



MISSION STATEMENT

**Called by God to
Worship, Learn and
Nurture; Sent to
Serve and Tell**

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**Jesus is Lord and
Savior. We are called
to learn and share
the Good News.
Welcome and serve
all people. We are
servants of God to
others. Holy Spirit,
mighty in prayer
leads us to answer
God's call. Fellowship
sustains each other.**

Goodbye.

It took a long-time to type that short word on this page perhaps because I know it means that this season has come to end. Yakima has been my home for ten years, the longest I have ever remained in one place. Nearly all of Lillian's life has been here. Three-fourths of Henry's life has been here. Two-thirds of my ministry has been here. One half of our marriage. You get the idea.

More than the numbers are you, the people called by the Spirit to gather as Christ Lutheran. There are innumerable memories from this span that I will carry with me going forward. For someone who works with words, they are elusive. This is hard.

We have come to end of a pastoral relationship. This means that I will decline any invitations to continue to serve in a pastoral role unless expressly invited by next pastor. This is the expectation of the ELCA for pastors upon leaving a congregation. This allows your new pastor the opportunity to do what you have called him or her to do, be your pastor in times of joy or distress. I am thankful the opportunities to be with you in these times and point to Jesus. Now, someone else will fulfill that role.

The Bible has a few stories of people taking their leave and saying goodbye. For example, Moses spends a great deal of time giving instructions and reminding the people of Israel what is important. In John's Gospel, Jesus spends about 25% of the time in the Farewell Discourse. David composes his own farewell. Paul concludes his letters with energetic reminders of mission and God's promises in Christ.

For me, it comes down to two thoughts. Thank you. Bless you.

Thank you for all we have shared over these years. I am especially grateful for the gift of time you gave me to be with my dad during his final days. I planned to take some vacation and officiate my brother's wedding but got a call in the late afternoon and was on the early flight the next day. Dad suddenly ended up in the ICU and the one who sang Jesus' promises was now without a voice. You took care of things here so I could take care of my dad. That was a tremendous gift of grace! Thank you!

Bless you! The liturgy gives God the last word in the service and God's final word is both gift and assurance. These are the words we hear at end of our worship service as we leave our gathering and head out into the world. I have done my best to speak and give these promises to you over these years. It is one final word of grace. So too, I wish to leave you with one more reminder, to once more gift you with Jesus. At the end of the day, Jesus gets the last word, and His word is the one that counts.



On Sunday, December 5, we will sing one of my favorite hymns as our last song together. The hymn, "Sent Forth by God's Blessing," brings together Jesus' words of promise and our everyday lives.

1 Sent forth by God's blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended.
Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching,
receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us,
your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

2 With praise and thanksgiving
to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—
our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us,
with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.

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Goodbye. God be with you!

In Christ,

Pastor John Schraan

Copenhaver, Martin B. "Pastoral Perspective on 2 Samuel 23:1–7." *Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary: Year B*. Ed. David L. Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor. Vol. 4. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009. Print.

Have you noticed that you could read a familiar book or listen to an old favorite song and suddenly you find something new? It happened to me just this week. I have been reading “Light of the World” by Amy-Jill Levine, an amazing book study. In the third chapter, she discusses Luke’s version of the birth of Christ. To some, “no room in the inn” meant that Joseph and Mary did not have the finances to afford a room. Another opinion was that the innkeeper was afraid that Mary would make his inn impure by giving birth. But for Luke, the point was that there just was not a room available that would give Mary the necessary privacy when she gave birth.



What caught my eye however was that Luke also wants us to dwell on the manger. A manger is a feeding trough. Mary places her baby in a place for food! As you read through Luke’s gospel, you start to notice how many meals Jesus shares. Jesus eats with tax collectors and sinners, the Pharisees. He fed the five thousand, ate with the men on the road to Emmaus and made his final meal of broiled fish with the disciples. Luke anticipates the Communion story -” This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” (22:19) Luke wants to make us hungry, not just for bread, but for more of the story.

This image made me think of all the meals we have served to Camp Hope, the food we have given to families over the past thirty plus years, and the fellowship dinners we have celebrated together. My prayer is that we are feeding people with something more than just food. I pray we are feeding them with the love that Christ has given to us. I also pray that each time we participate in the Lord’s Supper, we will remember the manger that Mary so lovingly placed her newborn baby into.

It’s time for us at Christ Lutheran to listen for something new in our worship service. It’s time to listen for the new thing that God is directing us towards. Now is the time for us as a congregation to participate more fully in the workings of our church. The needs will be many in the months to come. There will be many opportunities to serve in new ways – on a worship and music committee, a call committee, council positions, church treasurer, and people willing to lead education classes. Pray and listen for where God is calling you to try something new.

May you find peace and joy in this blessed holiday season. May you discover exciting and new ways to spread the love of Christ in your daily lives.

Merry Christmas

Deacon Kathy

Thoughts from your Council President

Message from you council president

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you" says the LORD. Psalm 32:8

As we move into the month of December, we also move into a time of change that we have not experienced for 10 years as a congregation. With the news of Pastor John leaving us to start a new ministry in Arlington, our congregation will now face many changes as we move into the new year. First, we want to thank Pastor John for his time here, and wish him and the family good luck as they embark on their new adventure. Change can be stressful but also is a chance to grow as individuals and as a congregation.

As we move forward, we will need to lean on one another, and share our time and talents even more. There will be work that needs to be done to keep Christ Lutheran running and serving the needs of our church family. We need to update our "Ministry Site Profile". This is done through a "Mission and Life Task Group". We did this recently when we called Deacon Kathy so some of the work is still recent but we still need to update it for calling a new pastor. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please let me know. This is a short-term commitment but very important, so please pray about this.

We will also need volunteers to help on the Worship and Music Committee. There are great resources available for planning our weekly worship services but it would be nice to have a working group to meet monthly to plan out the details. Please pray about this and see if this is something you could help with.

Another big change that is going to happen is that Nalda is stepping down from treasurer at the end of the year. We cannot thank her enough for the years of service she has given the congregation. This is a vital task and we ask anyone who might have the talent and time to do this to prayerfully consider this need.

This will also be a change for Deacon Kathy as she will have more things fall to her. We have to remember that she is a Deacon of "Word and Service" and not a pastor, so we cannot expect her to do everything during this time of transition. We will need to help her as much as we can and encourage her to ask us for help when it is needed.

This will be a challenging time for us and we will all have to do what we can to carry on our ministry here at Christ Lutheran. I know that if we all do our part we will continue to serve God and our community in the new year. If the spirit calls you to help with any of our challenges, please let me know.

"Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying 'This is the way; walk in it.'" Isaiah 30:21

Andy Sauer

Council President



FINANCIAL UPDATE-TAKE NOTE

Although it's probably set forth somewhere else in the newsletter, Nalda has submitted her resignation as the Disbursing Secretary (payer of the bills/salaries) here at CLC. First, we need a new Disbursing Secretary. If anyone is so inclined, please contact either Deacon Kathy or Andy and let them know. Second, say a big "THANK YOU" to Nalda for her many years of service in this ministry of the Church. We were blessed to have her at the helm of this task and she will be greatly missed. Thank you Nalda.

On a less celebratory note, at the last Council meeting (Nov. 9), Nalda gave her financial report through October. The Church, has attempted to maintain a \$3,000 "contingency fund" or "cushion" in our checking account. As of the end of October, that contingency fund will still in place but the balance of the rest of the checking account was \$383.36.

Taking out the contingency fund, CLC started this year with \$15,373.14 in our checking account. One extraordinary expense that the Congregation approved was to "pay ourselves" back the balance of the money that we loaned ourselves of \$5,044.63. We had been paying that debt off at \$200/mo.

At the end of June, CLC had \$9,410.50 in the checking account, not including the contingency fund. Since that time, things have not gone financially well. Every month since that time, CLC has spent more than we have received in offerings. At the end of October, CLC had a total of \$3,383.36, **including** the contingency fund in the checking account. While it was not an emergency situation, Council felt that we needed to inform the congregation of these facts. The next opportunity was this newsletter.

Unfortunately, November continued our trend of spending more that we receive in offering. With one "offering" Sunday left in November, CLC has a projected balance in our checking account of negative (\$246.89). Our last offering should make up this difference but we will start December with a razor thin margin in the bank to pay bills going into December.

Those are the facts for your consideration. We have done and will continue to do some great things in this congregation. This is not meant to be a gloom and doom message. It's just the facts. We have a great future ahead of us grounded in our Lord and Savior. We should all prayerfully consider where we are on our giving to the mission of the church. Have a great Thanksgiving and Christmas season.

Jay, Support Chair.

Hope for the Holidays: Choosing to Care —

We all know the joy and anticipation of being with our families during the holidays, a tradition that many of us want to revive this year after COVID disrupted last year's festivities! But not everyone can simply choose to return to the homes of our loved ones this year. Some will have a much longer wait. But we at Christ Lutheran can help such families know that someone, somewhere in America cares with a simple message of hope.

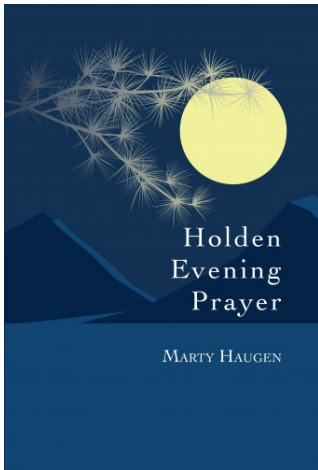
The Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), a part of our national church since 1939, reports that as of Sept. 13, 2021, more than 23,000 family members were being held in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facilities, awaiting resolution of their immigration status. More than 77 percent of those detained have no criminal record, according to the LIRS. (Women and girls continue to be one of the most vulnerable demographics in the U.S. immigration system, reports the LIRS.) Since 2014, family detention has increased 4000 percent! And there are only 2,000 beds in detention centers for mothers and children seeking safety in America.

This Holiday Season, therefore, Christ Lutheran's Social Ministry Committee will again join the national LIRS holiday efforts and encourage card-writing on behalf of those families. **We encourage you to join us in writing cards of hope and support, which we will send to the Lutheran Immigration Refugee Service for distribution.** Sample greetings from the LIRS are available in both English and Spanish in attachments from committee members and online. Even just copying those sentiments on cards (no envelopes, please) will let those families know that someone, somewhere is thinking about and praying for them during the holidays.

Notably, Christ Lutheran congregants themselves sent greetings to 178 families last holiday season. Especially during these times of COVID crisis, that seems like a worthy goal again. Please share the hope of the holiday season with others far less fortunate than ourselves. **Bring your cards to the church by Sunday, Dec. 5,** and drop them in the "LIRS HOPE" box so we can get them in the mail in time for Christmas.

If you have questions, visit [LIRS.org/hope](https://lirs.org/hope) online or email Jean Raabe (jeanraabe@gmail.com) or Gordon Koestler (oldgrizz66@gmail.com).

ADVENT - Watching and Waiting



This year, Christ Lutheran will be joining Central Lutheran Church for Advent Services. The service will be the Holden Evening Prayer each Sunday afternoon at 4:00 p.m.

CLC Advent Offering

The Advent offering this season will again go to Sunrise Outreach Center of Yakima. Services provided at the site and supervised by Sunrise Outreach include a food pantry, which is always in need of winter clothing, non-perishable food items, and volunteers to make sandwiches for homeless communities, as well as monetary donations.

According to their informative website, "socyakima.com," Sunrise Outreach provides 29 percent of all emergency food in Yakima County.

Sunrise Outreach headquarters is at 221 E. Martin Lutheran King, Jr. Blvd., Yakima, WA. 98901. They are a registered federal non-profit agency – **501 (c) (3) 27-1028426**.

An Advent wreath illustrates the progression of the season and the lengthening nights. One origin story of the Advent wreath is that pre-Christian people would take a wheel off a work cart, lay it on its side, and cover it with greenery and candles. All work stopped when the days were shortest. The anticipation of Christ's birth also demands we stop our frenzy and pay attention. How can we evoke this call to slow down with our Advent wreath?

So often congregational prayer lists are a collection of those who are ill and are personally known by someone in the congregation. As we prepare for the transformation of the entire world, perhaps we can gaze more deeply at our surroundings and name what we could lift before God in prayer.

In Philippians 1:3-5 we read Paul's words of gratitude for the community of believers in Philippi: "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now." With these verses as inspiration, invite worshipers to write a thank-you note to someone who has shown them kindness.

For the month of December, there is a "wreath" in the narthex. Below the wreath is a table with sticky note stars. Please write your prayers of thanksgiving, God-sightings, and blessings on a star. Place that star on the wreath when you are finished. Let's completely fill our wreath with stars!

CELEBRATIONS

December Birthdays

9th Maxine Lounsbury

16th Jill Carroll

20th Laura Larson

21st Clemente (CJ) Trevino

23rd Patti Hynik

24th Jon Hynik

30th Don Fisher



The Angel Tree is once again adorning the narthex. As in the last few years, we will be helping two families from the Parent Child Assistance Program rebuild their lives after substance abuse tore them apart. The trees will have individual tags for each family member plus tags for the household needs.

On the physical tree are tags for Family #1. The single mother of three is currently in college and is in the process of moving to a bigger home. Mom is engaged with her children and always sees the positive side of things regardless of her circumstances. She has been working hard to reach her goals and is filled with joy as she sees the results of her hard work and dedication. She plans to get her degree in Information Technology and working for a big company. Her family consists of a 2-year-old girl, a 6-year-old boy, and an 8-year-old daughter. The family would like to have a keyboard/portable piano, household, and cleaning supplies.



Tags for Family #2 will be on a virtual tree, like we used last year. This tree gives everyone an opportunity to participate in the giving, even if they are not able to worship in person. Follow this link: <https://signup.com/go/LBboGJa> to access the gift tags.

Mom has just been reunited with her three children, a 5-month-old baby girl, 5-year-old girl and a 6-year-old boy. They are living in their own apartment and needs kitchen items, bedding and Christmas decorations.

Please have your gifts returned to the Angel Tree by Sunday, December 19th. This allows the case managers at PCAP to distribute the gifts in time for Christmas. Thank you so very much for your support of this ministry and your amazing generosity.

In Our Hearts and Minds...



Continuing Prayer Concerns

(Please keep these people and their concerns in your prayers)

Mark Brown	Rob Truly	Adam Burke
Mr. Iverson's mother	Jeri Bradford	Scott Oltman
Pastor Joel Martin	Troy Frostad	Sue Knopes
Marlee Price	Jeri Bradford	Ron Gregson
Maddy Lake	Haley Cunningham	The Feider Family
The Chris Jevine Family	Friends & Family of Verlyn	The Carroll Family
The Bushdorf Family	The Adams Family	The Pat Perez Family

(Please help us keep this up to date and let us know when prayers have been answered and no longer needed)

Serving Our Country

Taylor Bunker - USN	David Carlson
Brian Eling - USA	Luke Harper
Chris Wendt - National Guard	Justin Hughes - USA



Sunday Morning Servers

5th	Lector – Laura Larson	Worship Assistant-Deacon Kathy	Usher - JD Sundseth
12th	Lector —Jim Sund	Worship Assistant	Usher -Andy Sauer
19th	Lector - Lori Mur-hy	Worship Assistant-	Usher- JD Sundseth
24th	Lector-	Worship Assistant– Deacon Kathy	Usher-
26th	Lector– Jim Sund	Worship Assistant- Deacon Kathy	Usher-



From your CLC Committees

Social Ministry



Good Samaritan

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHRISTMAS PARTY

5 PM DECEMBER 18TH

CLC FELLOWSHIP HALL

Join us for great fellowship and great food!

Dinner includes Lutefisk & Swedish Meatballs

plus lots of great Scandinavian treats!

Freewill offering with proceeds benefitting Social Ministry

THE DORCAS' CLOSET

The Women's Bible study group is holding a Dorcas drive for winter clothing for women and children (of course we'll take men's winter apparel too). This includes coats, hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, boots, etc. This is to benefit the PCAP program. Drop donations at the church or they can be picked up at your home.

Questions? Call Charlotte at 619-980-6752.

Photo on the right shows the generosity of this congregation - the 'stuffed' rear compartment of Charlotte's SUV with donated items!



Gals' Lunch Out

On December 16th, "Gals' Lunch Day Out"! The next lunch will be at 11:45 at the Olive Garden. Please RSVP with Laura 509-910-1596. Hope to see you there!

Guy's Night Out

December 16th at 7:00

Abbys Pizza 48th & Tieton



December 2021

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1 Christian Growth Mtg 12:00 "Light of the World" 6:30	2	3	4
5 Pastor's Last Sunday Faith, Fitness & Fellowship Advent Services 4:00 p.m. Central Lutheran	6	7	8 "Light of the World" 6:30	9	10	11
12 Bishop Kuempel presiding Congregational Mtg	13 Women's Bible Study 11:00 - Priscilla	14	15	16	17	18 Christmas Party 5:00
Advent Services 4:00 p.m. Central Lutheran		Council Mtg 7:00				
19 Pr Gary Rohde presiding Angel Tree Gifts Due Faith, Fitness & Fellowship Advent Services 4:00 p.m. Central Lutheran	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Services 7:00	25
26	27 Women's Bible Study 11:00 - Miriam	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	Notes				

Thanksgiving with the Pear Tree Place Veterans



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