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# CHRIST CHURCH – DELAVAN, WI

## PARISH PROFILE

### Who We Are

Christ Episcopal Church is a small, whole-hearted parish with deep roots in Delavan, Wisconsin. Delavan is a quintessential Midwestern small town: its historic “brick street” downtown has a welcoming, close-knit feel that reflects a place rooted in agricultural heritage and neighborly connection, yet Delavan is far from isolated: UW–Whitewater and Gateway Technical College are both nearby, and Milwaukee, Madison, and Chicago are each within a 90-minute drive. It’s a town that strikes a balance between rural tranquility and easy access to educational, cultural, and urban opportunities.



Christ Church was founded as an Episcopal mission in 1844 and became a parish in 1848. Over the years we have weathered both hardship and grace, including a 1920 fire that damaged the sanctuary. Each time the parish rallied, restoring what was lost and tending faithfully to what remained. Today the building shines with renewed historic beauty and thoughtful additions, and within it, a steady, close-knit congregation continues to thrive. Parishioners and visitors alike describe us as welcoming, kind, and resilient. We hold one another through joy and sorrow, seeking God in worship grounded in Scripture and Sacrament. Cherishing our heritage while listening for what God is calling us to next; we seek a part-time rector who will walk with us into the future with hope and curiosity.

### Worship & Music

The Eucharist is the beating heart of our parish life, celebrated each Sunday in our historic sanctuary. We cherish the beauty of Episcopal liturgy, music, and sacrament, and our worship invites active participation from members of all ages. We enjoy a lay lead bible study in the summers called The Patio, where we gather in our courtyard garden for supper and study the reading for the week. Altar guild, servers, readers, and musicians each offer their gifts as part of our shared praise.



Our talented music team blends traditional hymns with contemporary praise, lifting our spirits and helping us encounter God in joyful and contemplative ways. Worship here is reverent yet warm, rooted but never rigid.

## Fellowship & Community Life

As a small congregation, we live as a family of faith. We hold one another in prayer, visit in times of need, attend to the tasks of our parish office and grounds, and celebrate gladly when joy arrives. Fellowship matters to us: coffee hour gatherings, seasonal events, and shared meals weave our lives together. Our size brings challenges, but it also brings gifts. Everyone matters and everyone's talents can find a home.

We are blessed with a beautiful space, and we realize it is a gift we can offer to our community. We now house an office for The Groundswell Collective, a community organization serving Walworth County. We open our doors generously—hosting book groups, counseling programs, and ESL tutoring—and encourage one another's spiritual gifts as we walk the path Jesus sets before us.



## Community Engagement: Going Where Jesus Guides Us

Our outreach takes many forms, but one of our brightest ministries is the Inspired Reflections Art Show. What began as a modest Lenten display has grown into a vibrant community event—

welcoming hundreds of visitors and dozens of artists, filling our historic space with creativity and connection, and becoming a part of Christ Church's identity, reflecting our belief that art and beauty are among God's most generous gifts. Our All Hallows Eve Event is our contribution to the annual Delavan Halloween parade. We invite hundreds of trick-or-treaters into our Nave for blessings, for Halloween treats, and for a chance to ring the steeple bell.



We care deeply for people on the margins, and we were among the founding congregations of the Delavan-Darien Food in a Back-Pack Program. We

also support the Spirit of Hope Homeless Shelter, preparing meals during our assigned weeks and offering steady, practical help to our neighbors in need. We have committed to join area churches by providing a free meal once a month, so, each Thursday in Delavan, there is a free meal offered for families and fellowship.

## Our Hope for the Future

We know we are a small parish, and we see that as one of our strengths. In a community our size, every person is known, every gift matters, and our life together remains welcoming, caring, spiritually vibrant, and reverent. We trust that God works powerfully in such close-knit spaces, where the Holy Spirit can kindle new and surprising possibilities among people who truly care for one another. We pray for a part-time rector who will:

- Inspire spiritual renewal and growth and lead us in vibrant, thoughtful worship rooted in Word and Sacrament.
- Preach sermons that connect scripture and tradition to our daily lives.
- Help us engage more deeply with our neighbors.
- Support & encourage our ministries in music, worship, outreach, and the arts.
- Enjoy our historic space and encourage a love for history, architecture, and the importance of preservation and connection to our small town. We believe that God is not finished with us yet.

Might you feel called to serve Christ Church as our next part-time rector? If so, please send a cover letter and resume to: The Rev. Scott Leannah, Canon to the Ordinary at [scott@diowis.org](mailto:scott@diowis.org).



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