



The Messenger

February 2014

Our Mission Statement

Responding to God's love in Christ poured out upon us through Word and Sacrament and empowered by the Holy Spirit we shall serve God through worshiping, learning and sharing.

A Word From Our Pastor

Rev. Jeff Steeber



One of the first things that stuck out to me when I read the Ministry Site Profile for CELC was the fact that it has a preschool. And not only that it has a preschool, but that it has its own preschool, that is run by the congregation. If you have not noticed already, I love working with youth and kids. I'm not necessarily one of the "The youth are the future of our church" people, but since I was a middle school student I have had a gift for working with children through teaching, coaching, and playing games. So, when I saw that CELC has been leading a preschool for community kids for numerous decades I thought, "This is a church who truly cares about kids."

Do I still believe that CELC is a church who truly cares about kids? Absolutely! The amount of work and effort that is put in by various adults in the congregation towards Sunday school and VBS speak towards that fact. The amazing amount of money that is raised by our generous members that goes to support our annual mission trip is an example of that fact. The beautifully inspiring Lutheran Prayer books that one of our women's circles provides for confirmands is another feather in the cap of this congregation's belief that children are highly valued in the eyes of God. And, if I might add, the fact that many people tell me that they prefer my children's sermons (and Kelly K.'s children's sermons) over my "adult" sermons also shows me that one of our primary focuses is on the kids.

That's why when I first started serving here at CELC I made it a priority to be in the preschool classes once a week, in order to read to the kids. I would read to them, try to be funny and engaging, and be as welcoming as I could to the children and their parents while they were here. Last spring I was initiated into the annual Spaghetti dinner that is thrown in support of our preschool...which was a fantastic event. I even attended the end of the school year picnic (It helped that my son Ben was also in the preschool) where all of the students and their parents got together for great food and fellowship, even though it rained horribly on and off the entire morning.

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When the kids got back this school year, I once again made it a priority to be at the orientation evening for the preschool, and to read to the classes once a week. And then a funny thing happened, a thing called "life" and "schedules" and other things that I allowed to interfere with my spending time with the preschoolers. Every once in a while, when someone from the congregation is in the office around the time that I am reading to the kids, they will say to me, "Wow, I'm sure you just love reading to those kids." But they tend to say it in a way that implies that the task is burdensome for me. And I always reply to them, "Yes, I do love reading to them. I love reading to them because no matter what other stuff or issues we have going on here at church, the kids are always happy to see me. They smile and they sit there (to the best of their ability) and they listen to the books that I read them. It really refreshes my soul."

And yet, as I already stated, I have allowed myself to get away from this practice. So, I am officially stating here, for all of the newsletter readers to see and be able to hold me accountable, that I will resume and maintain my reading schedule with the kids. I will also go one step further...I will make it more of a priority for me to highlight the life of our preschool, to make it a visible entity within the life of our church. We have, as a congregation, this amazing resource which was established years ago by the members of our church. We have the ability to interact with and share our Christian faith with these young children. Will they all end up attending our church because of it? No. However, they will hear of the love and grace of our Lord for as long as they are students within our walls, and they will never doubt for a moment that God loves them. This great responsibility does not only fall on the shoulders of our teachers, or even on my shoulders, but on the entire congregation. God has given us the opportunity to tell others about the good news of Jesus Christ. Let us not let life get in the way of sharing it.

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Steeber 

A Word From Ally Jagoda

Hi everybody! A few of you already know that I am serving with A Christian Ministry in the National Parks again this year. I will be working in Acadia National Park in Maine from May 25th to October 23rd. The ministry serves to provide interdenominational worship services in almost 30 parks around the US. ACMNP sends about 200 college and seminary-aged teams to these parks each summer season. I will be serving with five other people and we will be split between two sites in Acadia. We will also lead weekly sunset services on Mt. Cadillac!

This year there have been a few changes. One is that as I prepare for my second season with ACMNP, team members have been asked to fundraise to help with our various expenses. This includes things like travel to and from parks, the cost of training in Denver, and other miscellaneous expenses along the way.

After estimating the costs, I am planning to try to raise about \$600. And yes, any and all donations help, but prayer is also welcomed and encouraged. Pray for all of the team members heading into their summers. Pray for the national staff in Denver as they work directly with park concessions to secure our employment and help us with our ministry. Pray for the visitors and other employees we will impact through our services.

If you have any questions or interest in helping financially or through being a prayer partner, please don't hesitate to contact me. My email is ajagoda@capital.edu

If you are interested, I can send you a letter with further details. But if you are feeling compelled now, funds can be sent to:

Allyson Jagoda
Capital University
1 College and Main
CU Box 859
Columbus, OH 43209

Much love,
Ally

Member News



February 1

Ed Baker
Addison Crout
Jacob Lecorchick

February 4

Daniel Lecorchick

February 5

Brad Pearce

February 9

Drew Fournier

February 10

Fred Kirtner

February 14

Ruth Higgins
Anita Jantz

February 15

Anne Paine
Ally Jagoda

February 19

James Moore

February 20

Kimberly Kocel
Karen Lecorchick

February 21

Melissa Ingraham

February 26

Betty Wagner

February 28

Kevin Knip

If we have missed your birthday or the date is incorrect,
please contact the church office so we may update our records.
We want to celebrate all of you! Thank you.

CELC WISHES ALL OUR FEBRUARY BABIES
A VERY BLESSED BIRTHDAY!

Aristotle's Christmas Trivia Game (from the January Messenger)

Answers

1. For people who live in the Canadian prairies, the Christmas season traditionally begins with a shipment of Jananese *oranges*.
2. In Sweden, the "tomte" is a *Christmas gnome*.
3. Reveillon is a meal eaten after *Midnight Mass* in France and Canada.
4. Decemeber 26th, also known as Boxing Day, is the holy day of which saint? *St. Stephen*
5. Whose patron saint is St. Nicholas? *Children and scholars, merchants and sailors, women without dowries*
6. In the 1800's, German settlers in Pennsylvania became the first in our country to decorate their homes with *fir trees* for Christmas.
7. The poem "Twas a Night Before Christmas", written by Clement Moore in 123, was originlly known as "*A visit from St. Nicholas*".
8. Most of the Christmas carols sung today were composed in the *1700s and 1800s*.
9. The Mexican tradition of posado is a recreation of Mary riding on a *donkey* and Joseph looking for a place to spend the night.
10. Traditionally, German children are not allowed to see the *Christmas Tree* until Christmas Eve.

Circles & Church Groups

Christ Lutheran Book Club

Book Club will meet Sunday, February 23. We will be reading "The Secret Keeper" by Kate Morton.

This book club meets on the last Sunday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Doris Gaertner's home at 29 Community Drive in Avon Lake. Anyone is welcome to join us for a discussion on our monthly book club selection. Call either Doris at 933-2337 or Barb Rehker-Lee at 933-7101 for more information.



Lights for Christ

Praise Band Schedule for 2014

The Praise Band will play at the following Saturday services at 5:00 p.m.

February 1st & 15th
March 1st & 15th
April 5th & 19th
May 3rd



Address Update

Jim Clark
730 N. Spring Rd.
Apartment 337
Westerville, OH 43082
Phone: 614-582-8973
Email: Jhclark507@gmail.com

SOUP & SANDWICH SUPPERS

TIRED OF THE COLD WEATHER???

How about a bowl of HOMEMADE,
DEE-LICIOUS SOUP!!

Soup and sandwich suppers will be served
STARTING WITH ASH WEDNESDAY
AT 6PM with MARTHA CIRCLE serving...
YUM-O!!

SEE YOU THERE!!

March Soup and Sandwich supper
serving schedule:

MARCH 5/Ash Wednesday: Martha Circle
March 12: Mission Trip
March 19: Confirmation Class
March 26: Anna Circle

Bible Study for Parents of Special Needs Children

If your child struggles with physical, emotional, mental, or behavioral difficulties and you feel alone, discouraged or just want to connect with other parents on the same journey, we encourage you to attend. You can attend one session or all of the sessions. This is a 6 week program that will meet on **Monday nights at 7 pm** and **Friday mornings at 10am** (same topics each week whether you choose morning or night session) at Christ Lutheran Church in the Conference Room adjacent to the office. Professional childcare is provided. When you call to reserve your spot, please indicate if childcare is needed. **Free** series open to the entire community. Books can be purchased at 1st meeting for \$15 or you can use a free handout copy at each session. **First week of meetings is February 10th.**

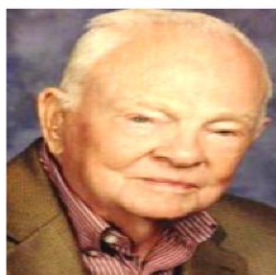
Christ Lutheran Extends Sympathy to the Families of...

Joyce R. Tremain (Betson), 74, passed away Saturday, December 28, 2013. She was the beloved wife of the late Donald; loving mother of John Tremain (Karen), Teresa Reiner (Tom), Tina Parente (Tony) and the late William; devoted grandmother of Gina, Lisa, Krystal, Matthew, Kyle, Michael, and Nicholas and great-grandmother of Ethan, Evan and Eli; dear sister of Janet Weirich (Larry) and the late Donna Mae Leininger, Eddie Betson, Judy Betson and Leroy Betson.



Robert E. Miller, Jr, 84, of Lorain, died on Saturday, December 28, 2013 at the Mercy-New Life Hospice at St. Joseph in Lorain following a long illness. Mr. Miller was born in Lorain on December 14, 1929, the son of the late Robert E. and Nora B (nee Robbins) Miller, Sr. He was a graduate of Lorain High School and a US Army Veteran attaining the rank of sergeant. Mr. Miller was a member of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Avon Lake: where he served as an usher and a member of the O.W.L.S. He worked as a chemical technician at USS Steel in Lorain, retiring in 1987 after more than 39 years of service. He enjoyed doing crossword puzzles, doing handyman jobs around his home, bowling and especially spending time with his family. Mr. Miller is survived by his wife of 64 years, Patricia A. (nee Neely) Miller; daughter Pamela A. Gamash of Anchorage, Alaska; son Kenneth R. (Christine) Miller of Wichita Falls, Texas; grandchildren Heather N. Miller, Stephanie R. Miller, Rhiannon Gamash, Julie Johnston, Kathryn Johnston; 5 great grandchildren; brothers Donald (Phyllis) Miller and Laurence Miller all of Lorain.

Virginia King who passed away after a lengthy illness on Saturday, December 28. She resided at the Lutheran Home in Westlake.



ADEN J. BOYD was born October 28, 1917 in Mill Village, Pa., son of David and Addie Smith Boyd. Aden worked as a laboratory technician for Rieck-McJunkin Dairy Company of Meadville prior to joining the US Army Air Force, where he served from 1942 - 1945 as a radio operator. Aden was employed by Erie Crawford Dairy in 1946 and in 1970 was relocated to Milk Marketing Inc. in Cleveland, Ohio where he retired in 1983. Aden enjoyed watching all types of sports with baseball being a favorite. He continued his retirement years as an avid reader. He took great joy in watching his grandchildren grow into adults only to find ultimate joy by spending time with his great grandchildren, who could always make him smile. Aden was a hardworking man all his life who through his 96 years have taught his children the true meaning of the cycle of life. He had the amazing experience of Hospice of Medina County to care for him for a year before he graduated and no longer needed these special services. Once again, proving he is a special man. February, 2013 he was reacquainted with his old friends from Hospice of Medina County as they once again became part of our family until he went to meet God on Friday, January 3, 2014. Aden is survived by his four children: Sandy Eells, Jane Barr and husband Joe, James Boyd, Judy Steeber and husband Ralph. Grandchildren: Dawson Steeber and wife Elisa, Jill Boyd Myers and husband James, Katie Barr Earl and husband Philippe, Jeffrey Steeber and wife Melissa, Stephanie Barr, Sherri Blackwelder and husband J.B. Great Grandchildren: Grace, Giovanni, Benjamin, Marian, Nicole. Great Great Grandchildren: Alex, Adam.

Christ Lutheran Preschool



Christ Lutheran Preschool is hosting an **OPEN HOUSE Thursday, January 30th at 7:00 p.m. Registration will also be accepted at this time** Plan to join us to learn more about our programs, to tour the school and to meet the teachers. We are a Three Star Step Up To Quality rated preschool in the state of Ohio. We are also the only Christian based preschool in Avon Lake. We incorporate prayer, Jesus' love for us and the well known stories from the Bible into our Kindergarten readiness curriculum.

Our 3-year old classes accept children who are 3 years of age and toilet trained. There is a class on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, and a morning 2-day class on Tuesday and Thursday. There is also the opportunity for a child to attend 5 mornings per week by registering for both classes at a special tuition rate of \$200 per month.

We offer many options for 4 and 5 year olds. There is a 2 Day Pre-K class on Tuesday and Thursday morning. A 3 Day Pre-K class is available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning and we offer a morning 4 Day Pre-K class Monday through Thursday. A PM Pre-K class is available Monday through Thursday afternoons or a child may attend the class just on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. There is also the opportunity for a child to attend 5 mornings a week by registering in the 2 Day Pre-K and the 3 Day Pre-K class for the special tuition rate of \$200.00 per month.

The tuition for the 2014-2015 school year is as follows:

2 day classes:	\$ 90/month
3 day classes:	\$130/month
4 day classes:	\$165/month
5 day classes:	\$200/month

There is a \$35 (\$40 for a family) non-refundable registration fee. Tuition for May of 2015 is also due at the time of registration.

Please contact Teri Pienoski, Administrator, at (440) 933-6714 with any questions or to schedule a tour.



Council Meeting Minutes



Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Minutes, January 9 2014

Meeting called to order by Pastor
Minutes of the Previous Meeting
Motion to accept minutes by Chuck
Seconded by Dawn
Ministry, Committee or Team Reports
None at this meeting

Pastor's Report

Changes are made to Sunday school still using same curriculum but will be more of a VBS format. The rooms will be used for story, crafts etc.
Read and accepted

President's Report

None at this time
Vice President's Report
Absent

Treasurer Report

For 2013, the church contributions income exceeded the budget by \$4,000 and the total Income over Expenses was a plus \$2,300 for the year. The Memorial Fund balance was \$655 and the Building Fund balance was \$16,000. Mission Partner scholarships for seminary students were sent to Trinity Seminary in the amount of \$3,200. General Benevolence for 2013 was \$25,000 with \$15,500 sent to the Northeast Ohio Synod in support of the Synod and national ELCA church. Due to a special ELCA grant, our \$1,947 to Lutheran Word Hunger will be matched. The additional Benevolence funds of about \$7,500 were provided to our other supported benevolences. Members also provided \$1,245 in staff gifts for our employees.

Finance Report

Doing an audit for four hours next month. Mike Leiske is going to do an audit for the church. The audit will be for 2013. Ordering contribution envelopes for 2015 in February. Bring ideas to next meeting for any new ideas for the envelopes. Dawn suggested that we contact the members who have not picked up the envelopes, as a chance to reach out to the members.

Property Report

Gwen will be resigning after this meeting. Gwen resignation was accepted by council. Pastor made a motion to pass. Dawn seconded the motion, passed. Gwen recommended that Tom Reiner fill the position she has vacated, Tom will fill the term that Gwen is vacating, his position will be voted on at next congregational meeting. Chuck made a motion to appointment that Tom will fill the term that Gwen will be vacating. Pastor seconded the motion. Tom will take over the committee. Tom suggested in investing in a fiberglass ladder. Chuck mentioned that Tables should not be in the Sanctuary, for fire hazard.

Memorial Committee

Family is notified of the names of the contributors to the fund
Council decides what the memorial funds will be allotted for.

Policy outline done Categories will be: Christian Education, Capital improvements, worship, and social outreach. After 10,000 the funds have to be used toward what the family wants
Have restrictions for example of music, building fund etc. The memorial committee will look at the different areas for the money to be issued too.

Old Business

None at this time

New Business

Suggestions for follow-up for members who have not been present at service. Dawn volunteered to call these people.

Update to Servant Keeper, in February or March. Contributions statements will go out this week. Print up profile sheets to be sent to congregation members for an updated list.

Meeting Closed with Lords Prayer

Treasurer's Summary for 2013

The contributions income budget for 2013 was exceeded by \$4,000 and our total income (including building rental and other incomes) exceeded our budget by \$3,000. Our expenses for the year exceeded income by \$700 or less than 1 %. Our Building Fund balance is \$16,000 as we work our way toward a major parking lot repair and resurface in 2014. The Endowment Fund stands at \$77,000 and Memorial Fund at \$655.

From general Benevolence giving of \$25,000, we were able to meet our commitment to the Northeast Ohio Synod of \$15,500 and provided our supported benevolences as listed:

NEO Synod	15,500	LOVE, Inc.	1,148
Lutheran World Hunger*	1,947	Habitat for Humanity	948
Lorain Free Clinic	1,335	LMM	1,960
Redeemer Crisis Center	1,034	Family Promise	474
Community Resources Svcs	391	Cornerstone Pregnancy Svcs	238

**By providing our Lutheran World Hunger funds by December 31st, we were able to take advantage of a matching grant to the ELCA which in effect doubled our effort.*

For our new Mission Partner goal, we provided \$3,200 as scholarship funds for second year seminary students at Trinity Seminary in Columbus, Ohio.

Staff gifts of \$1,245 were distributed to church employees in the end-of-year pay checks.

Through the continued generosity of our members, we had a successful year, operated within our budget, assisted homeless families, provided financial support to a number of organizations and were able to plan for continued improvements at our church in 2014.

A Special Note from John Stuart

The CELC family “work together” made Jean Duerk’s 80th birthday brunch a wonderful success; in addition to a complete stupendous surprise! THANK YOU- THANK YOU- THANK YOU EVERYONE.

I could not believe when Jean read about the Altar flowers, that she stopped reading the other announcements! Later, when communion started, her son Steve tapped her on the shoulder as he passed by; Jean gasped, and wondered why Steve was there. I pointed to the “SURPRISE” in the bulletin and told her to read it!!! TOTAL SURPRISE, THANK YOU (again) EVERYONE!

Participation by several people helped so much; Pastor Steeber’s advice and encouragement was super. Harold Wagner arranged for Gretchen Vasiloff and Iris Monda to call all the OWLS individually, so they would know what was happening and be able to participate, (or not) as a courtesy to that group. THANK YOU to all those who made this event a success: OWLS for preserving the secret, Billy Higgins for set-up and tear-down, Quella Columbaro for the table covering and assisting the catering crew any way they needed. Loretta Heindrichs for taking photos of the event. Chuck Heindrichs for blocking off some parking space right by the Kitchen entrance so the catering truck could park there to unload. Melissa Steeber for hanging out in the kitchen area waiting for the truck to arrive and to acquaint the crew with our situation and everyone else who took part.

We had enough food for one hundred people but the unusually cold day caused lower than normal church attendance and we served about seventy people. The Smiths Catering Crew prepared a complete “care” package for the Avon Lake Service Dept. that Steve Duerk delivered. There also was a “care” package prepared for the Avon Police Dept. delivered by Bob Olds. How is that for outreach!

FYI, \$112.00 was donated to the parking lot maintenance/improvement project and CELC has already received a check matching that amount. Also Debbie and Steve Duerk (sister & brother) chipped in with me on the food bill. Thank you ever so much Steve and Debbie.

We are both thrilled beyond words for how well everything worked out and all the wonderful comments our church family expressed to us.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

Thank you

THANK YOU ALL FOR MAKING MY BIRTHDAY SUPER!

I did not think I could be surprised, boy was I wrong. John and Jeff should be in Washington, as they sure can keep a secret! I would like to thank all of you who came to the birthday brunch for a great and shocking birthday party! John and Jeff did a wonderful job planning this event and keeping me clueless... I thought I was smarter than that.

God Bless Everyone, Jean Duerk

Dear Members, Pre-school parents and friends of CELC.

Thank you for your generous support of the "Giving Tree" this holiday season.

Many items and gift cards were donated to Genesis House of Lorain County, a domestic violence shelter for women and children.

Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Family of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church:

On Sunday, January 5, I came to church looking for a parking spot. I don't mind walking so I parked near the trees. However, I opened the car door and said, "uh-oh, Icy, Snowy, not good." I looked up after surveying the Ice and *Behold who did I see but two Beautiful Angels*, who said they were from the Confirmation Class and asked if I needed help? I said to them with both arms out stretched, "Bring it on Angels!"

What an awesome way to be treated! I thought if I was visiting this church for the first time, I would really be *impressed!*

God Bless the Confirmation Class!! Lovingly in Christ's name & joy!!

Thank you,
Iris Monda



Get your heart a-dancin' with Irish music at the annual Family Promise benefit concert SATURDAY, Feb. 8 at 3 p.m. at First Church, U.C.C. in Oberlin. ***Turn the Corner Celtic Band*** will perform jigs and reels and O'Carolan music. Reception follows with Celtic treats. Bring friends and a generous spirit. For additional information contact Executive Director, Lois Pozega 440-284-0494.

Welcome to Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

CELC Staff

Pastor: Jeff Steeber
Church Secretary: Kimberly Orille
Organist: Randi Smarsh
Custodian: Bill Higgins
Nursery: Beth Kral

Congregation Council

President: Russ Roth
Vice President: Betsy Floyd
Secretary: Barb McCain
Treasurer: Charles Heindrichs
Property: Tom Reiner
Finance: Dawn Rockas

Ministry Team Leaders

Education & Youth: Michelle Olds
Outreach: Bob Olds
Congregational Life: Anita Hlava

Music Ministry

Bell Choir: Joe Guthman
Senior Choir: Anita Hlava
Junior Choir: Chris Owens
Kelly Kacenjjar
Bethany Pearce

Endowment Committee

Paul Culler
Karen Lecorchick
Harold Wagner
Ed Baker
Russ Roth
Sue Jagoda

Circles

Anna Circle: Jan Wunderle
Deborah Circle: Quella Columbaro
Lydia/Naomi Circle: Sharon Davidson
Martha Circle: Anita Hlava

Book Club

Doris Gaertner
Barb Rehker-Lee

Men's Bible Study

~Meets each Saturday at 6:30 a.m. at Athena's Restaurant

Prayer Chain

Arline Walters
Anita Hlava
Armgard Hartitz
Quella Columbaro
Loretta Heindrichs
Lisa Primuth
Carol Aufdenkampe
Iris Monda
Ruth Higgins
Joanne Polacok
Genny Helmink
Sharon Davidson
Gwen Hogrefe
Ryan Smarsh

OWLS

(Older, Wiser, Lutheran, Seniors)
Harold & Karen Wagner

G.I.F.T. Sunday School

~Each Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Third Grade Bible Class

Paul Culler

First Communion

Pastor Steeber

Confirmation Class

Eric Mohney
Dawn Rockas
Tracy Harper
Marilyn Culler
Joanne Polacok
Joan Reynolds
Pastor Steeber

Mission Trip

Eric Mohney

Vacation Bible School

Stacy Jantz
Brenda Crout

Praise Band

Lights for Christ
~1st & 3rd Sat. of each month
(Sep. – May)

Bluegrass Service

Chuck Heindrichs
Frank Lee
Julie Pressnell
~2nd & 4th Sat. of each month

Family Promise

Chuck Heindrichs

CELC Preschool

Administrator:
Teri Pienoski

Good Kids Childcare

Director: Julie Skaggs



If your name,
church group or
committee
is missing from this list,
please contact Kimberly
in the church office.
You may call 440-933-6263
or email celc@centurytel.net
Thank you!

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
32747 Lake Road
Avon Lake, Ohio 44012
440-933-6263
celc@centurytel.net
www.christlutheranavonlake.org



Worship Opportunities

Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.
Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

**The Nursery is Available
During Worship**



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Have You Seen It?

THE SECOND MEMORIAL TABLE IS HERE.

I hereby THANK all of you who contributed toward the Advent Wreath Project. Monies raised from wreaths, candles, donations, and a memorial gift donation from the Ada Chichester Family provided the monies needed to purchase the matching table. This pair of beautiful tables rest at the Sanctuary Entrance. These tables are dedicated to: *Marilyn Pressnell, Ruth Weiland, Esther Bolden, Doris Swanson, Ida Carlson, Margaret Sonntag, June Heinrich, Ada Chichester, Joyce Tremain, Bob Miller and Aden Boyd.* Happy New Year and may blessings continue here at Christ Lutheran Church.

God's peace, Anita Hlava



