



# The Messenger

A monthly publication of Christ Lutheran Church

Vol. 61 No. 6  
June 2021

## Pastor's Message

By now you have undoubtedly heard that as a result of recent changes to Center for Disease Control guidance, the Governor of the State of Washington anticipates eliminating most COVID restrictions by the 30th of June. It looks like the day that we have all been waiting for will soon be here!

Christ Lutheran's "Resume Worship Committee" has been adapting building use policies and making plans to return to in-person worship accordingly. We are excited to tell you that if the COVID situation continues to improve and the Governor does indeed lift restrictions by the 30th of June, we intend to begin gathering as a congregation for worship, in the sanctuary, the following Sunday, July 4th, at 9:30 AM. What a marvelous way to celebrate freedom!

It is important for you to know that, initially at least, worship may be a little different than you remember it. It is possible that we may not do much or any singing at first and that we will likely implement some changes in how we distribute communion. When the Governor releases updated guidelines for safely gathering, we will be able to provide additional details. As we learn to do church once again, maintaining the health and safety of all who participate will inform our worship gatherings and discussions. All people will be welcome in worship; masks will be required for all participants (school aged and older).

The congregation council recognizes that we have a responsibility to abide by state and local directives for the sake of our local community; our insurance company insists on it as well.

If restrictions are not lifted as anticipated, if they are later reimposed, or if there should be a resurgence of COVID in the community or an outbreak within the congregation, we will cancel in-person worship until the situation resolves.

Thank you for your prayers and patience during the extended period we have been apart. We all look forward to being together again!

Leslie Anderson  
Congregation President

Joel Ley  
Pastor

## 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.

## CLC NEWSLETTER

Your contributions to this newsletter are welcome! Please submit your articles to Erin in the church office, either in written form or you can send it via e-mail to [christlutheran@gohighspeed.com](mailto:christlutheran@gohighspeed.com)

## Office Hours

Monday - Friday  
8:30 AM - Noon  
1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

## **Christ Lutheran Church**

**Rev. Joel Q. Ley, Pastor**

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**Organist:** Cynthia Knutson  
**Sexton:** Gene Spangrude  
**Office Manager:** Erin Aycok

**A congregation of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
in America (ELCA)**



**Report on the Synod Assembly**

## Northwest Intermountain Synod Assembly Summary

Central Lutheran Church in Spokane hosted the Northwest Intermountain Synod Assembly via Zoom on April 24, 2021. Pastor Joel and Margaret Ley attended as rostered leaders, Nick and Leslie Anderson attended as the voting representatives from CLC, and John Lohrmann served as the assembly's parliamentarian.

The assembly voted to approve a Synod budget, elected Synod officers for 2021 and 2022, and elected voting representatives to the Church Wide Gathering for 2022 in Columbus, Ohio.

Campus ministers serving WSU, EWU, and UI updated the work being done for students at those three campuses. The offering from the assembly was designated to support the Wells Endowment for Campus Ministry.

Ms. Judith Roberts, who works in the area of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion spoke as our Church wide representative. She shared information on how the ELCA overall has weathered COVID, and many of the partnerships we share together.

The Synod under the leadership of Rev. Phil Mister, Assistant to the Bishop, is developing the Haven Project. The purpose of this project will be to support emotional health and develop strategies for building resilience for rostered members. On completion, this work will be shared with the ELCA.

One resolution, the "Care of Creation Memorial", was presented, discussed, and passed. The memorial encourages congregations within the NWIS to engage in congregational education opportunities around climate change and carbon pricing utilizing resources from the ELCA and from Lutherans Restoring Creation.

The Church Wide Youth Gathering is scheduled for July 24-28, 2022 in Minneapolis, MN. The theme of the gathering is "Boundless". The next Synod Assembly is scheduled for April, 2023 in Pasco, WA.

Respectfully,

Nick and Leslie Anderson

### Pastoral Acts *Funerals*

Elaine G. Dewey (15 May 2021)

Melvorn E. Laidlaw (22 May 2021)

### 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

525-2243 or

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



# 2021

# Graduates



**Dane Gomsrud** will graduate from Walla Walla High School this month. In the fall, he intends to enroll at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa where he will study Marketing and International Business through the Shidler College of Business

**Drake Scott** is graduating from DeSales High School. He plans to attend Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana and pursue a degree in Civil Engineering. Drake hopes to contribute to environmentally friendly construction, especially as it relates to water and wildlife, and is excited to explore the great outdoors of Montana while he is there.



**John Hoffman** will be receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology on June 12th from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota.

## ~Vacation Bible School~

Looking for fun this summer? Join us for VBS on Noah's Ark out on the church grounds July 18-22 from 6:00-7:30 pm. Plans are underway, but we will need kids (ages 4-11), teachers, helpers, boat builders(?), musicians and lots of animals! Interested?? Please let Charleen know at (509) 301-3573 or [ckaaen@gmail.com](mailto:ckaaen@gmail.com).

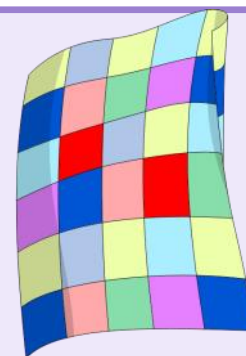
# Members in Action



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Morgan Berry	4th
Pat Coram	5th
Kaye Miller	5th
Bobbette Hedman	6th
Gwyneth Nierman	6th
Eric Schmid	6th
John Ladderud	7th
Dane Gomsrud	8th
Janice McDowell	8th
Forrest Swant	8th
Nicholas Holce	9th
Rachael Pederson	9th
Amelia Grinstead	13th
Beverly Cunningham	19th
JoAnne Savage	20th
Rachelle Binder	21st
Cynthia Huesby	21st
Noah Ross	21st
Melissa Coleman	22nd
Jacob Keyes	22nd
Mirney Wagner	25th
Susan DeRuwe	27th
Stephanie Gomsrud	27th
Charlene Maib	28th

Even though the church was closed due to COVID, the Mission Group continued to function each week from March 10, 2020 through March 16, 2021! Thelma Sanks, Kathy Krebs, Jan McDowell, Mirney Wagner, Judith Hedberg-Duff and Norma Hanson cut, sewed, pressed and transported quilt top supplies between the homes all year. On March 16, 2021 they started meeting again in person (following Council protocols). The needy around the world were continually served with willing hands.



Now that we are meeting again in person, we are able to start assembling the quilts and Personal Care Kits. Helping with this are Norma Austin who has made sure we have Care Kit supplies, Norma Hanson who makes sure we have batting, JoAnne Savage who has secured a source for the quilt backs and up to 20 helping hands at any given time tying quilts, constructing Care Kits, and packing the finished products for shipping (thanks, Dick Hanson and Chuck Austin).

We have many quilts and kits boxed and ready to ship. There was no shipment last spring due to COVID, but we are hoping for a shipment this spring. We are sorry you will not be able to see this collection of beautiful, colorful quilts displayed on the sanctuary pews, but we continue to make more and we look forward to the time when we can share the contributions from Mission Group's activities with you.

## Prayers for our Service Personnel



Kyle Jones	USN
Kyle Rutledge	USA
Lee Rutledge	USA
Josh Wolfram	USAF
Kris Wolfram	ANG
Andrew Johnson	ANG

Hawaii
Fort Polk, LA
Fort Bragg, NC
Wright/Patterson, Dayton OH
Pentagon, DC
Poland



# Members in Action



## Attendance Report *Average Sunday: Worship Attendance*

**April 2021 - 113**  
**April 2020 - 222**

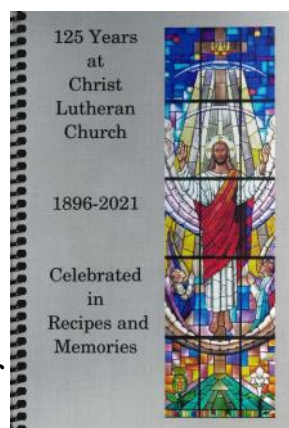
### •Giving to God•

As you head into summer and hopefully find time for a little vacation or at least some time off, please remember that church expenses and commitments do not let up. You can mail your offerings to the church office or drop them in the mail slot on the south side of the building, just around the corner from the front doors. Thanks!

## CLC's 125th Anniversary Cookbooks

The cookbooks have arrived and are available for purchase in the church office.

Each book costs \$10 (payable with cash or personal check only). 216 priceless recipes from the kitchens of our CLC members~



A wonderful keepsake for a memorable church anniversary!

## Thank you, Christ Lutheran!

Working at CLC for 12 years, I have grown to love this congregation so very much. This has literally been the best job I've ever had! But family changes were coming and I knew I was going to need to retire. The fun drive-thru retirement party, all the flowers, gifts and cards were so very special for me. I appreciate all of your kindness and support, especially during the difficulty of this past year with COVID. I pray that soon CLC will get to resume church services in the sanctuary again.

I have promised to fill in for Erin when she's on vacation (if I'm able) so I will still be around!

Many blessings to you all....

*Deb*





## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 13, 2021

Council president, Leslie Anderson, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. The council met online using the Zoom platform due to the state meeting size restrictions resulting from the coronavirus pandemic. Those attending were: Pastor Joel Ley, Leslie Anderson, Norma Austin, Michelle Summers, Eric Schmid, Carmen Funderburk, JoAnne Savage, Charleen Kaaen, Jim Peterson, Dan Grinstead, Barbara Hoffman, Sara Pinkerton, John Lohrmann, and Cecilia Rutledge. CLC member, Kurt Hoffman, also attended a portion of the meeting. There were no absences.

Norma Austin gave the devotions.

John Lohrmann made a motion to approve the March 9<sup>th</sup> minutes, Barbara Hoffman seconded, and motion passed.

**Financial Report:** Cecilia reviewed the financial report. Offering income combined with expenses and designated/restricted accounts for the month of March resulted in a net inflow of \$19,133. Year-to-date figures show a \$24,236 net inflow for 2021. This is the result of income being more than budgeted and expenses being less than budgeted at this time. It is to be noted that the offering income includes several large, one-time donations.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Adult Education:** John Lohrmann reported that he has begun facilitating the course, "Dialogue on Race", which will meet weekly through the end of May. Newcomers are welcome to join the class.

**Property:** Dan Grinstead reported that furnace filters have been changed, debris has been removed from the church's roof & gutters, and the water has been turned on to the garden faucets. Garden plots are available, and sign-ups are posted on the west (rear porch) window.

**Personnel:** Norma Austin reported that she met with Erin Aycock on March 15 for Erin's first day as CLC's office manager. The necessary new employee paperwork has been completed. Erin had three weeks of training with former office manager, Deb Fuller, before Deb's retirement. Erin has compiled a notebook for future reference. Norma is confident that Erin will do well and that Deb will enjoy retirement.

**Youth Education:** Charleen Kaaen reported that she delivered Spark magazines & Lenten craft activities to the children of the church. She emailed activity suggestions for Holy Week to Sunday school families along with recommended readings for the children.

**Worship:** Barbara Hoffman emailed council members the proposed Plan for Resuming In-Person Worship as outlined by the CLC Resuming Worship sub-committee (see Continuing Business section B for additional information).

**Finance:** Eric Schmid asked for volunteers from council to count offering on Wednesdays at the church for the next three months.

**Fellowship:** Carmen Funderburk reported that the drive-through retirement event to celebrate Deb Fuller's 12 years at CLC was well-attended by church members and much appreciated by Deb.

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# Christ Lutheran Church Business



**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Joel provided a written report of pastoral acts, educational outreach, meetings/events, etc. for March. CLC's Resuming Worship sub-committee has begun meeting to discuss when and how to have the congregation return to in-person worship. Consideration also needs to be given to which ministries our congregation should continue, which new ministries should be added, and which current ministries should be put "on hold" or eliminated. The husband of Deb Fuller (former office manager) often provided computer support for the church and a replacement for his expertise will need to be identified.

## **Continuing Business:**

A few "loose ends" from previous council meetings were addressed:

1. Outdoor playdates among church family children are to be encouraged but should not be officially "sanctioned" as church-sponsored activities.
2. At our annual meeting in January 2022, consideration will be given to renaming the "Youth Program" committee to "Youth & Family Program" committee.
3. The need of a director for Tabitha's Closet will be re-assessed in the fall of 2021 once it is known if school dances will resume following Covid-related restrictions of the past year and a half.

**A. Ministry Expansion Suggestions:** Vacation Bible School concerns were discussed. The current plan will be to plan for another year of "virtual" (at-home) VBS due to Covid-related restrictions. Feedback will be sought from families about VBS. Council also discussed the need to make sure that the church website is kept up-to-date with timely information.

## **B. Congregational Outreach/COVID response:**

**1. Worship outlook:** Barbara presented the plan formulated by the Resuming Worship sub-committee. The plan establishes firm metrics and community benchmarks which will need to be met before in-person worship can resume. The plan supports the three pillars of community, safety, and science as the foundation to determine when in-person worship can resume at CLC. Discussion was had about a letter to the congregation which would provide positive information about plans to resume in-person worship and also inform the congregation about the metrics and benchmarks outlined in the plan. Council took a vote of affirmation to proceed with sending the letter and introducing the plan to the congregation. The Resuming Worship sub-committee will continue meeting in order to establish definitive worship protocols which will be discussed at the May council meeting.

Kurt Hoffman joined the council meeting at this point to present a proposal for the church to purchase audio-visual equipment which will facilitate live-streaming of worship services for members who cannot or prefer not to attend future in-person worship services. The proposal includes the purchase of:

- a) a designated high-quality camera (PTZ with 30x lens capable of zoom, pan, tilt with multiple focus options) which would be permanently mounted on the balcony railing.
- b) a designated control computer
- c) the necessary cables and connections to connect equipment into existing church internet

Jim Peterson made a motion to appropriate up to \$7100 to purchase the recommended AV equipment for this purpose. John Lohmann seconded and the motion passed. The funds will be allocated from the church budget as follows: \$2600 (memorial & designated funds), \$3500 (capital expenses), \$1000 (office equipment & technology).

**2. Building Use:** Leslie led a discussion about updating our "Protocols for Indoor Use of CLC Fellowship Hall" document to reflect the State of Washington protocol for Phase 3 guidelines. Dan Grinstead moved to permit small group gatherings (vaccinated & unvaccinated participants who agree to adhere to the guidelines outlined in the document) of not more than ten people to use the Fellowship Hall at any one time. Charleen Kaaen seconded and the motion passed.

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# Christ Lutheran Church Business



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3. **Directory Update:** Updated church directories have been printed and are ready to be distributed. Carmen thanked Ruth Ladderud for completing this project.
4. **PPP Loan:** Eric reported that CLC has received an invitation to apply for loan forgiveness. Eric will submit the documentation needed to apply.
5. **Evangelism Chair:** council position remains vacant.

## New Business:

**A. Terrorism Insurance:** Eric will investigate this form of insurance and provide information to discuss at the May council meeting.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Summers

## Treasurer's Report

April 2021 Offerings		April 2021 Expenses	
General Fund:	\$13,054	General Operations:	\$22,311
Interest Income:	\$0		
Other Income:	\$0		
Designated/Restricted:	\$1,340	Designated/Restricted:	\$504
Total Income:	\$14,394	Total Expenses:	\$22,815

April 2021 Net Income (Loss): (\$8,421)

### Monthly Results:

Operational income came in **\$12,079 less than** budget for the month of April.

Operational expenses were **\$4,304 less than** budget for the month of April.

Total Operational funds resulted in a **net outflow of \$9,257** for the month.

Designated/Restricted Account activity resulted in a **net inflow of \$836** for the month.

Overall Combined Funds resulted in a **net outflow of \$8,421** for the month.

### Year To-Date Results:

Total Operational Income to-date is **approximately \$1,411 ahead of budget** for 2021. This is approximately \$5,845 less than the 2020 income for the same time period.

Total Operational Expenses are **approximately \$15,669 under budget** for 2021. This is approximately \$4,917 less than the 2020 expenses for the same time period.

YTD Income and Expenses, combined with a **\$4,756 net inflow** from the designated and restricted accounts, we have a **\$15,904 net inflow** for 2021. This is approximately \$7,518 more than 2020 for the same time period.

### Balance Sheet Items:

CLC's checking account ended the month with a \$200,888 balance.

Total cash, including restricted/endowments accounts, totaled \$386,286 as of 4/30/2021.

CLC had \$1,705,177 in positive equity on 4/30/2021.