

# Christ's Ambassador

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Preston, Minnesota



~2025~

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

**Christ Lutheran Church - Preston, Minnesota**

**Pastor:** Kris Hertsgaard Kincaid

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

**Church council:** Bruce Hoff, Amanda Heibel, Dena Mathison,  
Andy Bunge, Katie Marzolf-Harstad, Jennifer Pickett, Melissa Severson



## "New Beginnings"

Pastor Kris Hertsgaard Kincaid

This summer we have enjoyed God continuously creating in the natural world and in our lives. The natural world shows off in the summer. I love the depths of green growing throughout the driftless region, the changing flow of the rivers as water rains down and fills them or dry weeks lessen their flow; and the wildflowers blooming, the crops growing, and the animals finding their legs and making their way purposefully through the pasture. God's creation has much to teach us about cycles, systems, ebbs and flows, and how to remain grounded despite what's happening in the world around us. During August, we also feel the pull of Fall and the new seasons in our lives.

## Blessing of the Animals August 31<sup>st</sup> - 9 am Worship



Our summer sermon series "Grounded in Creation" continues in August as we explore Fire, Air, and end with Flower and Fauna on August 31<sup>st</sup>. On this day, we will worship outside and welcome furry, feathered and finned friends to our Blessing of the Animals. Please bring a chair or blanket to sit on and come prepared for a few barks, wonderful songs, and a message inviting us to consider how everything we have, need, eat, and wear ties back to the natural world. Ecclesiastes reminds us,

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace." (3:1-15)

We live in God's time. As we prepare for fall, we follow the ebb and flow of our lives and return to the routines of school, work, and for many of us, attending church. During times of transition routines of prayer, blessing, and worship offer us a way to express our worries and blessings while paying attention to God's presence. God gathers us in community, and we are filled with God's hope. God scatters us, to share the Word and love of God with others. Remember, God's house has a place for everyone. Gathered and scattered - we look forward to sharing God's love.

**Celebrating New Members** –Traditionally when people express an interest in becoming a member of Christ Lutheran we have held a New Member Sunday. Sometimes it's hard to gather people on the same date. Thus, we are moving to "Celebrate New Member Sundays". These Sundays can be any Sunday and will include a blessing in a worship service for one or many, depending on the schedule of the new members. If you are interested in becoming a member of Christ Lutheran, please reach out to Pastor Kris. We look forward to continuing to welcome you.

**Christ Lutheran Sunday School and Confirmation Registration**

**Opens Soon!** Hey parents! The new school year is just around the corner, and that means it's almost time to register your kids for Sunday School and Confirmation. Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 14 with Rally Sunday and Confirmation will start on Wednesday, September 18 with Orientation for parents and youth. Registration opens in mid-August. Thank you for helping us start the year off with love and care. For updates and registration info, visit [www.christlutheranpreston.org](http://www.christlutheranpreston.org).

**Sunday School Teachers and Confirmation Leaders Needed** – Might you spend an hour or two a month, or week, helping God form faith in our next generation? We are seeking adult leaders for the 2025-26 program year. Confirmation (Grades 7-9) meets Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:30 pm and Sunday School (Ages 3 - Grade 6) meets Sunday mornings following worship from 10-10:45 a.m. We have a vibrant team of Sunday School and Confirmation Leaders and need a few additional adults to provide guidance and support for these programs. Specifically, an adult guide is needed for our 7<sup>th</sup> grade small group and additional teachers and assistants are needed for Sunday School. Lessons and materials are prepared for you. We also welcome a pianist or guitarist to help lead music. Contact Pastor Kris to say, "Yes, I'm in", or with any questions.

**UPCOMING DATES IN SEPTEMBER:**

**SEPT 14, SUN**

9 am Rally Sunday

10 am Activities

**SEPT 18, WED**

6:30 pm Confirmation Orientation

**\*NOTICE\* THE YOUTH MINISTRIES Summer Stretch Day of Service and Fun on August 10<sup>th</sup> has been postponed to the Fall. We will announce a date once it gets closer.**

**"The Book of Longings"**

**Discussion - Thursday August 21, 6:30 pm at Nancy Hengeveld's - 329 Parkside Drive, Preston**

Come for conversation. Come to wonder. Come whether you read the book or glanced at a summary.



**Summer Sermon Series: GROUNDED**

Our Summer series continues,,,

**August 10: Fire** - Learn from the **BWCAW Trippers** about how they cooked over a flame on their trip. How did it taste or smell? How else did they use fire?

**August 24: Air** - Make a pinwheel! Put it outside or take it for a spin yourself.

**August 31: Flora and Fauna** - Appreciate your pets! It's outdoor worship and Blessing of the Animals. Bring your furry or feathered pet for a special blessing.

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**PRAYER**  
*list*

Jon Haugan

Elsa Bye

Jacob Johnson

Rosalie Krips

Logan Walker

Colson King

Jodi Milne Trochlil

Amy Timmerman

Marilyn Bunge, who is in Mabel Care Center

Walt Hanson, who is at the Minnesota State Veterans Home

Mary Lou Hansen, who is at Harmony Care Center

Ann Ott, who is at Harmony Care Center

Arlene Bakalyar, who is at Park Lane Estates

Arnie Keene, who is at Park Lane Estates

Barb Barrett, who is at Park Lane Estates

Jim Fossum, who is at Fillmore Place

Arlen Kiehne, who is at Chatfield Nursing Home

Val Christensen, who is at Chatfield Nursing Home

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

Hazel Knies, who is at Traditions



## May

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Total Income	\$ 14,470.91	\$ 21,290.17	\$ (6,819.26)
Total Expenses	\$ 28,437.54	\$ 21,290.17	\$ 7,147.37
Cash Flow	\$ (13,966.63)	\$ -	

## Year-to-Date (thru May)

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Total Income	\$ 83,417.66	\$ 106,450.85	\$ (23,033.19)
Total Expenses	\$ 120,645.05	\$ 106,450.85	\$ 14,194.20
Cash Flow	\$ (37,227.39)	\$ -	

2025 Target Income \$ 255,482.00  
 Actual Income (Jan-May) \$ 106,450.85  
 Amount Needed to Reach 2025 Income \$ 149,031.15

2025 Target Expenses \$ 255,482.00  
 Actual Expenses (Jan-May) \$ 120,645.05  
 Amount Needed to Reach 2025 Expenses \$ 134,836.95

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The next Women's Fellowship meeting will be held at the church on Wednesday, August 20, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. We moved this to a week earlier because of scheduling conflicts with some members. Nancy Helgeveld will join us to discuss her book, *Petrichor*. The book can be purchased on Amazon, or there are a limited number of \$10 copies. If you'd like a \$10 copy, contact Barb Mielke (email or 651.283.1312) or Janet Erdman (email or 612.756.1578) by August 15. Please join us!

## 4 WAYS YOU CAN GIVE TO CHRIST LUTHERAN

- Cash & Check.** Feel free to bring your gift to any worship service or mail it directly to the church office. Checks can be made payable to Christ Lutheran Church. Giving envelopes are available from Amanda in the church office.
- Bill Pay Through Your Bank.** (no fees incurred, recurring giving option) You can set up automatic payments through your bank's bill pay system. Just add our church as a payee and designate your gift amount and frequency. You may set this up as a recurring payment.
- Online Giving Through Tithe.ly.** (fees apply, you may choose to cover them or not). Visit our giving page at [give.tithe.ly.com](https://give.tithe.ly.com) and give a one-time donation or set up recurring gifts.
- Text-to-Give.** (fees apply, you may choose to cover them or not). Text **\*\*GIVE\*\*** to (844) 935-2668 and follow the instructions to quickly and securely give from your mobile phone.

## August Service Group

Shelley Fabian, <i>Chairperson</i>	rmfabian32@gmail.com	507-951-9976
Rick & Sue Grooters, <i>Chairpersons</i>	dutch55965@gmail.com	507-951-0081
Neil & Linda Britton	ldgbritt@hotmail.com	507-765-2515
Arlene Brekke	<a href="mailto:arlenebrekke@yahoo.com">arlenebrekke@yahoo.com</a>	507-269-1275
Terri Broadwater		507-765-4760
Wayne/Donna Dreier	<a href="mailto:wddreier@outlook.com">wddreier@outlook.com</a>	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
Ramon & Diane Hernandez	diane@dianephoto.com	817-980-0494
Greg & LuAnn Hoff	luannhoff@hotmail.com	507-696-1194
Shauna Hoff	hoffer3@hotmail.com	507-429-2485
Lindsey Larson	larson.lindsey28@gmail.com	507-251-0551
Jim & Sheila Marzolf	smarzolf@hotmail.com	507-456-7784
Dan & Jenna Root	boone_10@hotmail.com	507-251-6938
David & Kathy Scheevel	dkscheevel@centurylink.net	507-421-5997

## Worship Assistants in August

### Acolytes

3 Harpert Pickett/Emmett Musel  
 10 Jezlyn Finseth/Turner Sprenger  
 17 Reese Larson/Ava Severson  
 24 Melony Wingert/Jackson Fischer  
 31 outdoor worship

### Computer

3 Katelyn Scheevel  
 10 Maggie Wingert  
 17 Lilianna Dempewolf  
 24 Grant Tieskotter  
 31 outdoor worship

### Lectors

3  
 10 youth-tbd  
 17 Jenna Pederson  
 24 Alison Leathers  
 31 Darrel Olson

**Greeters**

- 3 Jessica Bradt & family
- 10 Pam Mensink/Barb Mielke
- 17 Mike & Janet Erdman
- 24
- 31 outdoor worship

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

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

**Communion Assistants**

August 3.....Christy Gildner/Sue Hager/Barb Mielke

August 17.....Melissa Severson/Mike Erdman/Carol Solberg

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**2025 Craft & Bake Sale**

**Saturday Dec. 6, 2025**

**9 am - 2 pm**

**Fellowship Hall (basement)**

The fifth annual Craft and Bake Sale planning is underway! Please be sure to pick up a flier in the Narthex to get details on the sale and how you can help. For this year's event, we are continuing the BBQ sandwich lunch at the Gnome Cafe, a free kids' crafting activity, and more unique raffle prizes! There will be more volunteer opportunities to help with these activities.

We will keep you updated in the monthly Ambassador, bulletin, and weekly emails. Also, please find the event on Facebook and like it and share it! Thank you for your assistance in making this event meaningful for our shoppers, church family, and local, state, and global missions.

We are looking for one or more event co-chair(s) to serve in 2025. Please reach out to any of the co-chairs this year which are:

- Janet Erdman (612) 756-1578
- Alison Leathers (507) 251-8049
- Gail Bunge (507) 259-1444
- Susan Pikula (507) 993-2575
- Teresa Hoff (507) 259-3206
- Kayla Peterson (507) 259-1504
- Lori Winkels (507) 273-9799



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 down below, 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!"



Every night in every home



- |    |                      |
|----|----------------------|
| 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           |



# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARYS



8/2 Makaila Eickhoff  
8/4 Clair 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 Scott Hellickson, Isaiah Torres; **Darrel & Bev Olson - Anniv., Marvin & Brenda Ristau - Anniv.**  
8/12 Auerlene Marzolf, Courtney Schroeder, Royal Johnson  
8/13 Hunter Benson; **Arnie & Lynn Benson - Anniv.**  
8/14 JoElla Finseth  
8/15 Tammy Gatzke, Bruce Hoff  
8/18 Erik Topness, 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, Hudson Larson  
8/23 Luke Johnson, AJ Harstad  
8/24 Randy Breuig, Marvin Ristau, Camryn Severson; **Jim & Sheila Marzolf - Anniv., Richard & Linda Wolfe - Anniv.**  
8/25 Shirley Dahl, Kate Nelson  
8/26 Shelley Fabian, Cindy Mensink; **David & Kathy Scheevel - Anniv.**  
8/27 Bruce Fishbaugher, 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; **Rich & Kris Kincaid - Anniv.**



As we reflect on creation this summer, the Bunge's said goodbye to an oak tree they had on their farm. Andy counted 150 rings, and there were more indistinguishable rings which he could not count. He wrote this Ode to Our Oak Tree on the last night before it was cut down, July 9, 2025. Andy noted they will be planting new trees for future generations to enjoy.

## ODE TO OUR OAK TREE

by Andy Bunge

I sit in my spot under the spinning fan sipping a beer. I look out the window memorizing the last few looks at our mighty oak tree. I will not see another sunset on this tree.

Goodbye old true friend. Thank you for all the cool shade you offered so many. For the many birds that lived and sang from your branches. The occasional squirrel and racoon that climbed aloft only to get a better view of their surroundings. Oh, how you reminded us of your presence by continually dropping your leaves, twigs, and acorns for us to pick up. You allowed so many to swing from your branches, laughing and screaming with so much joy. Oh, how I will miss thee, o mighty oak. You have been such a great presence on our farm. Take care.



# AUGUST CALENDAR

AUG 1, FRI

5:30 pm-8:00 pm VBS

AUG 2, SAT

9:00 am-12:00 pm VBS

AUG 3, SUN

9 am Worship/Communion: VBS Theme

10 am Coffee/Fellowship

10 am Youth Committee

AUG 5-9, TUES-SAT

*Youth Trip to BWCAW and North Shore*

AUG 5, TUES

11:30 am Exercise

AUG 7, THURS

11:30 am Exercise

AUG 10, SUN

9 am Worship: GROUNDED -FIRE: BWCAW sharing

AUG 12, TUES

11:30 am Exercise

6:30 pm Stewardship

AUG 13, WED

7 pm Council

AUG 14, THURS

9 am Men's Fellowship

11:30 am Exercise

1 pm Christ's Crafters

AUG 17, SUN

9 am Worship/Communion

10 am Coffee/Fellowship

AUG 18, MON

5:30 pm Worship & Music

AUG 19, TUES

11:30 am Exercise

3 pm MN Veterans Home Worship

AUG 20, WED

9:30 am Traditions Worship

10:15 am Park Lane Worship

6:30 pm Women's Fellowship

AUG 21, THURS

11:30 am Exercise

6:30 pm Discussion, 'Book of Longings' at Nancy Hengeveld's

AUG 24, SUN

9 am Worship: GROUNDED -AIR

AUG 26, TUES

11:30 am Exercise

AUG 28, THURS

11:30 am Exercise

AUG 31, SUN

9 am **OUTDOOR WORSHIP:** GROUNDED -Flora & Fauna/Blessing of the Animals



August  
2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30