

# CHRONICLE

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 2012

[www.christlchurch.org](http://www.christlchurch.org)

5555 SOM CENTER ROAD  
WILLOUGHBY, OHIO 44094  
PASTOR DAVID THIELO  
Church Office: (440) 942-1412 &  
[office@christlchurch.org](mailto:office@christlchurch.org)  
Editor: Laura Johnson  
[echronicle@christlchurch.org](mailto:echronicle@christlchurch.org)



TOGETHER WE use our spiritual gifts to  
WORSHIP and praise God,  
GROW in Christ,  
EQUIP our members for ministry, and  
REACH OUT in the world to help others  
KNOW JESUS.

## Thanks for Your Continued Support

### *A Special Message from Pastor Dave:*

I am very happy to say that the leaking roof over Beth's and my office has finally been replaced. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Vision and/or Emergency Roof Funds. Many, many thanks for your contributions! Also thanks to everyone who showed leadership in getting this accomplished: **Steve Winkler, Art Conell, Mark and Julie Belich**, and everyone on Council. **Alleluia** – it's done.

In the near future we'll need to replace the roof over the Fellowship Hall, but right now our focus has to

be on supporting the general fund through our regular offerings so we can pay for our ongoing expenses as well as expand our ministry.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the "13<sup>th</sup> Month Offering" for the general fund of the church to reduce our 2011 shortfall. In 2012 we will try to keep you in the loop as to where we are financially throughout the year. My sincere desire is to move beyond financial and property concerns so we can focus on outreach and mission. We'll be able to do that with your continued help. **Thanks again for your generosity to our church.**

## From Pastor's Desk

[pastor@christlchurch.org](mailto:pastor@christlchurch.org)

*One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. Psalm 27:4*

Dear Friends in Christ,

A couple months ago when Pastor Funk was assisting me in worship he realized that as we were starting the service the majority of the congregation was not yet in the sanctuary but still out in the Gathering Area. He had to call out into the Gathering Area to get folks' attention and ask them to join us in the sanctuary. Frankly, I was embarrassed that he had to do that. I had been noticing and thinking about this problem for a while, but this incident convinced me to make a change in our order of worship. We began putting the opening hymn before the announcements as a way to encourage people to come into worship

sooner. Unfortunately, the change didn't work as I would have liked. Many people have still not gotten the message.

It truly bothers me that many folks are consistently coming into the sanctuary after worship has begun. I'm not sure of all the reasons for this, but my sense is that many people have consciously or unconsciously decided that it's okay to arrive for worship late. I feel we need to do a better job of getting ready to give God our full attention. I'm glad that many of you are keeping the commandment, "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy." **We must remember that our primary purpose on a Sunday is to give God our best through**

*worship, which includes our singing, prayers, listening to God's Word, our offerings, sharing the peace, and participating together in Holy Communion. Showing up late is a subtle way of saying that our personal agendas are more important than God.*

Yes, I understand that there will be times when we can't get the kids ready in time (they should already be here for Sunday school). Yes, I understand if there is an emergency or a conversation that must be dealt with before worship (but these should be infrequent -- not the norm). Yes, there will be times when set up is taking place in the Fellowship Hall for a coffee hour or luncheon (but folks should plan ahead and set up the day before or earlier on Sunday morning if possible). I think we've simply gotten ourselves into some bad habits.

I have also noticed that worship for some people has become a time to check phone messages, play a game, chat with friends, hit the bathrooms, or read a book. Worship should not be a time to multi-task. Obviously these activities take away from your worship experience as well as the worship experience of others. Perhaps these are some of the reasons that in the recent Natural Church Development survey our lowest score was in the area of worship. Let's keep in mind that our desire as God's people is ultimately to draw closer to God. In my own day-to-day existence I know I have too many distractions. We all need to work at keeping God as the central focus -- especially when we worship.

With this in mind, I encourage you to come into the sanctuary before worship begins to pray and ask God to prepare your heart and mind to worship our Lord and Savior. Recently during the pre-service time our music leader Beth Christopherson has been warming

up the congregation for singing. She will continue to do some of that, but we will also allow time for meditation and prayer. I hope you will come into the sanctuary early to pray and participate in the singing.

This Lent our midweek services will focus on the theme "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength." Each Wednesday we'll worship and discuss a portion of this scripture reading. It comes from the Shema, which is a prayer recited in the morning and evening as part of the Jewish faith. Jesus would have been very familiar with these words and said them daily. These words remind us that our worship time needs to be sacred time with God. We want God's Holy Spirit to touch us and be among us as we worship together. May God bless our worship in Christ!

In Hope and Confidence,

Pastor Dave

## ***Pastor Dave on the Go...***

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| January 21     | watch my nieces play basketball  |
| January 22     | Confirmation youth over at Pastor Dave's house                                 |
| January 29     | the first National Youth Gathering meeting to prepare for the New Orleans trip |
| February 8     | Willoughby Pastors' Meeting at Willoughby United Methodist Church              |
| February 23-29 | Continuing Education: attending a justice conference in Portland, OR           |

# **News and Notes**

---

## **Address Changes**

The 2012 phone, address, and email directory will be printed and distributed soon, but here is a recent change:

Art and Barb Conell  
38246 Wilson Avenue  
Willoughby, OH 44094-7849

If any of your contact information changes at any time throughout the year -- mailing address, home and/or cell phone numbers, email address(es) -- please notify the church office. Please also remember to keep us updated regarding your college students. Feel free to email changes to [office@christlchurch.org](mailto:office@christlchurch.org) or leave a note on the secretary's desk. We try to continually maintain up-to-date mailing lists, etc., and we appreciate everyone's efforts to help us keep our records accurate.

## With Deepest Sympathy

The congregation extends their Christian love and sympathy to **Diane Palec** and her husband Jim on the death of Jim's mother Margaret on December 20. Mrs. Palec was 92 at the time of her death. May our Lord grant the family comfort.

## Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22



The season of Lent is coming already! Our Ash Wednesday worship service will be **February 22 at 7:30pm**. There will be a potluck supper before worship beginning at 6:30pm. Please sign up at the table in the Gathering Area to bring a dish and help with setting up and cleaning up for this dinner. The worship service will include the distribution of ashes.

While the ashes are a reminder of our sin and future death, the shape of the cross made in ashes on the forehead is also to remind us that we are redeemed and forgiven through the cross of Christ.

Each Wednesday during Lent there will be worship at 7:30 pm. (This year there will be no meals provided before the midweek services, except for Ash Wednesday and the soup supper on Maundy Thursday.) Everyone is encouraged to attend these midweek services as part of our spiritual preparation for Holy Week and the celebration of Easter (**April 8**).

## Palm Branches Needed



Palm branches from last Palm Sunday will be used to make the ashes for the upcoming Ash Wednesday service. If you would like to contribute to our worship by donating your old palm branches, please bring them to church by **February 12**.

## The Rummage Sale Is Coming!

This year's church rummage sale is already scheduled for **Saturday, June 16**. The storage pod should be at church around **May 21**. Please save your rummage sale stuff to support the youth group!

# From Our Groups & Ministries

---

## Church Council

The first Council meeting of 2012 was held on Monday, January 16. Following are some of the actions taken and matters discussed:

- Council scheduled the annual report meeting for **Sunday, March 4**. All 2011 year-end reports from officers, committees, and groups are due to Laura Johnson, Recording Secretary, by **Sunday, February 19**.
- Lowell Davis, council president, discussed the need for an evangelism outreach this year. Council agreed that the Men's Group should pursue getting names and addresses for people new to the community so we can contact them and invite them to our church.
- Carol Soos, worship committee chairperson, reported that the Worship Committee is working with the Health Team to respond to the worship surveys completed last fall. The committee continues to work to address concerns about music and singing.
- Laura Johnson, stewardship chairperson, presented a list of strategies for 2012 to encourage good stewardship in the congregation, including thank you letters, bulletin inserts, reports on congregational giving, and monthly prayer petitions.
- Marty Soos, property committee chairperson, discussed projects under consideration, including rewiring the sanctuary fans and replacing the flooring in the Gathering Area.
- Sue Krech, our daycare liaison, will begin negotiating new rental contracts with The Pembroke School and Miller Daycare. The term of the current agreements ends in April.
- A new computer system, including a new printer, will soon be installed in the church office. Much of the expense will be covered by special donations from members.
- The Council approved creating a Facebook page for Christ Lutheran Church, for which Laura Johnson volunteered to be responsible.

The next Council meeting will be on **Monday, February 6, at 7:00pm.**

## Education Committee



The Sunday School will be distributing Secret Valentines to members of the congregation on February 5 and 12. The identities of the Secret Valentines will be revealed during the coffee hour on **February 12.** Everyone is invited to attend and sample the goodies the Sunday School children will be making.

## Men's Group

The Men's Group continues to have fellowship and

planning meetings, with some minor work details occasionally, on the second Saturday of each month unless otherwise posted. Would you be interested in a weeknight casual Bible study and coffee gathering at a spot in downtown Willoughby? We work out of a great men's Bible called "The Master Builders" which incorporates a guy's bull-session type exploration of Bible passages that gets everyone swapping stories (and some tall tales) and affords us the time to get to know each other a little better. If this sounds like something in which you'd like to take part (no strict commitments required), please let John Pund know by sending an e-mail to: [pund.john@att.net](mailto:pund.john@att.net) or leave a voice mail at (440) 944-3007 or (440) 840-7713. We think it would be a nice relaxing way to unwind and shoot the breeze while exploring our faith in a "guy kinda way."

# Opportunities to Reach Out

## Hospice of the Western Reserve

Hospice of the Western Reserve addresses the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of seriously ill people and their families. Committed and passionate volunteers allow Hospice to care for thousands of patients and their families. A few hours of your time will make a world of difference. The next volunteer education will take place at Hospice of the Western Reserve, 300 E. 185th Street, Cleveland, OH 44119 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-9pm. This seven-class series runs from February 2 to February 23. In March there will be another series of classes at Hospice of the Western Reserve, 17876 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44110. These classes will run from March 1 to March 22. For more information or to

register for the series, please call Joan Ibbett at (216) 970-6201.

## Building Hope in the City

Get Equipped for Urban Ministry! On Saturday, February 25, Building Hope in the City will offer a series of trainings and workshops for volunteers and Christians interested in city mission and ministry. All the trainings are open to the public with advance registration. Topics will include: Understanding People of Poverty, Cross-Cultural Ministry, Refugee Mentor Training, and How to Tutor a Child. To learn more, including training times or to sign up for any of the sessions, call Lesa at (216) 281-4673 or visit [www.buildinghopeinthecity.org](http://www.buildinghopeinthecity.org).

## Church Attendance Report

THIS YEAR				LAST YEAR			
Date	Sun. Sch.	Worship	Communion	Date	Sun. Sch.	Worship	Communion
12-24-11		89	73	12-24-10		94	69 (4:00pm)
12-25-11		23	20	12-24-10		34	26 (7:30pm)
				12-26-10		50	41
01-01-12		23	23	01-02-11	15	76	60
01-08-12	21	72	53	01-09-11	19	77	60
01-15-12	16	55	49	01-16-11	22	56	49
01-22-12	7	65	55	01-23-11	22	73	67

# Treasurer's Report

---

	<u>Dec-11</u>	<u>YTD 12/31/11</u>
AMT RECEIVED	\$10,715	\$115,532
AMT NEEDED	\$9,856	\$118,271
DIFFERENCE	<u>\$859</u>	<u>-\$2,739</u>
Gen. Checking*	\$16,696.49	
SAVINGS BAL	<u>\$14,751.29</u>	
	<u><b>\$31,447.78</b></u>	
Total Vision	\$11,701.37	
Total Roof	\$12,065.00	
*Checking includes part of vision, roof Sunday school and memorial.		

A note from your Treasurer --

Receipts for December were above estimated need. Thanks to those who generously contributed to the "13th month offering," an additional \$3,417 was received. As a result, our year end receipts shortfall was limited to \$2,739. As we have now begun a new year, please remember that matching funds programs may be available through your employer. Consider contacting them to find out if they offer this for charitable contributions.

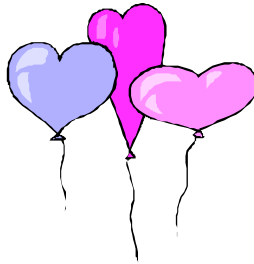
Yours in Christ,  
Julie Belich

## Celebrate in February...

NOTE: If we are missing any dates, or any of these dates are incorrect, please notify the church office.

### Birthdays

2 Angela Johnston  
10 Becky Fricke  
15 Don Johnston  
19 Jean Vaught  
25 Darlene Carroll



### Baptism Anniversaries

3 Madilyn Vokic  
9 Heather Vokic  
18 Katherine Hoover  
Ted Whittington

## A Prayer for February *from the Prayer & Needs Team*

Lord, the giver of life,

As I embark on a new year, I give thanks for all of my blessings. Thank you for being steadfast and unchanging in Your love for me and all of Your children. I am grateful for each day that You give to me. I will do my best to use the talents You have given me in the time that You have given me. Forgive me my sins. I know that You know each one, even those that I do not yet see. Help me to speak more kindly, to think more highly, and to be more

generous to others. I pray that You will be with all people in need, to provide for them what they need when they need it. Please heal those who suffer with emotional, physical, and spiritual pains. I invite You, Lord, into my heart, to be a part of my life. I want to walk with You, to know You, to love You. Help me to make room in my heart for You and for others.

These things I pray in Jesus' name,  
Amen.

# Serving Us in February & March

**Important Reminder: If you cannot serve as scheduled, it is your responsibility to arrange for a substitute and inform the church office about the change as soon as possible. If you would like to serve, please contact the ministry leader or sign up at the table in the Gathering Area.**

## ACOLYTES

**Contact: Pastor Dave**

2/5 Lindsey Dodaro & Caley Bodjiak  
 2/12 Anna Farrington & Tori Segler  
 2/19 Zach Hoover & Alec Belich  
 2/22 (7:00pm) Bob Johnston & Tim Carroll  
 2/26 Tori Segler & Anna Farrington  
 3/4 Lexi Vokic & Amanda Dodaro  
 3/11 Andy Vokic  
 3/18 Alec Belich & Zach Hoover  
 3/25 Caley Bodjiak & Lindsey Dodaro

## ALTAR GUILD

**Contact: John Pund**

Feb. Darlene Carroll & Carol Soos  
 Mar. Ruth Thielo

## CANTORS

**Contact: Beth Christopherson**

2/5 Sue Krech  
 2/12 Steve Winkler  
 2/26 John Pund  
 3/4 Sue Krech  
 3/11 Steve Winkler  
 3/18 John Pund

## COFFEE HOUR

**Contact: Carol Soos**

2/5 \_\_\_\_\_  
 2/12 Secret Valentines (Sunday school)  
 2/19 \_\_\_\_\_  
 2/22 Ash Wednesday potluck  
 2/26 \_\_\_\_\_  
 3/4 \_\_\_\_\_  
 3/11 \_\_\_\_\_  
 3/18 \_\_\_\_\_  
 3/25 \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

**Contact: Pastor Dave**

2/5 Sue Krech  
 2/12 John Pund  
 2/19 Beth Farrington  
 2/22 (7:00 p.m.) Brock Hoover

2/26 Wendy Johnston

3/4 Sue Krech  
 3/11 John Pund  
 3/18 Beth Farrington  
 3/25 Brock Hoover

## COMMUNION BREAD

**Contact: John Pund**

Feb. Patti Pund  
 Mar. Betsy Butke

## COUNTERS

**Contact: Sue Krech**

Feb. Linda Hazen & Laura Johnson  
 Mar. Laura Johnson & trainee(s)

## FLOWERS

2/5 \_\_\_\_\_  
 2/12 \_\_\_\_\_  
 2/19 \_\_\_\_\_  
 2/26 \_\_\_\_\_  
 3/4 \_\_\_\_\_  
 3/11 \_\_\_\_\_  
 3/18 Linda Hazen, for her birthday  
 3/25 \_\_\_\_\_

## GREETERS

2/5 Steve & Velta Winkler  
 2/12 Dave Dodaro & Caley Bodjiak  
 2/19 Kevin & Maggie Gibson  
 2/22 (7:00pm) Jeff & Roger Heston  
 2/26 Brock & Zach Hoover  
 3/4 Mario and Ann Picciano  
 3/11 John and Patti Pund  
 3/18 Mike and Lois Sbrocco  
 3/25 Shane and Tori Segler

## NURSERY

**Contact: Maggie Gibson**

2/5 Holley Vild  
 2/12 Cheryl Hoover  
 2/19 Barb Conell  
 2/26 Linda Hazen  
 snack: Holley Vild

3/4 Maggie Gibson  
 3/11 Heather Vokic  
 3/18 Holley Vild  
 3/25 Cheryl Hoover  
 snack: Maggie Gibson

## OPEN/CLOSE

**Contact: John Pund**

2/5 Punds  
 2/12 Krechs open/Sooses close  
 2/19 Seglers open/Gibsons close  
 2/26 Whittingtons  
 3/4 Hestons  
 3/11 D. Carroll  
 3/18 Punds  
 3/25 Krechs open/Sooses close

## PRAYER LEADERS

2/5 Beth Farrington  
 2/12 Brock Hoover  
 2/19 Sue Krech  
 2/22 (7:00pm) John Roeland  
 2/26 Beth Christopherson  
 3/4 Beth Farrington  
 3/11 Brock Hoover  
 3/18 Sue Krech  
 3/25 John Roeland

## READERS

2/5 Darlene Carroll  
 2/12 Beth Christopherson  
 2/19 Beth Farrington  
 2/22 (7:00pm) Keith Fricke  
 2/26 Brock Hoover  
 3/4 Laura Johnson  
 3/11 John Pund  
 3/18 Betsy Butke  
 3/25 Darlene Carroll

## USHERS

**Contact: Carol Soos**

Feb. Jeff & Roger Heston  
 (backup: Darlene Carroll & Maggie Gibson)  
 Mar. Ted Whittington & John Roeland  
 (backup: Dave Dodaro & Connon Thompson)