

# Christ's Ambassador

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Preston, Minnesota



APRIL  
2024

**Love God, Love People, Follow Jesus**

Christ Lutheran Church - Preston, Minnesota

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Church council: Bruce Hoff, Darrel Olson, Michael Johnson,  
Andy Bunge, Katie Marzolf-Harstad, Jennifer Pickett, Melissa Severson



Faith Formation - Let's Play!

**Psalm 100** ~ from Eugene Peterson's *The Message*.

On your feet now - applaud God!

Bring a gift of laughter, sing yourselves into his presence.

Know this: God is God. He made us; we didn't make him.

We're his people, his well-tended sheep.

Enter with the password: "Thank you!"

Make yourselves at home, talking praise.

Thank him. Worship him.

For God is sheer beauty,

all-generous in love,

loyal always and ever.

Let us worship God with joy!

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We are in the season of Easter tide, a joyful season 50 days between Easter Sunday and Pentecost where we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ. Each Sunday is considered a mini-Easter. The readings assigned to this season emphasize belonging. From Thomas still finding his place despite, or perhaps because of his doubts, to our place in the sheepfold and on the vine, to the embrace of the Spirit, we are reminded repeatedly about our place in God's family. We will be celebrating being part of God's family in new and traditional ways this spring, and over the summer we will encourage each other to try new things! We are a joyful people, and our ministries reflect our joy and faith formation.

**Sunday school. Summer camp. Campus ministry. The Gathering.**

As God forms faith in us, it is helpful to pay attention to how children, youth, and adults express their faith was formed. Jake Sorenson, through his research with Sacred Playgrounds, identified the Big 4 ministries, these ministries have proven most consistently impactful for developing young disciples and nurturing leaders in the ELCA. These are: Sunday school, summer camp, campus ministry, and The Gathering ministries. They are keystone ministries, around which other vital ministry programs flow and flourish.

**~Sunday School.** Through talented and generous leaders, Christ Lutheran has a strong Sunday school (and confirmation) program. The children express their curiosity and joy in faith during worship, and head down to Sunday School afterwards. It's a treat to grow in faith with them!

**~Summer Camp.** The history and support Christ Lutheran shares with Good Earth Village is extraordinary. Through the congregation's generosity campers pay 25% of the camp fee and the congregation pays the remaining portion. Registration is occurring now and we welcome Nate Johnosn, Program Director, to CLC on Sunday April 14 when all ages are invited to celebrate Camp Sunday and find out more about Good Earth Village. Vacation Bible school is part of summer camp.

**~Campus Ministry.** Your support of Lutheran Ministry on nearby campuses supports a space for daily prayer, study time, hanging out, and pastoral staff, as well as weekly opportunities for worship and a free meal. A home-away-from-home congregation is a blessing for young adults.

~**The Gathering.** Generations of Lutherans have attended the Gathering. Bev Olson came out to support our youth raising money for this summer's trip to NOLA and told me tales of her experiences at the Youth Gathering in NYC! I look forward to hearing more stories before heading to NOLA.

Since discerning my call to ministry, I have realized many of my experiences formed "sticky faith" with me. Sticky faith is faith lived out through adulthood. Vacation Bible School (VBS,) confirmation camp, singing and playing trumpet and piano in worship, and serving on summer staff at Green Lake Lutheran Ministries in Spicer, MN were "sticky faith" experiences. I'm excited to be part of a faith community that supports their children, youth, families, and all generations, in these four key areas. We are a testament to the adage, "When we share God's love together, we grow in God's love together."

For more information: *The Big 4: A Roadmap to Revitalizing Ministry in the First third of Life · Sacred Playgrounds*



## Holy Humor Sunday – April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 ~ 9am

Since the middle ages people have joyfully celebrated the resurrection with a special Sunday, also known as Bright Sunday or Laughter Sunday.

G.K. Chesterton once wrote: "Angels can fly because they take themselves lightly. Never forget that the devil fell by force of gravity. He who has the faith has the fun." Bring your laughter to worship! Needed: clean, fun jokes and a juggler.

### **\*Confirmation Dinner Church\***

for Confirmands and parent/caring adults and siblings

**Wednesday, April 3 – 6:00 -7:15 pm.**

Parents/caring adults and youth attend confirmation together on Dinner Church nights. We will enjoy a meal, learn about Baptism and share communion. Dinner church provides a space for parents and youths to connect and grow in faith together during the confirmation experience.

## **YOUTH LEAD - Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:15 pm, grades 10-12**

Gather at 6 pm for supper, then join your peers for **Youth Lead**. Explore faith through fun, discussion, and service. 9<sup>th</sup> graders will join us and we will brainstorm summer activities. Questions - text or email Pastor Kris, 507-330-1824 or [revkris.christlutheranpreston@gmail.com](mailto:revkris.christlutheranpreston@gmail.com)

### **New Member Sunday, April 21 (possible date):**

People have expressed an interest in joining Christ Lutheran and we are looking for a date that works for several of them. Please reach out to Pastor Kris for more information.

## **April Service Group**

Scott & Andrea Hellickson, <b>Chairpersons</b>	ahcabin07@yahoo.com	507-273-6855
Jim Keune & Mary Jane Glaser, <b>Chairpersons</b>	jdmj1980@yahoo.com	507-352-7565
Carlisle & Traci Corson	tracicorson@gmail.com	507-273-6903
Brett & Jade Grabau	jadegrabau@gmail.com	507-273-2562
Dave & Cynthia Hokenson	c.hokenson@mchsi.com	507-993-9112
Derek & Sarah Holtegaard	holtegaard.sarah@gmail.com	507-273-2737
Judy Kramer		507-765-3374
David & Mary Milne		507-886-4017
Jo Randall	jlr1172@yahoo.com	507-358-8361
Kurt & Brenda Reicks	bareicks@yahoo.com	507-273-5479
Jerry & Mary Specht	jerryjs@centurytel.net	507-259-0433
Scott & Tami Sprenger	tami.milne@hotmail.com	507-259-2948
Jonathan & Lori Winkels	lbwinkels@gmail.com	507-273-9799

Scheduled events: Sunday Morning Cookies – April 7 (8-10 dozen)  
New Member Reception – April 21 (possible date)

### **Worship Assistants in April**

#### Acolytes

- 7 Katelyn Scheevel/Kaylee Hernandez
- 14 Cooper Holtegaard/Jax Heibel
- 21 Maggie Wingert/Reese Larson
- 28 Taelyn Kerns/Melony Wingert

#### Computer

- 7 Cooper Pickett
- 14 Ryan Schroeder
- 21 Josie Corson
- 28 Jackson Fischer

#### Lectors

- 7 Michael Johnson
- 14 youth
- 21 Bev Olson
- 28 Alison Leathers

Altar Guild.....Joyce Hellickson/Jodi Eickhoff/Mary Glaser/Linda Trende

Ushers.....Kurt and Brenda Reicks/Ron Laughlin and Sandy Amundson

#### Communion Assistants

April 7.....Michael Johnson/Bruce Hoff/Katie Marzolf Harstad

April 21.....Darrel Olson/Jen Pickett/



Tami Christianson's granddaughter Quinn  
 Helen Raaen, who is on Hospice  
 Axel Heller  
 Bo Bakke  
 Bridget Case  
 Steve Kling  
 Carole Engen  
 Val Christensen  
 Barb Barrett  
 Rosalie Krips  
 Richard Johnson  
 Don Solberg  
 Arlen Kiehne  
 Marilyn Bunge, who is in Mabel Care Center  
 Walt Hanson, who is at the Minnesota State Veterans Home  
 Adie Milne, who is at Harmony Care Center  
 Ann Ott, who is at Harmony Care Center  
 Betty Riehl, who is at Harmony Care Center  
 Arlene Bakalyar, who is at Park Lane Estates  
 Helen Haugen, who is at Park Lane Estates  
 Jim Fossum, who is at The Fillmore Place  
 Alice Cummings, who is at Chatfield Nursing Home  
 Lew Randall, who is at Traditions  
 Irene Aarre, who is at Traditions  
 Averlene Marzolf, who is at Traditions  
 Helen Haugerud, who is at Traditions  
 Linda Hahn Smith, who is at Traditions  
 Evie Christianson, who is at Seasons of Apple Valley  
 Jan Milne, who is at Brookdale Senior Living  
 DeWayne Vogt, who is at Luther Oaks Skilled Nursing Care

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

The April CLC Women's Fellowship meeting is scheduled for Wed. April 24 at 6:30 pm in the Conference Room. If you have not joined us before, please consider dropping in. We are an easy group to get to know and always enjoy seeing some new faces. There is always room for more!

We will continue to ponder and discuss our present book, "Awareness: The Perils and Opportunities of Reality" by Anthony De Mello. Since we are more than halfway through the book, we are soliciting ideas for our next study topic. This can be a book, a movie, a podcast, etc. We are always open to new ideas. We look forward to the time we share together. God is good!

**Christ Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes**

Date: March 12, 2024

Meeting time: 6:00 p.m. (In person); Conference Room

(X) Indicates Present for meeting

Member		Term Complete	Member		Term Complete
Pastor Kris Kincaid	X		Bruce Hoff /President	X	2025
Michael Johnson	X	2024	Melissa Severson/Secretary	X	2026
Andy Bunge	X	2025	Darrel Olson	X	2024
Jen Pickett/VP	X	2026	Katie Harstad/Treasurer	X	2026

Devotion Reflection- Andy Bunge

**New business:**

- Communion Servers Orientation—Carol Solberg, Traci Corson and Karen Trende 1st Sunday of every month will be at the rail.
- Hearing devices compatible with SIM Sound System-discussion. We received 1 device and are checking to see if it will work with the current system. The church would need a total of 4. If the device works with the system, the church will keep the 1 that we currently have and purchase 2 more with the plan to purchase an additional one in the future. Motion by Michael Johnson and second by Jennifer Pickett.
- Consider a raise for our church organist. Motion for a raise to \$100 per service by Andy Bunge and a second by Michael Johnson.
- Recycle Receptacle information. (Information item) Information will be provided in the bulletin and ambassador.
- Good Earth Village Annual Meeting-Dean Schumacher attended. (Information item) Meeting was March 10, Dean Schumacher attended as a representative for our church. Pastor Kris invited them in the upcoming months for a Camp Sunday at the church.
- Discussion on Good Earth Village Registration for Youth. (Handout) Michael will discuss with teachers and students in the Sunday School.
- Gift recognition from Good Earth Village for CLC's \$900 gift.
- Discussion on possible donation to the Veterans In Need Fund (VIN). (Handout) Will table and have the Stewardship Committee review and discuss and report to the council.
- How to invite people to serve on Committees? (Brainstorm) Will develop a flier to provide committee descriptions and how to sign-up.
- Vacation Bible School (VBS)—what might it look like? Pastor Kris and Alison will continue to work on this plan and update the council.
- Stewardship Committee to meet Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

**Discussion:**

- Thank You: SE Minnesota Synod for a gift of money.
- The machine room was found to have items that need maintenance. A list of the items was given to the Property committee.
- Premature locking of the lower doors before Sunday School is done. Question if there is a better system for locking/unlocking the doors.
- Adult Education at 10:15 after the church service.
- Bruce spoke with the cleaner: they have a list of what and how often they need to clean the bathrooms. This needs to be updated.
- All reports and next meeting's agenda will be emailed one week prior to our meeting. Please have all items for the agenda to me a week in advance.

- Treasurer's Report: Financial reports will be e-mailed for review and approved by consensus during monthly meeting. Katie Marzolf-Harstad will speak with Pam and report to the counsel. Motion to approve Michael Johnson; second by Jennifer Pickett. Discussion in regard to if certain months that have more giving. Katie will check trends with Pam.
- Secretary's Report: Minutes will be e-mailed for review and approved by consensus during monthly meeting. Motion to approve Jennifer Pickett; second by: Michael Johnson.
- Micheal added discussion about Teen and Adult Challenge returning to the church - Pastor Kris will contact.

Team meeting reports submitted by:

Evangelism (Jennifer Pickett)

Stewardship (Andy Bunge)

Property (Darrel Olson): This was received and reviewed. No changes. Consensus to accept Darrell's report by all members.

Worship and Music (Katie Marzolf-Harstad)

Youth (Melissa Severson)

Education (Michael Johnson)

Approval of reports (by consensus)

Next Council meeting scheduled: April 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Lightning Round of Celebrations / Prayer Request

Adjourn - Close with prayer.

Minutes respectively submitted by

Melissa Severson, Church Council Secretary

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### **Celebrate Sunday School with Good Earth Village!**

**Sunday, April 14**

**9:00 am worship | 10:00 am High Five's Party | 11:00 Lunch (optional)**

We've had a wonderful year of Sunday School and are ready to keep having fun with faith this summer! We will celebrate our great year on April 14 with a *High Five's* party, Bible camp style. Nate Johnson from Good Earth Village will be here to welcome you to "camp". After worship, come downstairs. Nate will lead songs, share a fun skit, help us learn about what it feels like to belong, and end the morning with a campfire, s'mores and more songs. Sunday school will end at the normal time but everyone is invited to stay for lunch.

Parents and other adults - this day is for you, too! Join in the fun. Information will be available to register for summer camp at GEV. (Remember, CLC pays 75% of your camp fee at GEV, you pay only 25%).

**How Do I Register for GEV?** We've emailed a Good Earth Village 2024 information sheet to all households and it's in the Narthex, too. Can't find it? Check in with Amanda in the office for another form.

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARYS



4/1 Brandon Hoff, Janet Brevig

4/2 Cami Jones-Roberts, Kennedy Ristau, Neyland Harstad

4/4 **Brett & Kari Broadwater - Anniv.**

4/5 Lynn Glaser, Karen Quanrud, Ella Ristau, Lily Ledin

4/8 Jack Marzolf

4/9 Lilianna Dempewolf, Garrett Gossman

4/10 Camilla Specht

4/11 David Milne

4/12 Matt Quanrud

4/13 Maggie Dempewolf, Coltan Dempewolf

4/14 Shelby Ristau, Tony Severson

4/16 Dale Grabau

4/17 Dawson Schmidt, Chris Schreier, Eli Rowe; **Jason & Rebecca Schwingle - Anniv.**

4/18 Chris Hahn, Sheryl Schultz, Mathew Bakken

4/19 Jerry Specht

4/20 Chuck Aug, Alden Peterson, Stella Speer

4/21 Jim Baker

4/22 Betty Riehl; **Stacey & Mari Lyn Bakke - Anniv., Kevin & Joyce Every - Anniv.**

4/23 Myleigh Scheevel, Levi Johnson

4/24 Emily Scheevel; **Kyle & Cathy Runtsch - Anniv.**

4/25 Tyson Sprenger

4/26 Cori Larson, Jerry Schultz; **Jerry & Mary Specht - Anniv.**

4/27 Cody Ristau, Joe Specht, Chad Persons

4/28 Paula Severson, Jillian Tieskotter, Kylee Shumpert, Cooper Holtegaard

4/29 Ajay Ristau, Ron Schreier

4/30 **Erlyn & Sandy Marzolf - Anniv.**

Easter arrives and we celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Babies are born, caterpillars turn to butterflies, spring flowers bloom and we are reminded of new life all around us. Jesus has died, so that we might live. Celebrate this great, grace-filled gift this April with the simple, 5-steps of FAITH5 (Faith Acts In The Home). 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 “new life” themed verse of scripture, pray and end with a blessing, perhaps tracing a cross on the forehead and saying something like “God makes all things new, especially you.”



Every night in every home



- 1 Matthew 26:36-46  
 2 John 13:1-17  
 3 Mark 10:34  
 4 Isaiah 55:8-11  
 5 Mark 16:1-8  
 6 Acts 10:34-43  
 7 1 Corinthians 15:12-17  
 8 John 11:25-26  
 9 1 Peter 1:3-4  
 10 2 Corinthians 5:17  
 11 Ephesians 4:22-24  
 12 John 20:19-31  
 13 Romans 6:4  
 14 Lamentations 3:23  
 15 John 5:24  
 16 Revelation 21:5  
 17 Ezekiel 11:19  
 18 Isaiah 43:19  
 19 Luke 24:36-48  
 20 Colossians 3:9-10  
 21 John 6:40  
 22 John 3:16  
 23 Colossians 2:12  
 24 Isaiah 60:1  
 25 John 6:39  
 26 1 John 3:16-19  
 27 Acts 4:8-12  
 28 Psalm 23:1-6  
 29 Ephesians 2:4-5  
 30 John 11:17-27

**Good Earth Village, Lunch and Learn – Growing Hope Globally**  
**Tuesday, April 16, 10:30 am-2:00 pm**


Mark Swanson is a Regional Director and Interim CEO for [Growing Hope Globally](#). Growing Hope Globally provides an opportunity for Christians to make a lasting impact on global hunger, linking the grassroots energy and commitment of rural communities in the U.S. with the capability and desire of smallholder farmers in developing countries.

Sign up on or before April 14 in the church narthex. Carpool drivers may be needed. A free-will donation for lunch is suggested.



**HOLY HIKE OUTDOORS**

Saturday, April 20 from 10:30 am - 12:25 pm

We will head to Forestville State Park and hike the meadow trail. Enjoy walking, a reflection on creation, and Holy Communion. It will be an easy hike, designed for all ages. We will share communion at the end of the hike, near the parking area. Sign up in  the Narthex.

\* Earth Day is April 22\*

**BUNDLES OF LOVE**

**REMINDER:** The Women’s Fellowship group at Christ Lutheran continues to collect baby items for Bundles of Love. Be on the lookout for items when you go to garage sales, etc. All collected items will be donated to the local Bundles of Love group in Chatfield. They work with Social Services in Fillmore, Houston, and Winona Counties to distribute the bundles where needed. All clothes should be Size Newborn to 6 months. Clothing can be gently used provided it is clean and in like-new condition. They also accept handmade items such as baby quilts, knit or crocheted items, etc. They make many of the items included in the bundles so can also use fabric (cotton, polar fleece, flannel, cotton, cotton blend knit), serger thread, and washable yarn of all weights (no wool/mohair). A complete list of needed items can be found on the bulletin board outside the church office. Donations can be left in the church office. If you have questions, contact Diane Johnson at (507)765-4447.

## Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Sunday

On Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> we will be recognizing our Sunday school teachers and Confirmation leaders during worship. We greatly appreciate all of the time and effort that they have put forth to help our children grow in their Faith: Michael Johnson, Margaret Johnson, Cari Ledin, Cassie Keene, Jenna Pederson, Megan Persons, Traci Corson, Trista Tieskotter, Amanda Dempewolf, Christy Gildner and Jesse LaBonne.

## Summer Camp Opportunities -



### Good Earth Village

- 1) Review the Good Earth Village 2024 registration information sheet (available from Amanda).
- 2). Go to the Good Earth Village website for a complete session description, choose the session/s and register  
<https://goodearthvillage.org>
- 3). Enter this summer's code, **CLCPRES2024** when registering
- 4). **Do not pay anything online. Pay Christ Lutheran Church the member cost listed on info sheet**
- 5). Christ Lutheran makes one payment to GEV at the end of the summer.  
THANK YOU!

### Ordinary Time at Camp House - Part of Green Lake Lutheran Ministries (Join Pastor Kris June 23-27, or go different days!)

Camp House is an old railroad camp set in Minnesota's north woods about an hour north of Duluth. They offer a unique camp experience called "Ordinary Time", between June 15 and July 12. Each week pastors, musicians, educators, and artists in residence provide inspiring opportunities.

Ordinary Time is about a community of people being together to reconnect with the Creator, creation, and perhaps even our creative sides. This program is for YOU! It's also for your book club, men's group, youth group, family, extended family, family of choice, friends, etc.

**One good thing - Ordinary Time allows you to register for the dates that work for you, for a few nights or the whole month!** There are varied activities - daily saunas, games on the ball field, pizza in the brick oven, and evening fellowship in the lodge. Visit [gllm.org/ordinary-time](http://gllm.org/ordinary-time) for more info and to register.