

# Christ's Ambassador

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Preston, Minnesota



February

~2026~

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

**Christ Lutheran Church - Preston, Minnesota**

**Pastor:** Kris Hertsgaard Kincaid

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**Church Administrator:** Amanda Means

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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

## FROM THE Pastor's Desk

### **Faith for the Journey**

Throughout our lives we face the reality that two seemingly different or opposite things can be true at the same time. It can be a cold winter day even though the sun is shining brightly. You may be facing hard things and feeling optimistic about your future. You may be proud to be an American and despair at the weapons present in city streets. Different realities, both true. The same can be said of our very selves. Luther teaches that we are simultaneously saint and sinner; opposites which are both true at the same time.

The rhythm of Lent gives us a chance to gather mid-week to wonder about these things. Our Lenten series, "Broken and Beloved-Stories of God's Steadfast Love," will consider biblical characters whose lives included both brokenness and beloved-ness. As we explore their stories, we are invited to reflect on our own journeys. Even when many different things are true at the same time in our own lives, one certainty remains:

God's steadfast love is always with us.

### **A Weekly Meal and Conversation for All Ages**

Who loves a delicious meal prepared just for you? Take time out of your busy schedule to join us for a meal, community, and worship on Wednesday nights. Each week will feature a variety of soups, sandwiches, and bars, provided by our faith community. We invite you to make a free will donation for the soup supper.

At each table you will find story-prompts introducing the evening's Bible character. There are separate prompts for teens/adults, young readers, and early learners—ensuring everyone can participate in the discussion. In addition, a daily devotional for Lent will be available to enrich your experience. Please see the schedule below for details.

### **Wednesday Night Lenten Schedule**

**Feb 18** - Ash Wednesday - Meal, 6-6:35 pm;

Worship with Holy Communion, 6:45-7:45 pm

**Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25** - Meal, 6-6:35 pm; Worship 6:45-7:15 pm

This Lent, God's stories will help us navigate times of brokenness and beloved-ness. Take time out of your busy schedule to dwell on God's love and enjoy community.

Peace be with you, Pastor Kris



✚ **DONUTS AND DEVOTIONS, Sunday, February 1st, 10 am, Heritage Room.** Come and hear the MN Teen Challenge Women's choir during worship. Stay for donuts and devotions. Our topic is Addicting Behaviors, and our special guest is Jonathon Wood. ☺ Come for the donuts. Stay for your faith. Future Sundays – March 1, April 12, and May 3.

✚ **FROLIC with Christ Lutheran, February 1, 10-10:45 am, Youth Room**  
**Parents/caring adults and children ages birth to 3**  
 Shelby Ristau is leading Frolic and together you will experience Bible stories through circle time (music, story, group play); play stations; and fun! Enjoy this opportunity to come together with other young families. *For more information, contact Pastor Kris or Shelby Ristau,* Future Sundays – March 1, April 12, and May 3.

✚ **WOW - Wednesday, February 11, 6-7:30 pm, "Helping a Friend"**  
 Youth in grades 10-12 gather with 7-9<sup>th</sup> confirmands as mentors to help lead our lesson. Friends are always welcome to join us.

✚ **BLAZE- Saturday, February 28, 9 am- 8 pm, Central Lutheran Church, Winona.** (retreat 10-7 pm). Engage and connect with faith and friends at this day-long faith retreat for youth in grades 8-12. Connection, worship, good food, conversation, friends! \$20 per youth. Register on or before Sunday, February 22. Adult drivers will be needed!



## FEBRUARY SERVICE GROUP

Member	E-mail	Phone #
Doug & Tona Keene, <b>Chairpersons</b>	tonakeene@gmail.com	507-696-1292
Sue Ostrom, <b>Chairperson</b>	ostroms@live.com	507-289-4002
Kevin & Joyce Every	joycekevinevery@gmail.com	507-951-1345
Nate & Stacy Every	nathanevery72@gmail.com	507-251-5405
Brenda Hahn	brendafhahn@gmail.com	507-273-9149
Kyle & Amanda Heibel	ama_heibel@yahoo.com	507-273-1770
Melissa Herron	melissa.herron11@yahoo.com	507-273-5864
Stacy Herron	herron_stacy@hotmail.com	507-273-7773
Tom & Marcia Johnson	marciajohnson62@outlook.com	507-272-8087
Cassie Keene	ckeene093@gmail.com	507-951-6635
Katie Kerns	katiekoch83@yahoo.com	507-421-1256
Cindy Kramer	cinkramer34@gmail.com	507-440-3381
Chris & Kari Mensink	kmensink75@gmail.com	507-259-1040
Jerry & Diane Olson	jolson002@gmail.com	507-696-6394
Curt & Wendy Pfremmer	curtispfremmer@hotmail.com	507-259-0657
Brian & Jill Soland	soland67@gmail.com	507-273-8503

### Worship Assistants in February

#### Acolytes

1 Josh Bakken/Jackson Fischer  
 8 Ava Severson/Lydia Scheevel  
 15 Melony Wingert/Easton Grabau  
 18 **Ash Wednesday 7pm** Rosemary Pikula/Maggie Wingert  
 22 Reese Larson/Braelyn Dierkes  
 25 **Lent 7pm** Sawyer Johnson

#### Computer

1 Taylor Kerns  
 8 Camryn Severson  
 15 Martina Wingert

18 **Ash Wednesday 7pm** Jezlyn Finseth  
22 Charlie Every  
25 **Lent 7pm** Lilianna Dempewolf

**Lectors**

1 MN Adult & Teen Challenge  
8 Dena Mathison  
15 Nancy Hengeveld  
18 **Ash Wednesday 7pm** Mary Glaser  
22 8<sup>th</sup> graders  
25 **Lent 7pm** Cari Ledin

**Altar Guild**.....Mary Specht/Mindy Parker/Paula Severson

**Sun. Ushers**..Trevor Niemeyer/Sara Niemeyer/Jon Ebner/Derek Holtegaard

**Lent Ushers**.....Erlyn & Sandy Marzolf/Scott & Andrea Hellickson

**Communion Assistants**




February 1.....Katie Marzolf/Jen Pickett/Amanda Heibel

February 15.....Darrel Olson/Dena Mathison/Dawn Hellickson

February 18.....Dena Mathison/Barb Mielke/Carol Solberg/Mary Glaser

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## 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](http://give.tithe.ly.com) and give a one-time donation or set up recurring gifts.

## MN Adult and Teen Challenge –

On Sunday, February 1, 2026, MN Adult and Teen Challenge Women's Choir will be at Christ Lutheran during 9am worship to perform a mix of gospel, Christian contemporary and Americana-themed songs as well as share testimonies of the faith and life in worship. We will also be taking a love offering. Please join us for worship and a meal after the service!



# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



2/2 Arlene Bakalyar, Stacy Herron; **Phil & Sandy Milne - Anniv**  
2/4 Sharon Johnson  
2/5 Morgan Pickett, Kolby Brunsvold  
2/6 Mary Irish  
2/7 Bonnie Hahn  
2/8 Melanie White, Landon Sethre  
2/10 Sheila Marzolf, Dick Hellickson  
2/11 Carter Johnson  
2/12 Sandy Milne  
2/14 Travis Ristau; **Scott & Andrea Hellickson – Anniv.**  
2/15 Anita Turck, Dena Mathison, Rich Burmeister; **Tony & Paula Severson – Anniv.**  
2/16 **Jerry & Diane Olson – Anniv.**  
2/17 Jackson Persons, Nolan Scheevel  
2/18 Linda Britton, Kody Ebner, Casey Ristau, Janice Schultz, Shauna Hoff, Owen Winkels; **Travis & Tammy Gatzke – Anniv.**  
2/19 Keith Johnson, Diane Olson  
2/20 Marcia Specht, Gunner Benson  
2/21 Greg Hoff, Kelsi Lund, Luke Marzolf  
2/23 Grayson Winkels  
2/24 Cadence Jones  
2/25 Alexa Wood  
2/27 Jeff Buenger, Barb Hanning, Streat Speer, Loren Bradt  
2/28 **Randy & Bonnie Hahn – Anniv.**

## EVANGELISM & SOCIAL OUTREACH TEAM

Do you have a heart for service and community connection? Consider joining our Evangelism & Social Outreach Team. This ministry offers a meaningful way to engage in the church and make a difference in the lives of others. For more information or to get involved, please contact council member Amanda Heibel at [ama\\_heibel@yahoo.com](mailto:ama_heibel@yahoo.com)

# PRAYER list...

Kevin Every	Marilyn Bunge, Mabel Care Center
Carmen Christianson	Arlene Bakalyar, Park Lane Estates
Don Solberg	Barb Barrett, Park Lane Estates
Colson King	Ila Mae Olstad, Park Lane Estates
Amy Timmerman	Jim Fossum, Fillmore Place
Logan Walker	Arlen Kiehne, Chatfield Nursing Home
	Val Christensen, Chatfield Nursing
	Averlene Marzolf, Traditions
	Helen Haugerud, Traditions
	Linda Hahn Smith, Traditions
	Walt Hanson, Minnesota State Veterans Home
	Mary Lou Hansen, Harmony Care Center
	Arnie Keene, Harmony Care Center

## CLC FEBRUARY BOOK READ

“Short Stories by Jesus” by Amy Jill-Levine



**Thursday, February 19, 6:30 pm**  
at the home of Nancy Hengeveld

### Special Council Meeting Sunday, January 25, 2026

Council members present: Jennifer Pickett, Dena Mathison, Bruce Hoff, Katie Marzolf-Harstad, Amanda Heibel, Melissa Severson  
Council members absent: Andy Bunge

Trent Pikula, who has been monitoring the boilers, submitted his resignation effectively immediately.

Motion to accept resignation of Trent Pikula by Katie Marzolf-Harstad with second by Dena Mathison. All members approve.

Motion to adjourn by Katie Marzolf-Harstad with second by Amanda Heibel.

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Severson.

# FEBRUARY 2026 CALENDAR

## FEB 1, SUN

9 am -Worship/Communion-MN Adult & Teen Challenge

10am -Congregational Meal with Choir

10 am -Sunday School

10 am -Devos and Donuts, Heritage room (grades 7-12)

10 am -Frolic Class, Youth room (ages birth-3yrs)

## FEB 4, WED

6 pm -Confirmation

## FEB 5, THURS

1 pm -**Christ's Crafters**

## FEB 8, SUN

9 am -Worship

10 am -Youth Committee Meeting

10 am -Cross+Generational Valentine Card-making

## FEB 10, TUES

6:30 pm -Stewardship Committee

## FEB 11, WED

6 pm -Confirmation/WOW

## FEB 12, THURS

9 am -**Men's Fellowship**

## FEB 15, SUN

9 am -Worship/Communion

10 am -Coffee/Fellowship

10 am -Sunday School

2 pm -Root River Conference Assembly in Peterson, Mn

## FEB 17, TUES

3 pm -**Veteran's Home Worship**

## FEB 18, WED

9:30 am -Traditions Worship

10:30 am -Park Lane Worship

6 pm -Ash Wednesday Soup Supper

6:45 pm -Ash Wednesday Worship/Communion

7:45 pm -Council

## FEB 19, THURS

1 pm -**Christ's Crafters**

6:30 pm -**Book Read at Nancy Hengeveld's**

## FEB 22, SUN

9 am -Worship - GEV Sunday

10 am -Sunday School

## FEB 25, WED

6 pm -Confirmation

6 pm -Lent Soup Supper

6:45 pm -Lent service

## FEB 28, SAT

10 am -BLAZE Youth Retreat in Winona (grades 8-12)



## Christ Lutheran Church Council Minutes

**Date:** January 14, 2026

**Meeting Time:** 7:00 Conference Room

(X) Indicates Present for the Meeting

Member		Term Complete	Member		Term Complete
Rev. Kris Kincaid	X		Melissa Severson	X	2026
Bruce Hoff	X	2025	Katie Marzolf-Harstad	X	2026
Andy Bunge	X	2025	Dena Mathison	X	2027
Jennifer Pickett	X	2026	Amanda Heibel	X	2027

### **Devotion Reflection - Bruce Hoff**

**Approval of Previous Council Meeting Minutes:** emailed out prior to the meeting and in packet. Motion to approve by Amanda Heibel with a second by Katie Marzolf-Harstad. All members approve.

**Approval of Treasurer's Report:** emailed out prior to the meeting and highlights in the packet – Katie to highlight any items of interest

\* Status Check - High yield saving account/CD for potential “Boiler Fund”

-Katie Marzolf-Harstad will follow-up on the CD.

-Motion to approve Treasurers report by Andy Bunge with a second by Katie Marzolf-Harstad. All members approve.

### **Team Meeting Reports Submitted by:** *Approval of Reports (by consensus)*

**Stewardship:** Andy Bunge -café and date night sitters

**Education:** Dena Mathison

**Evangelism:** Amanda Heibel

**Property:** Bruce Hoff

**Worship and Music:** Katie Marzolf-Harstad

**Youth:** Melissa Severson

**Pastor's Report:**

Motion to approve team and pastor's reports by Melissa Severson with a second by Katie Marzolf-Harstad. All members approve.

### **New Business:**

#### **1. Budget conversation/approval**

a. Motion to have Amanda Means post the annual meeting packet online on Friday, 1/16, and packets will be provided on Sunday, 1/18, at church by Dena Mathison with a second by Andy Bunge. All members approve.

b. Will provide 2 different budgets for the congregation – one that shows the deficit and one that is balanced.

#### **2. Raise – 3% us vs Pastor Kris**

a. The congregation will provide any pay increase. Andy Bunge motions to give a pay raise of 3% to be provided with either a hourly pay increase or placed into a retirement fund as directed by Amanda Means with a second by Dena Mathison. All members approve.

#### **3. Handbell Fund:** Andy Bunge motions to use the hand bell fund to purchase new music for the bell choir with a second by Amanda Heibel. All members approve.

#### **4. Bruce presented that the Women of the Church would like to purchase new tables for the Craft and Bake Sale as many are broken or too heavy. They have around \$700 to use. Property Clinic will discuss.**

### **Old Business:**

1. Youth/Education – updates/changes. Motion to combine the “Youth and Education Committees” to make a “Children Youth and Families Ministry Committee” and present the possible change to the congregation at the annual meeting by Andy Bunge with a second by Amanda Heibel. All members approve.
2. Pam/Amanda bookkeeping continued discussion

### **Discussion:**

1. Annual meeting worship template
2. Meal for MNTC choir: plan to have service group assist
  - a. Total of 30 women in the group – consider aiming for a total of 60 servings.
  - b. Will have a sign-up for individuals to bring soup for the meal.
3. Emily Carson email to Pastor Kris: we need to clarify where we would like the \$1950 that was earmarked for Refugee Resettlement – council agreed that it would be donated to SE MN Synod AMMPARO.

### **Notations:**

1. Next Council Meeting Scheduled: Wednesday, February 18 after Ash Wednesday service around 7:30.
2. Electronic Voting completed on 12/23/25 – Request for utilization of the church credit card to purchase winter gloves from the WFCK account. Votes were received with a count of 7-0, motion passed and team was notified they could proceed.
3. Thank You's from: Pastor Kris, Tami Christianson, Growing Hope Globally, ELCA Disaster Response, Lutheran Campus Center, Annika Mensink, and Tyson Sprenger.

### **Lightning Round of Celebrations/Prayer Requests**

**Adjourn –** Close with prayer

Motion to adjourn by Melissa Severson with a second by Katie Marzolf-Harstad. All members approve.

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Severson.

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### **2026 Annual Meeting Recap**

The annual church meeting was held on Sunday, January 25. The meeting began during the worship service, with committees sharing brief generosity moments highlighting events and ministry from the past year.

During the business portion of the meeting, members voted on proposed constitutional changes and approved the 2026 budget. Several positions were also filled. We thank Bruce Hoff for his service on the church council and welcome Andy Bunge back for another three-year term, along with Jonathon Wood, who is joining the council.

There are currently openings on the **Nominating Committee** and for an **Assembly Delegate**. Anyone interested who was unable to attend the meeting is encouraged to contact Pastor Kris, the church office, or a council member.

Thank you to Joel and Bradley for conducting a thorough financial audit. The overall report was positive, with no issues noted in the review of assets, monthly transactions, or offering deposits. One area identified for improvement was consistently meeting the two-person counter requirement. The church council will address this at an upcoming meeting, and we also invite members to consider helping in this role if they are able.

The formal minutes are below:

### Christ Lutheran Church - Annual Meeting Minutes January 25, 2026

- ❖ Opening Prayer
  - ❖ Meeting call to order
  - ❖ Approval of 2025 Minutes
  - Motion to approve by Steve Corson with a second by Teresa Hoff. Motion approved.
  - ❖ Approval of proposed constitution changes to committees
  - Stewardship and Property: Motion to remove “term of three years with membership alternating to maintain continuity” and change 5 voting members to 3 voting members by Barb Mielke with second by Mary Zimmerman. Motion approved.
  - Worship: Motion to A) change title to “worship and music” and B) remove “terms of three years with membership alternating to maintain continuity” and change 5 voting members to 3 voting members by Traci Corson with second by Jon Ebner. Motion approved.
  - Evangelism: Motion to A) change title to Social Outreach B) remove “terms of three years with membership alternating to maintain continuity” and change 5 voting members to 3 voting members by Janet Erdman with second by Jon Haugan. Motion Approved.
  - Youth and Education – Motion to A) combine these into 1 committee titled: Children Youth and Family Ministry Committee (CYF) B) verbage for the constitution:
    - The committee shall consist of 5–7 members, including two council representatives, and may include a parent of a birth to two-year-old, Sunday School representative (1 adult/1 youth), confirmation representative (1 adult/1 youth), one high school representative, and one young family representative. The Committee shall elect a Chair, Vice-Chair and recording secretary.
    - The Children, Youth and Family Ministry committee at CLC initiates and supports faith formation for children, youth and families through catechism, building relationships, empowering youth leadership, living out service and generosity, encouraging Cross+Generational ministries and celebrating milestones.
- Motion to accept by Traci Corson with second by Diane Johnson. Motion approved.

- Budget: question was asked if youth and Sunday school accounts will be combined or continue to be separate. This will be discussed at upcoming council meeting.

#### ❖ Proposed Budget:

- Motion to approve 2026 budget by Steven Corson with a second by Janet Erdman. Motion approved.
- Donations: if you would like your donation to be reflected on Christ Lutheran’s budget, your check should be written to Christ Lutheran and noted on the memo of where you want your donation to be.
- Thanks to Joel Mielke and Bradley Leathers for completing the annual financial audit.

#### ❖ Team Reports – packet available for review in the office

#### ❖ Elections for 2026

- Church council, 7 council members – New Members: Andy Bunge and Jonathon Wood. Motion to accept by Randy Hahn with a second by Barb Mielke. Motion approved.
- Audit committee: Joel Meilke was nominated by Barb Meilke and Bradley Leathers was nominated by Mike Erdman. Motion to accept nominations by Mike Erdman with a second by Traci Corson. Motion approved. Motion to close nominations by Dena Mathison and Jon Ebner. Motion approved.
- Nominating Committee: Amanda Heibel nominates Susan Pikula with second by Kayla Peterson. Motion to close Steve Corson and second by Pam Mensink. Motion approved.
  - Council will discuss second position at next meeting in February.
- 2026 Assembly Delegates: Saturday, May 2, 2026
  - 2 members needed: Dena Mathison.
    - Additional member with alternate is needed. Will reach out to other members that are not present at this time.
    - Motion by Steve Corson with a second by Diane Johnson. Motion approved.
- Budget: Janet Erdman - would like the Craft and bake sale to not be listed under “women” as there are many men that help.

Motion to adjourn by Randy Hahn with second by Traci Corson. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Severson.



# January 2026



**FAITH**



Every night in every home

 **SHARE**  
highs and lows

 **READ**  
a Bible verse or story

 **TALK**  
about how the Bible  
reading might relate to  
your highs and lows

 **PRAY**  
for one another's  
highs and lows

 **BLESS**  
one another

- |    |                      |
|----|----------------------|
| 1  | Mark 12:30-31        |
| 2  | Romans 12:9          |
| 3  | Romans 13:10         |
| 4  | 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 |
| 5  | 1 Corinthians 13:13  |
| 6  | Ephesians 4:2        |
| 7  | 1 Peter 4:8          |
| 8  | 1 John 4:7-8         |
| 9  | 1 John 4:18-19       |
| 10 | John 15:13           |
| 11 | Colossians 3:14      |
| 12 | Proverbs 10:12       |
| 13 | Proverbs 17:17       |
| 14 | 1 John 3:16-18       |
| 15 | 1 John 4:8           |
| 16 | John 3:16            |
| 17 | Psalms 18:1          |
| 18 | Matthew 6:24         |
| 19 | Matthew 22:37-39     |
| 20 | 1 Corinthians 13:8   |
| 21 | Isaiah 49:15         |
| 22 | Song of Solomon 8:7  |
| 23 | Psalms 37:4          |
| 24 | Romans 5:5           |
| 25 | 1 John 4:16          |
| 26 | Ephesians 5:1        |
| 27 | Romans 8:28          |
| 28 | 1 John 3:1           |