



A Message From The MSP Team

Ministry Site Profile Update

The end of October finds us two thirds of the way through the questionnaires of the MSP. Questionnaires have focused on the characteristics of Christ Lutheran, our congregation's place in the larger Walla Walla community, and our purpose, gifts and mission. The questionnaires then switched focus. We are given the opportunity to identify the qualities we would like in a Pastor, the ministry tasks required for the position, and the gifts we expect a Pastor to bring to the call. Finally, we will consider what this congregation expects from a Pastor as well as what a Pastor can expect from us.

To those of you who continue to thoughtfully consider, complete, and return the questionnaires, thank you! For those of you who still are deciding what to write, there is still time to complete the tasks. The target date we have set for return of questionnaires is November 19th.

When the questionnaires have been returned, the MSP team will begin the task of sorting, organizing, and compiling the information you have provided. When this task is completed, the Ministry Site Profile document will be shared with the congregation before it is presented to the Synod.

We hope this exercise has been interesting and challenging to you. Thinking about our future and how we see ourselves serving Christ in the time ahead is important work. Please feel free to speak with any MSP team member at any time.

Blessings and thanks,

The MSP team: *Leslie Anderson, Larry Johnson, JoAnne Savage, Peggy Haug, Kaye Miller, Kari Isaacson, Kurt Hoffman, Judith Richerzhagen, Joyce Anderson, Linda Lohrmann, Melanie Hein, Carmen Funderburk, Charleen Kaaen, Scott Morasch, Kim Morasch, Kay Shelton, Alicia Lohrmann, Kirsten Brannon.*

Church Office Hours

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

Outreach News

Our mission group (quilting ladies) have had a busy and fun year. We have 195 quilts, along with 442 personal care kits being shipped to Lutheran World Relief. These will go throughout the world to people in need. A big thank you to John and Ruth Ladderud for taking all the boxes to Spokane for shipping. Also thanks to Dick and Norma Hanson for boxing and labeling all the quilts. We also sent 15 quilts to the local Sleep Center and 10 quilts to Holden Village.

We would like to thank everyone who has donated material, batting, cotton thread, and money towards our quilting efforts. If there is material we can't use, have no fear, it is passed on the others that put it to good use. Feel free to drop in on Tuesday mornings, 9 am to 12 noon, and join us. We promise you amazing fellowship and camaraderie.

Advent is just around the corner. With the coming of advent is our Good Gifts campaign. Be looking forward to the gift tree and advent calendar. Along with the Good Gift choices, there will also be gift choices for local needs through Help Line.

The Reconciling in Christ core group is continuing to reach out to the congregation for one-on-one conversations about extending a welcome to all. Anyone interested in joining the core group, please contact Linda Lohrmann.

Third Tuesday Book Group

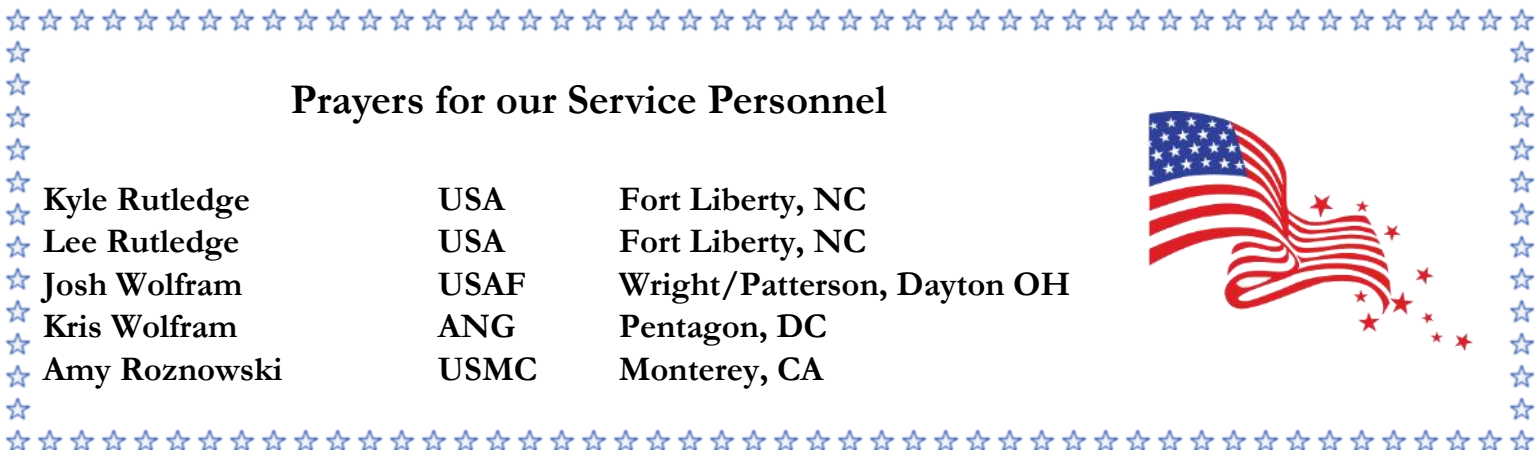
The Third Tuesday Book Group will be meeting on November 21st, at 1:00pm in the church library. If you have questions, call Barbara Fryhling at (509) 876-4828.

Attendance Report

Average Sunday Worship Attendance
September 2022 - 109
September 2023 - 130

Prayers for our Service Personnel

- ★ Kyle Rutledge USA Fort Liberty, NC
- ★ Lee Rutledge USA Fort Liberty, NC
- ★ Josh Wolfram USAF Wright/Patterson, Dayton OH
- ★ Kris Wolfram ANG Pentagon, DC
- ★ Amy Roznowski USMC Monterey, CA



Where Have All The People Gone? A Coda

Last month we explored the question, *Where have all the people gone?* During our Sunday adult forum series, we examined big cultural shifts which have led to dramatic church decline in recent decades, and also ways in which we have unintentionally contributed to the growing divide between church and the wider society.

One key point we did not consider is the matter of how we *conceive* of God. This is for many yet another cause for breakdown between church and the wider culture and perhaps the most influential in this secular age where many people have difficulty conceiving of God at all.

Our traditional conception of God is born of a pre-scientific and enchanted age. The dominant picture of God in our scriptures, liturgies, and hymnody is that of a supreme being residing in the heavens and presiding over a three-tiered universe (heaven above, earth below, and hell beneath). This distant God occasionally intervenes into our lives and world to heal and to deliver, working wonders and performing miracles, like the parting of the Red Sea.

This is a conception of God that increasing numbers of people find unconvincing. Many consider it to be a fanciful holdover from the ancient imagination. Others with more sensitive consciences find the conception scandalizing when weighed against historical events like the Jewish Holocaust. If God can work wonders, why then did God fail to act and break faith with the Jewish people?

The truth is we need not hold to this traditional view of God. God may be "the same yesterday, today and tomorrow," but our conceptions are not. Our views have changed throughout history and they've always been shaped by our understanding of the nature of reality. We are invited by our faith to lead a life of "repentance," which is not always about contrition, but literally means to "go beyond the mind you have." As St. Ignatius taught, we are continuously called to embrace "the God who is always greater" than our imagining.

There is a way forward from our problematic, outmoded conceptions. There is a conception of God pioneered by Jesus that may prove more convincing and compelling to people today. Jesus saw the work of God less about divine intervention from above and more so as empowering our collaboration from below. Instead of acting from the heavens, Jesus pictured God as a powerful and ever-present Spirit who empowers people to join as collaborators in the building of the kingdom of God, loving neighbors and strangers and even enemies into radical kinship and enabling the flourishing of all life.

As we contemplate how to witness to our faith and engage more effectively with our neighbors, we do well to build upon this conception of God. Instead of looking to God to work miracles to fix our problems, faith for us means getting to work caring for our neighbors, counting on the Holy Spirit to fire and fuel and sustain our care and compassion, as did Jesus and the early Jesus movement.

"And they'll know we are Christians by our love." This claim was the calling card of the early church which grew in numbers against all odds. I think it's a calling card we will want to reclaim in coming years if our churches are to experience renewal and grow again both in numbers of collaborators and in cultural influence.

God bless you and through you,

Pastor Mike

Christ Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes October 10, 2023

Council President Leslie Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Those attending were Pastor Mike Ostrom, Dan Grinstead, Eric Schmid, Barbara Hoffman, Karleen Heintzberger, Carmen Funderburk, Melanie Hein, Emily Stone, Sara Pinkerton, John Lohrmann.

Dan Grinstead shared the new defibrillator and gave a brief instruction of use. It was suggested to move the device to a more central and visible location in the Fellowship Hall from the Narthex. It is suggested that Dan provide an opportunity for the congregation to learn about the defibrillator in the future.

Devotions were given by Carmen Funderburk.

September 12, 2023 Council minutes were approved by email September 19, 2023.

Financial Report: Cecilia Rutledge submitted a written financial report for the month of September: Operational income came in \$14,142 less than budget for the month. Operational expenses were \$3,981 less than budget for the month. Total operational funds resulted in a net outflow of \$12,227 for the month. Designated/Restricted account activity resulted in a net inflow of \$4,925 for the month. Overall Combined Funds resulted in a net outflow of \$7,302 for September.

Committee Reports

Property: The defibrillator has arrived and is available for use. This unit was \$500 cheaper than the unit priced at Norco. The furnace filters will be replaced in the next week. We will start thinking about the timing for a fall cleanup inside and outside, possibly November 4th. Garden beds need to be cleaned out.

Finance & Budget: Eric presented a very rough draft of a 2024 budget. The budget workshop will be at the November council meeting.

Worship: We will celebrate All Saints Day on November 5. The “Book of Remembrance” will be in the Narthex for several weeks beforehand so people can add family and friends who have died this past year. More news will be coming soon about a possible joint worship service with St. Paul’s on Thanksgiving Eve. Advent begins on December 3. We will have Wednesday night Soup Suppers followed by *Holden Evening Prayer Vespers*. Sarah Pinkerton will provide lay-led homilies based on Godly Play stories for these Vespers services. Wednesday Night Advent Soup Suppers and Vespers will take place on December 6, 13, and 20.

Evangelism: The following people are interested in becoming members of CLC: Jeff Wagner, Pastor Michael Ostrom, Kathy Long, and Joyce Anderson. We will have an orientation for new members November 26th at 8:00 am, a New Member Sunday December 3rd, with a reception to follow.

Personnel: No report

Youth Education: No report

Youth and Family: Three families attended a bonfire at the Swanson house on Sept. 22. Clarice put together a wonderful lesson about how we are all created special and beautiful in God's image and that there is beauty everywhere. We roasted hot dogs and made s'mores. We have an outing to the corn maze on Oct. 15 at 3pm. We will have a Youth and Family Meeting November 5 at 11:00am, following church. We will plan for the next few months, including Advent activities and our Christmas pageant.

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Fellowship: No report

Outreach: No report

Adult Education: Pastor Mike is continuing the discussions after coffee on Sunday, based on the video series by Dr. David Lose, exploring how different trends are affecting church attendance and membership, and how we can respond both as a church institution and as a local congregation. This is a timely subject and the sessions have been well attended and well received. Beginning after services on November 5, we will start a series on Martin Luther's "The Freedom of a Christian". The books are already here, and the study guide is developed and provided online by the ELCA. All are encouraged to attend the lectionary bible study which is continuing every Thursday at 1:00 pm, led by Pastor Mike. There is a faithful group of about 8 who are regulars, but more would always be welcome.

Stewardship: No report

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mike is planning a "Breakfast Club" for post Confirmation youth. It will be on Sunday morning before worship at church. Donuts and juice will be available and an opportunity for the young people to gather, share highlights and concerns that are happening in their lives, and reflect on how their faith and God can serve them at this time. The adult education class "*Where Have All the People Gone?*" is being well received by participants. Pastor Mike asked council for feedback regarding possible home visits. Mike will be away from the office and unavailable October 24th through the 29th.

Continuing Business:

1. Work has been done on developing and writing guidelines to inform families about funeral/memorial/celebration of life possibilities at CLC.
2. Confirmation Sunday is October 29th. Jens Nierman, Samuel Holce, Natalie Ross, and Noah Ross will be confirmed with a reception to follow.
3. A Call process update: The Ministry Site Profile team is distributing questionnaires each Sunday. Introduction and instructions for each questionnaire are presented through a Temple Talk.

New Business:

1. A Nominating Committee needs to be organized to find CLC members willing to serve on church council beginning in 2024. Eric Schmid and Leslie Anderson are the two representatives from council. An additional three congregational members are needed to complete the committee.
2. Karleen presented Joyce Anderson, Kathy Long, Jeff Wagner, and Pastor Mike Ostrom for membership to CLC. The motion passed.
3. First draft 2024 budget information was shared by Eric. Conversation focused on the need to consider additional costs that will be associated with calling a new Pastor. Council needs to thoughtfully consider their budget needs for the coming year. The budget workshop is scheduled for the November council meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:25 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Anderson, substituting for Jeannine Manny, Council Secretary



John Hoffman	1 1/1	Betty Benson	1 1/19
Ryan Manny	1 1/6	Dan Grinstead	1 1/19
Linda Mobley	1 1/7	Kyle Rutledge	1 1/20
Traci Krebs	1 1/8	Thelma Sanks	1 1/20
Kirsten Brannon	1 1/10	Anne Swant	1 1/23
Mike DeRuwe	1 1/13	Siri Mouat	1 1/25
Samuel Holce	1 1/15	Sara Pinkerton	1 1/27
Dick Swenson	1 1/16	Jessica Norby	1 1/29

Treasurer's Report

September 2023 Income		September 2023 Expenses	
General Fund:	\$12,525	General Fund:	\$24,750
Other Income:			
Designated/ Restricted:	5,625	Designated/ Restricted:	700
Total Income:	\$18,150	Total Expenses:	\$25,452

September 2023 Net Income (Loss): (\$7,302)

Monthly Results:

Operational expenses exceeded operational income by \$12,227 for the month.

Designated/Restricted Account income exceeded expenses by \$4,925 for the month.

Year To-Date Results:

Total Operational Income to-date is approximately \$23,889 under budget for 2023.

Total Operational Expenses are approximately \$41,267 under budget for 2023.

Year to Date Net Income (Loss): (\$540)

Balance Sheet Items:

CLC's checking account ended the month with a \$240,137 balance.

Total cash, including restricted/endowments accounts, totaled \$421,489 as of 9/30/2023

CLC had \$1,762,307 in positive equity on 9/30/2023.

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 9:30 ^{am} Worship Service 9:30 ^{am} Godly Play 11 ^{am} Adult Education 11 ^{am} Confirmation	6	7 9 ^{am} Mission Group	8	9 10 ^{am} SJAG Meeting 1 ^{pm} Bible Study	10	11 4 9 ^{am} Fall Cleanup 5 ^{pm} Fall Festival
12 9:30 ^{am} Worship Service 9:30 ^{am} Godly Play 11 ^{am} Adult Education 11 ^{am} Confirmation	13	14 9 ^{am} Mission Group 10 ^{am} Men's Group 6 ^{pm} Council Meeting	15	16 1 ^{pm} Bible Study	17	18
19 9:30 ^{am} Worship Service 9:30 ^{am} Godly Play 11 ^{am} Adult Education 11 ^{am} Confirmation	20	21 9 ^{am} Mission Group 1 ^{pm} Book Club	22	23 - Thanksgiving	24 - Office Closed	25
26 9:30 ^{am} Worship Service 9:30 ^{am} Godly Play 11 ^{am} Adult Education 11 ^{am} Confirmation	27	28 9 ^{am} Mission Group 10 ^{am} Men's Group	29	30 1 ^{pm} Bible Study		



Christ Lutheran Church

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

Return Service Requested

We're on the Web!

www.christwallawalla.org

November 2023 Newsletter

CHURCH COUNCIL AND STAFF

·President·

Leslie Anderson

·Secretary·

Jeannine Manny

·Treasurer·

Cecilia Rutledge

·Stewardship·

Peter Swant

·Fellowship·

Carmen Funderburk

·Outreach·

Melanie Hein

·Interim Pastor·

Mike Ostrom

·Office Manager·

Erin Aycock

·Sexton·

Jeff Wagner

·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.