



DECEMBER 2024

The Communicator

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE LIVING CHRIST

“18 Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I be sure this will happen? I’m an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years.”

19 Then the angel said, “I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news! 20 But now, since you didn’t believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time.” - Luke 1:18–20

When Zechariah heard the news from the angel Gabriel, he was reasonably skeptical. However, make a note for yourself, if you are ever approached by an angel named Gabriel, don’t question him. Even though he will tell you, “don’t be afraid”, you have every reason to fear. He has been given the word of God and the authority to give voice to the faithful and silence the skeptics.

Many times, we focus on the **feared** in passages concerning angels. While this passage may include that topic, the primary focus is on **being sure** and **trusting** of what the angel says. When an angel comes to you from God, there is no reason to question whether it will or won’t happen. When God speaks, even through messengers, God’s words perform what they say...they are performative words.

Today, we have the account of **God’s word** in scripture, because of this we are blessed daily in knowing that God’s promises have and will always be fulfilled, without question. In scripture, we learn that God’s word creates, destroys, brings life, restores life, heals illness, calms storms, brings victory, protects, makes holy, is truth, and changes hearts. You may ask, “How can I be sure this will happen?”, because **God said so**.

Considering the level of continuing proof that the scriptures are accurate, reliable, and authoritative, it baffles me that any Christian would not trust in its every word. Yet, during this Christmas season I’m reminded of how many so-called “Christians” have denied the virgin birth of Jesus, the incarnation of God in flesh, and the unity of the Trinity. They confess the same creeds with the Christian Church, but some people still teach that Scripture is not true in its entirety. I wonder what Gabriel would do if he came across one of these people?

There may be the possibility that such teaching could lead to a mass exodus of the faithful into congregations who hear God’s word and believe it. Yet, in our current time, many people don’t seem to be moving away from this into another congregation – instead they just stop participating. It’s been disheartening to them to hear how the message that once gave them hope now dwindles.

In this account from Luke chapter 1, Gabriel silenced the doubting tongue of Zechariah. Zechariah didn’t stay silent, however. When the people questioned him about how to name his new son, scripture tells us, “And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered. 64 And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God” Luke 1:63–64 (see Lk. 1:13). When Zechariah followed through with the prophecy given to Him in faith and obedience, he was restored, not only to speak, but to **praise God**.

over

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Find us on Facebook - Lutheran Church of the Living Christ ELCA

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Weekly Gatherings

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:15am, in-person/Facebook live

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:30am, in-person

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

10am, in-person

LCLC Staff

PASTOR

MATT HELFRICH
314-914-4776

SECRETARY

CYNTHIA SWAN

CHOIR

DIRECTOR/ORGANIST
DAVID EGGERS

PIANIST

GREG OTT

OFFICE HOURS 8:30AM-
12:30PM

Articles Due 21st of each
month

God will give words and faith to the faithful, God will also silence those who speak foolish words of doubt to God's children. Through the sending of God's Son, Jesus the Christ, *God's Word* in the flesh, we have this promise. *Emmanuel, God with us* is coming, hear the message and believe, declare God's truth in love, and celebrate that our God has saved!

Peace

Pastor Matt

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Worship

Christmas Eve 6:30pm
Christmas Day 9:15am



PRESIDENT'S REPORT
Randy Henning



TREASURER'S REPORT
September 2024

October 2024 Treasurer's Report

Here we are coming to the end of another year. And entering the most sacred time of the year for Christians worldwide. This time of year we don't worry about what happened during the year. We just enjoy our families and friends and spread good cheer wherever we can. And I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and happy New Year. We have issues to deal with in 2025 and it will take a strong faith to get through them. At this point, it would be easy to just give up. But in spite of what we face, we can't. God says we can't. He would tell us to be diligent and work hard and that will give us a good and productive future. But faith is key. Trust in God's will and we will get there. I will also tell you that the church property is now officially up for sale. My guess is that it will take some time to sell. I will keep you up to date on progress. That's it for now. Pray for LCLC going forward into 2025. It ALWAYS helps.

Category	October Actual	YTD Actual
INCOME	\$9,965	\$112,982
EXPENSES	\$18,457	\$149,712
Congregation Coord	\$0	\$450
Cong Vitality Team	\$0	\$0
MISSIONS	\$3,636	\$12,814
OFFICE	\$228	\$3,169
OUTREACH	\$0	\$250
PASTOR FUND	\$0	\$0
PROPERTY	\$4,841	\$37,737
STEWARDSHIP	\$0	\$225
SUPPORT	\$2,594	\$19,903
WAGES	\$7,158	\$74,531
WORSHIP	\$0	\$633
Total YTD Income	\$112,982	
Total YTD Expenses	\$149,712	
Total YTD Difference	-\$ 36,730	

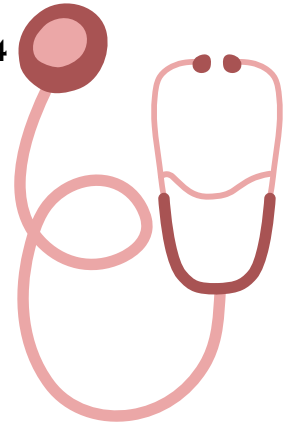
The expenses for the month of October were \$18,457 and the income for the month was \$9,965. The expenses for the month were \$8,492 greater than income. The year-to-date expenses of \$149,712 exceed year-to-date income of \$112,982 by \$36,730. Our monthly deficit is now averaging about \$3,670 per month. With your help; we still have two months this year to help minimize this deficit.

2024 General Funds paid to missions are as follows:

Central States Synod \$ 5,500
 Outreach/Local Missions \$ 7,314

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me. Thanks.

Dave Endorf, Treasurer
 dave.endorf@gmail.com
 502-612-3518



Just something lighthearted for the holidays...found this in a file folder...

The best medicines for what ails you: *humor & music*

SOME THINGS TO PONDER AS WE GET OLDER...

The inventor of the treadmill died at the age of 54.

The inventor of gymnastics died at the age of 57.

The world body-building champion died at the age of 41.

The best soccer player in the world in his time (Maradona) died at the age of 64.

But...

The inventor of KFC died at age 94.

Cigarette maker Winston died at the age of 102.

The inventor of opium died at the age of 116 in an earthquake.

The Irish inventor of Hennessy cognac died at 98.

Doctors tell us that exercise prolongs life, but...

The rabbit is always running and jumping and lives two years.

The turtle that doesn't exercise lives 400 years

SO...have a drink...take a nap..and IF you wake up, have some ice cream and chocolate cake. From an email by Sr. Mary McCulla August 28, 2022

Not enough humor? Here's a brief anatomical quiz:

- 1 - You have a large rabbit on your head; it's probably a _____.
- 2 - You broke your upper arm and started laughing because it's _____.
- 3 - The tummy doctor joined the army, so you have to call him/her a _____.
- 4 -A crease that is all over would be a _____.
- 5 - The opposite of a deader is a _____.
- 6 - The truck that picks up your disabled vehicle is a _____.
- 7 - I quit doing something because all my efforts were in _____.
- 8 - A 2000lb ledge under your window would be a _____.
- 9 - The train is going a different direction because the track has an _____,
- 10 -You wanted to examine it closely, so you gave it an_____.

You're on your own for music...(join the vocal or bell choir).

Answers on page 8



13 DEC 2024 | **6:30 PM** STARTS
FOOD, GAMES & MORE

Come and enjoy hot cocoa, cookies, roast marshmallows and make s'mores, listen/sing your favorite Christmas carols, or just settle in by the fire to relax and experience the love and joy of Christmas with friends.

For our community service project, we invite all attendees to bring warm socks and/or gloves for the Ferguson Warming Center.



Zion Lutheran Church Patio // 123 Carson Rd in Ferguson

Great Rivers Collaborative Update – November 2024 Lutheran Church of the Living Christ Annual Report

The Great Rivers Collaborative (GRC) is a group of ELCA congregations called to God's mission and ministry in the Greater St. Louis area through mutual collaboration. We have continued to meet regularly throughout 2024 to support each other through challenges, worship together and provide service to the community. The churches currently involved in the GRC are:

- Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
- Shepherd of the Hills
- Unity
- Zion Lutheran Church
- St. Philip's Lutheran Church
- Atonement Lutheran Church
- Lutheran Church of the Living Christ

Early in 2024, each congregation shared detailed information such as worship attendance, state of facilities, pastoral situation, financials and partnerships with the community. Participants from all churches stated they were open to finding creative ways to partner together.

Listed below are some highlights from the year of collaboration.

- A brainstorming meeting was held with the council members of all churches. The outcome was to focus on deeper partnerships, come together for service to the community and worship/socialize together.
- Combined church picnic was held on July 28th.
- Continuing to share opportunities to gather with individual churches during planned activities through use of a shared calendar and a FaceBook page.
- Organized God's Work, Our Hands together offering a sending service and projects at several of the church locations.
- Combined Reformation Service and Fellowship offered on October 30th.
- Future opportunities - Unity and Shepherd of the Hill are exploring ways to share resources (e.g. pastoral responsibilities). Living Christ and Zion are starting to explore ways to come together to support each other.
- Update and expand current purpose statement and share with each congregation.

If you have any questions about the GRC, feel free to ask Laurie Brown or Randy Henning. During 2025, meetings will be held every other month (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sept, Nov) on the second Sunday at 2:00 pm. Everyone is invited to attending, watch the Communicator and Bulletin for meeting locations.

COUNCIL BULLETS



- Candlelight Christmas Eve worship service will be at 6:30 pm at LCLC. If you need a ride, please contact the office.
- Please make sure you sign an attendance sheet in the red pew pad and pass to your neighbor.
- Advent worship services will be held on Wednesdays as follows:
 - Shepherd of the Hills – December 4 and 11 at 2:00 pm
 - Unity – December 18 at 2:00 pm
 - Atonement – December 4, 11, 18 at 7:00 pm
- Decorate the church on Sunday, December 1 after worship. Bring a plate of Christmas cookies to share.

Advent Gatherings

<p>Advent Gatherings at The Bridge</p> <p>3257 Domain Street St. Charles, MO 63301</p>	<p>Thursdays Dec. 5, 12, 19, 2024 6-7:30 pm</p>	<p>Join us for a Soup/Bread potluck supper, fellowship, and a Prayer Devotion.</p>
		
<p>Join us as we prepare for Christmas.</p>		<p>Everyone invited, kids included</p>

LSM Musical Advent Calendar
2024
December 1-24

LSMacademy.org/acal


experience the anticipation and hope of the Advent season with Lutheran Summer Music's fourth-annual Musical Advent Calendar. From December 1-24, immerse yourself in a daily moment of music and reflection shared on our Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube pages and archived on our website at LSMacademy.org/acal.

Advent Midweek

Advent worship services will be held on Wednesdays

- Shepherd of the Hills – December 4, 11 @ 2:00 pm
- Unity – December 18 @ 2:00 pm
- Atonement – December 4, 11, 18 @ 7:00 pm

50+



November Lunch Bunch RECAP

The 50+ planning meeting will be on Wednesday, January 15 at 10:30 a.m. on the lower level. Please bring a sandwich for lunch. Beverage and dessert will be provided. \$10.00 dues will be collected at the meeting.

50 + Christmas luncheon: Last day to sign up: December 8 th . 50 + Christmas Luncheon will be December 19 in the lower level with catering by Tornatotes. The program will start at 10:30 am with a game of “rob your neighbor”. Everyone is asked to bring a wrapped Christmas ornament (does not need to be new). There will be door prizes. Luncheon will be served starting at 11:30 am. Over dessert and coffee we will sing some familiar Christmas songs. Cost is \$10.00 for members and \$18.00 for non-members. Make checks payable to LCLC and give check or cash to Joyce Wolf or Joyce Meyer. Sign up ASAP (need final count by December 9) and pay by December 15. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Questions: Ask Doris Stoechner 636-578-6829 call or text

2025 Contribution Envelopes will be available Dec.15th for pick up from the table in the hallway. Do not use until January 2025.

Please have your December contributions at Living Christ by Sunday December 29th. Thank you. Jeanne Calderwood, Financial Secretary.

The November lunch bunch dined at Red Lobster in Bridgeton. We had a group of 17 enjoying cheddar biscuits and seafood entrees. Lunch bunch will not be meeting in December but voted to lunch at Chimis restaurant in Florissant on January 9 at 11:30 am. Contact Joyce Meyer at 314-838-3741 or 314-374-4135 to reserve a chair! Everyone is welcome.

Answers to Nurse Note quiz:

1 - hair/hare; 2 - humerus/humorous; 3 - GI doc; 4 - pan-crease; 5 - liver; 6 - toe/tow; 7 - vein/vain; 8 - tonsil/ton-sill; 9 - elbow; 10 - eyeball

Create Days - Friday, December 6th, 9:00-11:00, is the next Create Day to work on the quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

Create Days for 2025 are as follows, Fridays,
January 10,
February 7,
March 7,
April 4,
May 2,
June 6,
July 18,
August 8,
September 12,
and October 3.

The Lutheran World Relief Ingathering will again be in October. Our goal is to work on quilts to have twenty-four quilts completed by then. Anyone is welcome to help!



Celebrate December!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

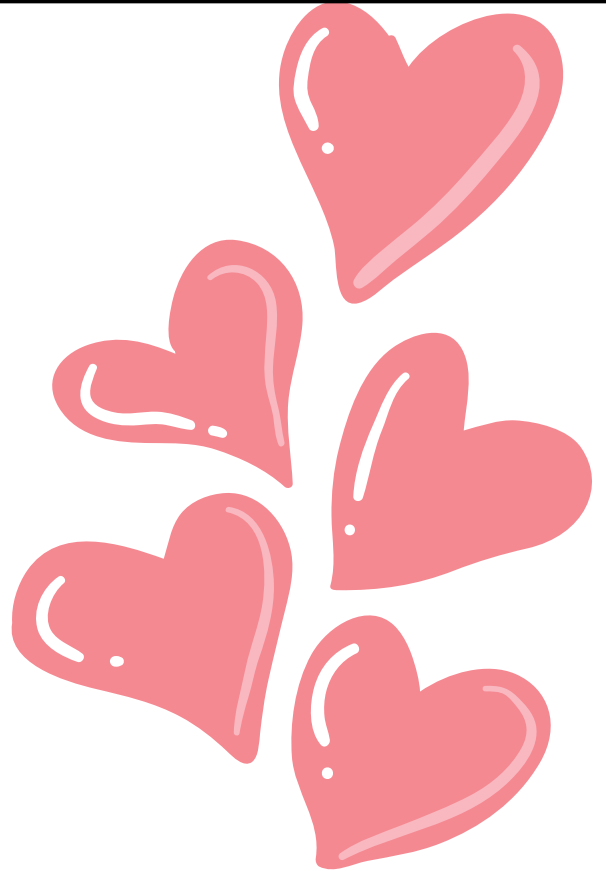
Kaylan	KAEPPEL	2
Greg	OTT	3
Lindsay	HENNING	7
Gary	BROWN	19
Randy	SCHULTZ	26



Wedding Anniversaries



Erle and Margie	Craig	28th
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December Worship Assistants

December 1

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt
Assisting Minister: Bill Kaepffel
Lector: Randy Henning
Live Streaming: Rod Wallace
Musician: Greg Ott
Ushers: Glen Albers & Ann Schultz
Greeter: Joyce Meyer
Altar Guild: Maureen Buchek & Marjorie Becker

December 8

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt
Assisting Minister: Angela Bennett
Lector: Bill Kaepffel
Live Streaming: Erle Craig
Musician: David Eggers
Ushers: Levaughn & Sheila Smart
Greeter: Jeanne Calderwood
Altar Guild: Cathie Lehr & Joyce Meyer

December 15

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt
Assisting Minister: Randy Henning
Lector: Terry Calderwood
Live Streaming: Rod Wallace
Musician: Greg Ott
Ushers: Jim & Doris Stoehner
Greeter: Gloria Broderick
Altar Guild: Karen Haynes & Sheila Smart

December 22

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt
Assisting Minister: Bill Kaepffel
Lector: Dave Endorf
Live Streaming: Erle Craig
Musician: David
Ushers: Randy Henning & Dave Endorf
Greeter: Levaughn & Sheila Smart
Altar Guild: Joyce Wolf & Ann Schultz

December 24

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt
Assisting Minister: Angela Bennett
Lector: Randy Henning
Live Streaming: Rod Wallace
Musician: David Eggers & Greg Ott
Ushers: Gloria Broderick & Cathie Lehr
Greeter: Jim Stoehner
Altar Guild: Doris Stoehner, Bill Kaepffel & Marilyn Wiley

December 25

Preaching/Presiding: Bill Kaepffel

December 29

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt
Assisting Minister: Randy Henning
Lector: Bill Kaepffel
Live Streaming: Erle Craig
Musician: Greg Ott
Ushers: Jann & Glenn Mueller
Greeter: Judy Holmes
Altar Guild: Maureen Buchek, Marjorie Becker

*****If you are unable to serve on your assigned date,
please swap with someone or find a replacement*****

DECEMBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9:15am Worship 10:30am Adult Forum	2	3 10am Bible Study 11am Exercise Class	4 2pm Midweek- Shepherd of the Hills 7pm Midweek - Atonement	5 11am Exercise Class	6 9:00am Create Day 11:00am Bells	7
8 8am Vocal Choir 9:15am Worship 10:30am Adult Forum 11am True Vine Church	9 6:00pm CVT 7:00pm Council	10 10am Bible Study 11am Exercise Class	11 2pm Midweek- Shepherd of the Hills 7pm Midweek- Atonement	12 11am Exercise Class	13 11:00am Bells	14 9am Girl Scouts
15 8am Vocal Choir 9:15am Worship 10:30am Adult Forum 11am True Vine Church	16	17 10am Bible Study 11am Exercise Class	18 2pm Midweek - Unity 7pm Midweek- Atonement	19 10:30am 50+ Christmas Party 7pm NCOTC	20 11:00am Bells	21 9am Girl Scouts
22 8am Vocal Choir 9:15am Worship 10:15am Annual Meeting 11am True Vine Church	23	24 NO Bible Study NO Exercise 6:30pm Christmas Eve Service	25 9:15am Christmas Day	26 NO Exercise	27 11:00am Bells	28
29 8am Vocal Choir 9:15am Worship w/ Zion @ LCLC 10:30am Adult Forum 11am True Vine Church	30	31 10am Bible Study 11am Exercise Class				

Zoom links for events can be found on our website:
www.lc-livingchrist.org/calendar

Lutheran Church of the Living Christ
2725 Concord Drive
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