



## The Messenger

### *A Message from Pastor Ley*

Our twelve-day celebration of Christmas concludes with the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup>. It is the day we recall the magi who brought their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the baby Jesus. My favorite Epiphany poem is “Journey of the Magi” by T. S. Eliot. I think I’ve shared it with you before, so I won’t repeat it here. (If you’re not familiar with it, though, you can listen to Eliot himself read it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCVnuEWXQcg>)

The poem always gets me thinking about the road the magi had to travel, probably from Parthia or Persia and then back again. There was not much civilization between their homes and Bethlehem. The distances were great. When they set out, they did not know for sure where their journey would take them. Undoubtedly, they had to endure more than a few hardships. Certainly, the road they travelled, both to and from Bethlehem, required patience and persistence and faith.

I also wonder what they thought when they finally arrived at their destination. They had come to Bethlehem looking for a king only to find him not in a palace but, as tradition has it, sheltered in the humility of a stable. The magi must have been people of great wealth to undertake such a journey and to bring such costly gifts. Sometimes they themselves are referred to as kings. And yet they humbled themselves, kneeling in the straw and dust and livestock dung to pay homage to an infant of whom few others had taken note, before returning to their homes by a different road.

You and I do not walk the road *to* Bethlehem. In a sense, we walk the road *away* from it. Having “seen” the baby Jesus, we return to our homes, our jobs, our world, as did the Magi, hopefully by a different road as well.

The road we walk as Christians often requires no less patience, no less persistence, and no less faith than that walked by the magi. We too often endure hardships and, in a world centered on power, pride and control, are sent from the manger and called to walk a different way-- humbled before our God and patiently, graciously bearing one another’s burdens.

I am not big on New Year’s resolutions, and I do not know where our paths this year might lead. I ask you to join with me, though, in resolving to bend your knees, as did the Magi, in homage to Jesus and to humble yourselves, as they did, in patient service to one another, offering your gracious gifts for the sake of Christ and of others. That is the road Jesus intends for us all to travel. That is the road he walked for us.

-Pastor Joel Ley

# Adult Education News

## New Class Coming in January

Exactly 500 Septembers ago, Martin Luther's first translation of the New Testament from Latin into German hit the bookstores in Wittenberg in a newly polished common German language. It was an instant best seller, and the initial run of 3000 copies from the new Gutenberg press sold out quickly! Why was it so popular? Exploring this question was the subject of an October 2022 article in the *Living Lutheran* entitled "500 Years of God's word in common language." You can find it either with your magazines at home or online at [livinglutheran.org](http://livinglutheran.org). There is also a stack of copies on the counter in the narthex. Help yourself!

During four weekly adult classes beginning after worship service on Sunday, January 8, we will stretch our imagination to try to fully comprehend what a ground-breaking, culture-changing event this was. We will look at some questions like: How does a careful use of language help us in understanding the gospel? Where do reliable translations into English come from? What makes a translation more reliable than another? How did the careful use of words impact Luther's recognition of salvation by faith alone? How is the careful use of language important for us today in our theology? In our daily life?

No sign-ups are necessary for this class. Simply grab a cup of coffee and a snack from the coffee hour folks after church on January 8 and come to the library. The only homework in advance is to read the short article mentioned above. We will be using a Study Guide prepared by the author to shape our discussion.

Please enjoy and learn with us!

## Survey coming soon!



The Adult Education Committee is interested in knowing what CLC members are looking for in the way of Adult Education class. Are the topics right for you? Want more bible study? What time should we meet? Where?

To that end the CLC Council has authorized a survey to find your preferences and your answers to those questions. Hopefully you will be able to complete it in just a few minutes either in paper form or by an online "Survey Monkey." To assist us please look for the survey--coming soon--and promptly return it. Thanks!

John Lohrmann, Adult Education Chairperson

# Youth & Family News

## Family Advent Night

Thank you to all the families that participated in family Advent Night! We had a blast painting, decorating, creating potpourri, sharing a meal, and sharing the story of the Mystery of Christmas together. Thank you to Judith, Melanie, Leslie, John F., and all the families that participated!



## Christmas Pageant

This year's pageant was a huge success with 15 youth involved. Thank you to all the families that participated. Thank you to Charleen and Hadley for the beautiful music. Also, thank you to Kirsten, Emily, Allison, and Robert for your help with costuming and getting things together.

## Youth Cookie Tin Sale

A huge shout-out to those who donated cookies and treats for the sale! I don't know who you all are, but you are so appreciated! Our Youth sale raised over \$500 for the Sleep Center. Our youth are happy to provide extra hand warmers, hot chocolate, ramen noodles, and warm gloves and boots to those currently staying at the Sleep Center. Thank you to everyone who donated financially and baked goods.





## 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 10:30 am
- Worship & Wonder - Sunday at 9:30 am

### Attendance Report

#### *Average Sunday Worship Attendance*

**November 2021 - 121**

**November 2022 - 127**

### 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](mailto:christlutheran@gohighspeed.com).

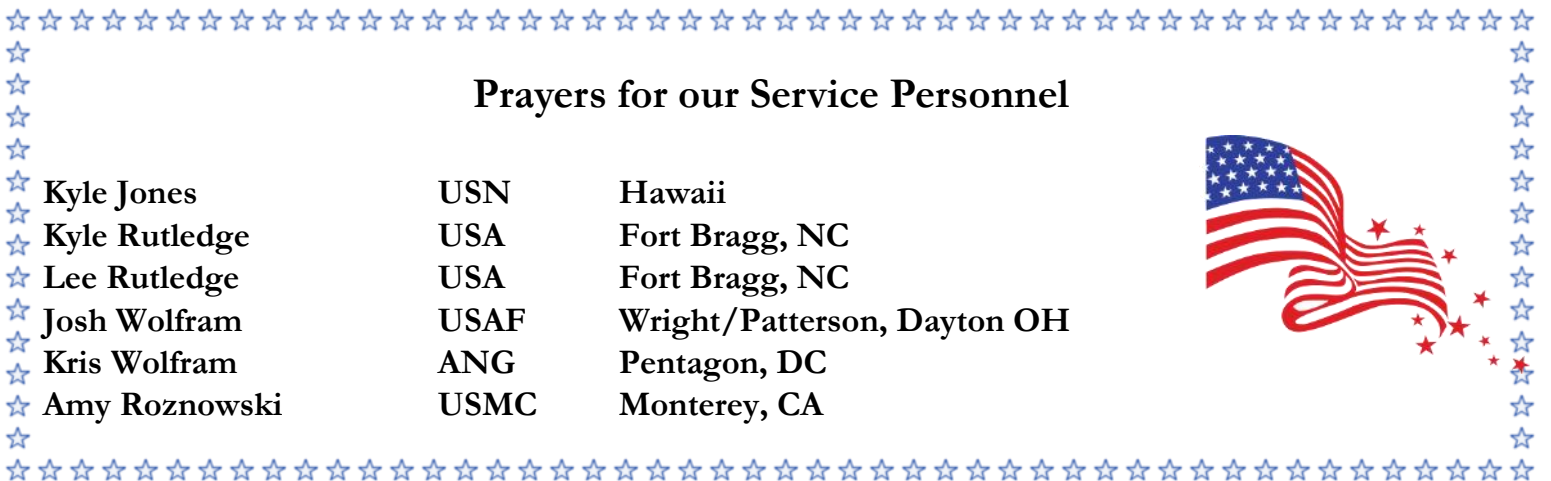
Prayer requests can be submitted to Erin at the church office as well.

### Church Office Hours

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

### Prayers for our Service Personnel

Kyle Jones	USN	Hawaii
Kyle Rutledge	USA	Fort Bragg, NC
Lee Rutledge	USA	Fort Bragg, NC
Josh Wolfram	USAF	Wright/Patterson, Dayton OH
Kris Wolfram	ANG	Pentagon, DC
Amy Roznowski	USMC	Monterey, CA



*Thank You!*

Margaret and I have been the recipients of many gifts, cards, and greetings from the congregation during this Christmas season.

We are grateful for each expression of kindness, for your generosity, and for you.

**Annual Report Deadline**



2022 Council officers and members, remember that your annual reports are due to Erin in the church office by January 5<sup>th</sup>. Electronic copies are preferred.

**Annual Meeting Notice**

Christ Lutheran Church will hold a congregational meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2023 immediately following worship. Among the business to be conducted is adoption of an operating budget for 2023 and reception of reports from council officers and committees. Active, confirmed members of the congregation have a vote. Annual reports and the proposed budget will be available at the church two weeks prior to the meeting.

**•Office Closure•**

The church office will be closed on Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> in observance of the New Year holiday.

**Directory Changes**

Erin is working on updating the Church's Member Directory. If you would like to make changes to your contact information, please let her know. We will be collecting updated pictures before and after church on Sundays.

**Attention Confirmation Students and Parents!**

Confirmation classes resume on Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. We will be shifting our meeting space to Room 3 and using the door on the north side of the church (NE corner) for drop off and pick up.

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**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
December 13, 2022**

Council president Leslie Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Those attending were Pastor Joel Ley, Leslie Anderson, Jeannine Manny, Cecilia Rutledge, Dan Grinstead, Norma Austin, Eric Schmid, Karleen Heintzberger, Carmen Funderburk, Emily Stone, John Lohrmann, and Peter Swant.

Pastor Joel Ley gave devotions.

Minutes from the November 8, 2022, meeting were revised and approved by email November 21, 2022.

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

Income was \$7,964 more than budgeted and expenses were \$1,340 more than budgeted for the month of November. Total Operational Funds resulted in a net inflow of \$5,440 for the month of November. Designated/Restricted account activity resulted in a net outflow of \$843 for the month of November. Overall Combined Funds resulted in a net inflow of \$4,597 for the month of November.

**Committee Reports:**

**Finance & Budget:** Eric Schmid is preparing a counting schedule for the January meeting. (See below for budget discussion).

**Property Report:** Dan Grinstead reported that most of the work around the church building has consisted of raking leaves. Another leaf-raking day will be necessary soon.

**Youth & Family:** The children are looking forward to the Christmas program, which will be presented at the service on 12/18. Children's Choir is popular and there have been requests by the congregation for more singing!

Family Advent Night was well attended. There were 7 families totaling 15 children and 9 adults. Special thanks to Leslie for teaching a science lesson and Judith for leading an art project, with assistance from Melanie.

Sara is thinking of hosting an Intergenerational Game Night, possibly in January or February, with bingo, checkers, board games, etc. She welcomes feedback on this idea.

**Youth Education:** Attendance has been steady in Worship and Wonder at 12-15 children a week in early classes and around 5 every two weeks in the later class. Emily reported that more space will be needed next year. She and Sara would like to expand the area to include a designated story area, work area, reading nook, and quiet area.

**Adult Education:** The Adult Education Committee met on Thursday, November 17 to discuss adult classes beginning in January 2023. The first class will be "500 Years of God's Word in Common Language" lead by John Lohrmann with assistance from John Knapp. Classes will be held after Sunday worship, skipping the first Sunday in January, and should finish in 4 weeks. The next curriculum will be "By Heart," which should take about 8 weeks or until around Easter (April 9). The committee is planning a survey of the congregation about topics of most interest, best class times and days. Sara Pinkerton presented the idea of using "Godly Play" as an adult program. The committee will be reviewing the book "Graceful Nurture." This curriculum is a possibility for fall of 2023.

**Personnel:** Norma Austin reported that all positions are filled and functioning.

**Fellowship:** Soup suppers have returned and there has been a good turnout.

**Evangelism:** Karleen Heintzberger reminded everyone to welcome Judith Richerzhagen as a new member.

**Worship:** Barbara Hoffman has been out of town and therefore had no worship report.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Joel provided a report of his pastoral acts, teaching/learning opportunities, meetings/events, etc., for November 2022.

Pastor remarked that it is a joy to gather once again for mid-week soup suppers during Advent. As part of Vespers, Emily and Sara have been presenting the "Advent Story" using Godly Play methodology, which invites kids and adults to sit with scripture for a while, use their imaginations and spend time wondering what implications God's Word might have for us today.

Council member reports should be emailed to Erin by January 5th so that she can assemble them and have the 2022 Annual Report available to the congregation two weeks before the Annual Meeting on the last Sunday in January.

Pastor made special mention of Norma Austin, who has completed her term in office. She has served on council with five pastors dating back to 1962 and has done amazing work for the congregation.

Continuing Business:

Ministry Expansion, external:

Leslie and John attended a Common Roots Housing Trust presentation and updated the council on this group's efforts to provide more affordable housing in the community. The Social Justice committee is interested in learning more about this group and other similar issues. They will keep the council posted as the committee learns more.

Congregational, internal:

The council discussed the budget analysis and amendments undertaken in November. Dan Grinstead made a motion to approve the 2023 Christ Lutheran Church budget of \$321,600. Carmen Funderburk seconded, and the motion passed.

New Business

Leslie has accepted the resignation of Sara Van Donge as Outreach Deacon and asked council members to be thinking of a replacement for that position.

Middle and high school students are holding a Cookie Tin Sale on Sunday, 12/18. Money generated from the sale will go to the Sleep Center.

Joyce Anderson, a watercolor artist, has offered to do a watercolor afternoon class for anyone in the congregation who is interested. Leslie and Karleen will meet with Joyce to discuss details.

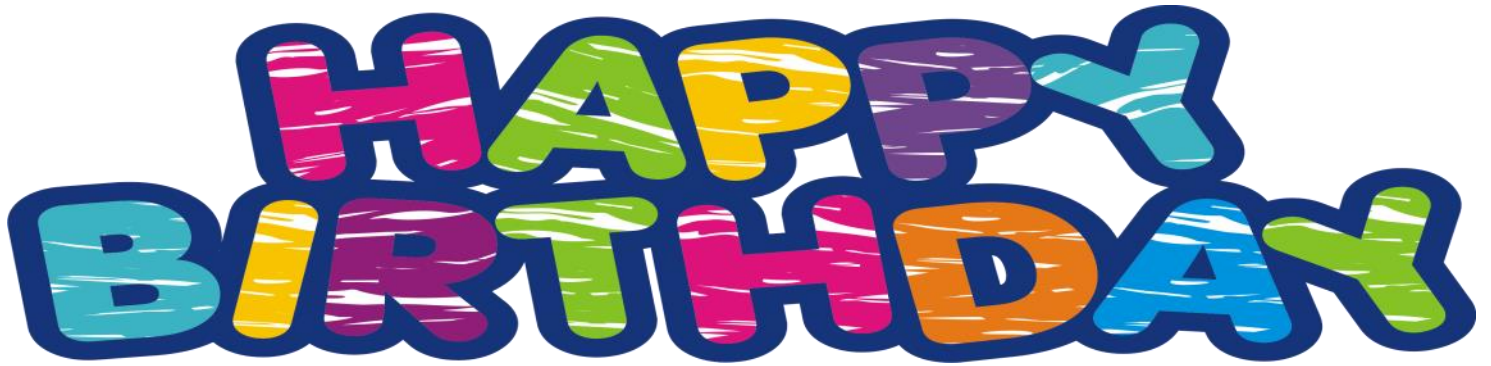
Stewardship: After the holidays, Peter, Leslie, and Joel will meet to discuss stewardship opportunities.

Quilters' Mission Group: Council approved inviting quilters from other congregations to attend the mission group at CLC on Tuesdays, due to declining numbers (in that group) at our church and elsewhere.

Carmen Funderburk discussed with council the idea of reinstituting "Dine-Around" as a way for members of the church to become better acquainted. She will report back after investigation of how many are interested.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jeannine Manny, Council Secretary



Nona Benzel	1/1	Clough Shelton	1/12
Cheryl McCoy	1/2	Paul Austin	1/13
Renee' Clark	1/9	Barbara Fryhling	1/20
Manny Martin	1/9	Mary Beth Holce	1/27
Erin Pratt	1/9	Patty Hamada	1/29
John Knapp	1/12	Gerhard Hoffman	1/31

### Treasurer's Report

November 2022 Income		November 2022 Expenses	
General Fund:	\$33,098	General Fund:	\$27,658
Other Income:	0		
Designated/ Restricted:	426	Designated/ Restricted:	1,269
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$33,524</b>	<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$28,927</b>

**November 2022 Net Income (Loss): \$4,597**

**Monthly Results:**

Operational income exceeded operational expenses by \$5,440 for the month.

Designated/Restricted Account activity resulted in a net outflow of \$843 for the month.

**Year To-Date Results:**

Total Operational Income to-date is approximately \$21,206 under budget for 2022.

Total Operational Expenses are approximately \$18,016 under budget for 2022.

Year to Date Net Income (Loss): (\$21,134)

**Balance Sheet Items:**

CLC's checking account ended the month with a \$197,291 balance.

Total cash, including restricted/endowments accounts, totaled \$367,368 as of 11/30/2022  
 CLC had \$1,708,234 in positive equity on 11/30/2022.

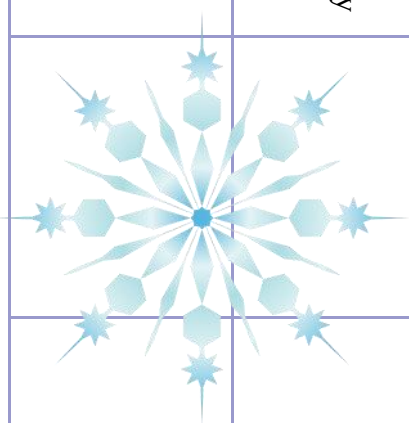




# January 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 <sup>am</sup> Worship Service 9:30 <sup>am</sup> Worship & Wonder	2 - Office Closed	3 9 <sup>am</sup> Mission Group	4 6:30 <sup>pm</sup> Confirmation	5 1 <sup>pm</sup> Bible Study	6	7
8 9:30 <sup>am</sup> Worship Service 9:30 <sup>am</sup> Worship & Wonder 10:30 <sup>am</sup> Adult Education	9	10 9 <sup>am</sup> Mission Group 10 <sup>am</sup> Men's Group 6:30 <sup>pm</sup> Council Meeting	11 6:30 <sup>pm</sup> Confirmation	12 1 <sup>pm</sup> Bible Study	13	14
15 9:30 <sup>am</sup> Worship Service 9:30 <sup>am</sup> Worship & Wonder 10:30 <sup>am</sup> Adult Education	16	17 9 <sup>am</sup> Mission Group	18 6:30 <sup>pm</sup> Confirmation	19 1 <sup>pm</sup> Bible Study	20 Newsletter Deadline	21
22 9:30 <sup>am</sup> Worship Service 9:30 <sup>am</sup> Worship & Wonder 10:30 <sup>am</sup> Adult Education	23	24 9 <sup>am</sup> Mission Group 10 <sup>am</sup> Men's Group	25 6:30 <sup>pm</sup> Confirmation	26 1 <sup>pm</sup> Bible Study	27	28
29 - Annual Meeting 9:30 <sup>am</sup> Worship Service 9:30 <sup>am</sup> Worship & Wonder 10:30 <sup>am</sup> Adult Education	30	31 9 <sup>am</sup> Mission Group				





Christ Lutheran Church

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

Return Service Requested

We're on the Web!

[www.christwallawalla.org](http://www.christwallawalla.org)

## January 2023 Newsletter

### CHURCH COUNCIL AND STAFF

·President·

Leslie Anderson

·Secretary·

Jeannine Manny

·Treasurer·

Cecilia Rutledge

·Stewardship·

Peter Swant

·Fellowship·

Carmen Funderburk

·Outreach·

Sara Van Donge

·**Pastor**·

**Joel Ley**

·Office Manager·

Erin Aycock

·Sexton·

Loren Harvey

·Organist·

Eleanor Elkins

Paul Holce

·Personnel·

Norma Austin

·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 be a mission people.