



The Messenger

A Message from Pastor Ley

This is it, the last time I write for the front page of a church newsletter! And here is my confession: I will not miss it! Most months, over the years, I have had to rack my brain (often without success) to think of something to say that wasn't pure drivel or completely uninteresting. With my retirement now less than a month away, though, writing for the newsletter is, at long last, nearly behind me. Thanks be to God!

Let me tell you what I will miss, though. I will miss you. You have prayed for me, encouraged me, stretched me, aggravated me, and loved me as I know I have done to you. Margaret and I have worshipped with you longer than we have with any other congregation during our married life. I will miss singing praises to God with you on Sunday mornings—yes, even the hymns that were too slow or too old or too unfamiliar. I will miss the noisy conversations in the narthex and fellowship hall before and after worship—a sure sign of congregational health. I will miss the kids, both those so curious about church that they occasionally joined me behind the altar and those who spent most of each confirmation class watching the clock as I did when I was their age. I am so grateful for all we have shared!

Though I will continue to hold you in my heart and uplift you in my prayers and even maintain my membership at Christ Lutheran for the time being, after May 14th I will no longer be your pastor. As a result, there are some things I will no longer be able to do. For the sake of a smooth transition, your healthy and fruitful partnership with your new pastor, and a strong ongoing ministry of the congregation, I will not:

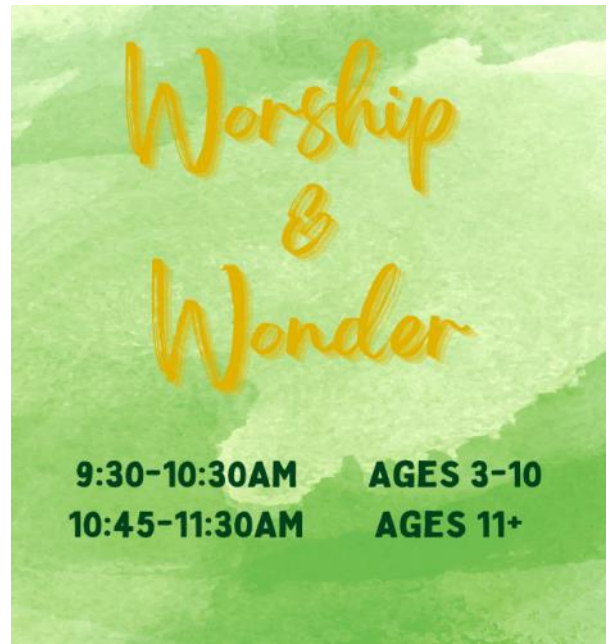
- Return to preside over weddings, funerals, or baptisms;
- Visit the sick and the homebound;
- Continue in counseling relationships with parishioners;
- Participate in any way in the process of seeking a new pastor;
- Support or give advice to anyone involved in a congregational disagreement;
- Return to lead worship services (unless later invited back to participate in a special event such as a church anniversary).

That may at first seem a bit harsh, but it really is a prudent policy intended to clear the way for the incoming pastor to establish his or her own leadership style and good pastoral relationships with all of you.

Finally, let me remind you to love not only God but also to love one another. Exhibit the fruits of the Spirit in all of your relationships, especially your relationships within the congregation-- love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. That alone will be an amazing witness to the gracious God you serve. Be assured that Jesus holds you fast through whatever the next months and years may bring. It is Jesus' church after all; he's got this. And I am certain that God, "the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." Until that day, may we all live confident in the sufficiency of God's grace.

The peace of Christ be with you always!
Pastor Joel Ley

The Social Justice Advocacy Group is forming a housing committee to delve into the housing issues in Walla Walla County and look into possible solutions. If you are interested in joining the committee please contact Judith Richerzhagen (509) 387-1512 or Melanie Hein (509) 386-4635.



A Walk Through Holy Week



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

Closed May 29th

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.

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms

Preston Stedman	April 16
Kacen Stedman	April 16
Brynlee Zeller	April 30

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

Attendance Report

Average Sunday Worship Attendance
March 2022 - 120
March 2023 - 147

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



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 11, 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, Cecilia Rutledge, Dan Grinstead, Marit Rasmussen, Eric Schmid, Barbara Hoffman, Carmen Funderburk, Melanie Hein, Sara Pinkerton, and John Lohrmann.

Pastor Joel gave devotions.

Minutes from the March 14, 2023, meeting were revised and approved by email March 23, 2023.

Financial Report: Cecilia Rutledge submitted a written financial report for the month of March: Operational Income came in \$1,948 less than budgeted and Operational Expenses were \$4,260 less than budgeted for the month of March. Total Operational Funds resulted in a net inflow of \$246 for the month of March. Designated/Restricted account activity resulted in a net inflow of \$887 for the month of March. Overall Combined Funds resulted in a net inflow of \$1,133 for the month of March.

Committee Reports:

Property Report: Dan Grinstead reported Annual Spring Clean-Up Day will be Saturday, April 22 (Earth Day). There will be inside and outside opportunities for volunteering. He will be replacing all furnace filters soon. A sign-up sheet for garden beds will be going up soon also.

Finance & Budget: (See "New Business" below re: Commercial Credit Card).

Worship: Barbara Hoffman presented the worship report. A big thank you to Pastor Joel for his leadership in worship and to all who helped with Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Worship services. The Godly Play message presented by Sara Pinkerton and others at Lenten services was much enjoyed and appreciated. Thank you to Carmen and John Funderburk who helped Barbara and Kurt host this year's Easter Breakfast. **Please continue to sign up in the Narthex to assist with future worship services.** Barbara met with Pastor Joel about worship needs after his retirement. She is grateful for his guidance and organization. Lastly, the organ pipes received a tune-up recently and they are working. Thank you to Eleanor and Paul for their organ playing talents.

Fellowship: Sweet Spot Game, July 14. Contact Carmen Funderburk for tickets.

Personnel: Marit reported that she will be finalizing Clarence's position as Sexton soon.

Outreach: Melanie reported that the Quilters Mission Group received a very generous donation of \$1,000.

Youth & Family: Sara reported that there was a good turnout of 18-20 kids on April 1st for A Walk Through Holy Week. The families really enjoyed the different stations. Thank you to all who volunteered. The Lent Vespers coffee filter flowers were well received by members of all ages and looked nice on the cross on Easter Sunday. Planning is underway for VBS, which will be the evenings of June 26-30. Volunteers are needed to "adopt a dinner." There will be 5 meals to prepare; fancy foods are not necessary. Supplies will be provided, but people are needed to cook/assemble the meal and provide kitchen cleanup. Teachers are also needed to lead the sessions, plus volunteers behind the scenes to help decorate and set up. Sara is considering a VBS Rally with Temple Talk.

Adult Education: John Lohrmann reported that Sunday, April 16 at 8:15 will begin a four-week study based on the Old Testament story of Ruth, Niamoi, and Boaz found in the Book of Ruth. This is from the Books of Faith series by the ELCA and Augsburg Fortress Publishing. All are welcome!

Pastor's Report: Pastor Joel provided a report of his pastoral acts, teaching/learning opportunities, meetings/events, etc., for March 2023.

Lent Vespers went well. People loved the Godly Play stories. The combined attendance of in-person worshipers, live streamers, and those who watched the recording was stellar: An average of about 84 people were in attendance. Sunday average worship attendance during March was up, too.

In anticipation of his departure, Pastor has been making it a point to get out and visit homebound members one last time. Every visit has been delightful. He also mentioned that in the five Sundays before his retirement, there are 4 baptisms!

Continuing Business:

Ministry Expansion, external:

The Companion Synod visitation was cancelled due to uncertainty and tight timeline.

Congregation, internal:

Sunday April 16 @ 5:00 pm is the first Zoom meeting with Phil Misner to discuss the call process. Phil suggested that the council have time set aside to discuss the call process separate from regular council meetings, so the council will begin meeting the 2nd Tuesday of each month, from 6:00 to 7:00 pm, before the regular council meeting. This may expand to more than once a month in the future. Call Committee meeting: TBD
The Good Good-bye Celebration for Joel and Margaret will be Saturday, May 20th, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

New Business

Eric Schmid brought up for discussion: Applying for a commercial credit card to use for church expenses. Pastor Joel's personal credit card has been used in the past. After discussion, Eric made a motion that Christ Lutheran Church apply for a commercial credit card from Banner Bank with a \$7,000 credit limit, and that treasurer Cecilia Rutledge be the signer on the account. Dan Grinstead seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The payment method will be company level billing.

Future Considerations:

Church Spring Clean Up Day: Saturday, April 22. (See "Property Report" above).
Synod Assembly: April 28 - 30: Charleen Kaaen, Peggy Haug, and Pastor Joel will be attending.
Good Good-bye Celebration: May 20, 2023.
Sweet Spot Baseball Game: July 14.

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

Executive Session: An executive session meeting was then called to order by President Leslie Anderson.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannine Manny, Council Secretary



Beverly Hermsen	5/3	Pat Gardner	5/22
Terri Gilbert	5/8	Norma Hanson	5/22
Linda Lohrmann	5/10	Gene Spangrude	5/22
Peggy Haug	5/11	Elias Bailey	5/23
Lynn Knapp	5/12	Ella Destito	5/24
Kacen Stedman	5/18	Virgil Hein	5/24
Steve Benzel	5/18	Carmen Funderburk	5/30
Oscar Gomez	5/21	John Funderburk	5/31
Vince Peterson	5/21		

Treasurer's Report

March 2023 Income		March 2023 Expenses	
General Fund:	24,719	General Fund:	24,473
Other Income:			
Designated/ Restricted:	3,418	Designated/ Restricted:	2,531
Total Income:	28,137	Total Expenses:	27,004

March 2023 Net Income (Loss): \$1,133

Monthly Results:

Operational income exceeded operational expenses by \$246 for the month.

Designated/Restricted Account income exceeded expenses by \$887 for the month.

Year To-Date Results:

Total Operational Income to-date is approximately \$8,801 ahead of budget for 2023.

Total Operational Expenses are approximately \$7,349 under budget for 2023.

Year to Date Net Income (Loss): \$8,741

Balance Sheet Items:

CLC's checking account ended the month with a \$250,112 balance.

Total cash, including restricted/endowments accounts, totaled \$425,410 as of 3/31/2023
 CLC had \$1,765,956 in positive equity on 3/31/2023.

May 2023

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7	8:15 ^{am} Adult Education 9:30 ^{am} Worship Service 9:30 ^{am} Worship & Wonder	8	9 9 ^{am} Mission Group 7 ^{pm} Council Meeting	10	11 1 ^{pm} Bible Study	12	13
14 - Mother's Day	9:30 ^{am} Worship Service 9:30 ^{am} Worship & Wonder	15	16 9 ^{am} Mission Group 10 ^{am} Men's Group	17	18 1 ^{pm} Bible Study	19	20 4 pm - Joel & Margaret's Goodbye Party
21	8:15 ^{am} Adult Education 9:30 ^{am} Worship Service 9:30 ^{am} Worship & Wonder	22	23 9 ^{am} Mission Group	24	25 1 ^{pm} Bible Study	26	27
28	8:15 ^{am} Adult Education 9:30 ^{am} Worship Service 9:30 ^{am} Worship & Wonder	29 - Memorial Day Office Closed	30 9 ^{am} Mission Group 10 ^{am} Men's Group	31		<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Worship & Wonder 11+ May 7th & 21st </div>	



Christ Lutheran Church

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

Return Service Requested

We're on the Web!

www.christwallawalla.org

May 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.