



Where Have All The People Gone?

Church pews are no longer as full as they were years ago. Young families with children are fewer in number. Middle and high school youth are often too busy to attend youth events or even confirmation classes. Young adults are all but completely absent. Many in our circle of friends no longer attend church anywhere.

We are living amidst a great sea-change in American culture. Over the past 50 years most churches have suffered steady decline. During the last decade the decline grew steeper and it has grown steeper still in our present decade. The fastest growing religious group in America are the “Nones,” those who are unaffiliated with any religious institution. Their number is approaching nearly one third of the population. But it’s not just about the numbers: church has lost both pride of place in people’s lives and significant influence in the the wider culture.

How did we get here? How did the church lose traction in the most religious country among the Western nations? What are the disconnects with people? How do we meaningfully respond?

These are important questions for churches to ask going forward, especially churches like ours that are preparing to call a new pastor.

During the first four Sundays in October we will explore these questions together. We are even commandeering the Coffee Hour for this important discussion in hopes of maximizing participation. Our conversation will be given structure by the series, *Where Have All the People Gone?*, by Lutheran theologian and pastor David Lose. With humor and an engaging style, Lose provides penetrating insights into reasons why we are no longer connecting with people and he suggests fruitful ways forward worthy of our consideration.

Please join us for this important conversation beginning next Sunday at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall!

Blessings to you and through you,

Pastor Mike

CLC 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.

Third Tuesday Book Group

The Third Tuesday Book Group will be meeting for a planning meeting on Tuesday October 24, at 1:00pm in the church library. If you have questions, call Barbara Fryhling at (509) 876-4828.

Weekly Happenings at CLC

- Quilt/ Mission Group - Tuesdays 9 to noon
- Men's Group - alternating Tuesdays at 10am
- Bible Study - Thursdays at 1pm
- Adult Education Classes - Sundays after worship



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



Quilt Sunday, September 17, 2023

Quilts decorated pews in the sanctuary on Lutheran World Relief Quilt Sunday. Christ Lutheran Mission group displayed a portion of quilts and personal care kits created to be shipped in October. Throughout the year quilts and kits are assembled. Then quilts and kits are boxed and delivered to Spokane by CLC volunteers, then travel by truck and rail to the Midwest to be shipped throughout the world.

Peg Haug shared in a temple talk how items provide warmth, care, and hope for people in terrible need. She painted three story images of people in four counties who received quilts and care kits last year. You are welcome to join us Tuesday mornings to volunteer, share food, fellowship and devotion; no sewing skill is needed. Last January we sent letters to surrounding churches inviting others to join us. It is a joy to see new people share in this ministry.

Christ Lutheran members were invited to be part of this ministry by donating funds for shipping and supplies. Thank you for responding generously!



Attendance Report

Average Sunday Worship Attendance

August 2022 - 95

August 2023 - 121

Pastoral Acts

Funerals

Maxine Amen 9/3

Juanita Merrifield 9/12

Christ Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes September 12, 2023

Council president Leslie Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Those attending were Pastor Mike Ostrom, Melanie Hein, Peter Swant, Eric Schmid, Carmen Funderburk, Sara Pinkerton, Barbara Hoffman, John Lohrmann, Cecilia Rutledge, Marit Rasmussen, Karleen Heintzberger.

Devotions were given by John Lohrmann.

August 8, 2023 minutes were revised and approved by email August 20, 2023.

Financial Report: Cecilia Rutledge submitted a written financial report for the month of August: Operational income came in \$3,776 more than budgeted for the month. Operational expenses were \$4,605 less than budgeted for the month. Total operational funds resulted in a net inflow of \$6,314 for August. Designated/Restricted account activity resulted in a net outflow of \$479 for the month. Overall combined funds resulted in a net inflow of \$5,835 for August.

Committee Reports:

Property: Dan recommended that resurfacing, sealing, striping the parking lot be included in the 2024 budget discussion, at the cost of \$14,032.

Finance & Budget: Council needs to start thinking of the 2024 Budget items for your committees. Feel free to send any expense related items to Eric.

Worship: We have resumed using glass communion cups on a weekly basis. This practice makes sense from a sustainability perspective as well as an economic one. We will no longer buy and then dispose of 80-100 plastic cups per week. Please know that the glass cups are carefully washed in hot soapy water each Sunday. In addition, altar care volunteers are looking into options for running the glass cups through the church's dishwasher. If any altar care volunteers would prefer to not wash cups, please contact Barbara Hoffman--she and Kurt will be happy to wash cups for you.

Evangelism: Karleen and Linda Lohrmann are wrapping up work on the membership list for the MSP. We are having many visitors worshipping with us. Pastor Mike and Karleen are working on a New Member Sunday this fall.

Personnel: Jeff Wagner has assumed the Sexton position.

Youth Education: Leslie, Sara, Emily, Charleen Kaaen, and Kirsten Brannon met to address concerns regarding middle and high school education and activities. The meeting outcome defines what Youth Education encompasses at CLC. Is there interest in Godly Play presentations for Advent and Lent?

Youth and Family: Nothing new to report

Fellowship: The ice cream social was a success.

Outreach: Nothing new to report.

Adult Education: Pastor Mike has located a copy of the video series, "Where Have All the People Gone?" by David Lose. This class will begin on October 1st at 10:45. The booklets "On the Freedom of a Christian" by Martin Luther have arrived. This Sunday study will follow later this fall.

Stewardship: Nothing new to report.

Pastor's Report: Pastoral care acts included Maxine Amen's funeral, Juanita Merrifield's celebration of life gathering, and a home visit to a shut-in at the VA. Pastor led a workshop to create a mindset around the work ahead for the MSP team. Mike is impressed with the Godly Play program that is in place for our children. Confirmation class will begin November 5th after worship.

New Business:

A. Congregational, internal:

1. Organists' compensation. A motion passed to pay all organists that play at CLC \$150. per performance or Sunday worship
2. Portico retirement adjustment. A motion passed to cover the additional \$50. monthly charge for Pastor Mike's retirement account.
3. A motion passed that funds gathered on Quilt Sunday be used for freight costs and supplies as needed by the Mission Group.
4. A motion passed to use the ELCA Good Gifts program during Advent. Distribution of Advent offerings will be discussed at a later date.
5. Call process update. Leslie explained a team is in place and has begun work on the MSP questionnaires to be distributed to the congregation. A target release date of October 1st is planned for the first questionnaires to be distributed.

Continuing Business:

A. Pastors' picture walls update. Carmen will purchase some new frames and reframe some photos where necessary.

B. Re-key church doors. Peter continues to wait on a written proposal and bid from the locksmith. Action tabled until October meeting.

Future Dates:

10/19-21/2023 Realtors' Food Drive, speak with Peter Swant

10/29/2023 Confirmation Sunday and reception

11/4/2023 Fall Festival; Brats and Beverages

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

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Anderson, substituting for Jeannine Manny, Council Secretary

Church Office Hours

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



Bill Miller	10/1	Steve Summers	10/21
Jill Roznowski	10/1	Haakon Mouat	10/23
Adelyn Schmid	10/3	Janet Mobley	10/24
Jerry Ladderud	10/4	Joseph Hellberg-Wilson	10/26
Marlene Strabel	10/11	Marissa Manny	10/26
Charleen Kaaen	10/13	Natalie Manny	10/26
Susan Quinn	10/13	Sandy McCoy	10/29
Kurt Krebs	10/15	Mary Beth Norby	10/29
Sandra Krebs	10/21	Chuck Austin	10/30

Treasurer's Report

August 2023 Income		August 2023 Expenses	
General Fund:	\$30,442	General Fund:	\$24,128
Other Income:			
Designated/ Restricted:	510	Designated/ Restricted:	989
Total Income:	\$30,952	Total Expenses:	\$25,117

August 2023 Net Income (Loss): \$5,835

Monthly Results:

Operational income exceeded operational expenses by \$6,314 for the month.

Designated/Restricted Account expenses exceeded income by \$479 for the month.

Year To-Date Results:

Total Operational Income to-date is approximately \$9,747 under budget for 2023.

Total Operational Expenses are approximately \$37,287 under budget for 2023.

Year to Date Net Income (Loss): \$6,575

Balance Sheet Items:

CLC's checking account ended the month with a \$247,191 balance.

Total cash, including restricted/endowments accounts, totaled \$431,256 as of 8/31/2023
 CLC had \$1,772,022 in positive equity on 8/31/2023.

October 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:30 ^{am} Worship Service 9:30 ^{am} Godly Play 11 ^{am} Adult Education	2	3 9 ^{am} Mission Group 10 ^{am} Men's Group	4	5 1 ^{pm} Bible Study	6	7
8 9:30 ^{am} Worship Service 9:30 ^{am} Godly Play 11 ^{am} Adult Education	9	10 9 ^{am} Mission Group 6 ^{pm} Council Meeting	11	12 10 ^{am} SIAG 1 ^{pm} Bible Study	13	14
15 9:30 ^{am} Worship Service 9:30 ^{am} Godly Play 11 ^{am} Adult Education	16	17 9 ^{am} Mission Group 10 ^{am} Men's Group	18	19 1 ^{pm} Bible Study	20	21
22 9:30 ^{am} Worship Service 9:30 ^{am} Godly Play 11 ^{am} Adult Education	23	24 9 ^{am} Mission Group	25	26 1 ^{pm} Bible Study	27	28
29 9:30 ^{am} Worship Service 9:30 ^{am} Godly Play 11 ^{am} Adult Education	30	31 9 ^{am} Mission Group 10 ^{am} Men's Group				



Christ Lutheran Church

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

Return Service Requested

We're on the Web!

www.christwallawalla.org

October 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.