



The Messenger

A Message from Pastor Ley

Though not intentional, in retrospect, I think that my decision to retire during the Easter season was in some ways very fitting. Resurrection is all about rising to a new life after all, and heaven knows that my life is about to undergo a profound transformation!

I think I got my first job (first *paying* job that is; no pay for doing chores in the house I grew up in!) when I was fourteen years old. After fifty years of receiving fairly regular pay checks, I am soon going to be living with no visible means of support! That new reality is requiring a radical shift in thinking that is more difficult to make than I ever imagined it would be!

Of course, the positive side of retiring is that I will no longer be constantly working against deadlines, dreading phone calls just before leaving on (or during) vacations, or having to preach some semblance of a coherent sermon after a mostly sleepless night. I look forward to being able to start a project at home and actually have time to finish it the next day, having a little more control over my schedule, and being able to pursue interests for no other reason than the sheer joy of it. Maybe I am deluding myself, but, this side of retirement, I am imagining it to be like a brand-new lease on life!

In a sense, Christ's resurrection gives us a new lease on life too. It is not only about being raised to life eternal after we have died. It also about rising to new life each and every day in the here-and-now. Joined to Jesus' death and resurrection in our baptisms, our old self drowns, dies daily in the waters of grace and forgiveness, and we are transformed and given a fresh start. We are equipped to engage the world hopefully, joyfully, eagerly rather than with a sense of coercion or dread.

I am hopeful that you, the members and friends of Christ Lutheran, will look at this approaching time of pastoral transition as a kind of "little resurrection" for you as well. Not that you are dead! Far from it! Christ Lutheran is perhaps one of the most vibrant and healthy congregations in our synod. I think, though, that this upcoming change--the congregational self-study, the search for a new pastor, and learning to do ministry and be the church in perhaps some new and different ways.... Well, I think that periods of pastoral transition can be incredibly exciting and joyous and life-giving resurrections of a sort too. I trust and pray that you will find it so.

Blessings on your Holy Week observances. I look forward to seeing you in worship!

Pastor Joel Ley

Outreach News

SJAG—You may have read these initials in council minutes, the church calendar, or on bulletin boards. What do the initials stand for, who is involved and what is their work?

The **Social Justice Advocacy Group** was formed as a result of For The Sake Of The Gospel discussions held during the winter of 2019-2020. Meetings were led by former Christ Lutheran Church Council President Kari Isaacson, with active participation from many congregation members. Unfortunately, the Covid outbreak put an end to meetings in person, but the interest in ministries at Christ Lutheran continued. When we could meet in person again, the Adult Education Committee used information gathered from the conversations, and offered three studies of interest: Dialogues on Race, Dialogues on the Refugee Crises, and Dialogues on Sexuality. Those classes were well-attended and sparked enthusiasm and ideas for new outreach ministries at CLC.

A group of about 16 people was moved to turn what they learned in those classes into action. They investigated several possibilities: refugee resettlement, providing ESL classes, Reconciling in Christ, affordable housing, and making CLC a welcoming and inclusive congregation. They created a mission statement, guidelines and leadership, and asked the CLC Council to recognize them as a functioning group that falls under the umbrella of the Outreach Committee, currently chaired by Melanie Hein.

SJAG's mission statement reads: "As members of Christ Lutheran Church, we act upon our Christian call to help vulnerable and needy people locally and beyond, through service and as advocates of justice and dignity for all. We hope to accomplish this goal through education, direct support for individuals and advocacy."

After research, discussions, and hosting guests who answered many of their questions, the group decided to narrow their focus and concentrate on two major areas—the lack of affordable housing in the Walla Walla Valley, and exploring with the members of Christ Lutheran Church how we are following Christ's command to welcome all people.

Affordable Housing in the Walla Walla Valley:

An information display about the lack of affordable housing in the valley has been placed in the narthex. You may be surprised at some of the facts. You can find an extensive and thoroughly researched report on the affordable housing crisis that was undertaken by the Walla Walla Community Council at www.wwcommunitycouncil.org There is newly updated material, links to many Union-Bulletin news articles about housing challenges, a video and other ways you can become informed and advocate for better housing options. Contact Melanie Hein or Peg Haug for further information.

Building an Inclusive and Welcoming Church:

Are we a church that is inclusive of all people when we say we welcome all people? A small Core Team has been formed to work through a process of investigation about what a congregation can do to ensure welcome and inclusivity. The team will use a tool kit from Reconciling Works, an independent, Lutheran, membership-supported organization that is committed to strengthening all of God's beloved for authentic, visible, faithful lives. Linda Lohrmann, Charleen Kaaen and Peg Haug share leadership of the group.

The Social Justice Advocacy Group usually meets once a month on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 10 AM. All are welcome. Please check Sunday bulletins or the calendar in the newsletter for specific information.

Save the Date! April 22nd will be a Spring Clean-Up Day. We will need trucks with trailers to take stuff to the landfill as well as many volunteers to get the inside and outside of the church looking its best!

Judith Richerzhagen is seeking house share beginning August 1st, 2023. Ground floor with a place to dig. \$1000/ month range. Please call her at (509) 387-1512 if you know of anything available or are interested. Thank You!

Attendance Report

Average Sunday Worship Attendance

February 2022 - 108

February 2023 - 118

Holy Week Schedule

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 2nd
Worship at 9:30 am

Maundy Thursday, April 6th
Soup at 6:00 pm
Worship at 7:00 pm

Good Friday, April 7th
Worship at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday, April 9th
Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 am
Drive-In Communion at 10:00 am

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:30 am - Noon
and 1:00 pm - 3:30pm

Closed April 10th

Weekly Happenings at CLC

- Quilt/ Mission Group - Tuesdays 9 to noon
- Men's Group - alternating Tuesdays at 10am
- Confirmation Class - Wednesdays at 6:30pm
- Bible Study - Thursdays at 1pm
- Adult Education Class - Sunday at 8:15 am
- Worship & Wonder - Sunday at 9:30 am

OUR PRAYER CHAIN

If you aren't on our e-mail prayer chain and would like to be, we can make that happen! Just send or give Erin your e-mail address, and she will get you on the list. You can contact her at

(509) 525-2243 or

christlutheran@gohighspeed.com.

Prayer requests can be submitted to Erin at the church office as well.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES March 14, 2023

Council president Leslie Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those attending were Pastor Joel Ley, Leslie Anderson, Jeannine Manny, Dan Grinstead, Eric Schmid, Barbara Hoffman, Carmen Funderburk, Melanie Hein, Emily Stone, Sara Pinkerton, and John Lohrmann.

Barbara Hoffman gave devotions.

Minutes from the February 14, 2023, meeting were revised and approved by email February 17, 2023.

Financial Report: Cecilia Rutledge submitted a written financial report for the month of February:

Operational Income came in \$9,299 less than budgeted and Operational Expenses were \$354 more than budgeted for the month of February. Total Operational Funds resulted in a net outflow of \$9,653 for the month of February. Designated/Restricted account activity resulted in a net outflow of \$199 for the month of February. Overall Combined Funds resulted in a net outflow of \$11,386 for the month of February.

Committee Reports:

Property Report: Dan Grinstead reported Clarence Strabel is handling sexton duties well. Awaiting warmer weather for property duties to begin.

Finance & Budget: Eric submitted a reminder for the upcoming counting schedule.

Worship: In an effort to encourage more volunteers for video-streaming, coffee hour hosting, and altar care, Barbara will be working with Leslie on getting sign-ups in the narthex for those interested in an apprenticeship/onboarding/shadowing experience. Preparations are under way for Holy Week and Easter.

Fellowship: Carmen Funderburk reported soup suppers are going well, with an average attendance of 35 to 60 folks each week. Dine Around will start in April. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Christ Lutheran is taking part in the Sweet Spot again at the Walla Walla Sweets game. The date is Friday, July 14th. Let Carmen know if you are interested.

Evangelism: Karleen Heintzberger reported that a Blue Zones workshop led by Rebecca Thorpe was held February 18. Attendees worked on finding purpose to lead a longer and more meaningful life. Books on the subject in the church library on the subject are: *The Power of Purpose* by Richard Leider and *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor Frankl.

Personnel: (See Property above for sexton update).

Outreach: (See below re: SJAG, Congregation, Internal). Melanie reported that the quilting/sewing group is growing steadily.

Youth Education: Emily Stone gave thanks to Sara Pinkerton who picked up the slack for everything due to sickness in Emily's family.

Youth & Family: The Middle/High School Pizza Party was held before confirmation. Another will be planned soon. Sara reported that she is encouraged to see older youth interacting more. Family Lent Activity Night was held February 26. The Mystery of Easter Godly Play story was told, and families made pinecone bird feeders, did a Psalms for Jesus tree to post in the hallways, and a Lenten activity. An Easter event is planned for April 1 at 1:00. Sara needs a couple classroom leaders. The theme is A Walk Through Holy Week and families will participate in a Palm procession, foot washing, Last Supper, and events that take place during Holy Week, foreshadowing the week of services to come. The event will end with an Easter Egg hunt. All are welcome and families are encouraged to bring a friend. The Soup Supper activity of watercolor coffee filters turned into flowers in preparation for the Easter Cross is a big hit. Vesper lessons seem to be well received and participation in the Wondering has been beautiful.

Adult Education: The “By Heart” series on the Catechism will conclude on March 19. Thank you to Margaret Ley, Pastor Ley, John Knapp, John Lohrmann, Leslie Anderson, and Linda Lohrmann for team-teaching the class. It was quite a success. Classes will be on hiatus until after Easter.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Joel provided a report of his pastoral acts, teaching/learning opportunities, meetings/events, etc., for February 2023. There were no funerals, no significant crises, and minimal hospitalizations in the month of February. Godly Play stories during Lent have relieved Pastor Joel of having to prepare a second homily each week, so he has been able to work a little ahead on worship planning.

Additional people are needed to fill Holy Week roles.

The list of nominees for office of synod bishop has been published and appears on the synod webpage: nwimsynod.org.

Continuing Business:

A. Ministry Expansion, external:

1. Leslie reported that the travelers from the Companion Synod have postponed their visit for the time being.

B. Congregation, internal:

1. The SJAG is focusing on two areas of interest currently. The first is the housing crisis being experienced in the area. The group has placed an informational board in the narthex. There are some surprising statistics related to the topic. The second focus of the group is: Creating a more welcoming church. Several SJAG members plan to survey the congregation to get ideas and input on the subject. Pastor said it is important to look at the congregation and ask: Who is missing? Who can we reach out to?

2. The topic of Altar Care was discussed. There are fewer individuals on the list for this duty and Leslie encouraged anyone interested to contact her for information.

New Business

A. Cecilia reported on the Endowment Fund recommendations. It is the recommendation of the Endowment Fund Committee that the endowment income interest of \$1,910.15 be distributed as follows: (a) \$1,146.09 to ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response; (b) \$382.03 to Northwest Intermountain Synod to be used where needed most; and (c) Christ Lutheran Church to be used to purchase additional Godly Play supplies and/or training.

Dan Grinstead made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Endowment Committee, Eric seconded, and the motion passed.

B. Pastor Joel made the announcement that he will be retiring after 18 years as Pastor of Christ Lutheran Church. His last Sunday will be May 14, 2023. He has prepared a letter to the congregation.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannine Manny, Council Secretary



Jeannine Manny	4/4	Tallulah Sickels	4/14
Paul Holce	4/5	Scott Sumner	4/14
Brenna Destito	4/6	Dutch Sickels	4/20
John Telstad	4/6	Emily Stone	4/20
Laura Berry	4/7	Liv Gomsrud	4/22
Peter Swant	4/8	Melanie Hein	4/22
Debbie Moberg-Williams	4/9	Sara VanDonge	4/23
Anne Sumner	4/9	Jon Jensen	4/26
Mike Gwinn	4/11	Dale Norby	4/30

Treasurer's Report

February 2023 Income		February 2023 Expenses	
General Fund:	\$17,501	General Fund:	\$29,087
Other Income:			
Designated/ Restricted:	280	Designated/ Restricted:	80
Total Income:	\$17,781	Total Expenses:	\$28,167

February 2023 Net Income (Loss): (\$11,386)

Monthly Results:

Operational expenses exceeded operational income by \$9,653 for the month.

Designated/Restricted Account activity resulted in a net outflow of \$199 for the month.

Year To-Date Results:

Total Operational Income to-date is approximately \$10,880 ahead of budget for 2023.

Total Operational Expenses are approximately \$3,089 under budget for 2023.

Year to Date Net Income (Loss): \$7,808

Balance Sheet Items:

CLC's checking account ended the month with a \$248,852 balance.

Total cash, including restricted/endowments accounts, totaled \$427,101 as of 2/28/2023
 CLC had \$1,767,775 in positive equity on 2/28/2023.



Christ Lutheran Church

1420 South 2nd Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362-4502

Return Service Requested

We're on the Web!

www.christwallawalla.org

April 2023 Newsletter

CHURCH COUNCIL AND STAFF

·President·

Leslie Anderson

·Secretary·

Jeannine Manny

·Treasurer·

Cecilia Rutledge

·Stewardship·

Peter Swant

·Fellowship·

Carmen Funderburk

·Outreach·

Melanie Hein

·**Pastor**·

Joel Ley

·Office Manager·

Erin Aycock

·Sexton·

Clarence Strabel

·Organist·

Eleanor Elkins/Paul Holce

·Personnel·

Marit Rasmussen

·Property Management·

Dan Grinstead

·Finance/ Budget·

Eric Schmid

·Worship·

Barbara Hoffman

·Youth Education·

Emily Stone

·Youth & Family·

Sara Pinkerton

·Adult Ed/ Library·

John Lohrmann

·Evangelism·

Karleen Heintzberger

Mission

We are God's people, united by faith in Jesus Christ, forgiven, chosen, and called by him through the Word and Sacraments to make disciples, and to serve in the world God loves.