



## The Messenger

### *A Message from Pastor Ley*

February 24<sup>th</sup> marked the one-year anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. President Biden paid a visit to Kyiv. Leaders of neighboring countries are warning that there is little reason to think Russian aggression will end with Ukraine. Vice-President Harris announced that it had been determined that Russia was guilty not only of war crimes but also crimes against humanity, and the footage and interviews that have been airing on the news of late seem to support her claim. Clinics, hospitals, and schools apparently are being deliberately targeted. And while yet again it seems that the powerful are determined to crush and obliterate the weak, I think most people are amazed at the Ukrainian's tenacious resolve, that they remain in the fight and continue to effectively wage war against evil and oppression.

They have not, however, been able to persist in their struggle without outside help. The United States and other nations have been pumping billions of dollars of military and domestic aid into Ukraine while at the same time leveling stiff economic sanctions against the aggressor.

Maybe the war in Ukraine is not such a bad metaphor for the struggle against sin that we are engaged in, not just during Lent but throughout the year. Whether around us or within us, evil is also rampant, unscrupulous, and oppressive. Our struggle against it lasts not just for a season or even for a year but, maybe surprisingly, for our entire life. And despite our resolve and tenacity, in our weakness we cannot triumph over it with outside help.

That is where Jesus comes in. Finally, our victory over sin is assured only because Christ comes to our rescue and takes his stand beside us. Left to our own strength, evil triumphs and we perish, but because Christ is "victorious over sin, death, and the world", we live in hope and persist in our struggle against our oppressor. For Christians, life in the world is always marked by a struggle against evil. For the time being, we are of necessity what some have referred to as "the church militant".

The battle is long. Stay in the fight, though, however long it may be, because Jesus has taken up our cause. He wins the victory on our behalf and, at last, gives us a place in his church triumphant.

Pastor Joel Ley

## •Adult Education News•

### Adult Education Survey Results are in!

The survey results are in – thanks to all who responded! 28 members responded to the survey. 24 were positive as to their desire to take a class if it was one in which they had interest. 19 reported an interest in catechism and the Lutheran confessions, church and/or Bible history. There was similar interest in studying books of the Bible, with the majority interested in the Gospels, Revelation, and Paul's letters. There was also substantial interest in continuing to study social issues, with race, ethnicity & culture, caring for creation, peace, and criminal justice at the top of the list. Specifics issues such as abortion, the death penalty, sexism, woman-centric theology and inclusive language, were also mentioned. The majority preferred classes before church on Sunday, followed closely by a preference for after church on Sunday; many said they would attend either. One responder volunteered to teach. The specifics of the survey will be shared with the Adult Education Committee members to consider as we look at future classes. If you have further input to share, or if you have questions about the classes or the survey, please check with me!

John Lohrmann, Adult Education Chairperson

**Daylight Savings Starts on March 12th! Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed the evening before!**

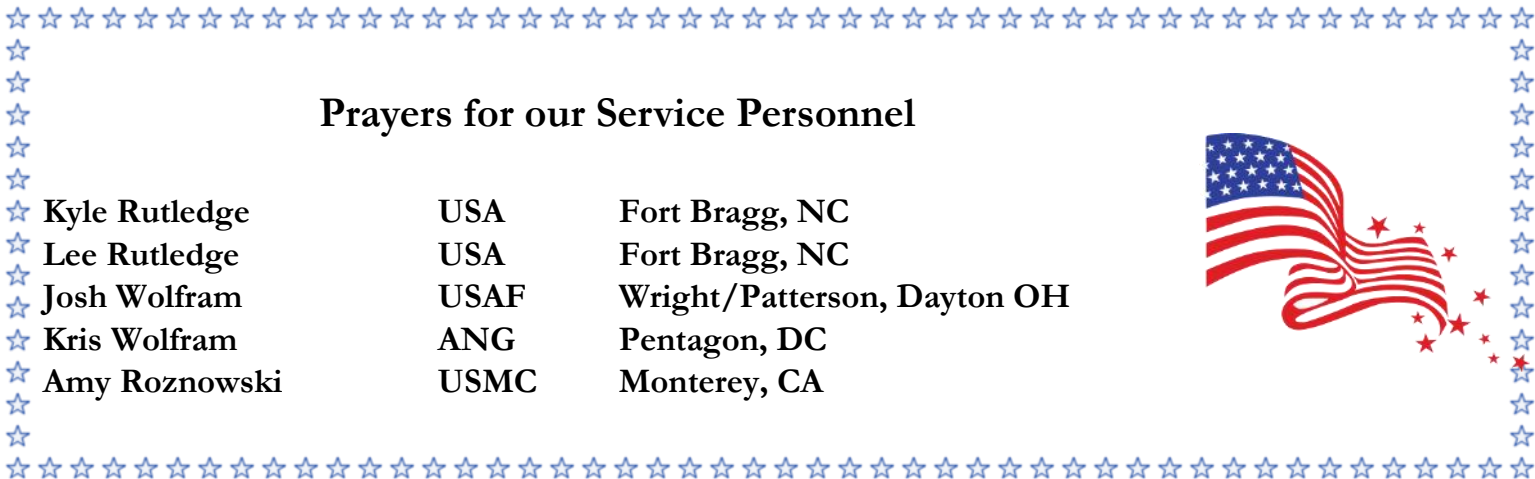
**40 Days of Giving**  
What are you giving up for Lent? Consider 40 Days of Giving for your sacrificial giving. By pledging a small contribution, you can help in the fight against hunger. Save your loose change each day or set a daily amount for giving. Offerings can be given on Sundays at church or through the give button on our website  
<https://www.christwallawalla.org/>.

**Attendance Report**  
*Average Sunday Worship Attendance*  
**January 2022 - 110**  
**January 2023 - 127**

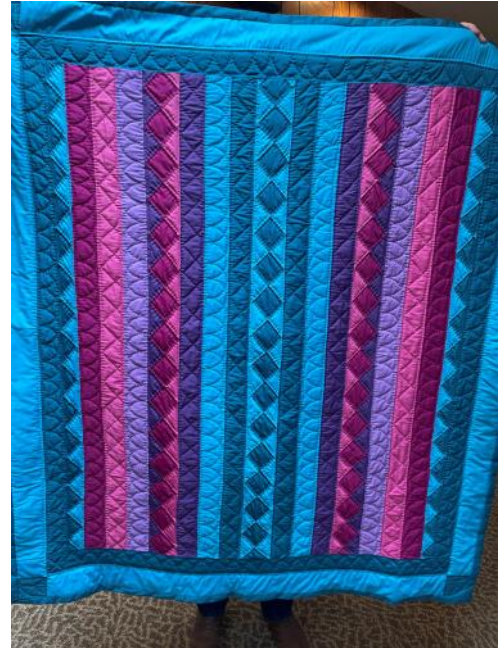
**Pastoral Acts**  
**Funerals**  
Judy Loposer (February 4th)

### Prayers for our Service Personnel

- ★ 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



The Quilting/ Mission Group would like to know more information regarding the history of this quilt that has been in the fellowship hall. Who made it? Was there a specific purpose? If you know anything about it, please contact Judith Hedberg-Duff at (503) 268-9945 or the church office.



### **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

## **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





**Watercolor Class taught by Joyce Anderson**



### **Happy 100th Birthday!**

Maxine Amen celebrated her 100th Birthday on February 4th. Maxine has been a member of Christ Lutheran for over 80 years!

Thank you to everyone who helped with making mom's coffee hour so special. The friends who stopped and talked to her could not have been more understanding. It meant very much to Brenda and I, not to mention Mom. She is lucky to have such wonderful people in her life. ~Pam



**Coffee Hour to wish Darlene Babcock well at her new home in Pendleton.**



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## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH -ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

### January 29, 2023

President Leslie Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. It was verified that a quorum of confirmed church members was present. Pastor Joel Ley led attendees in the opening litany and prayer.

Kari Isaacson made a motion to accept the minutes from the January 30, 2022, annual meeting, Dan Grinstead seconded, and the motion passed. John Lohrmann made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 11, 2022, congregational meeting, Peter Swant seconded, and the motion passed.

**Parochial Report:** Pastor Joel Ley referenced the 2022 Annual Report beginning on page 8 for membership information and statistics for the past year. He reported that worship attendance is increasing and that approximately one-third of attendance is online. He said this raises the question: What does it mean to be an active member of a congregation? Anne Swant asked: Can a congregation recommend that remote attendees be considered active members? Pastor Joel replied that it is a constitutional issue that will be addressed soon.

**Council Member Reports:** Council members, boards, committees, and groups submitted reports found on pages 11-25 of the Annual Report. The Synod Report is on page 26.

**2022 Financial Statements:** 2022 Financial Reports and Treasurer's Report are attached on pages 27-31.

**2023 Spending Plan:** Finance/Budget Chairman Eric Schmid presented the 2023 budget plan beginning on page 32 of the Annual Report. It was the council's decision to increase the operational income budget after holding it static for the past couple of years.

The change in the operational expense budget is due to increased funding for Sunday School supplies for the Godly Play program and increased giving to the Christian Aid Center and Sleep Center. Budget line items were added for the Social Justice Advocacy Group and the Quilting/Mission Group. Pastor Joel and church staff were given cost-of-living salary increases.

The bottom line is a deficit cash outflow of \$23,195. It was the conclusion of council that there is adequate cash liquidity to manage the budget deficit.

Bob McCoy asked if CLC is maintaining above the minimum guidelines for pastoral ministry. Eric responded that the salary increase for Pastor Joel for 2023 was above the minimum recommended by the ELCA.

Debbie Moberg-Williams moved to approve the Spending Plan for 2023, Peter Swant seconded, and the motion passed.

**Recognition of 2022 CLC Council:** Leslie introduced the members of the church council for 2022: Pastor Joel Ley, Leslie Anderson, Jeannine Manny, Cecilia Rutledge, Dan Grinstead, Norma Austin, Eric Schmid, Barbara Hoffman, Karleen Heintzberger, Carmen Funderburk, Sara Van Donge, Emily Stone, Sara Pinkerton, John Lohrmann, and Peter Swant.

**Introduction of 2023 CLC Council:** Leslie introduced the same members for 2023 with the following changes: Marit Rasmussen in the Personnel position, replacing Norma Austin as her term expires; and Melanie Hein taking over for Sara Van Donge in Outreach.

There was a round of applause for President Leslie Anderson. She then thanked Norma Austin for her perseverance, patience, and professionalism as she took on the tough job of replacing three members of personnel: Office Manager, Organist, and Sexton.

President Leslie Anderson adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: *Jeannine Manny, Church Council secretary*

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**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
February 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, Marit Rasmussen, Eric Schmid, Barbara Hoffman, Carmen Funderburk, Sara Pinkerton, John Lohrmann, and Peter Swant.

Eric Schmid gave devotions.

Minutes from the January 10, 2023, meeting were revised and approved by email January 19th, 2023.

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

Operational Income came in \$20,164 more than budgeted and Operational Expenses were \$3,443 less than budgeted for the month of January. Total Operational Funds resulted in a net inflow of \$21,675 for the month of January. Designated/Restricted account activity resulted in a net outflow of \$2,495 for the month of January. Overall Combined Funds resulted in a net inflow of \$19,180 for the month of January.

**Committee Reports:**

**Property Report:** Dan Grinstead had nothing new to report.

**Finance & Budget:** Eric reported that direct deposit was started for staff members that elected to have it.

**Worship:** Barbara asked that members consider assisting with Sunday morning worship or hosting coffee hour.

If anyone would like more information about these opportunities, please contact her.

A huge thank you to JoAnn Savage who has been CLC's banner chairperson for many years. JoAnn is stepping away from this duty, but our church has been blessed with beautiful banners because of her work. If you are interested in helping with banners, please contact Barbara Hoffman or Leslie Anderson.

**Fellowship:** (See below, Future Considerations)

**Personnel:** Marit reported that Clarence Strabel has agreed to try out the Sexton position for several weeks. He is receiving guidance on the duties and asking questions as needed. This has been working out well.

**Outreach:** Melanie Hein reported that meals continue to be served to the Sleep Center and Christian Aid. Letters went out to area churches, welcoming them to CLC quilting group. Some newcomers have attended. 40 Days of Giving will begin on Ash Wednesday. A Temple Talk will be given on February 19. SJAG is gathering information on the housing issues/needs in our area. They are also looking into "Reconciling in Christ."

**Youth Education:** Sara and Emily recently received a bunch of stories and work materials. Sara led a planning session on VBS for this summer. Quite a few attended and duties were broken down into categories of planning, general helpers, and people to supply food.

**Youth & Family:** January was the first Fifth Sunday Fellowship. Twenty-five people attended and enjoyed a taco bar, board games, and a movie. Sara reported that no event will be held in April due to Soup Suppers and Easter events. July has 5 Sundays, and the plan is to host a waterslide and lawn games.

There was a pizza dinner on 2/1 for Middle/High School youth. Nine kids attended and it was a hit! Sara plans to ask the students if they would be interested in fencing, bowling, water coloring, or something else of their choosing.

Preparations were made for the Lent Vespers story of "Faces of Jesus." Sara created Facebook posts for Lent to advertise Sunday School services. Let her know if you have something to share on Facebook. The Loft homeless shelter for teens reported that they have a need for duffle bags/suitcases so that the teens do not have to use garbage bags to carry their belongings. Sara brought this up at the council meeting and options were discussed.

**Adult Education:** John Lohrmann reported that the response to the “By Heart” series on the catechism is consistent with the survey that was done recently. There were 28 responses to the survey; 24 members were positive as to their desire to take a class if it was of interest; 19 reported an interest in catechism and the Lutheran confessions, church, and/or Bible history. There are 20 participants in the class and an average attendance of 17. There is similar interest in studying books of the Bible, and substantial interest in studying social issues, with race, ethnicity & culture, caring for creation, peace, and criminal justice at the top of the list; also issues such as abortion, the death penalty, sexism, woman-centric theology, and inclusive language. The majority preferred classes before church on Sunday, followed closely by a preference for after church on Sunday. Many said they would attend either. The specifics of the survey will be shared with the adult committee members to consider for future classes.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Joel provided a report of his pastoral acts, teaching/learning opportunities, meetings/events, etc., for January 2023. He noted that he owes a huge debt of gratitude to everyone who helped recently with the funeral luncheons and receptions.

The annual reports have been filed with the ELCA and Synod. The cluster submitted the names of three pastors as nominees for the office of synod bishop. Several other nominees have been submitted by other clusters in the synod and there looks to be a good pool of candidates. Congregations are encouraged to contribute to the synod assembly offering. The offering will be divided between Lutheran Disaster Response, the Wells Endowment for Campus Ministry, and the Tumaini School in Tanzania. In the recent synod newsletter, it was announced that beginning in 2025, synod assemblies will be conducted via Zoom, except in years when a bishop is elected. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday liturgy on February 22. Lent Vespers will follow on subsequent Wednesday evenings. Sara and Emily will be sharing Jesus’ journey toward the cross via the Godly Play story.

### **Continuing Business:**

#### A. Ministry Expansion, external:

1. Sara Pinkerton made a motion that offering collected during Lent Vespers go to Lutheran Disaster Response. John Lohrmann seconded, and the motion passed.
2. CLC has been asked to host a brunch for the companion synod African delegates coming to Walla Walla on April 15. This was approved by council.

#### B. Congregation, internal

1. The Stewardship program was discussed. Peter Swant will investigate ideas and update the council in a future meeting.
2. Mission Group is proposing a silent auction as a fundraiser to pay for supplies, shipping, etc. Items will include quilts, knitted/crocheted items, and handmade note cards. Date TBD. John Lohrmann made a motion to approve the silent auction, Pastor Joel seconded, and the motion passed.
3. Barbara Hoffman moved to approve Charleen Kaaen and Peggy Haug as Synod Assembly Representatives, April 28th to the 30th in Pasco. Carmen Funderburk seconded; the motion passed.

### **New Business**

- A. Sexton staff position, Marit (See above under Personnel).
- B. Council members signed up to supervise one Soup Supper on Wednesday evenings 2/22 through 4/5.

### **Future Considerations**

- A. The Blue Zone Workshop is being held 2/18, from 10:00 to 12:00. Space is available.
- B. Dine-Around date TBD, possibly after Easter.
- C. CLC has reserved the Sweet Spot during the baseball game on 7/14. Tickets will be \$20 per person.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jeannine Manny, Council Secretary



Kurt Hoffman	3/2	Rowan Brannon	3/15
Jim Peterson	3/5	James Pinkerton	3/21
Bob Fitzgerald	3/6	Ruth Ladderud	3/24
Judith Hedberg-Duff	3/9	Leslie Anderson	3/26
Larry Johnson	3/9	Katherine Holce	3/26
Gordon Heimbigner	3/10	Everett Knudson	3/28
Robin Tabacco	3/10	Margaret Ley	3/31
Logan Pinkerton	3/11	Gene Walker	3/31
Odin Pederson	3/15		

### Treasurer's Report

January 2023 Income		January 2023 Expenses	
General Fund:	\$46,964	General Fund:	\$25,289
Other Income:	1,198		
Designated/ Restricted:		Designated/ Restricted:	3,693
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$48,162</b>	<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$28,982</b>

**January 2023 Net Income (Loss): \$43,874**

**Monthly Results:**

Operational income exceeded operational expenses by \$21,675 for the month.

Designated/Restricted Account activity resulted in a net outflow of \$2,495 for the month.

**Year To-Date Results:**

Total Operational Income to-date is approximately \$20,164 ahead of budget for 2023.

Total Operational Expenses are approximately \$3,443 under budget for 2023.

Year to Date Net Income (Loss): \$19,180


**Balance Sheet Items:**

CLC's checking account ended the month with a \$260,493 balance.

Total cash, including restricted/endowments accounts, totaled \$433,313 as of 1/31/2023  
 CLC had \$1,774,115 in positive equity on 1/31/2023.



# March 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
5 8:15 <sup>am</sup> Adult Education 9:30 <sup>am</sup> Worship Service 9:30 <sup>am</sup> Worship & Wonder	6	7 9 <sup>am</sup> Mission Group 10 <sup>am</sup> Men's Group	8 6 <sup>pm</sup> Soup Supper 7 <sup>pm</sup> Lent Vespers	9 10 <sup>am</sup> SJAG Meeting 1 <sup>pm</sup> Bible Study	10	11
12 8:15 <sup>am</sup> Adult Education 9:30 <sup>am</sup> Worship Service 9:30 <sup>am</sup> Worship & Wonder	13	14 9 <sup>am</sup> Mission Group 7 <sup>pm</sup> Council Meeting	15 6 <sup>pm</sup> Soup Supper 7 <sup>pm</sup> Lent Vespers	16 1 <sup>pm</sup> Bible Study	17 - St Patrick's Day 	18
19 8:15 <sup>am</sup> Adult Education 9:30 <sup>am</sup> Worship Service 9:30 <sup>am</sup> Worship & Wonder	20	21 9 <sup>am</sup> Mission Group 10 <sup>am</sup> Men's Group	22 6 <sup>pm</sup> Soup Supper 7 <sup>pm</sup> Lent Vespers	23 1 <sup>pm</sup> Bible Study	24	25
26 8:15 <sup>am</sup> Adult Education 9:30 <sup>am</sup> Worship Service 9:30 <sup>am</sup> Worship & Wonder	27	28 9 <sup>am</sup> Mission Group	29 6 <sup>pm</sup> Soup Supper 7 <sup>pm</sup> Lent Vespers	30 1 <sup>pm</sup> Bible Study	31	

**Worship & Wonder 11+**  
**March 12th & 26th**



Christ Lutheran Church

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

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We're on the Web!

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

## March 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.