CTK Communiqué January 2025





Trenton Road CampusSaturday Worship5:00 PMBible Study6:00 PMSunday Worship:9:00 AM
11:00 AMBible Study/Sunday School
10:00-10:45 AM



Financial Snapshot – Through	h November 2024				
INCOME (General Fund):	November 2024	Year To Date			
Church receipts	\$ 114,212.85	\$ 1,345,835.61			
Tuition	\$ 81,495.06	\$ 976,272.65			
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 195,707.91	\$ 2,322,108.26			
BUDGETED EXPENSES:	\$ 192,520.00	\$ 2,310,240.00			
INCOME OVER/(UNDER) BUDGET					
	\$ 3187.91	\$ 11,868.26			
	November 2024	Year To Date			
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 195,707.91	\$ 2,322,108.26			
ACTUAL EXPENSES:	\$ 201,417.39	\$ 2,237,259.94			
INCOME OVER/(UNDER) EXPENSE					
	\$ (5,709.48)	\$ 84,848.32			

Through November, our giving is over our budgeted and actual expenses. I can't help but think of Malachi 3, when God encourages the tithe and says, "Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." (Mal. 3:10). CTK givers, the Lord is pouring out blessings upon us because of your faithfulness and steadfast stewardship. Let us pray for guidance and wisdom, as He certainly has a mission for us to be witnesses to Jesus in our community!



MEMORIAL	3
<u>In Memory of Tom Cole</u> <u>To the Memoríal Fund gíven</u> <u>by:</u> Harriet Cole	
<u>In Memory of Kim Page</u> <u>To theFood Pantry given</u> <u>by:</u> Judy Mongelluzzo	Birthday BlessingsIn Honor ofBirthdayEsther Rost11/5

Scrap Metal, Cans/Bottles & Capital Fund Drive Fundraising

		2022	2023	2024	Total	(since 2006)
"C" Dollars	\$	1,089.00	\$ 1,380.00	\$ 1,060.00	\$	25,022.00
Scrap Metal	\$	2,470.83	\$ 2,925.99	\$ 2,383.50	\$	57,018.70
Bottles	\$	3,334.40	\$ 2,888.54	\$ 774.60	\$	45,234.84
Paper Recycl		40.52	\$ 52.26	\$ 28.25	\$	798.64
(As of:11/20/	24)					

Church Office Hours

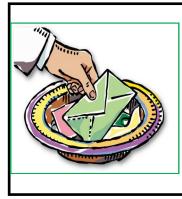
The church office hours are as follows: Monday - Friday 8:30am to 3pm Closed: Monday, January 1



ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

2024 Contribution Statements

If we have your current email on file, you will automatically receive a secured link to your contribution statement the week of January 20th. Please contact the church office if you need to update your email address. They will also be available to members on MyCTK January 19th. (www.ctk.me, click on MyCTK at the top of the website) If you do not know your password, please go through the steps to change it. If you have problems logging in, please contact Lisa Demou in the Church Office.



2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Envelopes are now available outside the CTK Book Store. After January 19th, you may pick them up in the church office. If you would like to request envelopes, you may complete the form on the table near the envelopes, or email <u>kelly@ctk.me</u> or call the church office. God bless your giving!



Christmas Food/Toy Basket Ministry - A HUGE thank you to all that were able to pray, donate items, shop for gifts, adopt a family and help sort and bag the toys for 44 families. We provided 42 food baskets to 73 adults and toys baskets to 104 children.

2024 Contribution Statements

Your giving statement will be available no later than January 19, 2025 through one of the following methods:

- CTK Members can go to the website (<u>www.ctk.me</u>) and follow the instructions to sign in to MyCTK.
- If you would like your statement mailed or printed to pick up in the church office, request forms will be available outside the sanctuary starting January 5th. You can also request at www.ctk.me under Forms.
- If we have your current email on file, you will automatically receive a secured link to your statement the week of January 20th. Please contact the church office if you need to update your email address or had any trouble receiving your statement via email last year.
- Please contact Kelly in the church office with any questions regarding your statement <u>kelly@ctk.me</u> or (734) 285-9695 ext. 160

I am requesting my 2024 Contribution Statement:
Please: Mail or Hold in Church Office for pick up
Name:
Address:
Phone:
Email:
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FROM THE FINANCIAL OFFICE END OF THE YEAR....

With the busy and joyous season of celebrating Christ's birth upon us, here are a few points to remember from the Financial Office, as this year draws to a close:

Qualified Charitable Distributions – Taxpayers over the age of 70 ½ are able to make tax-free charitable donations directly from their IRA's to a qualified non-profit, such as Christ The King Lutheran Church. With the end of the year approaching, this is a great way to help your church and meet your required minimum distributions from your IRA. Please contact your IRA trustee or financial institution for additional information.



Envelopes are available outside of the Psalms & Proverbs Bookstore.

The following requests can be found online:

- Request for envelopes, if you do not have a number. If you no longer need envelopes due to online giving, please contact Kelly at kelly@ctk.me.
- Request for your contribution statement to be printed, if you are unable to access myctk.me.

Giving—All donations must be <u>received</u> by December 31st in order to be listed on your contribution statement for 2024. As mentioned above, CTK is able to accept qualified charitable contributions from your IRA. Please contact your IRA trustee or financial institution for additional information.

Contribution statements will be available online at myctk.me for members after January 19th, 2025. All contribution statements will be available via email with a secure link that same week, as long as we have a valid email address on file.

A quick way to give on-the-go during this busy holiday season is via text. Just text CTKGIVE to 73256.

May God bless your family and giving this year!!

WAYS TO GIVE YOUR TITHE & GIFTS

- <u>In Person</u>
- <u>Online</u>: Scan the QR code to be directly sent to the online giving <u>link</u>.
- **Online:** Members may visit <u>www.ctk.me</u> and click on "MyCTK" at the top of the homepage to log in. Select "Giving" then "Give Now" to set up a one time or recurring payment.
- <u>**Text:**</u> Visitors/Members text 'CTKGIVE' to 73256 to receive a secured link.
- Mail: Mail to CTK, 15600 Trenton Rd., Southgate, MI 48195 ONLINE GIVING & TEXT GIVE OF TITHES/

CONTRIBUTIONS We are grateful for the opportunity to accept contributions online via MyCTK and through text giving. Just as a reminder, if possible, please use your banking account information, rather than a card number, to save on processing fees, which start at 2.6%. This cuts back on monthly expenses and, in turn, more of your gift goes directly to the mission of your church. Thank you for your faithfulness!

Super Bowl Sub Sale





Subs are homemade by the CTK Youth Group with Ham, Turkey, Salami and Provolone cheese. (You add your own other toppings) They will be ready for pickup Sunday February 9th before and after all services

See CTK Youth Board for Order Forms Orders and Payment must be turned into Gina by Sunday, February 2, 2025





This Month in CTK History



After the busy month of December, the cold and snowy month of January slowed, but some notable events happened at the beginning of the new year for CTK over the years.

First, Rev. Biesenthal was tasked with starting the "New Mission" in 1951. In 1954, CTK applied for membership in the Missouri synod. In January 1959, it was announced that the Board of Christian Education would be organized. Then in 1961, officers of the church were recognized at a special dinner for the first time. Next, we jump to 1983, when a Saturday evening worship service was added. Later, in 1995, church services were held in the gym while construction was being done on the church. Also in January 1995, many of the teachers moved their classrooms into the newly built school wing.

Finally, our history reflects several events in January at the Pennsylvania Road campus. The first Women's Bible Study took place on January 18, 2007. On January 2, 2008, the demolition of Building 5 began. Wishing everyone a Happy 2025!!



Psalms & Proverbs Bookstore

As the new year begins, and we exercise to get our bodies back in shape, don't forget about your spirit!! The bookstore has devotionals, books, and Bibles to help your spirit get fit! The bookstore volunteers are willing to help you find what you are looking for. There is also a daily desk



calendar with prayers and devotionals. Wishing everyone a Happy New Year!!!

YOUR FOOD PANTY

FOOD PANTRY

God created a culinary relationship between a food-producing plant and a food-consuming humanity. Adam and Eve lived in a garden. Old Testament laws specified that harvesters leave food in the fields for the hungry to glean. The Apostle Paul took an offering from distant congregations for the poor in the Jerusalem church. Jesus fed thousands with fish and bread. Jesus commanded His followers to feed the hungry. With His help, Christ The King Church and School do that through our CTK Food Pantry.

Through the years, our congregation, our school, teachers in public schools, Gleaners food group, individuals of the community, and Meijer Corp. have been used by God to feed the hungry.

The Meijer Corp. has used the Simply Give program to generate \$97 million in food donations for the Midwest since 2008. CTK has received thousands of dollars from Meijer for our Pantry. Believe us, the need continues greater than ever.

We use gift cards to buy perishables at Meijer for over 70 families/week. We give out staples of milk, bread, cheese, margarine, and eggs. (This is only a fraction of what we give out weekly, as we also provide nonperishables, meat and produce.) Meijer Simply Give campaigns have made this possible for many years.

Meijer is launching another Simply Give campaign

Dates: Sun., December 29, 2024 through Sat., March 29, 2025 Double Match Dates (best days to give): Saturdays, March 1 and 22,

2025

Method: Pick one card from the Simply Give display at CTK.

Give the card with your donation to a Southgate Meijer cashier.

<u>Contribute:</u> Give a gift of \$10 or a multiple of \$10.

Thanksgiving: Thank God for being His hands.

We will receive Meijer gift cards sometime during May of 2025. A report will follow in CTK's Communique.

God bless your giving. Thank You, Jesus, for the privilege. Pastor Harry for the "30" happy volunteers.



UPCOMING EVENTS					
Date	Event	Time L	ocation		
Jan. 1	Church Offices Closed	All Day	TR/PA		
Jan. 6	School Resumes	Full Day	TR		
Jan. 10-12	Youth Springhill Trip	All Weekend	Off-Site		
Jan. 13	Sewing Circle	10:00-12:00	PA		
Jan. 15	59+ Group	1:00 PM	TR		
Jan. 18	Youth Pasta Bar Fundraiser Dinner	4:00-7:30	TR		
Jan. 20	MLK Day - No School & Offices (Closed	TR/PA		
Feb. 7 - 10	School Winter Break	All Weekend	TR		
Feb. 8	Sweetheart Dance—Youth Fndrsr	6:00-8:00	PA		
Feb. 9	Youth Super Bowl Sub Pick-Up	Sun. AM	TR		
Feb. 21	Family Fun Night	6:00-8:00	TR		
Feb. 28	Have A Heart Gather/Fundrsr	6:00-10:00	Off-Site		
Weekly Even	<u>ts:</u>				
Tuesdays:	Toolbelt Tuesday	8:00 AM	PA		
Wednesdays:	Men's Bible Study	8:00 AM	PA		
	Woman's Bible Study	9:00 AM	PA		
Thursdays:	Donation Station Open	12:00-2:00	PA		
-	Food Pantry	3:00 PM	PA		
Fridays:	Prayer Vigil (open to all)	7:30 AM	TR		
Saturdays:	Donation Station Open	10:00 AM-12:0	0 PM PA		
-	Worship & Bible Class	5:00 & 6:00 PM	1 TR		
Sundays:	Worship	9:00 & 11:00 A	M TR		
-	Bible Class	10:00 AM	TR		



Dear CTK Members,

The church and school staff would like to thank you for your support throughout 2024. Thank you for your faithful tithing, prayers, volunteering and love of neighbor. Christ The King would not exist without your continued dedication, but mostly it's your belief and love for the Lord that keeps this building active. May God bless you and your families in the new year ahead. We look forward to serving and worshipping with you in 2025. In Christ, your Christ The King Staff Spírítual Care Ministry



The Spiritual Care Ministry at CTK focuses on persons in the congregation who are hospitalized, confined to their home, reside in a nursing home, or may be recovering from a surgery in a rehab facility. Please let us know if you have a family member or friend who needs a visitation, where they will hear the Word and receive Holy Communion.

Harry Dutka

(734) 285 9695 Ext. 150 hdutka@ctk.me

Jessica Bourassa Lisa Demou Ext. 100 or jessica@ctk.me Ext. 210 or lisa@ctk.me

1,678 Spiritual Care visits from January 1 – Dec. 12, 2024



GREETING CARD MINISTRY needs birthday cards for teens and young adults. If able to donate, please drop them off in the Church Office.

CTK'S FOOD PANTRY Food or monetary donations are always appreciated. Food donations may be dropped off at the church office. Money can be given in your offering and designated: "Food Pantry."

EYEGLASSES FOR MOST MINISTRIES All types of glasses are accepted. Please place in the baskets provided in the West Gallery at Trenton Rd.



Day School News

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you." (Psalm 32:8)

Happy New Year! We have much to look forward to in 2025! This month, we will wrap up the first semester. The third quarter of the 2024/2025 school year brings National Lutheran Schools Week, our annual Family Fun Night, and Kindergarten Round-Up. It's also the exciting time of year when we start focusing on the upcoming school year. Registration for the 25/26 school year will begin on January 27 for current church member school families. Current non-CTK member school families will be able to register on February 3. We will welcome church and daycare families to register on February 17. Open registration begins on February 24. Please contact admissions@ctk.me for more information. It's an exciting time to be a panther!

I want to extend a special thank you to all who attended our Children's Christmas Program. It was such a beautiful celebration of our Savior's birth. We were so happy to share this CTK tradition with so many. Thank you for your continued support of our school.

God's Blessings, Dr. Kelli Kapp-Heifner









UPCOMING DATES:

January 6: School Resumes January 17: End of Q2 January 20: MLK Day; No School January 27: Winter PIN January 27: Enrollment Begins February 7-10: Mid-Winter Break February 21: Family Fun Night March 2: Lutheran Schools Sunday Full school calendar can be found at

www.ctkpanthers.com

CTK **ROOTED** Youth Group Presents

Sweetheart Dance

 $_{
m \downarrow}$ Kids (Girls & Boys) can bring adult of their choice! $^{
m \downarrow}$





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CTK Pennsylvania Rd Campus Gym

Tickets can be purchased at the door

Snacks & Refreshments available For more info or to purchase advance tickets: Gina at gmd.lwml@gmail.com



Save the Date HAVE A HEART FUNDRAISER

Join us for a FABULOUSLY FUN, adult only evening to support Children's Hope Chest!

Friday, February 28, 2025; 6 - 10pm Brickhouse Brands

PLEASE NOTE: upstairs room (No elevator) 2935 Biddle Ave. Wyandotte, MI 48192 \$50 per ticket ** More details to follow soon **

Have a Heart Fundraiser 2025 Who can help?

Fellow members, we had such a huge response to the Have a Heart Fundraiser that we had in February, 2024 (in lieu of the 2023 golf outing), so much so that we'd like to do it again! Tentatively, we would have this event on Friday, February 28, 2025. All proceeds would benefit Children's Hope Chest.

We need 2-3 people dedicated to getting donations from local businesses, whether it be gift cards, gift baskets or other merchandise to use in gift baskets.

If you are interested in helping please contact Deanna Warrington, 313.505.1704; Jennifer Gepes, 734.775.1972; Cindy Burley, 734.752.2349; Joe Lambrecht, 313.805.4621





- 5 Youth Group 6-8 PM
- 10 SpringHill
- 12 NO YOUTH GROUP
- 18 Pasta Bar Fundraiser @ Trenton Rd
- 19 DRTC Basketball Tournament @ Mt. Hope 2-4 PM
- 26 NO YOUTH GROUP

Fundraising

- \Rightarrow Jan 18, 2025 Pasta/Salad Dinner
- \Rightarrow Jan Feb Super Bowl Subs
- \Rightarrow Feb 8 Sweetheart Dance
- \Rightarrow TBD Envelope Wall
- \Rightarrow Lent Dinners March 5 April 9
- \Rightarrow Vendor/Craft Show April 5
- ⇒ Scrapbooking/Craft Day May 3

Join us for Pasta Bar & Salad Bar Trenton Road - Cafeteria

> Saturday, January 18, 2025 Serving dinner 4 PM - 8 PM

> > 3 Pasta Choices 3 Sauce Choices Salad Bar

Jesus & Donuts with Gina Sunday AM Bible Study Cana Room



Prayer Partner

There are 6 youth going to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering in July 2025 and they are in need of a prayer partner. Please contact Gina to be matched with one of the youth.

7 WORD STATEMENTS FOR EVERY DAY OF J	ANUARY – 2025
1. Our Father loves to bless His children.	Matt. 7:7-11
2.Use your God-given talents serving others.	Matt. 9:37-38
3.Dwell on God's promises, not your problems.	Isa. 26:3
4.Meditating on scripture realigns with God's truth.	Ps. 1:2
5.Remembering God's past faithfulness, builds our faith.	Ps. 89:8
6.Keep looking joy can be found anywhere.	Matt. 2:9-11
7.Be cheerfully expectant, trust God is working.	John 5:17
8. Pray – then wait for all life's decisions.	Ps. 27:14
9. Don't resist, God's plans are always best.	Deut. 28:1-2
10.Our eternal city's lighted by Jesus Himself.	Rev. 22:5
11.Mature Christians live lives that honor God.	I Cor. 6:19-20
12.Jesus help me use my time wisely.	Eph. 5:15-16
13. We surrender our plans to God's direction.	Prov. 3:5-6
14. The whole earth displays God's artistic creativity.	Col, 1:16-17
15. Rejection may be God's protection for you.	Ps. 32:7
16. Banish worries and fears of sleepless nights.	Ps. 46:1-2
17. What songs would you sing to God?	Ps. 95:1-2
18. Our real life's in Heaven not earth.	Col. 3:1-4
19. Friendship and encouragement support those in trials.	I Sam. 20:22-23
20. Pray like Dr. King, "Use me Lord."	I Sam. 2:10
21. Know that half-truths are still lies!	Prov. 12:22
22. Because God controls our world, fear nothing.	II Kings 6:16
23. For your own good, read God's word.	I Tim. 4:13-16
24. Graciously serve others with your resourceful abilities.	I Peter 4:10
25. Use God's apparel for heart and mind.	Col. 3:12
26. God responds to sincere prayers with wisdom.	Dan. 9:22-23
27. God's gifts are worth more than money.	Prov. 11:16-17
28. Feeling alone? Remember, Jesus is always there.	Ps. 73:23
29. Pray invite Jesus into your daily activities.	Ps. 90:17
30. Lord, make my words gracious and healing.	Prov. 16:24
31. Refocus to see what really matters most.	II Cor. 4:18
By Ralph & Donna Moore	



<u>The Donation Station</u> is open on Thursdays from 12:00 – 2:00 and Saturdays from 10:00 -12:00. We are in need of baby clothes, jewelry, and all types of kitchen items. If you would like to help in this unique ministry, please contact carol@ctk.me or 734-281-3773.

59+ Group:

Happy New Year! We will meet on Wednesday, January 15th, 1:00-2:15pm for Chair Exercise in the Cana Room. Wear your stretch pants and get ready for a few laughs.

GATHER AND GROW BOOK CLUB

This month will mark the Gather and Grow Book Club's one year anniversary, and what a year it's been! In our first year together, we read five books as a group, and we learned an amazing lesson through them: God doesn't just encourage us through Christian literature, but through fel-



Just Older Youth

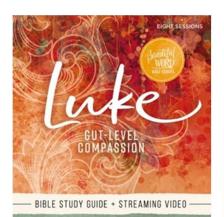
lowship with each other! We are starting 2025 by reading 'Visiting Heaven' by Captain Dale Black, and our first meeting of the year will be Monday, January 27 in the Cana Room. We will be discussing Chapter 1-9 of this Christ-focused non-fiction book. This book club is open to all women (high school age and older), and you can attend or join any time throughout the year. Please reach out to the church office with questions or to get on our email list, or stop by our first meeting to see if this group is for you!

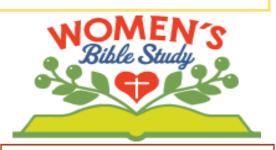
GriefShare

The fall session has ended. There were a lot of tears, laughter, conversation and, I pray, a lot of healing. Thank you, CTK, for your continued support of this program. Many have been helped by attending, making new friends, dealing with the challenges of grief and finding their way to a new normal in their lives. God continues to bless the grieving through this program. The spring session should be starting in March. If you'd like more information on GriefShare, visit www.griefshare.org or contact Teresa at 734-282-8012.

Mark Your Calendars <u>2025 Euchre Dates</u> Jan. 11, Feb. 15, Mar. 8, Apr. 5, May 17, Sept. 13 & Oct. 11

We play in the Upper Room at Trenton Rd, starting at 7pm SHARP! (Sorry, but we are unable to accommodate latecomers.) Cost is \$3 per person. Each player is asked to bring a beverage and snack to share. Partners are not necessary and guests are welcome. This is a FUN event and prizes are awarded. Questions? Contact Mike Shoup 734.624.4350 or blueknight007@hotmail.com





LWML Dearborn Downriver Bible Study

First Saturday of the Month Beginning in January Location: Guardian Lutheran, Dearborn Contact: Gina Davidson to register by Nov 15 gmd.lwml@gmail.com

Cost \$13 for book





Happy New Year! A new year means New Year's Resolutions for many people – and I am a person that loves them! Reading the Bible more is maybe the perfect resolution for just about all of us. That will be one of my resolutions this year, and I encourage you to make it one of yours. There may be no other more impactful thing that you can do for your life than being in God's Word more often. I am also a big fan of setting up my New Year's resolutions in a way that they have a good chance of being successful. Here's what I mean: if your resolution is to "read the Bible every single day this year," well, as soon as you miss a day you have failed your resolution, which is discouraging. A better resolution might be: "I will read my Bible 200 times this year." It's the same goal of reading the Bible more, just a different way to look at it. In the first goal, you're always only one day away from failing. With the second goal, you're always adding to your total, moving in a positive direction toward the end result! This year, I am going to follow a new reading plan called the "Reformation Reading Plan." It was created by our LCMS Michigan District and our District President Pastor Dave Davis, who is a huge advocate for daily Bible reading. I will be following along this plan on the Bible App. You can follow along with me, too, if you'd like. Just download and open the Bible App and then search the reading plans for "Reformation." I can't wait to see what God has in store for us in 2025!

<u>Seminary Update:</u> The second week of January, I will on campus at the Seminary in St. Louis, studying the New Testament! I am really looking forward to diving into the scriptures together with my professors and classmates. We had one online class session near the beginning of December with the professor for this class and he asked us to just do one thing before we sit down together in person in January: "read the New Testament, and take notes on what you read." So that has been my project throughout December, and it is has been a great exercise! So far. I have gone through the Gospels and Acts, so I still have a ways to go! As always, thank you so much for your prayers and support!

God's Peace, Pastor Brooks



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2025

"TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO. AND WHEN HE IS OLD HE WILL NOT TURN FROM IT." **PROVERBS 22:6 NIV**

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Thanks to your generosity, \$1,325 has been donated to Children's HopeChest from the Bake Sales. The final Bake Sale will be held after the new year.

Did you Know?

Did you know? During the Bible Study hour, we have something for everyone! Parents with young children/ infants who aren't ready to sit in a Sunday School classroom can go to the Parent & Toddler class. There is adult discussion while the littles can play. Or after Confirmation, students can continue studying God's Word with their peers with "Jesus, Gina and Donuts" in the Cana Room. All these classes follow the same curriculum so families can continue the conversation on the car ride home

Keep informed

📝 Just as a reminder, if you would like to join the CTK Sunday School Facebook page, contact the Sunday School office.

Happy New Year!

Coming up in January: Sunday School will have lessons covering Paul's Shipwreck; Paul writes to a new Generation in letters to Timothy and the Last Call – when Jesus Returns.



CHRISTNET LUNCHES AND UPDATES

January lunches for 50 are needed the following days:

- Monday, Jan 6
- Tuesday, Jan 7
- Sunday, Jan 12
 Tuesday, Jan 14
- Tuesday, Jan 12
 Sunday, Jan 19
- Sunday, Jan 19
 Monday Jan 20
- Thursday, Jan 23
- Sunday, Jan 26

Please contact Jen Gepes if you are able to help with lunches. jellen@comcast.net or 734.775.1972.

The Rotating Shelter will begin on January 26th. ChristNet is looking for volunteers to help with registration and intake from 5pm-7pm each evening. They are hoping to organize teams of 5-7 people so that each team could help just once or twice per month. They are also looking for weekend van drivers. This is a paid position.

Contact Linda Dickman with questions or if you are interested in volunteering your time for registration or the position of van driver. lindickman@wowway.com or 734.673.2444

SERVICES

CHRI



Pastor's Message

- As all you know, I enjoy golf. There's not much golf enjoyment in Michigan in January. Our options are limited to the following:
- 1. The Golf Simulator. Recent advances in technology have taken golf from
- the greens to the garage—or garage-like establishments, such
- as X-Golf, Top-Golf, "Something"-Golf, etc. Hitting shots that may or may not be OK. IRL always hits the virtual spot. There's something about the "THWACK!" of a well struck iron into a tarp that says, "It's 5 degrees outside, but you're gonna be alright."
- 2. Watch professionals play in warm weather climates like Hawaii, Bermuda, SoCal, etc. This is an annual rite of winter. We watch and wait for the promise of spring.
- 3. Try to "buy a better game" with the purchase of wedges, drivers, training aids, etc. The hope of the desperate golfer springs eternal. That's why golf retailers send us eight emails a day with the latest sale and promo codes for free shipping.
- As you also know, I enjoy worship. Here's some reasons:
- 1. God sends invitations every day to call upon Him and rely on His goodness. He welcomes us with the free gift of His Son, Jesus.
- 2. This fallen and broken world can be cold and gray. Jesus promises He's preparing a place for us. We watch and wait for His triumphant return.
- 3. While the world throws all manner of nonsense at us--virtual

this, AI that--truth and reality is found only in our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Happy New Year in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. See you in church! In Christ. Pastor Jason Cashmer