

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



**CHRIST**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**A REVIEW OF THE YEAR AT CLC**

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# PASTOR GARRETT'S REPORT

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In the book *Simple Church*, co-authors Thom Rainer and Eric Geiger recommend that churches focus on doing fewer things with greater intentionality. A simpler church, they argue with convincing data, will be a more effective church. More specifically, it will be more formative of its people, more hospitable to newcomers, and more aligned in its mission.

**A** *simpler church... will be a more effective church... it will be more formative of its people, more hospitable to newcomers, and more aligned in its mission.*

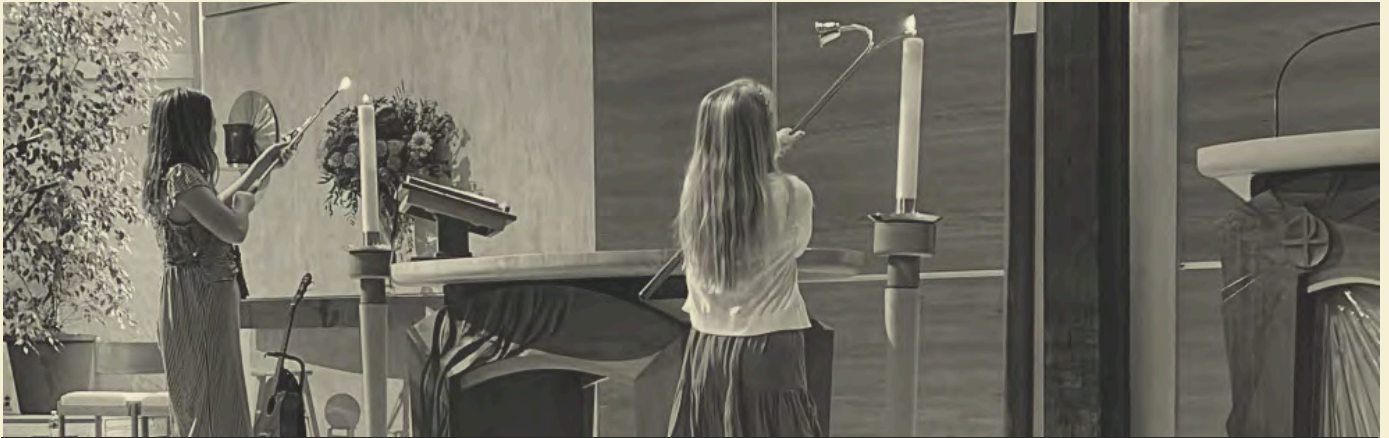
In 2024, we took aim at this very goal. Below are notes on how it went, along with what to look forward to in 2025.

Sunday Mornings: The church's Sunday gathering has long been called the "source and summit of the Christian life."

It is, in other words, the most important thing we do together. In 2024, we made intentional efforts to continue rooting our worship in ancient practices, convinced of their growing relevance for modern people. In a culture in which distraction and isolation are the norm, Sundays are the church's counter cultural pushback, cultivating focus (on God) and fellowship (with each other). To quote a song we sing, it is "for His glory and our good." We hope these two things – God's glory, your good – are what you experience Sunday to Sunday.

In 2024, average attendance at worship was 325 per week.

[READ THE REPORT](#)



# ***Worship and Participation***

**AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE**

Worship **325**

Sunday Catechism **75**

Sunday School **29**

Sunday Youth Group **8**

Confirmation **18**

**STUDENT MINISTRY**

**BAPTISMS**

**10**

**6** New Small Groups Formed in 2024

**6** New Small Group Leaders in 2024

**SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES**

***New  
Members  
Received***

**44**

**31 ADULTS**

**13 CHILDREN**



# WORSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

## FORMATIVE PRAYER AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH



**RUTHIE GRACE METLEN**  
*2024 CONFIRMAND*

### *My Confirmation is special to me.*

On that Sunday, when I turned to face the congregation, I saw a crowd of people who have loved and supported me my entire life. I felt God's influence at that moment. I feel blessed with such a wonderful place and people to grow my faith in, with, and through. Pastor Garrett thoughtfully chooses each Confirmand's Bible verse. My verse was Matthew 11:28-30 and it was meaningful to me to be recognized in such a personal and faith-affirming way.

*"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*



**3RD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATIONS - 11**  
**FIRST COMMUNION RECIPIENTS - 12**



**NEW ACOLYTES - 6**

Six of our 4th - 6th graders received training from Pastor Matt and began serving during worship.

# PASTOR MATT'S REPORT

## *2024 Reflections*

They say that hindsight is 20/20, but with 2024 in the rearview mirror, I would have to disagree. 2024 moved so fast, it is one big blur. I had to sit down with Sarah and ask “What happened this year!?” Granted, that may just be what happens when you parent a 2-year-old and welcome another baby into the world. However, if you take out those two factors, 2024 was still a full, fast-paced year.

There were a lot of highs and lows in 2024. As Sarah and I reflected on 2024, we described it with the phrase, “growing pains.” So much good growth happened this year, yet not without some discomfort and even pain. Confirmation ministry grew, activity in denominational affiliations grew, my leadership grew, and our family grew. This year also included two first amendment auditors harassing Christ Lutheran, parenting a two-year-old, and being very busy. To say 2024 was busy, is an understatement. Most weeks, I led Sunday morning student ministries, Sunday evening high school group, Monday evening young adults, Tuesday meetings, Wednesday morning men’s prayer, two sections of Wednesday evening Confirmation, and for 28% of the weeks, get ready to preach Sunday morning, and then do all this all over again. This is all on top of the different things I was involved in this year: leading 4th-6th grade retreat, leading our high school Hume Lake trip, co-leading small group leader training, beginning to organize our spiritual care ministry, and other regular pastoral duties. It has been a busy year.



Our efforts this year have yielded fruit. Three big wins in my areas of ministry are an increase in Confirmation attendance, increase in young adult engagement, and organizing Spiritual Care. Confirmation in early 2024 was on Sunday mornings and attendance would dip down to three. We switched to Wednesday evenings and offered two sections at different times. Our attendance went from an average of five to an average of 16. In early 2024 young adults met together once a month. In the fall we doubled our frequency and maintained a bi-weekly attendance of 5-12. Throughout 2024 I have been working on organizing Spiritual Care, which is a 1:1 support ministry, where Spiritual Care givers are trained to listen deeply and guide a conversation to care for someone going through some kind of stress. We currently have about eight people going to in-person training for Spiritual Care and 1-2 attending the training online.

**What are my plans for 2025?**

[READ THE REPORT](#)

# *COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S* **REPORT**

## **Dear Members of Christ Lutheran Church,**

As we step into 2025, I want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible ways God has worked in and through our congregation this past year. Together, we have witnessed growth, deepened faith, and strengthened our community as we continue to live out our mission of guiding people into a growing union with Christ.

In 2024, we have sought to embrace meaningful worship by increasing participation. To achieve this, we focused on intentionally growing the number of acolytes, providing additional opportunities for children to share their musical talents during worship services, and expanding worship beyond Sunday mornings, as demonstrated by the Women's Night of Worship. The worship services are the congregation's, and I encourage everyone to prayerfully consider how they can be more active participants in CLC's worship life.

Additionally, this year, we continued to focus on our yearly events, such as Vacation Bible School, Trunk or Treat, Advent Celebration, and Easter Egg Hunt. Our prayer is that these events demonstrate our genuine community. I want to thank all the volunteers who work tirelessly to make these events happen and ask you to continue to invite your friends and neighbors to them. These events are an excellent opportunity for those searching for a church home to get to know our greatest asset, our congregants.

Moreover, in 2024, we sought to promote formative prayer within the congregation's life. I encourage you to use the prayer stations at the front of the sanctuary after services. Please also lift Zoë Watts, our full-time Student Ministry Director, up in your prayers as she starts to lead our youth.

Finally, to embrace generous living, we have added Ministry Spotlights, Pastoral Letters, pastoral office hours, and Vision Summits to demonstrate your benevolent tithes in action. In 2025, I encourage you to read, attend, and participate with feedback. On a personal note, I urge you to consider attending one of our youth or adult mission trips to House of Joy in the Navajo Nation, organizing and leading a trip to Egypt to visit Fawzi House, or serving at Bridge to Home or the SCV Pregnancy Center.

Thank you for sharing this incredible journey in 2024 with the Council. I am excited to see what God has in store for us in the year ahead.

Christian Parr  
Council President  
Christ Lutheran Church

# 2024 Yearly Events and Outreach

*A CELEBRATION OF GROWTH AND COMMUNITY*



## OUTREACH EVENTS

EASTER EGG HUNT - **164**  
VBS - **259** students, **110** adults  
TRUNK OR TREAT - **440**  
ADVENT WREATH - **130**

*Both the Easter Egg Hunt and the Trunk or Treat saw an 8% increase in attendance over 2024. The Advent Wreath Workshop attendance increased by 9%.*

## RETREATS

4TH - 6TH GRADE - **16** students **9** adults  
HUME- **8** students, **1** adult  
MEN'S RETREAT - **12**  
WOMEN'S RETREAT - **35**  
FAMILY FALL RETREAT - **20** Families

*The Family Retreat continued to grow in 2024. The Men's Retreat was a success; we're looking forward to the next retreat in 2025.*



# FOSTERING COMMUNITY AND OUTREACH



## MJ French *VBS Volunteer*

VBS is one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever been a part of. VBS is a chance for kids and adults alike to have one of the best times of their lives, all while learning about our Savior and shining Jesus' light. Being able to connect and hang out with lots of different amazing kids is so much fun. They are always so sweet and I love sharing Jesus with them. I love helping lead during the week of VBS and I know that no matter what VBS will be the time of my life!

*During 2024, the congregation once again demonstrated their generosity with their time, talent, and treasure. At CLC, willingness to serve is an important aspect of the character of our church. Everyone, no matter your age or stage of life is encouraged to experience the joy of service.*





## **TODD LEGASSICK**



For nearly a decade, Pastor JR and the House of Joy Church have been cherished partners and spiritual family to Christ Lutheran Church. What began as high school mission trips has blossomed into a deep and enduring relationship between our two congregations.

When a Phoenix food bank generously offered to send 18-wheelers of food to Black Mesa, a warehouse was required to store these supplies. Two years ago, an adult mission team from CLC broke ground on a 6,000 square-foot warehouse now in its final phase of completion, fulfilling a long-held vision of Pastor JR which addresses critical needs in the community. The generosity of our congregation through donations and gifts has been instrumental in making this vision a reality.

Today, there are many meaningful ways for you to engage with and support this vital mission, please click [HERE](#) or talk to me. I would love to share more!



## **CONNIE FROEBERG**

Ross (Jones) from our widow/widowers group mentioned that CLC goes to Bridge to Home every other month and provides and serves dinner to the clients, so I spoke to Mike Myers and I signed up. I help provide the food and serve dinner.

It is my honor to provide dinner and serve the dinner to the homeless.. I enjoy talking to them and making them smile... They are so thankful that we are there. I plan on doing this every other month. I also signed up with the director of Bridge to Home to also volunteer at other times. I also bring them food left over from CLC events.





# GENEROUS LIVING



## SERVING LOCALLY

Bridge to Home

- CLC volunteers prepared and served dinners on six occasions, an increase of two dates

During 2024

- Two Food Drives
- Sock Drive
- Bridge to Home Toiletries Drive

Christmas Giving Garland

- **148** gifts donated

## SERVING NATIONALLY

- **500** coats were collected at CLC and delivered to House of Joy congregation in Black Mesa, AZ
- **11** Young Adults and sponsors traveled to Black Mesa to help build a storage facility on the Navajo Reservation
- VBS Service Project collected school supplies for Black Mesa

## SERVING GLOBALLY

- Pastor Fawzi visited CLC and gave an update on the needs in the Middle East
- Continued supporting Fawzi House orphanage in Cairo by supplying beef and chicken



# COUNCIL CANDIDATES

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## SARAH WOBROCK

Sara and her husband Ben are life-long Lutherans. They and their three children joined Christ Lutheran in 2011 and are regular 8 a.m. service attendees. Over the years, Sara served in various teaching positions in Sunday school, VBS and small group Bible study. She and Ben currently enjoy hosting the Sunday evening high school ministry at their home. Sara is grateful for this opportunity to serve the congregation and to further God's mission here at CLC.



## LISA LYTTLE

Lisa and her husband, Jeff, have been attending Christ Lutheran for over a decade. She usually attend the 8 a.m. service. As one of the facilitators of the New Life Gardeners ministry, she loves to beautify the church campus with her fellow gardeners. She also loves women's retreats, hiking group, and other activities. Serving God by volunteering at CLC in different facets is something Lisa enjoys. She looks forward to working with other members of the CLC Council.

## BOB SHERWOOD

Bob and his wife, Beth, have been members of Christ Lutheran Church for 25+ years. They joined after moving to Santa Clarita in 1998. They have four children: Sarah, Jessica, Christopher and Matthew. Bob regularly attends the 10:30 a.m. service. In the past he has served as an usher and worship assistant. He has been involved at CLC through Bible studies, Financial Peace University classes, blood donations, mission trips, and has served as president of the Preschool Board. Bob also played Bartholomew for several years in the Maundy Thursday play. Bob looks forward to serving God through the CLC Council.

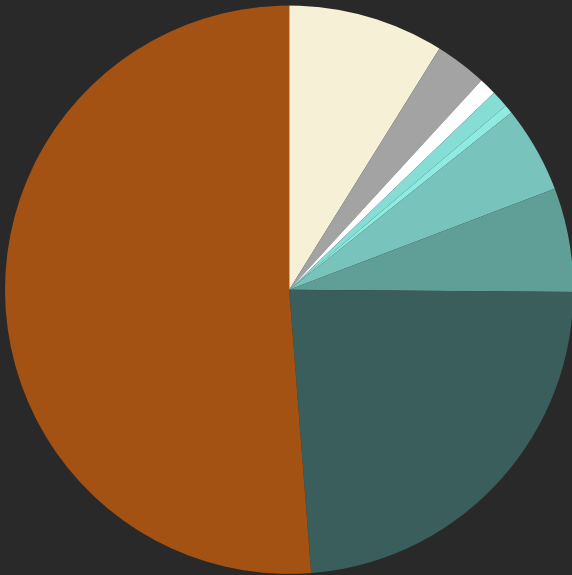


## ADAM WIMS

Adam and his wife, Courtney, have been attending CLC since they moved back from Colorado in 2019. Adam is a lifelong CLC member having been baptized and confirmed here. Adam's daughter, Madelyn, was baptized here as well. He has been involved in CLC's Children's Ministry by helping with Sunday School and VBS. He enjoys quality time with his family, traveling, being outdoors and running.

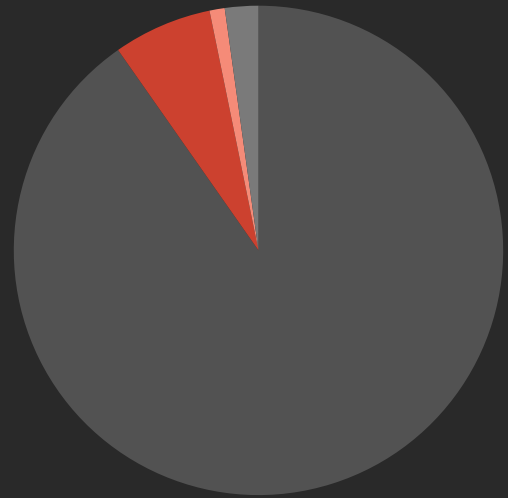


# FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



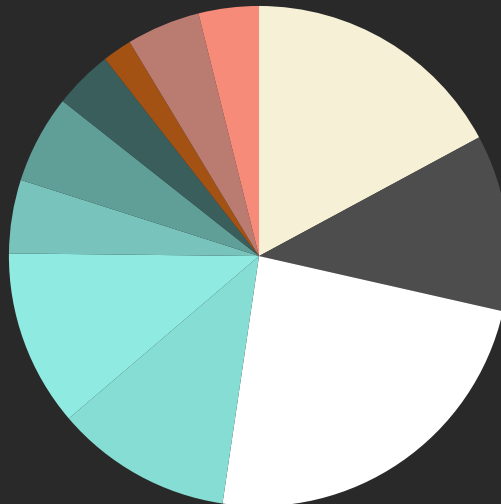
- BENEVOLENCE (9)
- WORSHIP MINISTRY (3)
- FAMILY MINISTRY (1)
- COMMUNITY LIFE (1)
- SPIRITUAL FORMATION (0.5)
- OUTREACH MINISTRY (5)
- BUSINESS EXPENSE (6)
- FACILITY EXPENSE (24)
- PASTORAL & STAFF (52)

## 2024 EXPENSE



- GENERAL OFFERING (0.9)
- PRESCHOOL (0.065)
- MISC. INCOME (0.01)
- FACILITIES RENTAL (0.022)

## 2024 INCOME



- BRIDGE TO HOME (18000)
- FAWZI HOUSE (11997)
- GOOD SAMARITAN FUND (25000)
- HOUSE OF JOY (12000)
- PREGNANCY CTR. (12000)
- COMMUNITY MISSION & OUTREACH (4997)
- NALC 2024 AFFILIATION (6004)
- LCMC 2024 AFFILIATION (4000)
- LCMC SOCIAL DISTRICT (2000)
- AFFILIATION SUPPORT 2023 (5000)
- FLEX BENEVOLENCE (4093)

## 2024 BENEVOLENCE EXPENSE