

# Christ's Ambassador

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Preston, Minnesota



**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



## The Gospel According to Bread

Pastor Kristine Hertsgaard Kincaid

For multiple Sunday's beginning July 28, we will explore John chapter 6 and stories that teach us Jesus is the Bread of Life. I will do my best to not let the messages get stale. (Bad pun intended). During these weeks, we will look at how Jesus teaches us by pointing his listeners away from an intellectual understanding and back toward a physical experience. On July 28 we explored the story of the feeding of 5000, which is narrated in each of the four Gospels (Matt. 14:13-21; Mark 6:31-44, Luke 9:10-17) and is the only miracle that appears in all four.

Jesus teaches us with parables and signs, or miracles. The distinction between a parable and a miracle is that parables teach us a lesson and if we "hear" the lesson we may choose to follow these teachings. When Jesus uses miracles we physically see the power of God in Jesus. Throughout the Bread of Life discourse, Jesus invites the disciples to recognize him as God incarnate. Through his humanity, in Jesus we see the very essence of God's character – love, compassion, and selfishness—embodied in human form. The Gospel of Bread will open us to new ways of experiencing the embodied teachings of Jesus. Come for worship, stay for the promises Christ brings to us.

I also invite you to experience Christ in community through our pizza making night, in conversation at Trout City Brewery, participating in Christ's Crafters, and by looking ahead and registering for Sunday School and Confirmation. This year registration will take place online and starts Monday, August 5. Watch for an email inviting you to register your children, share your gifts, and get ready for the new year filled with lessons, love, and leaning into God's mission.

May God's peace be with you,  
Pastor Kris

### Upcoming Dates

**August 5** – Register online for the 2024-2025 Sunday School program. Online registration will be shared in an email and posted online at

[www.christlutheranpreston.org](http://www.christlutheranpreston.org)

**August 18** – 9am worship - scripture readings, hymns, and reflections inspired by *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor.

**August 18** – 6pm, Intergenerational Worship and Pizza making! Our pizza garden will be harvested, and we will explore how God Prepares us to Live Together.

**August 22** – 6:30pm, Summer Meet Up at Trout City Brewing.

**September 11** – 9am worship – Fall Kick-off for Sunday School and Confirmation and Back to School Blessing

**September 15** – 10<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation retreat

**September 29** – 9am worship – 10<sup>th</sup> grade Rite of Confirmation

**Summer Invitations with An Altar in the World**

**Book Read, *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith***, by Barbara Brown Taylor. (USA: Harper One), 2009. (Please borrow or buy this book on your own.)

**Worship: Lessons and Hymns, Sunday, August 18, 9:00 am Worship.** Scripture readings, hymns, and reflections inspired by *An Altar in the World* and will be the focus of our worship service.



**VBS - God's Love Grows** 

We combined cross+generational worship with VBS this year and look forward to one more night, August 18, at 6 pm. We will be harvesting our pizza garden and making pizzas! Don't miss it - and invite a friend!



**August Service Group**

Shelley Fabian, <i>Chairperson</i>	rmfabian32@gmail.com	507-951-9976
-----', <i>Chairpersons</i>		
Neil & Linda Britton	ldgbritt@hotmail.com	507-765-2515
Arlene Brekke	arlenebrekke@yahoo.com	507-269-1275
Terri Broadwater		507-765-4760
Wayne/Donna Dreier	wddreier@outlook.com	507-765-5280
Lynn Glaser		507-202-6248
Chris Hahn	rrcn.inc@gmail.com	507-273-9298
Braden & Sarah Hahn	sarah.hahn0908@gmail.com	507-273-0982
Greg & LuAnn Hoff	luannhoff@hotmail.com	507-696-1194
Shauna Hoff	hoffer3@hotmail.com	507-429-2485
Jim & Sheila Marzolf	smarzolf@hotmail.com	507-456-7784
David & Kathy Scheevel	dkscheevel@centurylink.net	507-421-5997
Cheryl Schumacher	cjspreston@gmail.com	507-450-4944
Erik & Shelly Topness	shellytopness@yahoo.com	507-951-5637

Scheduled events: First Sunday Cookies, August 4

**Worship Assistants in August**

**Acolytes**

- 4 Jax Heibel/Ryan Schroeder
- 11 Kaylee Hernandez/Josie Corson
- 18 Lexi Engen/Katelyn Scheevel
- 25 Reese Larson/Lilianna Dempewolf

**Computer**

- 4 Cooper Holtegaard
- 11 Cooper Pickett
- 18 Melony Wingert
- 25 Jackson Fischer

**Lectors**

- 4 Steve Corson
- 11 Gail Bunge
- 18 Darrel Olson
- 25 Alison Leathers

**Greeters**

- 4 Mike & Janet Erdman
- 11 Ron Laughlin and Sandy Amundson
- 18 Diane Johnson/Jo Randall
- 25 Traci Corson

**Altar Guild**.....Sue Grooters/Vonnie Aug/Jo Randall

**Ushers**.....Gary Hellickson/Joyce Hellickson/Chuck Aug/Vonnie Aug

**Communion Assistants**

August 4.....Darrel Olson/

August 18.....Michael Johnson



The family of Adie Milne  
 Richard Johnson  
 Carol Gosi, Chatfield Nursing Home  
 Amy Timmerman  
 Jill Miller  
 Axel Heller  
 Bo Bakke  
 Bridget Case  
 Steve Kling  
 Carole Engen  
 Barb Barrett  
 Rosalie Krips  
 Val Christensen  
 Marilyn Bunge, who is in Mabel Care Center  
 Walt Hanson, who is at the Minnesota State Veterans Home  
 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  
 Arlen Kiehne, 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  
 Jan Milne, who is at Brookdale Senior Living  
 DeWayne Vogt, who is at Luther Oaks Skilled Nursing Care

### DID YOU KNOW...?

Christ Lutheran has several opportunities to get involved and connect with others. Each person has unique talents and gifts - there's a place for everyone to serve within our church community. Please consider these opportunities and how you can get involved:

- 1) Sunday morning greeter
- 2) Usher in June or July (one person needed for each month).
- 3) August service group co-chairs (2 are needed, couples or individuals).
- 4) Computer tech to open church on Sundays and set up the computer for service.
- 5) Individual(s) to help with minor maintenance and cleaning tasks.
- 6) Another Property Team member

If interested in any or all these opportunities, please contact Amanda in the church office.

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The next Women's Fellowship group meeting will be on Wednesday, August 28, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the Conference Room. This month's topic will be sex trafficking. Understanding how sex trafficking works can help families and communities to recognize vulnerable people before they become victims and provide survivors with the support they need to move on with their lives. Consider joining us as we learn about this important topic. All are welcome!

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### THANK YOU!!!!

"Serve the Lord with Gladness" Psalm 100:2

On behalf of the Bethel Puerto Rico Mission members and myself, we thank Christ Lutheran for the donations and prayers to support our trip. I served coffee after church on three Sundays and collected \$617, which shows the generosity of our church! The trip was a wonderful experience. We did demo work inside the parsonage at Divina Salvador Church so that they can remodel the building to provide temporary lodging for someone in housing crisis. On the Sunday, we participated in worship and enjoyed a lunch at Cristo Rey, Bethel's sister church. The people at both churches were such gracious hosts. I felt privileged to be part of this remarkable group. And yes it is HOT in Puerto Rico in June!

-Mary Glaser

### Ministerial Acts in July

#### Baptism

July 7 *Thea Marie Ristau*, daughter of Mitch and Marissa Ristau

#### Funerals

July 9 *Dean Schumacher (1951-2024)*  
 July 29 *Adie Milne (1934-2024)*



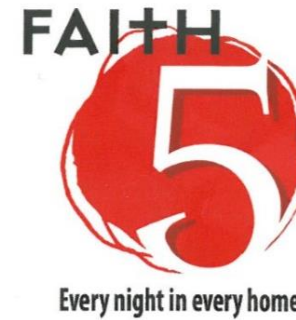
# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



- 8/2 Makaila Eickhoff  
 8/4 Sammi Bakke, Clairra Johnson, Katie Pickett  
 8/5 Todd Ebner, Dean Solberg, Madison Scheevel; **Heath & Melanie Olstad – Anniv., Steve Corson & Nancy Hengeveld – Anniv.**  
 8/6 Samantha Trende, Logan Corson  
 8/7 Steve Corson, Makenna Gatzke, Diane Johnson, Lyle Schultz, Kamrick Shumpert  
 8/8 Jim Fossum  
 8/10 Justin Ristau, Marlow Ristau, Danny Serfling  
 8/11 Jim Bakken, Scott Hellickson; **Darrel & Bev Olson – Anniv., Marvin & Brenda Ristau – Anniv.**  
 8/12 Averlene Marzolf, Courtney Schroeder, Royal Johnson  
 8/13 Hunter Benson; **Arnie & Lynn Benson – Anniv.**  
 8/14 JoElla Finseth  
 8/15 Tammy Gatzke, Bruce Hoff  
 8/16 Evelyn Mensink  
 8/18 Erik Topness, Casey Albrecht, Katie Kerns, Ron Laughlin, Oliver Erdman; **Ron & Marilyn Schreier – Anniv.**  
 8/19 Abbey Hellickson  
 8/20 Jon Haugan, Pat Tollefson, Shelly Topness; **Ron Laughlin & Sandy Amundson – Anniv.**  
 8/21 Jeff Bennett, Hoogie Hanson, Andrew Pederson  
 8/22 Val Christensen, Ascher Ostrom  
 8/23 Luke Johnson, Adam Harstad  
 8/24 Randy Brevig, Marvin Ristau, Camryn Severson; **Jim & Sheila Marzolf – Anniv., Richard & Linda Wolfe – Anniv.**  
 8/26 Shelley Fabian, Cindy Mensink; **David & Kathy Scheevel – Anniv.**  
 8/27 Bruce Fishbauger, Jon Johnson, Scott Wilson, Graceyn Riecks; **Dean & Carol Solberg – Anniv., Brett & Jade Grabau – Anniv.**  
 8/28 Gary Hellickson, Levi Hahn-Yetter; **Todd & Darla Ebner – Anniv.**  
 8/29 Zachary Reicks, Ava Severson  
 8/31 Andrea Hellickson, Paul Schmidt, Dan Solberg, Saxon Speer; **DeWayne & Norma Vogt- Anniv.; Rich & Kris Kincaid – Anniv.**

*God writes the gospel not in the Bible alone, but on trees and flowers and clouds and stars.*  
 -Martin Luther

How blessed are we by the beauty of mountains, forests, lakes, oceans and fields?  
 The sun, wind, snow, and rain are all gifts from God. The wonder of creation surrounds us. Let us bask in the quiet moments spent in nature when God feels so near! Share these moments 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 nature themed verses of scripture found on the other side of this sheet, pray and end by blessing each other, with a cross on the forehead and words like “May you know you’re cherished and beautiful in God’s eyes and mine!”



1	Isaiah 55:12
2	Song of Solomon 2:12
3	Acts 14:17
4	Job 12:7-10
5	John 1:3
6	Psalms 96:11-12
7	Job 37:14-16
8	Psalms 19:1
9	Isaiah 43:20
10	Jeremiah 27:5
11	Acts 4:24
12	Genesis 1:11-12
13	Genesis 1:26-27
14	Psalms 95:6
15	Matthew 6:28-34
16	Isaiah 45:8
17	Genesis 9:12-13
18	Isaiah 54:10
19	Mark 11:23-24
20	Psalms 33:5
21	Mark 4:35-41
22	Psalms 121:1
23	Romans 1:20
24	Amos 5:8
25	Psalms 23:1-6
26	Jeremiah 1:5
27	1 Peter 1:24-25
28	Matthew 7:24-27
29	1 Samuel 1:27-28
30	Exodus 14:21
31	Acts 17:24



### Church is a Verb!

Pastor Kris Hertsgaard Kincaid

We are called to appreciate the diversity of gifts and talents the body of Christ shares, and we are called to BE the church. In this way, the church is not a building but a living offering to God. This month Jenna Pederson shares about her experiences as a Sunday School leader at Christ Lutheran. As I read her story, Romans 12:4-5- came to mind.

*<sup>4</sup> For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.*

Paul calls us to recognize God in worship and in everyday practices of faith and life. Jenna's faith story reveals people of God of Christ Lutheran see church as a verb, nurturing experiences to help form faith through all ages of life. Her involvement with our Sunday School program has been important to Jenna largely because of the experiences she had as a child growing up at Christ Lutheran. She reflects,

*Some of my oldest friends are those I met during Sunday School, and I have many core memories of things like Sunday School, Bible School, and Good Earth Village. It's important to me that our daughters are able to have some of the same opportunities that I did to help build their faith foundations and memories.*

Another gift Jenna mentions is that her role in Sunday School has given her a chance to get to know some of her girls' friends, classmates, and their families a bit better too, "Which has been really fun!"

As we prepare for this next program year, caring adults will have opportunities to accompany children and youth in new ways. We are excited to continue to transform our church from a place to go, to BEING a place to share our many God-given gifts. Thank you, good people, for living out God's promises as the living offering you are created to be.



## CRAFT AND BAKE SALE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024

The fourth annual Craft and Bake Sale planning is underway! Please be sure to pick up a flier in the Narthex to get all the details on the sale and how you can help. We are planning new things for the sale such as a BBQ sandwich lunch at the Gnome Cafe, a free kids craft activity, and more unique raffle prizes! There will be more volunteer opportunities to help with these new activities. We want to thank Mary Zimmerman, Barb Mielke, Amanda Heibel, Pam Mensink, Diane Johnson and Gail Bunge who have all generously donated the prizes for this year's raffle.

We will keep you updated in the monthly Ambassador, bulletin, and weekly emails, so please watch for those communications as we prepare for the sale day. Thank you for your assistance in making this event meaningful for our shoppers, church family and local, state and global missions.

Reach out to committee members with any ideas or questions: Alison Leathers (507-251-8049), Kayla Peterson (507-259-1504), Lori Winkels (507-273-9799), Janet Erdman (612-756-1578), Gail Bunge (507-259-1444), Teresa Hoff (507-259-3206) and Susan Pikula (507-993-2575).

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### The last Vacation Bible School day for the summer is Sunday, August 18, from 6pm-8pm.

This is an intergenerational evening where we will harvest tomatoes, peppers, and basil from our pizza garden and make pizzas together. We will have a mini worship service and a craft activity. Mark your calendars for this fun ministry! If the weather is nice, we will worship outside, so please bring a lawn chair.



Thank you to all of the parents, congregants, cousins, and friends who volunteered their time, talent, and food for VBS this year. On June 9, 11, 13 and July 14 we enjoyed meals together; had mini worship services; and crafted items including coloring and sending cards to 15 congregants, making 30 sun catchers to bring to the Preston Veterans Home, and decorating over 35 bars of soap to bring to the Food Shelf. We are so appreciative to you all for supporting VBS, and a special thanks to Thrivent Financial, Women of Christ Lutheran Fellowship Group, and the Mensink Family for donating funds to help us with VBS expenses. God's love takes root in us all!





## ELCA Youth Gathering

The Gathering and New Orleans did not disappoint! We listened and engaged in powerful activities that revealed the Holy Spirit at work, and the mass gathering music and speakers brought the daily themes to life:  
Created to Be Brave: You Are Not Alone.  
Created to Be Authentic: You Are Seen.  
Created to Be Free: You Are Loved.  
Created to Be Disruptive: You Are Called.

Thank you for your support and prayers-  
Maggie Dempewolf, Grant and Jillian Tieskotter, Cooper Pickett, and Pastor Kris.

*Let's meet for conversation and fellowship, savoring summer with old friends and meeting new friends! If you have read *An Altar in the World*, add your insight about recognizing God's presence in the world.*

*You can order on your own if you'd like.*



### Education Team Notes from July 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting:

- Rally Sunday will be Sept 8, and the theme is still being decided. It will be announced in August.
- The full 2024-2025 Sunday School schedule is being finalized and will be shared with all families.
- Registration for Sunday school will be done via an online Google Form, which Pastor Kris is finalizing and will send out in advance of Rally Sunday.
- We are purchasing "Living the Word" curriculum, which includes all necessary parts (lesson, story, activity sheets, etc.) to minimize the extra prep required by Sunday School leaders, as has been the case the last couple of years.
- The team is working on a simple Behavior Plan/Discipline "policy" to hopefully help with some of the problems we've faced.
- Music: We hope to have kids sing in church once per month during the school year. Hope to have an accompanist play with them (piano or guitar) during church, while the kids could practice with a video recording. \*need accompanist volunteers\*
- **\*\*We need more adult volunteers\*\*** Our Sunday School team is small and our number of children attending continues to grow. It's not sustainable to continue providing the same experiences without adding to our team.
- Our discussion included Sunday school caring adults volunteering for at least one Sunday to be able to meet in smaller groups.



### By Maggie Dempewolf

Recently, some of our youth from Christ Lutheran went to the ELCA Youth Gathering that was held down in New Orleans, Louisiana. This consisted of Cooper Pickett, Jillian Tieskotter, Grant Tieskotter, and myself, Maggie Dempewolf. This trip lasted a whole week, filled with so many God driven people and places. We saw many different speakers at the gathering. Some of them were our age, while others were older adults. The theme, "Created To Be," shined through not just the speakers, but also through us and the other 16,000 youth at the gathering. We embraced being our true selves and not apologizing for any amazing part of who we are. While there were so many amazing highs on this trip, there was also one major low that nobody cared for. This being the rain. We ended up getting down poured on a few times throughout the week. But that did not dampen our spirits! We powered through and still had an amazing time. We learned so much about ourselves and others, and how faith and God really can impact a person's life. We grew together not just as individual youths, but we grew in God so much as well. Now, I can't personally speak for the other three individuals, but I had the most amazing time! Deciding to go on this trip was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I feel like I truly was able to embrace who I am, and not apologizing one bit for it. I feel that I gained a better understanding of the things God has called me to do, along with growing closer to God in so many ways. In the loving words of Pastor Kris, this really was a "Make it a God week" kind of week!

