



Greetings,

First, on behalf of Christ Lutheran Church, we extend the **warmest of welcomes** to Pastor Lars, his wife Kristie, and sons Johan and Tobias! We are overjoyed that you have arrived and are filled with gratitude and hope for the future.

As a congregation, we are excited to support and encourage Pastor Lars. In the Ministry Site Profile that Christ Lutheran Church adopted at the beginning of the Call Process, we pledged the following:

- To support the pastor through worship attendance, participation in educational activities and prayer.
- Financial support/Stewardship: Continued giving. Offer time and talents to aid the pastor.
- Fellowship: to welcome the pastor and family. Help them settle into the new community i.e. schools, doctors, etc.
- Positive communications: Offer feedback to the pastor in a positive encouraging manner.
- Acceptance: Realize things will change and be different than they have been. Accept change with positive attitude, without complaint.

At last, we are able to put our pledge into action. Please join us in “walking the talk” as Pastor Lars begins his ministry with our congregation.

Blessings to you,

The Church Council

#### Christ Lutheran Church

1420 S 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave | Walla Walla, WA 99362

[www.christwallawalla.org](http://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

# Adult Education News

## RIC News and Recommendations:

Have you noticed the main bulletin board in the long hallway from the fellowship hall? Thanks to Linda and Leslie for taking all the comments from all of those attending the Hopes and Fears session on April 6 and posting them on that bulletin board. If you remember, that session was held after church with Pastor Deanna facilitating. Everyone present shared both a hope and fear about whether Christ Lutheran Church should formally accept the RIC designation.

Do you have a library card? If so, you can access a wonderful service called KANOPY. This is an app you can put on your phone or iPad, which gives you access to many films and documentaries. There is an excellent full length film that the RIC committee found called "For the Bible Tells Me So." It delves into the values of the religious right and its accompanying homophobia and about how conservative Christians use the Bible as a way to deny Gays equal rights. It represents a balanced look at five families and how it affects them. If you would like to understand this issue more, we encourage you to watch this film.

## Social Justice Advocacy Group

About six months ago, we started talking about some improvements at church that would help so many of our older members. We saw the need for handrails in the hallway and most importantly we talked about repurposing the bathroom that is located across from the Pastor's office. Did you know there is a bathroom there? A lot of us didn't. We wanted to do a remodel to make sure the bathroom could accommodate someone in a wheelchair. It turns out very little needs to be done because it is a good space. We enlisted Larry Johnson to give us a list of materials needed to make the changes we felt were important. And we began working with Anne Swant, our property chair person. Then she had a conversation with someone who helped her to see the immediate need for a unisex bathroom. And she got it done! The bathroom has a new toilet and a sign has been placed to identify the bathroom. There's a little bit more we want to do, but we are all pleased with the results so far.

## ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

We are taking a mini break for the summer after finishing an eight week series on the book of Luke. However, back in March, when Pastor Paul led a series on the History of the Bible, several people were asking for a follow up. He has generously agreed to lead two more sessions as a continuation of the Discussion on Reading the Bible. These will be held on July 20 and the 27th at 11 AM, following worship. Please join us, even if you did not take the classes in March, as I'm sure you will find the discussion lively!



Christ Lutheran Church was proud to join two other churches in our community in creating our own booth for the pride festival which was held in the afternoon of June 7 on Main Street and Heritage Square. We each had informative, positive booths that let people know we were welcoming of everyone. Take a look at the beautiful banner we had created for our church! We are so grateful to Jim Peterson and Kari Isaacson for funding that banner. I'm sure we will get many years of use out of it.



**The Wall of Jericho**



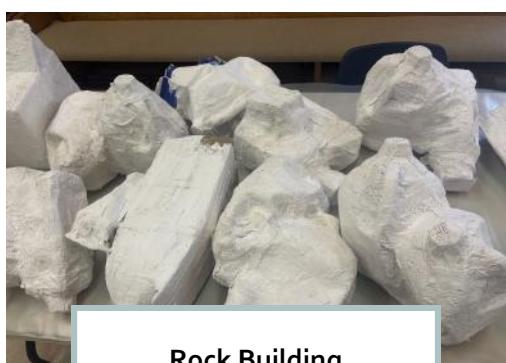
**Building a house on rocks  
or sand**



**Meal Time**



# **Vacation Bible School!!**



**Rock Building**



**Storytime with Music &  
Motion**



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**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES****June 10, 2025**

Council president Kay Shelton called the meeting to order at 6:03pm. Those attending were Julie Swenson, Anne Swant, Jim Peterson, Karleen Heintzberger, Janet Mobley, Emily Stone, Kirsten Brannon, Peggy Haug, and Peter Swant.

Peggy Haug gave devotions.

The May minutes were approved by email affirmation on May 20, 2025.

**Financial Report:** Gordon Heimbigner provided a written financial report for the month of May which showed Christ Lutheran's operational income came in \$7,741 less than budget for May. Operational expenses were \$9,176 less than budget for May. Operational funds combined for a net outflow of \$4,406 for May. Designated/restricted activity resulted in a net outflow of \$5,599 for May. Total operational revenues to-date are approximately \$1,055 over budget for the year to date. Total operational expenses to date are approximately \$4,800 under budget for the year to date. CLC's checking and saving account ended the month with a \$196,483 balance. Restricted/endowments fund totaled \$273,661 as of 5/31/2025.

CLC had \$1,810,603 in positive equity on 05/31/2025.

**Committee Reports:**

**Property:** Walla Walla Electric completed the exterior lighting repair/replacement. JC Lawncare got our sprinkling system up and running, aerated the yard and fertilized the yard, as well as came by and did some repairs. The riding mower went back to Walla Walla Saw as it was running poorly. Anne's hope is this is the last time. She has had very few takers on her committee and gardening club idea. Back lot will be mown and prepped for VBS as well as the Swant/Fike wedding. Painting of Pastor Lars' office will happen prior to his arrival.

**Finance & Budget:** Jim has been working on a spending plan revision to get a more accurate plan for the remainder of the year. Church offerings for the last three Sundays have been well below budgeted levels. They have about one third of the budgeted amount per week. Jim will likely have to move money from savings to checking in the near future.

**Worship:** No report.

**Evangelism:** We have received paperwork from Pastor Lars and his two sons Tobias and Johan requesting to become members of CLC. We will need approval from council. We had nametag Sunday on June 1 and it will be important to continue this after Pastor Lars arrives.

**Fellowship:** We have the "Sweet Spot" reserved for Saturday, June 14th for a Walla Walla Sweets Baseball Game! So far, 22 people are attending. It's not too late to sign up; if you're interested, see Janet. Kay Shelton sent out an email to Pastor Lars on behalf of the Fellowship committee, asking for his input on the reception following his installation on July 13th. Thank you, Kay! Pastor Lars did respond right away and details, as well as sign-up sheets to help out, will be going out soon!

**Outreach:** No report.

**Youth Education:** No report.

**Youth and Family:** The Background Check policy was reviewed.

**Adult Education:** We are currently finishing the Bible study on the book of Luke using the Augsburg materials. For the month of July and August, we plan to take a break, except for two Sundays when Pastor Paul Anderson has offered to lead two final sessions as a continuation and conclusion of the discussion on Reading the Bible class, which he led in March. Also, during the break, Peggy intends to have another planning session for adult classes for the remainder of the year, meeting with several members and Pastor Lars.

**Stewardship:** No Report.

**Continuing Business:**

Kay reviewed the Employee Benefits Policy. Our policy follows synod guidelines and can stand as it is.

Kirsten reviewed the Youth Protection Policy. Kirsten and Kay will amend the policy appropriately in written form.

Plans for Pastor Lars's installation are underway. Sign-up sheets will go up soon,

Jim and Anne completed a review of our Insurance Policy. We will stay with Brotherhood Mutual Insurance.

**New Business:**

Jim presented proposed updates to the 2025 Budget. Jim Peterson made a motion to approve the revised budget for 2025 with income of \$307,555, expenses of \$344,195 and a negative net income of \$36,640, to be paid with cash reserves. Anne Swant seconded. Motion passed.

Karleen Heintzberger made a motion to approve membership for Pastor Lars Hammar, Johan Hammar and Tobias Hammar. Anne Swant seconded. Motion passed.

Jim Peterson made a motion to approve the Department of Corrections contract for grounds maintenance. Janet Mobley seconded. Motion passed.

Janet Mobley made a motion to approve the Building Use Request for Cliff Larson's celebration of life on August 2, 2025. Anne Swant seconded. Motion passed.

Peggy Haug made a motion to approve the Building Use Request for Robert Tabacco for monthly fencing tournaments with a six-month trial period and appropriate insurance riders for Christ Lutheran. Peter Swant seconded. Motion passed.

Kay reached out to Christ the King Lutheran Church in Milton-Freewater, welcoming them to our synod.

**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 7:50pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, *Julie Swenson*, Council Secretary

**Save the Date!**  
**Sunday July 13th at 4pm**  
**will be the installation**  
**service for Pastor Lars**  
**Hammar.**

## 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

### Pastoral Acts

Wedding

June 21, 2025 Swant/ Fike

### Attendance Report

*Average Sunday Worship Attendance*

**May 2025 - 123**

**May 2024 - 115**



Leah Bailey	7/3	Dick Hanson	7/17
Kathy Krebs	7/4	Carroll Gjovik	7/18
Martha Anderson	7/10	Christina Jacobs	7/19
Velma Rose Harvey	7/10	Alicia Lohrmann	7/19
Bill Roznowski	7/10	Rebecca Thorpe	7/19
Matthew Lohrmann	7/12	Jonathan Holce	7/23
Marit Rasmussen	7/12	Deanne Johnson	7/26
Logan Berry	7/13	Nick Anderson	7/28
Terri Wallingford	7/14	Karen Telstad	7/31

# July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10 <sub>am</sub> Men's Group Mission Luncheon 6:30 <sub>pm</sub> Mission Group	2 3 10 <sub>am</sub> SJAG Meeting 1 <sub>pm</sub> Bible Study	4 Office Closed	5	
6 9:30 <sub>am</sub> Worship Service	7 8 9 <sub>am</sub> Mission Group	9 10 1 <sub>pm</sub> Bible Study	10 11	12		
13 9:30 <sub>am</sub> Worship Service 4 <sub>pm</sub> Pastor Lars' Installation	14 15 9 <sub>am</sub> Mission Group 10 <sub>am</sub> Men's Group 6:30 <sub>pm</sub> Mission Group	16 17 1 <sub>pm</sub> Bible Study	18 19			
20 9:30 <sub>am</sub> Worship Service	21 Newsletter Deadline	22 9 <sub>am</sub> Mission Group	23 24 1 <sub>pm</sub> Bible Study	25 26		
27 9:30 <sub>am</sub> Worship Service	28 29 9 <sub>am</sub> Mission Group 10 <sub>am</sub> Men's Group	30 31 1 <sub>pm</sub> Bible Study				



Return Service Requested

We're on the Web!

[www.christwallawalla.org](http://www.christwallawalla.org)

## July 2025 Newsletter

### CHURCH COUNCIL AND STAFF

·President· Kay Shelton	<b>Pastor</b> <b>Lars Hammar</b>	·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.