

Christ's Ambassador

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Preston, Minnesota



Love God, Love People, Follow Jesus

Christ Lutheran Church - Preston, Minnesota

Telephone: (507)765-2161

Church Email: office@christlutheranpreston.org

Website: www.christlutheranpreston.org

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Scott E. Olson

Church Administrator: Amanda Means

Church council: Sara Niemeyer, Mike Erdman, Darrel Olson, Susan Pikula, Michael Johnson, Andy Bunge, Bruce Hoff



Dear Siblings in Christ,

"Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed, alleluia!" (Ancient, traditional Easter greeting)

"We hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel." (Cleopas in Luke 24.21)

Can you hear the contrasting emotions in the two quotes? The first is full of joy, even astonishment, at the new thing God had done in the world. The second is loaded with lament and shattered expectations at what the world had done to God's Son. Ironically, both were uttered on the same day, the first Easter.

The Easter season in the church year is seven Sundays long—50 days when you include Pentecost Sunday—which will take us through the end of May. There is a reason for that. (Actually, there are several, but I'll focus on one.)

The most compelling reason for the prolonged exploration of the resurrection has to do with the reason for the resurrection itself, and I don't mean the promise of eternal life, though that is a good one. Rather, the resurrection is God's "Yes!" to life's "No!" Another way to say this is that Easter Sunday has no meaning apart from Good Friday.

Life throws Good Fridays at us constantly, stifling our hopes, dreams, and assumptions about how the world should be. We had hoped to stay healthy. We had hoped to have a long marriage. We had hoped to find and keep a good paying job. We had hoped...

For some of you, finishing that sentence could be, "We had hoped to have a settled pastor by now," or "We had hoped that everyone would be back to worship in person," or "We had hoped that more people would be involved in ministry." We had hoped...

Cleopas doesn't realize until later that it is the Risen One who is walking alongside him and his unfulfilled hopes. Jesus doesn't try to talk him out of his grief but instead patiently walks with him, listens to his story, and invites him into God's story. Then, as they stop and share a meal, Cleopas and his unnamed companion recognize Jesus as he was "made known to them in the breaking of the bread." They are so energized by this Good News that they hustle back to Jerusalem to share it with others.

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

The family of Denise (Vandeweerd) Vierling
Jeanette Schmidt, who is on Hospice
Barb Mielke's mother, Lottie Kalstabakken, who is on Hospice
The Burmeister and Kruegel families at the loss of their nephew,
Jared Moen
Tris Tollefson and family at the loss of his mother, Majory Froehlich
Val Christensen
Marilyn Schreier
Merrily Dale
Barb Barrett
Rosalie Krips
Ron Means
Bo Bakke
Bridget Case
Steve & Karen Kling
DeWayne Vogt
Arlen Kiehne
Walt Hanson, who is at Harmony Care Center
Don Berkland, who is at Harmony Care Center
Jim Hahn, who is at The Harmony Place
Ann Ott, who is at The Harmony Place
Arlene Bakalyar, who is at Park Lane Estates
Helen Haugen, who is at Park Lane Estates
Marilyn Bunge, who is at Park Lane Estates
Adie Milne, who is at Park Lane Estates
Betty Riehl, who is at Park Lane Estates
Jim Fossum, who is at The Fillmore Place
Lew Randall, who is at Traditions
Irene Aarre, who is at Traditions
Averlene Marzolf, who is at Traditions
Elaine Hellickson, who is at Traditions
Marga Moen, who is at Chosen Valley Care Center
Alice Cummings, who is at Chosen Valley Assisted Living
Helen Haugerud, who is at The Waters on Mayowood
Evie Christianson, who is at Seasons of Apple Valley
Jan Milne, who is at Brookdale Senior Living

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARYS



5/1 Arnie Benson, Sue Grooters, Dawn Hellickson, Jacob Johnson, Kim Ristau, Judy Kramer
5/2 Annika Mensink; **Jonathon and Lori Winkels – Anniv.**
5/4 Jimmer Harstad
5/5 Kari Broadwater, Emry Peterson; **Phil & Vicki Kruegel – Anniv.**
5/6 Rusty Schroeder, Tami Sprenger
5/7 **Joel & Barb Mielke – Anniv.**
5/8 Payton Markowski, Madeline Olstad
5/9 Eliot Tienter
5/10 Paul Johnson, Kevin Every
5/11 Collin Bennett, Joyce Bremseth, Susan Pikula, Kim Wingert
5/12 Amy Grabau
5/13 Jenna Pederson
5/14 Erlyn Marzolf
5/16 Shari Markowski
5/17 Weston Benson, Dilynn Ristau
5/18 Elsa Bye, Glenn Dale
5/20 Dick Irish, Jeff Knies, Marilyn Schreier
5/22 Neil Britton, Stuart Quanrud, Ryan Baker
5/23 Helen Haugerud, Haley Ostrom
5/25 Kinley Pederson
5/26 Eric Scheevel, Janet Woellert; **Joe & Marcia Specht – Anniv.**
5/28 Steve Carr, Darla Ebner, Rosalie Krips, Carter Rindels
5/29 Jenna Tieskotter, Linda Wolfe
5/30 Erin Gossman, Brandi Olson, Don Solberg; **Gary & Mindy Parker – Anniv.**
5/31 Connor Keene, Lydia Scheevel

Transition Team

In preparation for the calling of a new pastor in 2023 the Council has commissioned a Transition Team, which began to meet in January. The task of the Transition Team, in a nutshell, is to do the “spadework” as to what are the pastoral needs of Christ Lutheran at this time. To help them in their work, they will be filling out a form, provided by the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, called the “Ministry Site Profile”.

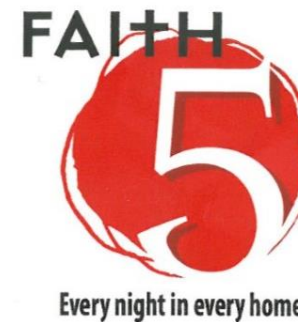
Members of the Transition Team are: **Jenna Pederson, Cari Ledin, Rebecca Schwingle, Randy Hahn, Bruce Nelson, Sara Niemeyer, and Blaine Niemeyer.** The Transition Team welcomes input or questions from members of the congregation, and also your prayers.

Sunday May 7, 2023 - Second Congregational Conversation Workshop – “Where God is Leading Us in the Future”

***Call Committee Formation:** The Nominating Committee, per the CLC Constitution, is forming the slate of candidates for the Call Committee that will search for the new settled pastor. Persons interested in being available to serve are required to submit an interest form. The preferred method of submission is through Google Forms, at this link: <https://forms.gle/3sakjeC5219DjuSg9>. Amanda can also email you the link. If you can't fill out the form online, Amanda has paper copies in the church office as well. Call Committee Interest Forms are due to Pr. Olson no later than Sunday, May 7. This is an important part of the process, and a diverse group of people are needed to serve. The Nominating Team is required to present a slate of seven names, of whom six will be selected.

***Special Congregational Meeting and Town Hall Meeting June 18:** On Sunday, June 18, following the 9 am worship service there will be a special congregational meeting to elect a Call Committee. Following the brief congregational meeting there will be a “Town Hall.” During the Town Hall, the work of the Transition Team will be celebrated, and portions of the Ministry Site Profile will be shared with the congregation. Rev. Barb Streed, Assistant to the Bishop for Call Process, will preach during the worship service and facilitate the Town Hall. She will explain the call process during the Town Hall and then meet with the Call Committee afterwards to schedule training. We know this is Father's Day, but we hope you can carve out an hour for this important next step in the journey to call our next pastor. Please see either Council President Mike Erdman or Pr. Olson with questions.

Wind and flames are symbols of God's power that come to us in the story of Pentecost; the birthday of the church. The gift is the holy spirit, God with each of us. Use the simple steps of FAITH5 (Faith Acts In The Home) to be reminded each day in May of the spirit's presence. Share this routine with your family or just keep it between you and God. Begin with “highs and lows” the best and worst moments of your day, read the “holy spirit” themed verse of scripture found on the other side of this sheet, pray and end with a blessing, perhaps tracing a cross on the forehead and saying something like “Know that God, the father, son, and holy spirit, is with you always.”



1	Matthew 3:16-17
2	John 3:6-8
3	John 15:1-8
4	Romans 8:26
5	John 14:26
6	Galatians 5:22-23
7	Acts 2:38
8	1 Corinthians 6:19
9	John 14:15-17
10	Isaiah 11:2
11	2 Corinthians 2:13
12	Romans 15:13
13	Acts 10:38
14	Ezekiel 36:26-27
15	Acts 4:31
16	Romans 5:3-5
17	Luke 4:1
18	John 20:21-23
19	Luke 4:18
20	Psalms 51:11
21	Matthew 10:20
22	Job 33:4
23	Ezekiel 37:1-14
24	Acts 2:1-11
25	Romans 8:22-27
26	John 15:26-27
27	John 16:12-15
28	Acts 1:8
29	Acts 19:1-6
30	Galatians 4:6
31	Romans 8:11-17

Christ Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Date: April 12th, 2023

Meeting time: 7:00 (In person); Conference Room

(X) Indicates Present for meeting

Member		Term Complete	Member		Term Complete
Pastor Olson			Mike Erdman/Pres.	x	2023
Bruce Hoff	x	2025	Sara Niemeyer/Sec.	x	2024
Andy Bunge	x	2025	Darrel Olson	x	2024
Michael Johnson /VP	x	2024	Susan Pikula /Treas	x	2023

Devotion Reflection - Susan Pikula

New business:

- Gifting Commodities program discussion - information put in the monthly bulletin and newsletter, going to be shared in the announcements to see if there is interest from the congregation.
 - Recommendation from M. Johnson - set up the account at POET now and then share information out to the congregation for farmers to donate bushels as available. Darrel Olson also available for information about this program to donate towards Christ Lutheran Church.
- Voucher program, gas, groceries, etc.
 - We're able to go to the bank and choose the denominations that we'd like to provide. We currently do not have any available in the office.
 - Motion to purchase \$100 in five \$20 denomination of Preston Bucks - Michael J. 2nd by Darrel. Motion passes.
- Sign for church, discussion look at mailing materials. Discussion that there is a need to update the current signage, possibly to a digital option. Request for quotes to consider replacement. Andy Bunge and Mike Erdman will look into it.
- Teen & Adult Challenge (Rochester) request to visit moved to Fall, they will contact Pastor Olson later this spring.
- Discuss our congregation sponsoring a refugee family, Andy Bunge will share about the meeting that he attended in Albert Lea. The Lutheran Church there is taking groups down to El Paso, Texas to learn about the challenges happening first hand and how to help individuals who have applied for asylum legally to get settled and on their feet. Suggestion to reach out to area churches for further discussion or to discuss ways that CLC can donate towards this cause. (Faith and Hope)
- Security Plan: WiFi cameras, desktop notifications for Amanda/Office, smartphone apps for council members. Defender: <https://www.defendercameras.com/pages/semi-wireless-security-systems>
 - Discussion of installing security cameras at the entrances and throughout the church
 - May need to boost our wifi capability to accommodate the cameras

- Michael Johnson will reach out to a contact at HBC for wired cameras as an option as well
- Doors not being locked, need to spell out who's responsibility it is to check. Council would like to have an updated list of who has keys.
- Knox Box Rapid Access system (knoxbox.com) received a letter from Preston Fire & EMS residential box cost is \$319.
 - Motion made to approve installation and purchase - Susan Pikula, 2nd Andy Bunge. Motion passes.
- Employee reviews will be scheduled May/June by the council executive team. There are no job descriptions for our staff currently. Descriptions will be created and a yearly review will be established moving forward.
- CLC needs to update the Church Usage document for members and non-members for community events and needs.
- Studio316 spring recital request - motion to approve the use of the Fellowship Hall if they meet the criteria, Susan Pikula, 2nd Sara Niemeyer. Motion passes.
- Property Team update - members of the Property Team discussed the ramp and the front doors. The doors need trimming in order to open freely after the new concrete installation. Front ramp epoxy coating quote, currently the ramp is flaking in spots. Andy Bunge is talking with individuals to discuss the flaking, more information to come. Front window replacement quote from Larson Siding and Windows - \$29,686. Take out the entire front panels of current windows that are 60 years old, build up to the height of the radiators and then use tempered glass. Siding would be matched to the current outside material. Andy Bunge will get finalized quote information, announcements will be made in church to share details with the congregation to get input.
 - Input slips will be handed out and collected.
- Family Room update - the ongoing discussion of how to accommodate larger families for events such as funerals and weddings. The Heritage Room can have more furniture moved out to accommodate more seating which would then alleviate the need to convert the Youth rooms into a new Family Room, thus saving money.
- AED & CPR classes cost is \$35 per person. Staff offered paid training would be Pastor, Amanda, Danny. Anyone else is welcome to sign up and pay the fee individually to the church. Sara will reach out to Harmony EMS to schedule the classes to be hosted here at CLC.
- Milk can money, who counts and when? Council will request that Amanda empty it at the end of the month and add it to the bulletin for the amount.
- Education of council on CLC budget/financials, payment of expense reports - to be continued. Depends on when Pam has availability. Paychecks have been updated to direct deposit for staff that request it.
- Forming the Call committee beginning in May for meeting in June. Also need to schedule the Town Hall meeting with Pastor Barb Streed from the synod. Forms of Call Committee Interest will be available at the end of April for the congregation.
- Recognition of Sunday School Teachers and Confirmation Leaders on April 23rd - Sara will collaborate with Carol. Amanda will print the names in the bulletin. Recognition during the service. Motion to approve - Bruce 1st, Michael 2nd. Motion passes.

All reports and next meeting's agenda will be emailed one week prior to our meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Financial reports will be e-mailed for review and approved by consensus during monthly meeting.

Secretary's Report: Minutes will be e-mailed for review and approved by consensus during monthly meeting.

Team meeting reports submitted by:

Evangelism & Stewardship (Darrel Olson)

Property (Andrew Bunge, Susan Pikula)

Worship and Music (Sara Niemeyer)

Youth (Susan Pikula, Bruce Hoff)

Education (Michael Johnson, Sara Niemeyer)

Approval of reports (by consensus) - approved.

Next Council meeting scheduled: **May 10th, 2023 @ 7PM**

Lightning Round of Celebrations / Prayer Request

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted by,

Sara Niemeyer, Council secretary

Bible Studies & Fellowship Groups At Christ Lutheran

Sunday Bible Study

The Sunday Bible Study meets in the Heritage Room on Sunday's after worship. Everyone is welcome, junior high and older.

Men's Fellowship Group

The Men's Fellowship group meets on the second Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in the Heritage Room. All men are welcome!

Christ Lutheran Women's Circle

The Women's Circle (previously Deborah Circle) meets once a month, usually the last Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room. Hope you will consider joining the group!

We are offering two sessions of CPR & AED training here at Christ Lutheran – May 6th from 1-5 p.m. and May 17th from 9 a.m. -1 p.m. If you are interested in learning about these sign up in the church office. Cost is \$35.



Volunteer Chairs Still Needed for Craft and Bake Sale

Our annual fundraiser (Sat., Dec. 2, 2023) is still in need of a volunteer co-chair to help plan and execute this event. We are in need of one co-chair to join the Craft/Bake sale organizing team (join Barb Mielke and Alison Leathers), and we are in need of one co-chair to join the Gnome Cafe team (join Kayla Peterson). Please reach out to Alison Leathers at 507-251-8049 to learn more about the roles and to let us know if you are interested. We plan to meet in June, August, September, October, and November.

Christ's Crafters looking for donations

Christ's Crafters continue to meeting the first and third Thursday of each month. We are looking for supplies to make items to sell at the Craft and Bake Sale in December. It will soon be time for garage sales so keep your eyes open for the following items: containers for centerpieces and porch pots as well as Christmas greenery/decorations/ribbon. If you have questions, contact Diane Johnson at 507-765-4447.

Good Earth Village Summer Camp Registration is Open!

Register online now at goodearthvillage.org. or grab a registration form from the narthex. Camp provides a place for youth of all ages to experience the love of Jesus Christ in a natural setting with their peers. It's an experience like no other. Your church family knows that it takes commitment and money to be able to send a child to camp – thanks to some of the groups at Christ Lutheran, your child can have the camp experience that will last them a lifetime for less than 1/2 the cost. For more information on registering, contact church office.

Electronic Giving

We want to remind people of different **giving options** that are available to support the mission and ministry of Christ Lutheran Church.

1. You can safely and securely give online through our website at <http://christlutheranpreston.org/giving/>
2. You can make a text donation. Simply send a text message to (507) 556 4235 with the amount you would like to contribute (example: 25). Within a few minutes, you'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt of your donation via email.

