
NEW LEIPZIG CHRISTUS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Christus Evanliche Congregational Germeide Church of New Leipzig reflects the German-Russian roots of this area. The congregation was organized in the winter of 1917-1918 and is located at the south end of downtown New Leipzig. With its tall steeple and "traditional church look", it is a prominent landmark in the community - highly visible when coming along Highway 21 from the west or from Highway 49.

19 children of God make up the membership of Christus - with the youngsters being those in their early 70's. For over a dozen years they have been served by the pastor from Immanuel Lutheran Church in New Leipzig as well as their 80 something organist who is also a member of Immanuel.

It would be easy to say there is nothing unique or exciting or even special about the mission and ministry of Christus. They simply go about being God's people, who He has called and gathered through the Holy Spirit to be His church in this place. There are no children in this congregation - although from time to time there are grandchildren who worship with us. With that said, for the past two years the communities of New Leipzig and Elgin have had a community Bible School - and even though Christus does not have any of her own children apart of it - they participate through a financial gift to support the work of the community VBS - which gives all of its offerings to Samaritan's Purse.

This 90 year old congregation has become a neighborhood church. By that I mean, on any given Sunday, there are worshipers in the pews who are not members of Christus but live in the immediate neighborhood and join us for worship. We are next door to the low income housing units and a number of people join us in worship from these units. They have congregations of their own but some Sunday's it is easier for them to join us at 8:30 AM for worship. Our pastor also serves congregations in Mott. Sometimes their members desire the earlier service and join us in worship as well.

In late December 2005 a young man from our community died suddenly. The family was unchurched and had no real ties anyplace. A grandmother was Congregational at one time and this was noted by the funeral home director who suggested they ask to have the funeral in our congregation. The members said, "no problem" and opened their church to the family for the funeral and the time of fellowship and lunch afterwards. Following the meal, one of the family members commented to a member of Christus thanking him for what they had done even though they wouldn't have had to do it. And the Christus member simply responded by saying "yes we did... that is why we are here."

Christus - small in number and a bit on the elderly side of life... but still called to offer their neighbor a cold cup of water and to offer the light of Christ to those who are

hurting and His love to all who enter the doors of this little white church on Main Street in New Leipzig.