

June 2025
Volume 65
No. 6



Christ Lutheran Church



The Messenger

This past month has been a time of both tying up loose ends and stringing some new ones. As you heard at the announcements one Sunday, Kristie and I came up at the end of April and put an offer on a house in Walla Walla. It was exciting to be able to find a place we liked. Our house hunting journey took us through 12 different properties, varying from the well-maintained to the “needs to be gutted and abated” variety. Luckily the one we’re gunning for is in good shape and not far from church. We close in June so pray that all the contractual details go off without a hitch.

I've been watching the services online, and it's been fun to see the different pastors coming in – from former kids of the congregation to synodical staff. Once again I say thank you to everyone for your patience while we make the move. It's been good for our family to get all the kids home from college for a few weeks before moving, and to have help with the packing. We've been in this house in Tucson for 21 years, and families collect a lot of stuff in that time. At church I'm having the joy of separating out all the internet accounts, passwords, social media and technology logins that have grown in the 15 years I've been at this call. There's also all the requests to get things in before I go – such as new member classes, confirmation, first communion, and a baptism. Whew!! And, I get to do all that while training in a new parish administrator and new people to run the Sunday A/V. All's coming along, but the time is proving invaluable.

The plan now is to move in to the new house the week after June 15th, take some days for vacation and unpacking before starting June 30th.

I hope you all have put July 13th, 4pm on the calendar. It's the installation service, and I hope you can all make it. Bishop Manlove will be there to preside.

I'm looking forward to starting at Christ Lutheran, and starting a new life in the Northwest. And I look forward to meeting everyone in a couple months and getting started in ministry.

God Bless,

Pastor Lars

Christ Lutheran Church

1420 S 2nd Ave | Walla Walla, WA 99362

www.christwallawalla.org (509) 525-2243

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Lars Hammar | Organist Eleanor Elkins | Sexton Jeff Wagner

Godly Play Leaders Sara Pinkerton & Emily Stone | Office Manager Erin Aycock

Financial Secretary Gene Spangrude

Congratulations!



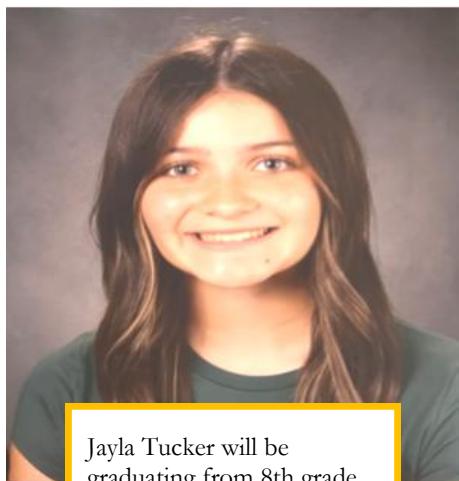
Bill & Kaye Miller's grandson, Gavin Sievers of Kennewick just received his Doctorate of Nursing Practice. Secondly, their granddaughter's boyfriend, Zak McDaniels from Pasco Graduated from the University of Colorado with a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Engineering.



Helen Hellberg-Wilson
graduates June 7,
from DeSales -
daughter of Sara
& Jonathan
Hellberg-Wilson.



Cindy Fish's grand-daughter, Sophie Townsend Fish, graduated in May from Washington State University. She received a degree in Animal Science and is currently working at the Eastgate Veterinary Clinic.



Jayla Tucker will be
graduating from 8th grade
at Pioneer Middle School



Nolan Berry is graduating from
Kindergarten this year.

BUILDING FAITH

VBS 2025

JUNE 23-27 5-7PM

Join us this summer for a hands-on experience where parents and children work together to explore the different structures of the Bible and how they connect to our faith formation. Parents—or a designated responsible teen or adult—are expected to stay with their children to assist with supervision. Dinner is provided. Please register your family using the link or QR code.

<https://forms.gle/NdqMSCvyvxGK7qZZ9>



LIBRARY NEWS

Have you checked out our library here at church recently? It's quite different. Pastor Deanna helped me clean it up. Many older out of date books were donated or recycled after having been offered to members of our congregation. Then I was able to obtain some very nice quality used books from the AAUW book sale held here in town every year in February.

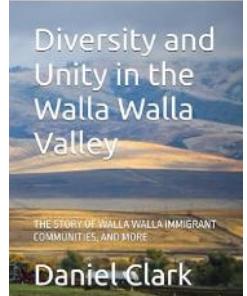
I love libraries and I love to browse the shelves and I hope you will check out some of the new additions to our library. If you find something you would like to read, please borrow it and enjoy it, and then you can return it. You don't need to sign your life away! What I would also like to do is highlight a book each month here in our newsletter. Also, I plan to put some little recommendation cards for anyone to use to write a couple sentences about one of our library books they would like to recommend to others.

Also, if you own some books, you would like to donate to our library please bring them in and set them in a box in the library. I'll make sure we don't have duplicates and will shelve them in the proper categories.

Dan Clark has generously donated a copy of his book - Diversity and Unity in the Walla Walla Valley - to Christ Lutheran Church. The book will be available in the library for anyone interested in borrowing it.

"Many diverse people have come to the Walla Walla valley to live, including Native Americans, French-Canadians, Northern Europeans, Blacks, Chinese, Italians, Japanese, Latinos, Southeast Asian refugees, Russian refugees, and others. In addition, they have held diverse religious and political views, among other differences.

This book describes experiences of our various immigrant communities, as well as efforts to celebrate and honor our diverse cultural heritage, and to promote communication, respect, and understanding among all members of the human community. "



Adult Education News

Do plan to attend and support the fifth annual PRIDE FESTIVAL here in Walla Walla on June 7 at Heritage Square on Main Street from 1 to 5 PM! Christ Lutheran Church will have a table there with information about our church as well as an invitation to welcome everyone. Kari Isaacson, Kay Shelton and Peg Haug have volunteered to host our table, but we sure could use some additional folks to help out. Please contact Kari Isaacson or Peggy Haug if you would like to help.

FILM AND VIDEO RECOMMENDATIONS from our study of INCLUSIVITY and RIC:

If you Google “Out of Order Documentary” you will find a free one-hour video available on Vimeo. It is an excellent documentary of the struggle in the Presbyterian Church, which delves into the lives of gay men and women who feel called to serve their church as ministers. It also includes a compelling story of a transgender man.

Joe Bell is a full length feature film starring Mark Wahlberg. He plays an Oregon father who pays tribute to his gay son who was bullied in school and ends up committing suicide. This excellent film is based on a true story.

Weekly Happenings at CLC

- Adult Education - Sundays at 11am
- Godly Play - Sundays during Worship
- Quilt/ Mission Group - Tuesdays 9 to noon & 6:30pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month
- Men’s Group - every other Tuesday at 10am
- Bible Study - Thursdays at 1pm

2025 Synod Assembly

Kaye Miller and Judith Richerzhagen attended the online Synod Assembly on May 3. The following article is Kaye's recap. Thank you, Kaye and Judith, for representing Christ Lutheran.

Pastor Phil Misner held several preparatory sessions prior to the meeting to help folks with the online technology. The online format was perfect for Kaye, who enjoyed the meeting very much.

The day began with lovely music from the Pacific Lutheran University choir. The opening with land acknowledgement and worship was very meaningful, as were the other worship sessions throughout the day. They were followed by fairly routine tasks such as going over rules, adopting the budget, and having committee elections. Since participants didn't know people other than through their bios, they quickly prayed about this before voting. There was a resolution which passed to amend bylaws for electing a Bishop and Composition of Synod Council Members. Kaye has the information from the Assembly Notebook available. Voting online was interesting and successful! One item of interest was voting to have Christ the King Lutheran Church in Milton-Freewater join our Synod since we are closer than their next neighbor in Pendleton. This passed wholeheartedly. This may open some positive situations for us to share some events with them.

Kaye enjoyed the Bible Study given by Mary Streufort, the key note speaker, on Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. Mary also spoke from her position as Director for Gender Justice and Women's Empowerment in the Office of the Presiding Bishop.

There were several enjoyable videos which allowed participants to see what is going on in other congregations. The exciting part for Kaye was seeing many children involved. There were several items that made an impact on her. First, Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Spokane went through closure, but participants were reminded that change happens and new directions begin. Bethlehem Lutheran disbursed gifts given to them, one of which was mineral rights in North Dakota given to NWIM Synod. These were transferred to Western North Dakota Synod which holds "other mineral rights within its boundaries. The North Dakota Synods jointly share an endowment that provides for Native American ministries." The second item related to Reconciling in Christ, which our congregation is studying. Bishop Meggan Manlove asked that congregations send the dates of any Pride walks or marches to the Synod office so that people there could pray for the participants. Kaye has noticed the statement "We are a Reconciling in Christ Synod" on the NWIM synod website, but the bishop's statement demonstrates the willingness to support in action through prayer. Pretty powerful! Lastly, the ELCA will vote on a new Presiding Bishop this summer at the Churchwide assembly.

The day was very meaningful for Kaye, and she appreciated the opportunity to participate. The 2025 Assembly Recap from Pastor Phil can be found on the NWIM synod website: <https://nwimsynod.org/blog/2025519/2025-synod-assembly-recap>.

I am grateful each week to get the service order with scriptures, hymns, liturgy and announcements for the following Sunday. I get "God Pause" from Luther Seminary daily with the scriptures and a devotional reading, and it's good to review again on Fridays. I also enjoy looking at the hymns to be sung. I have found that I can Google pretty much any ELW hymn number and find a gentleman from Halifax Lutheran Church in Nova Scotia singing that hymn on YouTube. I am not familiar with some of the hymns we have used here at CLC, so this has been helpful to me. I also enjoy just listening to hymns again, and this has been a convenient source. I hope some of you will find it beneficial as well.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**May 13, 2025**

Council president Kay Shelton called the meeting to order at 6:04pm. Those attending were Julie Swenson, Gordon Heimbigner, Anne Swant, Jim Peterson, Karleen Heintzberger, Janet Mobley, Melanie Hein, Kirsten Brannon, Peggy Haug, and Peter Swant.

Janet Mobley gave devotions.

The April Minutes were approved by email affirmation on April 22, 2025.

Financial Report: Christ Lutheran's operational income came in \$6,797 less than budget for April. Operational expenses were \$7,701 more than budget for April. Operational funds combined for a net outflow of \$18,723 for April. Designated/restricted activity resulted in a net inflow of \$1,753 for April. Total operational revenues to-date are approximately \$8,800 over budget for the year to date. Total operational expenses to date are approximately \$5,500 over budget for the year to date. CLC's checking and saving account ended the month with a \$206,681 balance. Restricted/endowments fund totaled \$273,661 as of 4/30/2025. CLC had \$1,820,528 in positive equity on 04/30/2025.

Committee Reports:

Property: We had a great work day prior to Easter Sunday. I have put out a request for help for a property committee (I would like 3 to 5 people) and a gardening club (meet once a month to work to beautify the church plant beds around the building). JC Yardcare got the sprinkler system checked and working. A repair was made for a head that has not been working for 4 years (according to Gene Spangrude). The yard has been plugged and fertilized. The Krebs men will be mowing on Fridays. WW Electric came and got all light bulbs working in the sanctuary. WW Electric started the exterior light repairs on 5.12.25 and will complete those this week. Peace.

Finance & Budget: On April 15, 2025, \$20,000 was moved from High Yield Savings to Checking at Banner Bank. Our checking account balance today is \$25,707.28. Designated payments for Lenten Mid-week services and 40 Days of giving have cleared.

Good news: General fund income averaged about \$27,950 per month for January through April ---- greater than budgeted.

Bad news: General fund income for the first two Sundays of May totals \$7,154 ---- substantially below budget. As anticipated at the annual meeting, we will need to modify our budget for the last 6 months of the year. That should be done in June.

Worship: Pulpit Supply scheduling is complete through the end of June. Everyone should consider signing up to volunteer for Sunday morning worship duties (ushering, communion assistant, lector, flowers, etc).

Evangelism: Council approved the transfer of Mike and Julie Michener to CLC from another Lutheran church. Held Nametag Sunday on May 4 and we continue to have visitors worshipping with us on Sundays.

Fellowship: Soup Suppers during Lent were well received including Maundy Thursday, which included a short service as well as communion at the tables. Thanks to all who not only participated but also worked so hard in set-up and clean-up. A sign-up sheet went up after Easter for our Walla Walla Sweets Baseball game. This year the game will be on Saturday, June 14 at 6:40pm and we have the "Sweet Spot" reserved. Pastor Deanna's last day service and reception was very nice. We had big turn-out as well as plenty of food, beverages and cupcakes. Thank you to everyone who helped make it special, it was indeed a group effort. A Meal Train was set up to help Mark Stone. Mark recently had two back surgeries and is now recovering at home. We felt that Mark could use a hand or two with meals as he recovers. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

Outreach: No report.

Youth Education: No report.

Youth and Family: A reminder that VBS dates are June 23-27. We are still looking for volunteers to help. Kid sign up is on CLC Youth and Family Facebook page. The theme this year is Building Faith. Based on the structures of the Bible.

Adult Education: For the month of May and June, we are focusing on the book of Luke. We are using the Book of Faith guide published by Augsburg. Several CLC members have agreed to teach one of the sessions. We are awaiting Pastor Lars arrival before we plan further sessions for the second half of the year.

Stewardship: No report.

Pastor's Report: No report.

Continuing Business: Judith Richerzhagen and Kaye Miller attended the May 3 on-line Synod Assembly. Kay provided Council with a written report.

Council reviewed and approved Audit Committee responses.

Council reviewed and accepted position descriptions for Property, Finance & Budget, President, and Adult Education.

New Business:

The Social Justice Advocacy Group will have a table at the Walla Walla Pride Festival on June 7 from 1 to 5pm at Heritage Square.

Policy Revisions and Reviews were assigned as follows:

Employee Benefits Policy – Kay

Youth Protection Policy - Kirsten

Future dates:

June 23 – 27, 5-7 p.m. Vacation Bible School

Monday June 30 – Pastor Lars's first day

July 13, 4 p.m. - Installation of Pastor Lars

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, *Julie Swenson*,
Council Secretary

Attendance Report

Average Sunday Worship Attendance

April 2025 - 135

April 2024 - 126

WAYS

HUGS SMILES KISSES SPECIAL TREATS
REWARDS PAT ON THE BACK THUMBS
UP BROWNIE POINTS APPLAUSE HIGH
FIVE CHEER WINK APPROVING NOD
WAVE OF THE HAND BLOW A KISS PAT
ON THE HEAD RUFFLE HAIR JUMPING
FOR JOY HUGS SMILES KISSES SPECIAL
TREATS REWARDS PAT ON THE BACK
THUMBS UP BROWNIE POINTS
APPLAUSE HIGH FIVE CHEER WINK
APPROVING NOD WAVE OF THE
HAND BLOW A KISS PAT ON THE
HEAD RUFFLE HAIR JUMPING FOR JOY
OF
ENCOURAGEMENT

Calling all Keys!

Speaking for the Church Council, we wish to thank everyone as we adapt to the new electronic locking system for the external doors. Change is not always easy, and we appreciate everyone “being gentle” (Pastor Deanna’s words) with each other as we learn the new system.

Calling all Keys!

If you have a church key, *please return it to the Office Manager during office hours, or to Kay on Sundays.* The keys no longer work for external doors. If you need a key for internal doors (workroom, some classrooms), the Office Manager will log your key into her notebook and return it to you. The workroom is open during office hours, so please consider if you really need a key. At the suggestion of the Audit Committee, the Financial Office will soon be re-keyed to limit access. The basement door keys may be checked out during office hours.

External Doors – Review of the Building Security Policy

Church Council members and staff have received long-term access codes for the external doors, and the Council will approve long-term access codes for other members who need ongoing access. Short-term access codes can also be arranged through the Office Manager. ***If you are given an access code, please do not share it with anyone else.*** Our goal is to conduct business during the Church’s office hours, which are Monday – Friday from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with a break between noon and 1 p.m. These hours are posted on signs outside the front and back entrances. Hours will change on occasion because Christ Lutheran has only one office employee, and a note will be left on the sign when possible. Scheduling appointments with the Pastor or Office Manager may save a trip. If you find the door locked during office hours, please use the ringer located near the keypad. The Office Manager will use the camera to verify before unlocking the door.

After living with the new electronic locking system for a few weeks, a few things may need explaining:

1. The three doors with electronic locks (front, back, and one side entrance) should not be locked manually with a hex key or deadbolt, except during prolonged power outages. If locked manually, the electronic locks won’t release.
2. On the front and back entrances (double doors), the door on the right (looking in) has the ***electronic*** lock, and it stays open when the doors are unlocked. Please do not unlock the ***manual*** doors on the left (looking in).
3. If the front door is locked and you want to exit, stand in front of the door on the left side (looking out), which is the same door you entered through. The red light at the top of the door will disappear and you will hear a soft click as the door unlocks. The door locks again after you exit.

Again, thank you for your understanding and flexibility. See Kay if you have questions or need practice.

Brysan Harvey	6/1	Nicholas Holce	6/9	Aanen Gjovik	6/26
Morgan Berry	6/4	Rachael Pederson	6/9	Susan DeRuwe	6/27
Kaye Miller	6/5	Amelia Grinstead	6/13	Stephanie Gomsrud	6/27
Gwyneth Nierman	6/6	Florisel Gomez	6/14	Judith Richerzhagen	6/28
Eric Schmid	6/6	Joyce Anderson	6/17		
John Ladderud	6/7	Bev Cunningham	6/19		
Dane Gomsrud	6/8	JoAnne Savage	6/20		
Jan McDowell	6/8	Noah Ross	6/21		
Forest Swant	6/8	Mirney Wagner	6/25		



June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 _{am} Worship Service 9:30 _{am} Godly Play 11 _{am} Adult Education	2	3 9 _{am} Mission Group 10 _{am} Men's Group 6:30 _{pm} Mission Group	4	5 10 _{am} SJAG Meeting 1pm Bible Study	6	7
8 9:30 _{am} Worship Service 9:30 _{am} Godly Play 11 _{am} Adult Education	9	10 9 _{am} Mission Group	11	12 1pm Bible Study	13	14 CLC at the Sweet Spot
15 9:30 _{am} Worship Service 9:30 _{am} Godly Play 11 _{am} Adult Education	16	17 10 _{am} Men's Group	18 1pm Bible Study	19 20 - Newsletter Deadline	21	
22 9:30 _{am} Worship Service 9:30 _{am} Godly Play 11 _{am} Adult Education	23	24 9 _{am} Mission Group	25	26 1pm Bible Study	27	28
29 9:30 _{am} Worship Service 9:30 _{am} Godly Play 11 _{am} Adult Education	30	Vacation Bible School 5-7pm				

Christ Lutheran Church



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

Return Service Requested

We're on the Web!

www.christwallawalla.org

June 2025 Newsletter

CHURCH COUNCIL AND STAFF

·President· 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· <i>vacant</i>	·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.