

October 2025
Volume 65
No. 10



Christ Lutheran Church



The Messenger

A Message from Pastor Lars

My favorite month of the year is probably October. The air finally starts to cool, and you get to cover everything in pumpkins and pumpkin-related-accessories. We'll see if I get to try out my new fire pit by the creek, or get on the bike more.

In church it also becomes a busy month. We have the Beer and Brats – something my (officially) teetotaling Scandinavian pietistic ancestors would be aghast at. It's one of the perks of being pastor of a German-founded church, I guess. It's on the 25th, the night before Reformation Sunday. We also have some youth events, so keep your eyes open.

I will also be preaching at the 125th anniversary of my home church, First Lutheran in Hibbing MN this month, and missing a Sunday. You'll be in good hands while I catch up with old church friends and sit by the lake. After that it's the annual Bishop's Convocation in Pasco. All part of life in the larger church.

This month we continue with our fall stewardship campaign. While giving back to God from the abundance we've been given, and making our lives a regular offering of time and talents, is something that has no season, for the logistics of church life we have a concerted effort in the fall. It's a good time to start thinking about the next year, and make plans for service and commitment. Our theme is "God's Gifts, Giving Forward". A bit of a mouthful, I'll admit, but it says the right thing. What we have is a gift. What we do with it is for the work of the kingdom, the spread of the Gospel, and, yes, the work of our local church.

I'm a big believer that churches need to always be looking outward and forward to not fall behind. Who in our community needs the Gospel? Who needs help? Who needs to know that Jesus actually loves them and is not a judgmental taskmaster? We have such great theology, and such a great community in our church, let's get the message out. So I recommended to the council that we have three aspirational goals for next year that we hope to realize with the gifts God's given us. The first is for our youth and family ministry, try to take that to the next level. Then there's resources for evangelism – marketing and advertising and internet and things. And, lastly, it's to develop a more organized care ministry for our members. We want to make sure no one gets left behind. The details are not finalized. What we can do will be based on the resources we have to work with, which is what we have as part of our stewardship for 2026. Let's not just pay the bills, but push ourselves to accomplish more next year than we did this one.

Lots of good things in our church, blessings from God. We can enjoy them along with the handpicked pumpkins and nights by the fire.

God Bless

Pastor Lars



The Mission/ Quilting Group displayed some of their work in the Sanctuary to celebrate Quilt Sunday on September 21st. We will be shipping 204 quilts and 354 care kits in mid October. All of this is possible because of your generous support! Thank you!



Social Justice Advocacy Group News

At our recent SJAG meeting, we learned that the Walla Walla Habitat for Humanity has an ambitious project planned, which will create housing for seven families in our area. There's a really enjoyable way you can support this by planning to attend a piano concert fundraiser at the Foundry on 13th Ave. on October 3 at 6 pm. Be sure to check out the bulletin board in the main hallway at church for all the details.

Please stay tuned for information about some upcoming classes that will be held in November prior to the December 7 congregational meeting, during which we will vote on becoming an RIC congregation. Linda Lohrmann will be leading a session on how we as Christians talk about tough social issues. Peggy Haug will be discussing the changes that were made in the ELCA social statements presented at the 2025 national assembly in Phoenix Arizona. And Pastor Lars will be leading a forum as well as teaching a class on four convictions of conscience that come up as Christians encounter challenging social issues in today's society.

Youth & Family Information

Dates to remember!

- **Sunday October 12th at 3pm.**
Walla Walla Corn Maze
\$15 per person.
Contact Kirsten Brannon for financial assistance or carpool needs
- **Sunday December 14th**
Tri-City Americans Hockey Game
More details to follow!
- **February 6-8, 2026**
Lutherhaven back to Camp Winter Retreat for 3rd through 8th graders.



All ages are welcome!

Greetings!

Adult Ed info for EVERYONE:

Our current class is learning about Koinonia Farm, which was the precursor for Habitat for Humanity. Paul and Martha Anderson ordered a DVD documentary on the beginnings of Koinonia farm. It arrived and they watched it and passed it on to me. I was feeling a little bit lazy so I decided to see if I could access the movie online, and sure enough, I could.

So I'm sharing this information with all of you in case you would like to watch it on your phone, tablet, or computer. Here's how: I googled the name of the movie, which is "Briars in the Cottonpatch" and it showed me that I could watch it on an app called Tubi. You can do the same thing. You can download the app ahead of time or simply do what I did because I was prompted to download the app but once I did that, the movie came right up.

Now, if you would like to watch it on your computer, simply use your web browser to find < tubitv.com > and then search for the movie. And, if you don't have electronic access, the DVD will be available after the class sessions end on October 19. By the way, the DVD is excellent, and it really gives a good idea of the faith and courage of the people who began the farm. Thanks! Peg Haug

Brats & Brews:

Brats & Brews is on Saturday, October 25th at 4:00 PM

**** People are asked to bring a salad of their choice or dessert as well as their own beer if they choose.**

If you plan to bring a salad or dessert please indicate that on the sign up sheet in the narthex. Thank you!

Attendance Report

Average Sunday Worship Attendance

August 2025 - 119

August 2024 - 134

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2025

Council president Kay Shelton called the meeting to order at 5:32pm. Those attending were Pastor Lars Hammar, Julie Swenson, Anne Swant, Barbara Hoffman, Karleen Heintzberger, Janet Mobley, Melanie Hein and Emily Stone.

Kay Shelton gave devotions.

The August minutes were approved by email affirmation on August 19, 2025.

Financial Report: Gordon Heimbigner submitted a written financial report for the month of August.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Lars provided a written report to Council

Committee Reports:

Property: Anne is continuing to look for members to join her for a property committee for the church.

Personnel: No report.

Finance & Budget: At the end of August CLC is right on our revenue and spending plan for the year. We are 8 months through the year (67%). Our revenue is at 67.5% of budget and our expenses are at 65.9%. We are currently in this position because we had exceptional offerings early in the year. In the month of August, revenue was more than \$10,000 LESS THAN BUDGET and expenses were almost \$7,500 OVER BUDGET. This is not unusual for a summer month, but concerning. Hopefully this will be corrected as we head into fall.

Worship: No report for the Newsletter. Please sign up for worship duties, including coffee hour!

Evangelism: Erin is working on member lists over several categories including voting members list. Kay, Pastor Lars and Karleen will be reviewing the lists. Name tag Sunday will be Sept. 14.

Fellowship: We have Brats & Brews as well as Confirmation Sunday both in October. Details to come.

Outreach: Mission group- October is rapidly approaching, which means shipping our quilts and personal care kits is just around the corner. Quilt Sunday is September 21, when the quilts will be displayed in the sanctuary, and there will be a good will offering for shipping costs. As we are all aging, the Mission group is looking for anyone who is interested in helping to carry on the mission work to join us on Tuesday mornings or evenings. Sewing is not a requirement. Christian Aid and Sleep Center continue to serve meals each month as the number of mouths to feed increases.

Social Justice and Advocacy continue to meet each month. RIC is going strong. They are laying the groundwork/timeline for the congregational vote on December 7. Bulletin boards, education opportunities, and forums are in the plans leading up to the vote.

Habitat for Humanity is planning an event on October 3 to help support their construction of 7 townhouses. Watch for posters.

Spark, an outreach of Catholic Charities is holding a winter coat drive for teenage youth in our area during the month of September. We have posters hanging by the coat rack in the narthex where the coats will be placed until they are picked up. We are working with the youth on the food drive as bins are placed and people are encouraged to bring nonperishable food on a regular basis.

Youth Education: We had a great start to Godly Play. Sara wrote her own GP story about young Jesus and we had 12 students to kick off the year.

Youth and Family: The Crusin' Carnival went well in large part to all the volunteers that helped with set up and take down. Kirsten will form a committee to help with events in the future. The next youth event should be the Corn Maze in October.

Adult Education: We have just started a six-week session, which is a book study on the writings of Clarence Jordan. Paul Anderson is helping with the teaching. That will take us to the end of October, which is reformation Sunday, as well as confirmation.

Working with Pastor Lars and SJAG, we sketched out a plan to use adult education time in November to offer sessions in preparation for the congregational meeting on December 7 to vote on the recommendation for Christ Lutheran to become an RIC congregation. As we move into October more information will be available.

Stewardship: No report.

Continuing Business:

Pastor Lars updated Council on the upcoming Stewardship Drive.

New Business:

Council had a preliminary discussion regarding a potential restructuring and nominations for the 2026 Council.

The new ELCA Model Constitution and Bylaws Update was discussed.

Future dates:

Financials: Sept. 24, Oct. 8 and 22 (reimbursement or credit card requests due before church on prior Sunday)

September and October – Stewardship Drive

October ? – Corn Maze Youth and Family Event

October 5 – Pastor Lars out of town

October 25 - Brats & Brews

October 26 – Reformation Sunday – 2 confirmations

December 7 – Congregational Meeting

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, *Julie Swenson*, Council Secretary

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Who is on the Voting Member List?

The Voting Members of a congregation are distinguished from “inactive” or “removed” members. Here’s what each category means:

Voting Members are confirmed members of the congregation who commune and donate at least once a year. Members without a donation record or who have not attended are moved to an Inactive List, but they are not removed from church membership. Inactive just means they can’t vote, but are made active again as soon as they (commune and give. Baptized members become Voting Members when they are confirmed at Christ Lutheran. Members may be removed for several reasons, including: transfer to another church, death, or after being on the Inactive List for several years.

The Voting Member list was updated in September, per church constitutional requirements. This update will give us a “starting point” for Inactive Members. To verify whether you or a family member is on the 2025 Voting Member list, or considered inactive, please check with Pastor Lars or Erin. Corrections will be made if errors are found. ***At Congregational Meetings in December and January, all are welcome, but only Voting Members from the 2025 update will vote.***

Can I give to other nonprofits (like Lutheran World Relief) along with my general budget offerings?

Good question! It is best to give to nonprofits directly, not using Christ Lutheran as a go-between with the expectation that a check for your personal donation will be sent from the church. The exception is when “seasonal donations” are made to Good Gifts, 40 Days of Giving, or non-profits selected by the Church Council for mid-week offerings during Advent and Lent. A lump-sum check for these donations is sent after the donation period ends. *Suggestions for where to send the upcoming mid-week Advent donations may be made to a Church Council member.* Thank you for giving generously.

October Birthdays!

Bill Miller	10/1
Jill Roznowski	10/1
Adelyn Schmid	10/3
Marlene Strabel	10/11
Charleen Kaaen	10/13
Kurt Krebs	10/15
Sandra Krebs	10/21
Janet Mobley	10/24
Sandy McCoy	10/29
Mary Beth Norby	10/29
Chuck Austin	10/30

**CLC'S FINANCES****August 2025:**

Total Income: \$16,507

Total Expenses: - 34,240

Net Loss: (\$17,733)

Year To Date (approximate):

68% of projected revenue through August

66% of budget spent through August

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 9:30 _{am} Worship Service 9:30 _{am} Godly Play 11 _{am} Adult Education	6	7 9 _{am} Mission Group 10 _{am} Men's Group	8 Financials	9 1 _{pm} Bible Study	10	11 Private Event in Fellowship Hall
12 9:30 _{am} Worship Service 9:30 _{am} Godly Play 11 _{am} Adult Education 3 _{pm} Corn Maze	13	14 9 _{am} Mission Group	15	16 1 _{pm} Bible Study	17	18
19 9:30 _{am} Worship Service 9:30 _{am} Godly Play 11 _{am} Adult Education 5:30 _{pm} Confirmation Class	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 9 _{am} Mission Group 10 _{am} Men's Group 5:30 _{pm} Council Meeting	22 Financials	23 1 _{pm} Bible Study	24	25 4 _{pm} Brats & Brews
26 - Reformation Day 9:30 _{am} Worship Service 9:30 _{am} Godly Play 11 _{am} Adult Education	27	28 9 _{am} Mission Group	29	30 1 _{pm} Bible Study	31	



Christ Lutheran Church

**1420 South 2nd Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362-4502**

Return Service Requested

We're on the Web!

www.christwallawalla.org

October 2025 Newsletter

CHURCH COUNCIL AND STAFF

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Kay Shelton

Pastor

Lars Hammar

·Finance/ Budget·

Jim Peterson

·Secretary·

Julie Swenson

·Office Manager·

Erin Aycock

·Worship·

Barbara Hoffman

·Treasurer·

Gordon Heimbigner

·Sexton·

Jeff Wagner

·Youth Education·

Emily Stone

·Stewardship·

Peter Swant

·Organist·

Eleanor Elkins

·Youth & Family·

Kirsten Brannon

·Fellowship·

Janet Mobley

·Personnel·

vacant

·Adult Ed/ Library·

Peggy Haug

·Outreach·

Melanie Hein

·Property Management·

Anne Swant

·Evangelism·

Karleen Heintzberger

Mission

We are God's people, united by faith in Jesus Christ, forgiven, chosen, and called by him through the Word and Sacraments to make disciples, and to serve in the world God loves.