



The Messenger

A Message from Pastor Mike

Greetings, friends!

For this, my first newsletter article, I wish to express my gratitude to you for the opportunity to serve as your interim pastor. It's been 6 months since my last ministry assignment and I rejoice to be immersed in intentional Christian community again. I always miss it when I'm gone.

I also wish to share a bit more about myself by way of introduction. I have been an ordained minister of word and sacrament in the ELCA for more than 36 years. I have served in congregations both large and small as well as in college ministries at large public universities and small liberal arts colleges. Most of my calls have been in the Midwest, beginning in the northwest suburbs of Chicago and then later moving to serve in my home state of Nebraska. My last full-time call brought me on this grand adventure to the Pacific Northwest, first to Corvallis, OR where for 4 years I served as pastor at Luther House Campus Ministry at Oregon State University, and now to do interim ministry in the Northwest Intermountain Synod.

I have been married to my wife Kristin for 37 years. She is the executive director of Oregon Rural Action, a community organizing non-profit based in La Grande, OR. ORA works to amplify the voices of rural residents in eastern Oregon. Her most recent projects include providing immunizations to migrant farm workers during the pandemic and pressing state government in Oregon to provide clean drinking water for residents with wells contaminated by high levels of nitrate from corporate food processing and agriculture. I am proud of Kristin's work with vulnerable people.

Together we have one son, Josh, who is married to Simi, our daughter-in-law. They both reside in San Diego (Simi's hometown) where they work as physical therapists. They met as first year PT students at Northwestern University and celebrated a Covid-wedding about 3 years ago. We are hoping they will make us grandparents one day soon.

My work at CLC is to provide pastoral leadership and care during this time of interim preparation to call a new pastor. I am impressed by the richness and strength of Christ Lutheran Church. You are a congregation of warmhearted, conscientious, and generous people who have been well-led through the years. My aim is to help you to build upon this strong foundation and continue providing creative, life-giving ministry for years to come. I'm sure you all have your sights set on the same goal. May the Spirit inspire and guide us in this endeavor.

God's blessings to you and through you,

Mike Ostrom
Interim Pastor



Mission Group Luncheon

Tuesday mission group hosted a luncheon for Emmanuel Lutheran Quilters on Tuesday, August 8 with 29 ladies in attendance. After a break during COVID, the tradition of annually getting together for lunch and fellowship with others who serve Lutheran World Relief resumed. Christ Lutheran women provided salads and desserts while Emmanuel provided the guest speaker. OraRae Ottmar spoke about a recent trip to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Mt Sinai. Recently created quilts decorated the parish hall and tables featured deconstructed quilt blocks and flowers. CLC women brought books that inspired, informed or comforted. People were invited to talk about other titles and authors.



RECONCILING IN CHRIST CORE TEAM

The **Reconciling In Christ (RIC) Core Team**, composed of Peg Haug, Allison Tabacco-Hines, Charleen Kaaen and Linda Lohrmann, have had One-to-One Visits with several members of Christ Lutheran Church during the last two months. These are deeper conversations than might occur during a Sunday morning “across the aisle” or Coffee Hour chat. We are getting to know fellow members in a new and exciting way. One of the central questions asked during a One-to-One Visit concerns the welcome that this congregation extends to our community. Does Christ Lutheran Church intentionally welcome people of all marital or immigration status, race, gender orientation, identity or expression? During the visits, we have shared information about what it might mean for Christ Lutheran Church to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

One-to-One Visits with members of the RIC Core Team are not part of the process of calling a pastor to this congregation. The idea of becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation and starting One-to-One Visits originated prior to Pastor Ley’s retirement, and the discernment process simply continues during this transitional time.

The main focus of the RIC Core Team is to find where Jesus is pointing us in our ministry at Christ Lutheran Church. We will continue to invite CLC members to visit with us. **But now we want to let you know that you can ask us to schedule a One-to-One Visit with you.** Contact information for RIC Core Team members can be found in the CLC Directory. Give us a call or drop an email. Better yet, stop one of us in the hallway and let us know that you are interested in meeting. We hope to talk with you soon!

Youth & Family

We want to invite all to our **Worship & Wonder Open House** on Sunday, 9/3, after the church service.

Last year we had an excellent turnout as many of you were curious about our new curriculum, **Godly Play**. Thanks to a growing class size, we had to double our room size to accommodate for space, and have started doing some fun activities to help support our learners. This program has really resonated with our youth. Please join us for a short story and any questions you may have, as well as seeing the classroom.

Following Open House we will have an **Ice Cream Social** provided by the Fellowship committee.

Attendance Report

Average Sunday Worship Attendance

July 2022 - 90

July 2023 - 121

Pastoral Acts

Funerals

Peggy Hellberg 8/15

Pauline Mobley 8/26

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

August 8, 2023

Council president Leslie Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those attending were Pastor Mike Ostrom, Jeannine Manny, Cecilia Rutledge, Dan Grinstead, Eric Schmid, Karleen Heintzberger, Carmen Funderburk, Melanie Hein, Emily Stone, Sara Pinkerton, John Lohrmann, and Peter Swant.

Devotions were given by Sara Pinkerton

Minutes from the July 11, 2023, meeting were revised and approved by email July 21, 2023.

The new time for council meetings will be 6:00 p.m.

Financial Report: Cecilia Rutledge submitted a written financial report for the month of July: Operational Income came in \$4,227 more than budgeted and Operational Expenses were \$12,437 less than budgeted for the month of July. Total Operational Funds resulted in a net inflow of \$14,597 for the month of July. Designated/Restricted account activity resulted in a net inflow of \$450 for the month of July. Overall Combined Funds resulted in a net inflow of \$15,047 for the month of July.

Committee Reports:

Property Report: (see information submitted by Jon Jensen and New Business below).

Finance & Budget: Aside from the budget items on the agenda, Eric had nothing new to report.

Worship: CLC welcomes Pastor Mike Ostrom as our interim pastor. Barbara has met with him to discuss worship and will continue to plan and collaborate on worship services. A substitute organist, James French, will be playing for worship on August 13. He is an experienced church musician who will fill in on occasion for our organist team as they manage busy summer schedules.

Evangelism: Karleen Heintzberger and Linda Lohrmann have started working on an updated membership list for the Mission Site Profile. They have questions about the kind of demographic information that will be needed. Two more names have been added to the prospective members list: Anneliese Haug and Kathy Long.

Personnel: (See Sexton position report below).

Youth Education: Nothing new to report.

Youth and Family: Nothing new to report.

Adult Education: John reported that when Adult Education class begins again on September 10, it will be either a study of the treatise by Martin Luther, "The Freedom of a Christian," or the time can be allocated to beginning the self-study as part of the call process.

Pastor's Report:

An updated council contact sheet was distributed. Pastor Mike advised that it is fine to use his cell phone number to contact him. He is grateful for the spirit in which all have welcomed him. His first priority is to connect with people who need care.

There is a new member class upcoming, possibly in the fall. Sara and Pastor Mike will be meeting to coordinate the next confirmation class. John and Mike met about Adult Education possibilities. In the last two churches he served, Mike led a strategic planning process looking at the question of church decline both in numbers and cultural influence and how to confront that challenge in a creative way. He described a program on this subject that might be a good offering for adult education in the fall.

Continuing Business:

A. Ministry Expansion, external: Council discussed church protocol for supporting people in need who personally approach the church.

B. Congregational, internal:

1. Sexton position: Marit reported that Jeff Wagner has agreed to fill the role of sexton at CLC. The transition from Clarence Strabel to Jeff has already begun. After the meeting, Marit brought to the attention of council that a vote must be conducted to approve Jeff for the position. A motion was made by Jeannine Manny to approve Jeff as the sexton of Christ Lutheran Church, Dan seconded the motion, and the motion passed by electronic vote.

2. John Lohrmann researched the question that Cecilia brought up at the last council meeting about memorial funds. He reported that no guidelines have been defined for the funds except that they be used for things in keeping with the fact that they are given in memory of someone and should be treated respectfully.

3. Peter reported on what he learned from Bennett's Locksmith about re-keying the church building. He will have more information at the next council meeting.

4. Outside security cameras will be discussed after the re-keying is completed.

New Business:

A. Jon Jensen has conducted research into re-roofing the church building. He submitted a detailed letter with estimates and information he has received. It was decided to table discussion about the roof until council reviews the budget in Oct./Nov.

B. Jon Jensen also submitted a letter with information regarding the framing of pictures on the Pastor Picture Wall. After discussion, it was decided to put a note in the newsletter and receive input from the congregation on the subject.

C. Dan reported on updates that have been made to the air-conditioning in the choir loft. He also advised that he will be getting an estimate on resurfacing the parking lot. It was last done in 2015. John said that the alley is also in need of an upgrade.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannine Manny, Council Secretary

Church Office Hours

Closed Monday September 4th for Labor Day

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



Marianna Gomez	9/2	Betty Depuy	9/14
Cecilia Rutledge	9/2	Doris Ann Simmons	9/15
Jacob Riley	9/3	Robbyn Smith	9/16
Peggy Simpson	9/6	Anthony Swanson	9/17
Dorothy Hagen	9/7	Isaac Swanson	9/17
Peter Hoffman	9/7	Marisa Fullen	9/20
Bob McCoy	9/7	Derek Swanson	9/20
Chad Pederson	9/8	Barbara Hoffman	9/22
Nolan Berry	9/10	Norma Austin	9/25
Rita Hoffman	9/12	Richard Fryhling	9/26
Clarence Strabel	9/13		

Treasurer's Report

July 2023 Income		July 2023 Expenses	
General Fund:	\$30,893	General Fund:	\$16,296
Other Income:			
Designated/ Restricted:	450	Designated/ Restricted:	2,017
Total Income:	\$31,343	Total Expenses:	\$16,296

July 2023 Net Income (Loss): \$15,047

Monthly Results:

Operational income exceeded operational expenses by \$14,597 for the month.

Designated/Restricted Account expenses exceeded income by \$450 for the month.

Year To-Date Results:

Total Operational Income to-date is approximately \$13,523 under budget for 2023.

Total Operational Expenses are approximately \$32,682 under budget for 2023.

Year to Date Net Income (Loss): (\$4,390)

Balance Sheet Items:

CLC's checking account ended the month with a \$241,604 balance.

Total cash, including restricted/endowments accounts, totaled \$423,571 as of 7/31/2023
 CLC had \$1,764,388 in positive equity on 7/31/2023.

September 2023

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1	2
3	9:30 ^{am} Worship Service Godly Play Open House	4 - Labor Day Office Closed	9 ^{am} Mission Group 10 ^{am} Men's Group	6	7 1 ^{pm} Bible Study	8	9
10	9:30 ^{am} Worship Service 10:30 ^{am} Adult Ed Class	11	12 9 ^{am} Mission Group 5:15 ^{pm} RIC Meeting 6 ^{pm} Council Meeting	13	14 10 ^{am} SJAG Meeting 1 ^{pm} Bible Study	15	16
17	9:30 ^{am} Worship Service 10:30 ^{am} Adult Ed Class	18	19 9 ^{am} Mission Group 10 ^{am} Men's Group	20	21 1 ^{pm} Bible Study	22	23
24	9:30 ^{am} Worship Service 10:30 ^{am} Adult Ed Class	25	26 9 ^{am} Mission Group	27	28 1 ^{pm} Bible Study	29	30



Christ Lutheran Church

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

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We're on the Web!

www.christwallawalla.org

September 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.