

Christ Lutheran Church
1928 S. Reese Road
Reese, MI 48757-9718



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Church Staff and Church Council

STAFF

Pastor: Mark Gerisch
Office Staff: Deb Heinzman

HOME PHONE#

989.550.4267
989.868.3608

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent: Robbie Oldenburg
Treasurer: Ann Bublitz

989.928.9838
989.693.6418

CHURCH COUNCIL

President	Sandy Schafsnitz	989.996.0399
V. President:	Lora DeLong	989.529.5396
Secretary:	Kelly Walz	989.239.6912
Gen. Treasurer:	Mary Felske	989.737-4043
Spec. Funds Treasurer:	Renee Zimmer	989.868.4915
Congregation Life	Trista Jeske-Yax	989.714.5996
Communication	David Abraham	989.274.6181
Education	Shirley Grabowski	989.868.3580
Property	John Ward	989.245-3672
Worship & Music	Diane Kuhne	810.358.0242
Youth & Family	Jen Shores	989.225.3999

HOME PHONE#

In an effort to conserve on the use of paper and postage, we are offering to send the newsletter out via e-mail. Please e-mail the office with your current email information. If you no longer desire to receive this newsletter please email or call the church office. Thank you.

Church Phone #989.868.3281

Church Fax #989.868.1505

Website: www.clcreese.com

Email Address: christlutheranchurchreese@gmail.com



Christ Lutheran Church December 2024 Newsletter



ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday - 9 am Worship
- 10 am Sunday School
- 11 am Contemporary Worship
Wednesday - 4 pm - Advent Worship

There is no contemporary service on December 22nd due to the Children's Christmas Program.

Christmas Eve Worship Services - 4 & 7 pm
Christmas Day Worship - 9 am

Communion is now celebrated at every worship service. Don't forget to fill out your communion card.



ADVENT MEALS: A meal will be served after the Advent Services on **December 4th, 11th and 18th**. This is a great time for fellowship and to enjoy a good meal after our worship service. A free will offering will be collected with money going to UCCS, our local food pantry. Meals are provided with funds from a Thrivent grant.



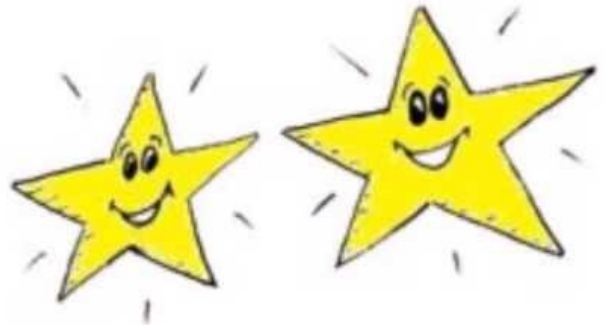
COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT - Dec. 21st – **Decorate Christmas cookies at 12 pm and Christmas Caroling to the Shut-ins at 1 pm:** We will meet at church and carpool to visit the shut-ins. **We need ALL of your voices.** Please consider this ministry. It is only a couple of hours and it brings so much joy to our shut-ins.

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THE CALL COMMITTEE has asked Pastor Philip Bromhal to come and preach on **Sunday, December 8th**. There will be a meet and greet with coffee and donuts in between services.



The Sunday School Christmas Program, "New Star", will be presented on **Sunday, December 22nd at 10 am**. (Because of the Sunday School Program, there will be no Contemporary service.) Following the program, there will be fellowship time in the Fellowship Hall. **Parents are reminded to bring a dozen cookies.**

Practice times are as follows:
Saturday, December 7, 14, and 21 at 10:30 am
Sunday, December 8 and 15 during Sunday School hour at 10 am.

Dear Friends in Christ,

FAVORITE CHRISTMAS MEMORIES-what are the first things that come to your mind?

- A special toy received
- A delicious meal at grandma's house
- Time spent with family
- Favorite Christmas cookies/treats
- A long awaited trip
- Christmas Eve/Day worship service
- A surprise visit from Santa

Each of us has had those extra special Christmas moments that we will **NEVER** forget. What about that first Christmas and the moments that were never forgotten....

- Mary-an angel appearing to announce that she will have a baby
- Joseph-a dream to tell him to take Mary as his wife
- Shepherds-an angel appearing to them while watching their sheep and then a **MULTITUDE** of angels praising God:

**“Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace,
good will toward men” Luke 2:14**

This year may be especially difficult for some of you as you mourn the loss of a loved one and the memories will bring some pain. My prayer for you is that God's love will comfort you in a profound way.

My challenge for all of you this Christmas is to make a favorite Christmas memory for you and your family....one that has the real meaning of Christmas at the center. For example, begin your family celebration with the reading of the Christmas story. Be creative! Enjoy this special season with your family....the food, the gifts, the time together, but most importantly the birth of our Savior Jesus!

Love in Christ,
Pastor Mark & Judy

Merry Christmas to you all!

This is hard to believe we are in the final month of the year, but one of the best months celebrating Jesus' birthday! We are truly blessed to be able to do that freely!

We have a lot to be thankful for and we could not do it without each other. I for one am blessed to have such support and understanding as I get to know you and the church.

As I was waiting for Johnson Controls, I was looking around the church and saw a plaque on the wall that I know I have walked by hundred of times and did not take the time to read. If you have the time, please look at this. It is a Roll of Honor that the pews were dedicated to the names of the soldiers from Christ Lutheran Church who entered the armed forces 1941 - 1945.

The Annual Church Meeting will be coming up on January 19th. We are working on a few proposals. The Call Committee has a few potential pastors they will be interviewing and considering. If you have any questions, we are listening and will get you answers.

God's Blessings to you!

Sandy



BLESS A FAMILY - This year the Joy Circle will be Blessing a Family from the community who are a young couple expecting a baby boy and starting out in their own apartment. Be watching for the tree with tags to go up in the back of the church. If you take a tag and purchase an item(s), please attach the tag to the item(s) and place it in the Church Office. If you want to make a monetary donation and let someone else shop, please put the money in an envelope and note "Joy Circle Bless A Family" on the envelope and give to Denise Felske or Linda Babechenko.



JOY CIRCLE will meet on **Thursday, December 12th at 6:30 pm.** All women of the church are welcome.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - All women of the congregation are welcome to join us on **Thursday, December 12th from 7 - 8 pm.** "The Proverbs 31 Women and the Stories of Faithful Women in Scripture" study has been misunderstood and misrepresented throughout ages. The women described in these verses sound like the Martha Stewart of King Solomon's court – an unattainable ideal of perfection – or perhaps a quaint example of ages past. However, this study is about more than some imagined ideal of womanhood. It will explore real women, with real struggles and gifts – women with deep, abiding faith and a passion for the will of God. The truth is that neither the women of Scripture nor we ourselves are called to be like Martha Stewart; we are called to be like Christ. **Session 6– The Story of Bathsheba:** A Proverbs 31 woman is one who recognizes the gifts God has given and uses them to His glory; she is properly qualified. Proverbs 31:25 says "Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come." God gives us many gifts which we use to accomplish the tasks set before us. This quality is not something we can get for ourselves. It comes from God. God gives Prudence to the simple. Prudence is good judgment in practical matters, and this good judgment comes from wisdom and discipline from God. In faith we know that we are always under the holy wings of our Lord and competently deal with both the good and bad that come our way.



SEW FOR FAITH meets on **Wednesdays** from **9:30 - 11:30 am.** Come and join us for fellowship and project ideas - you do not need to sew.



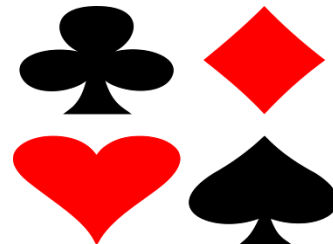
CHOIR practices are on **Monday nights at 6 pm.** We welcome more voices to join us!



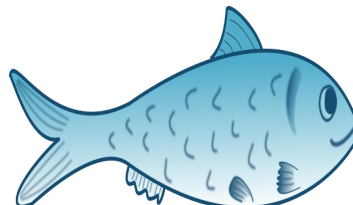
HANDBELL CHOIR practices are on **Wednesday afternoons at 5 pm.**



BRIDGE CLASS: Come join us at the Reese Library **December 3rd - 6th from 3 to 5 pm** for Bridge Class. All skill levels are welcome to come and learn, whether you need a refresher or are a beginner that has never played before.



EUCHRE FUN GAMES - There will be **NO EUCHRE during the month of December.** However, we will be having Euchre twice a month starting in January of 2025! Mark your calendar for the following dates and times: **January 11 & 18, February 8 & 15, March 8, April 12, and May 10 at 2:00 pm.** In addition, **March 29, April 26, and May 17 there will be euchre at 6:30 pm.** Bring your family and friends and enjoy an afternoon of fun and fellowship.



SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 4TH, 2025. Christ Lutheran Church will once again be having a Fish Fry! Please plan on attending the planning meeting on **January 15th, 2025 at 6:30 pm.**

YOUTH EVENTS

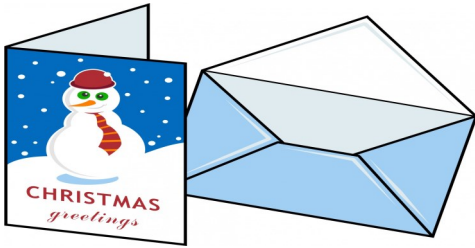


7th - 12th GRADE YOUTH - Friday, December 6th - Living Nativity: We will meet at church at **6:30 pm** to carpool over to Immanuel, Frankentrost.

YOUTH & FAMILY - Sunday, December 8th – Santa and His Reindeer: We will meet at Grandpa Tiny's Farm in Frankenmuth at **noon**.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN are playing handbells on **Sunday, December 8th at 9 am**. Please make sure your children are here so that we have enough little hands to ring the bells. Just a reminder that Pastor Phil will be here and he will be delivering a children's sermon.



Let us pray for and remember our members who are homebound or in a health care facility. They appreciate receiving greeting cards during the Christmas season and throughout the year.

Andrea Pelkey
Community Village
3200 Hospital Rd.
Box 6518
Saginaw MI 48603

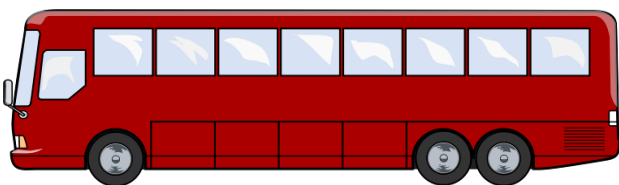
Aaron Abraham
210 W Bemis Rd.
Saline MI 48176

Irene Ramsden
1510 Kern Rd.
Reese MI 48757

Al & Bernie Mielens
6086 W. Darbee Rd.
Fairgrove MI 48733

Mary Ann Garrison
PO Box 143
Reese MI 48757

Joyce (Jaye) Weiss
Covenant Glen
1040 Covenant Dr.
Frankenmuth MI 48734

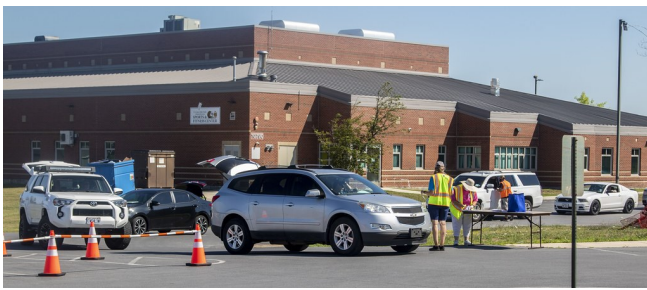


LET'S GO COACHIN' - The Ministry of Congregational Life invites you, your family, and friends to join other members of Christ Lutheran Church for fun and fellowship on one of Renee Cragg's trips!

December 10th - Soaring Eagle Casino Day Trip
January 18th & 19th, 2025 - Brimley, Bay Mills Casino ~ Kewadin, Sault St Marie (Overnight) ~ Odawa Mackinaw City.

Check out the bulletin board for more trips for 2025!

RENEE'S TRAVEL LLC 989-325-0408. SEE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE BULLETIN BOARD.



Dear Reese Area Resident in need of food assistance: UCCS, a cooperative volunteer effort of the Reese area churches, is making plans for the distribution of Christmas Food Bags on December 7th. **If you are interested in the Christmas Bags, you must come and pick them up at our packing site at Trinity Lutheran Church, 9858 North St., Reese. Enter the church parking lot on the north side of the church from Center St. There will be signs to follow for entering to help the flow of cars. Bags will be distributed on a first come first serve basis, one family per household, Saturday, December 7th from 9 am to 12 pm.**



THE MITTEN TREE is up and the **TOYS FOR TOTS** box is out and both are ready for your donations.



GREAT START SAGINAW is in need of children's books for all ages. They recently had a fire at their facility and are looking for book donations. These can be used books so if you have books your children or grandchildren are no longer reading, consider donating them. A box is set up under the coat rack.

Christmas Needs List



We are in need of LARGE Christmas gift bags, wrapping paper, scissors, and tape for these gifts. Thank you!

Christmas Dinner Needs

Mixed Vegetables
Ritz Crackers
Hellman's Mayo (real mayo)
Canned Corn
Salad Dressings
Pecans
Green Beans
Beef Broth
Coffee
Whole Buffet Hams

Youth (5 - 12)

Girls Hair Products
(fine toothed combs, barrettes, tiny rubber bands, etc.)
Building Blocks
Small Lego Sets
Type Specific Play Sets (Doctor's Kits, Kitchen Sets, etc.)
Kids's Water Bottles
Sippy Cups
Craft Kits

Youth (13 - 18)

Body Care Gift Set
Fast Food Gift Cards
Walmart Gift Cards
Men's & Women's size M & L T-Shirts &
Hoodies
Fidget Toys
Headphones
Ear Buds
Chargers
Travel Water Bottles

Women

Gift Cards
Body Care Gift Sets
Winter Boots
Winter Coats - M - 3x
Slippers
Gloves
Manicure Kits
Sweats
Tx and Larger Clothing

Men

Gift Cards
Aftershave
Wallets
Shampoo & Body Wash Sets
Manicure Sets
Men's Jeans
Winter Coats
Hoodies
Boots
Belts

Due by
December
13th



Our Daily Bread
Ministries™

OUR DAILY BREAD DEVOTIONALS

for the winter months, including large print, are available in the basket in the lounge area. Look for a Christmas devotional coming later in the month.



2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES will be available soon for pick up in the lounge area. If you do not see your name and would like a set, let the office know.

Christ Lutheran Church of Reese Michigan
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, November 18, 2024

Present: David Abraham, Mark Felske, Shirley Grabowski, Trista Jeske-Yax, Diane Kuhne, Sandy Schafsnitz, Kelly Walz, and Pastor Mark

Absent: Lora DeLong, Jen Shores, John Ward, and Renee Zimmer

Guests: Robbie Oldenburg, Deb Sigelko, Dorothy VanOchten, and Deva Weber

Opened in Prayer: Pastor Mark opened in prayer at 7:06 pm

1. Monthly Reports

- a. Secretary Minutes: A motion was made by Mary Felske to accept the minutes, supported by Shirley Grabowski, and was carried to accept the minutes.
- b. General Fund Report: A motion was made by Diane Kuhne to accept, supported by Shirley Grabowski, and was carried to accept the report.
- c. Special Funds Report: A motion was made by Diane Kuhne to accept, supported by Shirley Grabowski, and was carried to accept the report.
- d. Office/Pastor's Report: All is good in the office
- e. Call Committee: Pastor Phil Bromhal will come December 7-8. There will be a dinner Saturday night with the Call Committee and Church Council and their spouses. He will preach on Sunday and there will be a Meet & Greet following the first service. Pastor Phil has an MDiv, has been a youth pastor and received a good review from the LCMC.

2. Unfinished Business

- a. Missions Donations/Suggestions will be the same as last year. LCMC, UCCS for Advent Offering and Tuscola County Coalition (Maybe Lent)
- b. Charter is giving us a discount so we will stay with them.
- c. An ad will be placed in the Tuscola County Advertiser for Christmas with our Service hours.
- d. Poinsettia prices have gone up quite a bit. Deb has been struggling to find a place to get them. We will just decorate with two poinsettias up front.
- e. Dean Boiler is working with Consumers to get us a rebate on the work just done.
- f. We need to set a date for the Budget Meeting with the Executive Committee. Sandy will reach out with dates and times.
- g. Nancy Clauss has volunteered to do extra custodial duties like washing windows and such.
- h. Annual Congregational Meeting will be January 19, 2025. Church Council will meet after the meeting. Renee and Diane are done, and Mary is also up, but may stay on. Lora should start asking people if they would like to run for Council.
- i. Nancy Clauss will head up the Fish Fry and will hold a meeting at 6:30 pm the 3rd Wednesday in January.
- j. End of the year Committee Reports are due by the End of the Year.

3. New Business

- a. Deb Sigelko has made recommendations to change the bylaws and the constitution to allow for absentee ballots. Please see the attachment for the changes. The bylaws need to be presented to the congregation 30 days before the Annual Meeting and has to be voted on again one year from now to be ratified. Diane Kuhne made a motion to accept the proposed changes, supported by Shirley Grabowski, and was carried to accept the proposed recommendations.

4. Ministry Reports

- a. Ministry of Youth and Family: N/A
- b. Ministry of Property: Lights have been fixed. Two Classrooms do not have heat and need to be looked into.
- c. Ministry of Worship and Music: We still need volunteers on Sundays for clean-up.
- d. Social Ministry: Euchre will be twice a month starting in January. Trista gave out medals and flags for Veterans Day.
- e. Ministry of Education: Shirley said we will keep totes with toys in Robbie's classroom. 5th Grade Communion will be Maundy Thursday.
- f. Ministry of Communication: N/A

We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer at 8:47pm.

Next meeting will be Monday, December 16th at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Walz, Secretary

There were members who requested to vote by absentee ballot at the last congregational meeting. Currently our church constitution and by-laws do not allow absentee ballot voting.

Church Council discussed at our last meeting proposed constitution and by-laws changes that would allow voting members who would like to vote by absentee ballot to do so when they cannot be in attendance at the congregational meeting because of being homebound, current health reasons, vacations, family obligations, etc.

Below are the proposed constitution and by-laws changes that will be voted on at the annual congregational meeting in January 2025.

CONSTITUTION PROPOSED CHANGES

C6.02. This Congregation, in order to further its mission and ministry, may choose to affiliate with other Lutheran bodies as deemed appropriate with the vote of a two-thirds majority of the voting members present at a legally called and conducted meeting of the congregation.

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C6.03. This Congregation may dissolve any affiliation with the vote of a two-thirds majority of the voting members present at a legally called and conducted meeting of the congregation.

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C7.02. Real property shall not be purchased, disposed of, or encumbered in any manner except by resolution adopted by not less than a two-thirds (2/3) majority ballot vote of the members present at a legally called meeting of the congregation.

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C8.02. Members shall be classified as follows:

c. Voting members are confirmed members who have reached the age of 18. Such confirmed members shall have communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding year.

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C10.05. Voting by proxy or by absentee ballot shall not be permitted.

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C15.01. Bylaws may be adopted or amended at any legally called meeting of this congregation with a quorum present by a majority vote of those voting members present.

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C16.02. A proposed amendment to this constitution shall:

- a. be approved at a legally called meeting according to this constitution by a majority vote of voting members present;
- b. be ratified without change at the next annual meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of voting members present; and

C16.02. A proposed amendment to this constitution shall:

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- b. be ratified without change at the next annual meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of voting members ~~present~~; and

BY-LAWS PROPOSED CHANGES

B8.02.c. Voting Members

The Congregation Council shall determine the roster of voting members of the congregation in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and by-laws.

A voting member shall be regarded as being "in good standing" as defined by the following requirements:

Those who partake of Holy Communion and make a contribution of record to the congregational treasury during the current or preceding year, and

Those who participate in the life and ministry of the congregation.

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Make a contribution of record to the congregational treasury during the current or preceding year-~~and~~

~~Those who participate in the life and ministry of the congregation.~~

Absentee ballots will be provided upon request by any voting member. Absentee ballots must be received by the church office no later than noon on the Thursday before a Sunday congregational meeting. The absentee ballot would be an unapproved ballot without any changes/nominations from the congregation at the meeting; an absentee ballot would have no room for changes or write-ins.

Absentee ballots would have an attached signature page that would be detached by the church secretary. The absentee ballot would be date stamped and then be certified by the secretary with her initials on the ballot, and be given to the committee on Sunday for inclusion in the vote count. Ballots, absentee ballots, uncertified absentee ballots and signature pages would all be kept together and filed according to office procedures.

ATTENDANCE

November	9 am Sunday	11 am Sunday	Wednesday	Sunday School
3	71	21		23
6			21	
10	100	19		21
13			20	
17	57	11		14
20			12	
24	67	N/A		20
27			39	

Thank You

Thank you for your gift to Good Samaritan Rescue Mission. Your kindness brings relief, builds hope and shares God's love with those in the Bay area facing hunger and homelessness.

Gratefully,
Dan Streeter, CEO

I have received your check payable to the United Theological College of the West Indies and have forwarded it to them. As with many seminaries in the U.S., it is faced with great financial challenges. Your gift will be much appreciated. May God continue to bless your ministry at Christ Lutheran.

David Kuck

To My Church Family:

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way on Saturday and Sunday for the Harvest Dinner. Many hands always makes the workload lighter. God's gift to me has been the joy of cooking for others, but without **ALL** of you, I would never be able to do it. Blessings to each and every one of you for your help.

Mary Felske

Worship Assistants for December 2024

DATE	LECTORS	COMMUNION SET UP	ACOLYTES 9 am/11 am	USHER TEAMS
December 1	Phyllis Felske	Ellen Schulz	Annabelle Walz/ Krissa Cunningham	1
December 8	Kelly Walz	Ellen Schulz	Laine Yax/ Jace VanOchten	2
December 15	Kelly VanDenBoom	Ellen Schulz	Logan Matthaws/ William Ward	3
December 22	Jen Shores	Ellen Schulz	Owen VanDenBoom/ Alissa Edie	1
December 24	N/A	Ellen Schulz	MiKayla Schulz/	2
December 29	Renee Zimmer	Ellen Schulz	MiKayla Schulz/ William Ward	3



December Birthdays

- 2 Alex Squanda
- 3 Alissa Edie
- 4 David Abraham
Andrew Jasman
- 6 Bev Kowalski
Piper Bauer
- 7 Carter DeLong
- 8 Christopher Bublitz
- 9 Herb Stedry, Jr.
- 10 Harper Bauer
- 11 Cash Bauer
- 13 Allison Jasman
- 15 Logan Matthews
- 16 Jeff Felske
Adam Bauer
David Gunsell
- 17 Jennifer Shores
- 19 Curtis Bublitz
- 20 Lynn Achenbach – over 80
- 23 Carol Magnus
Deake Yax
- 24 Tom Schafsnitz
Katie Bauer
- 26 Annabelle Walz
- 31 Renee Cragg



December Anniversaries

18	John & Julie Redwanz	1999
20	Al & Bernie Mielens	1952
29	Bud & Karen Schorge	1957



John Schorge and Tina Colella were united in marriage by Pastor Mark on November 2nd here at Christ Lutheran Church. John is the son of Bud and Karen Schorge.



Funerals

David Edwards passed away on November 13th. His funeral service was held on November 21st at Hall-Kokotovich Funeral Home in Gladwin with Pastor Mark officiating.

Marv Howell, husband of Doris Howell, passed away on November 13th. His funeral service was held at Ware-Smith Woolever Funeral Home on November 19th with Pastor Mark officiating. Committal is at Eastlawn Memorial Gardens.