



A Message from our Council President

Dear Christ Lutheran Family and Friends,

When Pastor Joel asked me to write for the newsletter while he is away, I said “yes.” THEN I thought about what I had committed to, and wondered what to write! As my thinking traveled down different paths, I reminded myself, “Write what you know.” I kept returning to thoughts of this congregation, our remarkable church family.

All of us have a personal, interesting, diverse story to tell. And as we also know, all of us have been impacted by the last year and a half. We are changed both personally and as a congregation. We have lost beloved members. We have longed for worship and times to simply sit and visit together. We have wished retiring staff all the best and welcomed new staff to our church. We continue to support our Walla Walla community by thinking outside of what has traditionally been done and developing a new resourcefulness. We have experienced the end of our role in wonderful missions. We have started using new technology that connects us remotely to each other and to those who are far away.

Remaining connected as a church family while following often confusing and ambiguous guidelines has been a true challenge. Please know that our CLC council has had long, difficult, and thoughtful discussions around every step of these challenges. We made decisions based on best practices for the safety of our congregation. You have been gracious and patient throughout. As we continue to navigate through what comes next, please talk with any council member at any time. We appreciate your thoughts, input, and perspectives.

In the midst of all of this, we have been given time to think. We can ask ourselves, “Where are we heading? What do we want to do? Where can we make a difference? How can we care for our own church family? What can we do to uplift and support those around us? How can we be instruments of justice? How can we share God’s grace and love?” The questions can go on and on and on.

Thinking about directions, possibilities, and actions is exciting! Before the time of Covid, we came together as a congregation and shared ideas on how we could “Dare for the Sake of the Gospel”. The past year and a half have put those plans on hold, but those suggestions have not been forgotten. In fact, we may realize new opportunities and possibilities never thought about before the quarantine. We have shown that we can do hard things. We cannot know what lies ahead for us all, except that God’s grace has flowed down, and we are to take it out into our lives and into our world.

Blessings,

Leslie Anderson

Council President

Adult Education Classes

The Dialogues on Race class will begin 8 weekly sessions on Sunday, Sept. 12. We'll meet in the confirmation room after church on Sunday mornings. Grab a cup of coffee and a snack, then join us. With social distancing we have room for 8 participants. A sign-up sheet is posted on a bulletin board in the narthex.

What and why? This class is a response to the divisiveness in our country. As Christians, we believe faith is not only believing in God, but also doing God's work in the world. The resources, a book of essays and weekly videos, help us reflect on our own beliefs and understandings about racism. They also provide information that can equip us for meaningful conversations in a divided world.

Sunday School is Coming!

Our children are the future of the church. It is important that they become familiar with the stories of the Bible. Unless Covid-19 interferes, Christ Lutheran will begin Sunday School classes on Sunday, Oct. 10. Our first story this fall will be about Joseph and his brothers.

We are planning on classes for children aged 4-12. All children will join their families in the sanctuary each Sunday, but will be excused to their classrooms prior to the sermon.

Teachers will change from week to week so no one needs to miss the service every Sunday. With the potential for three classrooms, we will need an abundance of teachers. If you are interested in helping, please let Charleen Kaaen know.

Confirmation Classes!

Christ Lutheran offers two years of instruction for those preparing to affirm their baptisms. The class is typically comprised of students in the 7th and 8th grades. Regular attendance and participation in Sunday worship is expected.

If you intend to enroll your child in confirmation classes this fall, please call the church office and let Erin know by Sept. 15 so materials can be ordered. Also, plan to attend an orientation session for parents and students on Wednesday, Sept. 15 at 6:30 pm. We will meet in Room 7.

125th Anniversary Celebration Update

At our August Council meeting we had a discussion about our planned celebration. It was discussed at length, and it was decided that the celebration will be postponed until we are in a more healthy time. So the celebration will hopefully take place in October 2022, so it will be the 125th + 1.

We are going to have a "mini" celebration after church on Sunday, Oct. 31, hopefully the weather will be conducive so we can have it outdoors, like we are doing with coffee hour.

I am still collecting church memories, photos, etc., to share during the year. We still have 125th Anniversary cookbooks available for purchase.

Carmen Funderburk
Fellowship Chairperson

Church Office Hours

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

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.



Attendance Report

Average Sunday: Worship Attendance

July 2021 - 122

July 2020 - 129

The Church Office will be closed Monday, September 6th, in observance of Labor Day.

Mariana Sanchez	2nd
Cecilia Rutledge	2nd
Peggy Simpson	6th
Peter Hoffman	7th
Bob McCoy	7th
Chad Pederson	8th
Nolan Berry	10th
Rita Hoffman	12th
Doris Ann Simmons	15th
Robbyn Smith	16th
Anthony Swanson	17th
Isaac Swanson	17th
Marissa Fullen	20th
Derek Swanson	20th
Barbara Hoffman	22nd
Norma Austin	25th
Richard (Dick) Fryhling	26th
Judy Loposer	27th
Debra Austin	28th

Prayers for our Service Personnel

Kyle Jones	USN	Hawaii
Kyle Rutledge	USA	Fort Bragg, NC
Lee Rutledge	USA	Fort Bragg, NC
Josh Wolfram	USAF	Wright/Patterson, Dayton OH
Kris Wolfram	ANG	Pentagon, DC
Andrew Johnson	ANG	Poland



If you would like to add someone to our list, please leave the information at the church office or e-mail Erin at christlutheran@gohighspeed.com.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 10, 2021

Council Vice President Barbara Hoffman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Those present were: Pastor Joel Ley, Barbara Hoffman, Sara Pinkerton, Carmen Funderburk, Norma Austin, John Lohrmann, Dan Grinstead, Cecilia Rutledge, Eric Schmid, Charleen Kaaen, Joanne Savage, and Jim Peterson. Those absent and excused were Michelle Summers and Leslie Anderson.

Joanne Savage gave devotions that included a section of a blog by her daughter, Shannon.

Minutes of the July 13, 2021, meeting were previously approved by email on July 16, 2021.

Financial Report: Cecilia provided the treasurer's report. July income, including designated and restricted funds, was \$18,204. Expenses were \$25,289, resulting in a net outflow of \$7,085 for the month. Year-to-date operational income including the PPP funds is approximately \$4,966 ahead of budget. Operational expenses YTD are approximately \$28,126 under budget. YTD income and expenses, combined with a net inflow of \$761 from designated and restricted funds, results in a \$23,473 net inflow to date for 2021. The financial report was reviewed and received.

Cecilia asked whether council preferred to keep memorial donations separate or combine them with general funds. It was decided by consensus that memorial gifts would continue to be tracked separately and held outside the operating funds.

Joel reported that an informal, verbal audit report had been provided by Nona Benzel. No problems were identified. A written report will follow.

Committee Reports

Youth Education: Charleen reported that she was unsure of plans and a timeline for starting Sunday School. A tentative start date of October was agreed to, providing time to contact more families. COVID is a primary concern of families with young children.

Adult Education: John complimented Leslie for her work on the Building Bridges of Understanding seminar. Council applauded. Charleen will be leading a Dialogues on Race class beginning after church on Sept 12.

Youth Activities: Sara reported that a quiet area for youngsters has been implemented in the usher's area at the back of the sanctuary. She also expressed a need/desire to replace some swings at the outside playground. She will investigate options and report back.

Pastor's Report: In addition to his written report, Joel shared a card of appreciation from Alex Schmidt expressing "praise" of our congregation's commitment to examine and explore race issues. Joel reported that Charleen will be traveling to the southern border of our country on Nov. 8 for a two weeks of mission work. The church may want to participate by sending some materials.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Ministry Expansion: Seeking an Evangelism person will likely be delayed until 2022 council elections. The need for an AV coordinator and computer technician was discussed. This would include a website coordinator. The relationship between Evangelism and website work was discussed. Some names for computer assistance were put forward. The resolution of website coordinator and Evangelism person might be resolved through job description review and/or council restructure.

Worship Debriefing: Worship attendance has been 50-70 people per service. Up to 12 devices have been connected to the live streaming worship on YouTube. There have been 20-40 additional YouTube views during the week. Barbara and Joel reported that we would continue with the worship format of spoken liturgy plus a hymn. Coffee hour has been reinitiated. People are needed to assist with worship and to host coffee hour. In September we will look at restructuring worship. "Most missed" parts of worship named by council members were the offertory and sharing of the peace. Pastor Joel will be on vacation for three Sundays starting Aug. 22. Fill-in pastoral service is arranged.

Building Use: Pastor Joel contacted donors of Kids Night Out funds currently held. Funds donated for KNO will not be requested back by donors as long as CLC uses or distributes the funds for donor's intentions of supporting children in our community.

JoAnne reported that transition of Tabitha's Closet to a new nonprofit led by Jodi Worden is progressing on schedule and should be completed in September.

Fire Alarm Phone Lines: Jim reported that Walla Walla Electric had scheduled two dates to complete the requested work, but neither date worked out. Work is promised very soon. Completion of work by WWE will allow CLC to drop two dedicated phone lines and eliminate associated monthly expenses.

125th Anniversary Celebration: Carmen reported that she needs help with program and the planned dinner on Oct. 30. After discussion and considerations of COVID, it was decided to tone down the Oct. 30 celebration. The anniversary will be recognized. A larger anniversary celebration may be conducted later when the COVID threat is reduced.

NEW BUSINESS

Tithe.ly: John shared information about Tithe.ly, a digital church giving program that also offers a suite of other digital church support modules. John feels that Tithe.ly would be a real asset for Christ Lutheran Church at a very small cost. Council members were encouraged to examine the product at *Tithe.ly.com*. Hopefully, a decision regarding adoption can be made at the next council meeting if council members are informed. The synod uses Tithe.ly. People can go to the synod webpage (Northwest Intermountain Synod – *nwimsynod.org* and use Tithe.ly to make a donation to the synod and see it in action. Tithe.ly is endorsed by the ELCA.

Stewardship: Jim will prepare a stewardship letter to the congregation for delivery in September. The letter should focus on gratitude for stewardship practiced at CLC and inform people regarding ongoing opportunities for continued stewardship of time, talents, and treasures.

Property: Dan moved to contract with College Place Heating and Air Conditioning to replace a failed air conditioning unit that serves the Fireside Room at a cost of \$5,547 plus tax. Motion seconded by Eric. Motion passed. Some information regarding painting proposals was presented. No action was taken on painting.

Last Item: As planned for at this meeting, Eric reviewed the instructions for offering counters as a way of teaching people who have not counted before. The training was well received.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Peterson, Substitute Secretary

Treasurer's Report

July 2021 Income		July 2021 Expenses	
General Fund:	\$17,559	General Operations:	\$23,629
Interest:	\$0		
Other:	\$0		
Designated/ Restricted:	\$645	Designated/ Restricted:	\$1,660
Total Income:	\$18,204	Total Expenses:	\$25,289

June 2021 Net Income (Loss): (\$7,085)

Monthly Results:

Operational expenses exceeded operational income by \$6,070 for the month.

Designated/Restricted Account activity resulted in a net outflow (loss) of \$1,015 for the month.

Year To-Date Results:

Total Operational Income to-date is approximately \$4,966 ahead of budget for 2021.

Total Operational Expenses are approximately \$28,126 under budget for 2021.

Year to Date Net Income (Loss): \$23,473

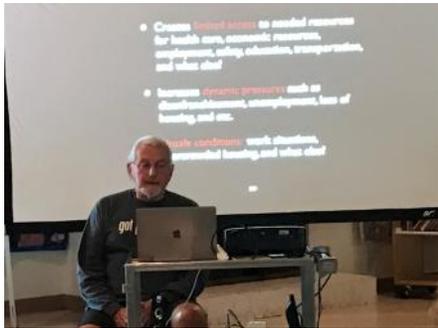
Balance Sheet Items:

CLC's checking account ended the month with a \$186,188 balance.

Total cash, including restricted/endowments accounts, totaled \$37,373 as of 7/31/2021.

CLC had \$1,718,902 in positive equity on 7/31/2021.

Building Bridges of Understanding Workshop ~July 23-24~



Building Bridges of Understanding





Christ Lutheran Church

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

Return Service Requested

We're on the Web!

www.christwallawalla.org

September 2021 Newsletter

CHURCH COUNCIL AND STAFF

·President·
Leslie Anderson

·Secretary·
Michelle Summers

·Treasurer·
Cecilia Rutledge

·Stewardship·
Jim Peterson

·Fellowship·
Carmen Funderburk

·Outreach·
JoAnne Savage

·Pastor·

Joel Ley

·Office Manager·
Erin Aycock

·Sexton·
Gene Spangrude

·Organist·
Cynthia Knudson

·Personnel·
Norma Austin

·Property Management·
Dan Grinstead

·Finance/ Budget·
Eric Schmid

·Worship·
Barbara Hoffman

·Youth Education·
Charleen Kaaen

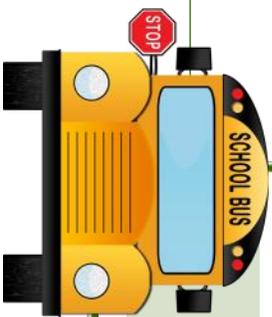
·Youth & Family·
Sara Pinkerton

·Adult Ed/ Library·
John Lohrmann

·Evangelism·
Vacant

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.



SEPTEMBER 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 9:30 ^{am} Worship Services 10:30 ^{am} Coffee Hour	6 Office Closed	7 9 ^{am} Mission Group	8 1 ^{pm} Staff Meeting	9 1 ^{pm} Bible Study	10	11
12 9:30 ^{am} Worship Services 10:30 ^{am} Coffee Hour 11 ^{am} Dialogues on Race	13	14 9 ^{am} Mission Group 7 ^{pm} Council Meeting	15 1 ^{pm} Staff Meeting 6:30 ^{pm} Confirmation	16 1 ^{pm} Bible Study	17	18
19 9:30 ^{am} Worship Services 10:30 ^{am} Coffee Hour 11 ^{am} Dialogues on Race	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 9 ^{am} Mission Group	22 1 ^{pm} Staff Meeting 6:30 ^{pm} Confirmation	23 1 ^{pm} Bible Study	24	25
26 9:30 ^{am} Worship Services 10:30 ^{am} Coffee Hour 11 ^{am} Dialogues on Race	27	28 9 ^{am} Mission Group	29 1 ^{pm} Staff Meeting 6:30 ^{pm} Confirmation	30 1 ^{pm} Bible Study		

