013 was a year of perfecting the welcome center. In addition to securing many wonderful volunteers to work after both services through our participation in Rally Day, the Welcome Center and narthex itself underwent a transformation. With the new furniture we were able to position the Welcome Center in a more convenient location, add new signage consistent with other signage used in the church, and provide a great space for storing materials. Welcoming our visitors is a much more pleasant experience.

## **Communication with visitors**

Patrick Blanchard has worked very hard to contact each visitor who signs our Guest Book, the attendance pads or pew card. A communication is sent out during the week of their visit and Patrick communicates this and the visitor's contact information to Pastor Dave for continued contact.

## **Sharing who we are**

Early in the year we visited numerous motels and hotels in the area to make sure their church directories were updated to include CLC. We found that there was a lot of outdated information or no information at all about CLC Wyoming. Patrick took the lead on this and made the visits as well as followed up on the updating.

During VBS this summer, members of Evangelism were present to greet the visiting families. We encouraged them to sign the registry and did a follow-up by phone and mail with each family.

At the new members classes we had the opportunity to share what our committee does. This was a great opportunity to share our mission as well as to hear from aspiring members what attracted them to CLC Wyoming! What worked? They were happy to share and we learned a lot.

## **Moving forward**

We have started having good conversations around continued outreach and inreach. This means we need to learn more about ourselves as an existing congregation and continuing to meet their faith needs, as well as learning more about our service demographics. As a result, the following is occurring and will continue under new council leadership.

- Analysis of the surrounding area demographic data is being looked at utilizing 2000 and 2010 census data.
- Continued education of the committee members through reading articles and books such as "Unbinding the Gospel" by Martha Reese.
- Reaching out to area schools and other entities to gain exposure and share the CLC story as well as to create area partners in sharing and serving the community in various ways.
- Researching and testing ways to increase the building's presence by designing new ways to present our signage and possibly create banners for seasonal announcements to the community.
- Securing more visitor parking signs and consider striping the visitor spots for greater visibility.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joy Gianakura, Council Liaison

## Christian Education - continued

We had another successful year for our Vacation Bible School with about 130 children on average each night for the 2013 edition of this annual ministry, with over 70 volunteers! A special thank you must be mentioned for Corinth Reformed Church, Lee Street Christian Reformed Church and Abundant Life Church for sharing decorations, and prayerful support for our VBS. What a great example to show that the Holy Spirit brings all denominations together! We had amazing support from our congregation yet again and look forward to growing in our numbers of both children and volunteers in 2014! The theme for this year is castaways (think Gilligan's Island!!) so get ready to do your best impression of the professor, Mary Ann, and of course, the skipper too! ☺

We are working on creating more family offerings that support faith in our homes and the hope is that we create a comfort in talking about our faith with our children and others in our lives. In 2014, we will be creating more opportunities for these kinds of activities, so again, stay tuned.

I would like to thank so many people for their continued support of the programs that encompass all ages here at Christ Lutheran. The council liaison that works with this Christian Education Director position ~ Jessica Hudson (who is passing on the torch to Kelli VandenBerg but Jessica will continue on as chairperson of the Christian Education committee) has been wonderful and I thank her for her service to CLC as she ends her term on council. I also would like to thank Pastor Dave Dockweiler for his energy, commitment to our programs, and support for the many ministries that fall under the heading of Christian Education; Louise Konopka for her support; the entire CLC council; the Christmas program planning committee; the VBS planning committee; Sunday School teachers; Gary Sironen and musicians who step in to help with Sunday School music; our Small Groups Planning Committee; and truly, our whole congregation who offer their time, talents, and financial support to our programming.

As you can see, we have much to celebrate at Christ Lutheran! God is good!

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah McKenney, Christian Education Director

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

In commemoration of our first service on November 3, 1963, we celebrated CLC's journey of faith over the entire year of 2013. Several of our ministries staged events in honor of our anniversary. Others were sponsored by our committee.

In September we held an afternoon of fun activities for our kids, so they could share in our celebration. On the evening of November 2, our members and special guests celebrated with a dinner at Sunnybrook Country Club in Grandville followed by an amazing performance by the musical group Alive.

The following day our special 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary church service, attended by 455 people, was packed with charter members, prior members, and previous pastors. We were honored with the presence of our prior pastoral staff, Pastor Bill Fleming, Pastor Tim Brown and his family, Ginny Wheeler, Pastor Bob Mueller and Pam, and Pastor Earl Merz and his wife Glenice.

A special thank you goes to the committee: Cindy and Matt June, Marilyn Miheve, Linda McCollough, Marie Smith, Suzanne Snider, Jill and Pete Van Gessel, and Jean Wisinski. Also, thank you to the amazing people who helped in big and small ways by the giving of their time and of their talents. It was truly a celebration to remember.

Lynn and Jim Barritt, co-chairpersons



*Celebrate the Journey*

## Congregational Meeting - January 27, 2013

<i>ITEM</i>	<i>DISCUSSION</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<i>Opening</i>	<i>Call to order:</i> The meeting was called to order at 11:37 am by President Dave Westover. The Bishop opened the meeting with some readings from 1 Corinthians and 1 Peter, and a prayer.	
<i>Attendance</i>	Tim Zeitter was introduced as the Parliamentarian for the meeting. He confirmed that a quorum exists and also shared some basic ground rules for the meeting.	
<i>2012 Minutes</i>	Dave Westover asked for a motion to accept the 2012 congregational meeting minutes as presented.	Motion to accept the 2012 congregational meeting minutes made by Donna Garen, 2nd by Lisa Harris; motion passed.
<i>Nominating Committee</i>	Pete VanGessel introduced the 2013 nominating committee: Pete VanGessel (chair) Tom DeGennaro Joy Gianakura Jennifer Buddemeier Julie Gillich Linda McCullough	Motion to accept the 2013 nominating committee made by Stu Johnson, 2nd by Steve Green; motion passed.
<i>Synod Assembly representatives</i>	Pete VanGessel asked for nominations for representatives to the Synod Assembly. Larry Knappen volunteered, then withdrew when Jim Ward was nominated. Jim Ward was nominated by Margaret Johnson. Cindy June was nominated, but confirmed she is not available for the assembly.	Motion to accept Jim Ward as the male representative to the synod assembly and to allow council to select the female representative and youth representative as recommended by the Youth and Family Committee made by Mike Burgstahler; 2nd by Steve Kauffman; motion passed.
<i>2013 Budget</i>	Jim Bachmeier highlighted that the mortgage will be paid off this year. Contributions have trended down this year and he was hopeful that trend would not continue. A full year of salary for a pastor is included in the 2013 budget. There is money budgeted for a 'Director of Missions' position.	Motion to amend the continuing education portion of the Worship & Music budget from \$1000 to \$1500 made by Cindy June; 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Donna Garen; motion passed.

## Congregational Meeting - continued

<i>ITEM</i>	<i>DISCUSSION</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<i>2013 Budget</i>	<p>Pete VanGessel asked for discussion.</p> <p>Question was asked about the 'Director of Missions' position. Pete VanGessel explained that a job description has been developed, but the role may change over time, especially in light of Pastor Friesner's resignation.</p> <p>Question was asked whether \$3600 for interim administrator position should be added back in to the budget since the church no longer has a pastor. Jim Bachmeier explained that the church council has the latitude to move funds within the budget to meet the church's needs as necessitated by the pastor's departure.</p> <p>Cindy June mentioned that the Worship &amp; Music committee wants the paid staff to have ongoing access to continuing education. The Lutheran Church Musicians Convention is being held this year. Cindy June asked that the continuing education portion of the Worship &amp; Music budget be increased to \$1500 so Gary Sironen and Marilyn Burgard can attend this convention. Also, there are conventions and classes that occur regularly, but not yearly, and it would be beneficial if the Worship &amp; Music continuing education funds automatically rolled over each year. Jim Bachmeier cautioned against allowing this automatic roll over. He stated that no other group budget in the church works that way and it limits council's ability to allocate funds as they deem necessary. He took no issue with the requested increase.</p>	<p>Motion to accept the 2013 CLC budget with the previously approved \$500 increase for Worship &amp; Music made by Kim Holwerda; 2nd by Mary Knappen, motion passed.</p>
<i>CLC Constitution &amp; Bylaws</i>	<p>Pete VanGessel asked for a motion to approve the CLC Constitution.</p>	<p>Motion to approve the CLC Constitution by written ballot made by Matt June; 2nd by Larry Knappen; motion passed.</p> <p>Motion to approve the bylaws by written ballot, dependent on passage of CLC Constitution, made by Donna Garen; 2nd by Gerry Guttormson; motion passed.</p>
<i>50th Anniversary</i>	<p>Cindy June talked about the 50th anniversary celebration and asked the congregation to select one of three slogans per paper ballot. Ballots were made available and the votes were collected.</p>	

Respectfully submitted by Dave Harris

# The ministers of this church are the people.

## Mission Statement

We, the people of Christ Lutheran Church, believe our mission is to share God's love and His forgiveness through Worship, Word and Sacrament. We seek to care for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of others through the gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure with which God has blessed us. We believe we have been called as living witnesses to exist for others so that all may know Jesus Christ is Lord.

## Church Staff

Pastor	David J. Dockweiler (began ministry July 16, 2013)
Minister of Music	Gary Sironen
Organist and Bell Choir Director	Marilyn Burgard
Christian Education Director	Sarah McKenney
Administrative Secretary	Louise Konopka
Property Services & Custodian	Dan and Pat Johnson
Interim Office Coordinator	Patrick Blanchard (began February 19, 2013)
Youth Ministry Coordinator	Alexandria Polise (began August 12, 2013)
Junior Choir Director	Betsy Perry (began August 24, 2013)
Jim Friesner, pastor (resigned January 23, 2013)	
Andrea Fleming, junior choir director (resigned May 2013)	

## Christ Lutheran Church - Council

### 2013

President: *David Westover*  
Vice-President: *Pete VanGessel*  
Treasurer: *Jason Tierney*  
Secretary: *Jessica Hudson*  
Education: *Jessica Hudson*  
Evangelism: *Joy Gianakura*  
Fellowship: *Tammy Davison*  
Mission Support: *Brian Crane*  
Property: *Jim Barritt*  
Well-being & Social Concerns: *Ray Punches*  
Worship, Music & Arts: *Sharon Leder*  
Youth & Family: *Larry Knappen*  
Recording Secretary: *Dave Harris*

### 2014

President: *Pete VanGessel*  
Vice President: *Todd Huston*  
Treasurer: *Jason Tierney*  
Secretary: *Jennifer Buddemeier*  
Education: *Kelli VandenBerg*  
Evangelism: *Jennifer Buddemeier*  
Fellowship: *Tammy Davison*  
Mission Planning: *Brian Crane*  
Property: *Ray Punches*  
Well-being and Social Concerns: *Steve Gillich*  
Worship, Music and Arts: *Suzanne Johnson*  
Youth and Family: *Mike Burgstahler*  
Recording Secretary: *Dave Harris*

