



Well, we finally made it. The Hammar family has arrived in Walla Walla, and we're getting settled in. I missed the last newsletter with the busy-ness in life (Thanks Kay for filling in). We packed up the house of 21 years, watched the trucks load, and drove the three days up. I somehow managed to keep the plants and the fish alive. All's good, and we've moved into the new house. Now it's the really fun stuff like getting the driver's license and changing banks etc. etc.

If anyone needs boxes, I literally have dozens for free. Let me know.

I want to say thank you again to everyone for the wonderful welcome we've received here. Thanks for all the fruit, wine, help with leads, everything. It's been a wonderful way to start a call.

Just a few work details to share as I get started. . .

My normal work week is Monday-Thursday. I like to make a sort-of weekend out of Friday and Saturday, knowing special events come up, of course. I don't answer things much on days off, unless they're emergency. I'll try to push everything else to Monday, when I'm good at answering emails and voicemails etc.

If you need to reach me, the church system forwards voicemails to me after hours, so just call the church landline at 509-525-2243. If you need to email it's pastorlarsww@gmail.com

It's also been a real joy to start leading worship here. I hope I haven't messed up too many things. I've made a few tweaks to the service, but once we get a good groove, I'm not going to rearrange much. For example, I ended up moving the announcements to the beginning again, mostly because it seemed awkward to have everyone stand up just to do the post-communion prayer, and then all sit down for announcements, then all stand up again for the benediction and last hymn. I know announcements at the beginning was the pattern years ago, and I hope it works out again. I'll still leave space if any members have special announcements to give after I give a general welcome.

This fall I will be working on just figuring things out with the building and operations, getting a groove for worship, and starting the regular program year – youth, education, justice etc. Look for more to come after a couple months.

It's good to be here. I feel honored and blessed to be called.

Pastor Lars

Adult Education News

We are taking a break for the month of August but here is a little hint into what we are looking at studying come September.

Have you ever heard of the Cotton Patch Gospels?

They are a paraphrase written by Clarence Jordan. It recasts the stories of Jesus into the language and culture of the mid 20th century South. It gets a bit more interesting when you understand that Mr. Jordan was a young white pastor and farmer who founded Koinonia Farm, which was an interracial, pacifist communal experiment on depleted farmland in the Deep South. This was in 1942! You can just imagine how that got the attention of the KKK!

No, we are not going to study the Cotton Patch Gospels, but we are going to look at a book of writings by Clarence Jordan called The Inconvenient Gospel. It includes sermons and essays written between 1950 and 1969, as he tackles war, wealth, race, and religion. Clarence Jordan was deeply admired by Martin Luther King Jr. and President Jimmy Carter. Stay tuned!

Social Justice Advocacy Group News

Even though we've been working on the RIC process for 2 1/2 years, I still find interesting things on the Reconciling Works website. Today, I listened to two very brief videos and I can't tell you how good it made me feel to be a part of The ELCA! These two videos are from two different congregations, both of whom became RIC churches, one in 1985 and one in 2016. They talk about the difference it made in their church. Let me tell you how to find the videos using your cell phone, iPad, or computer:

Go to reconcilingworks.org and click on the menu button in the upper right corner.

Click on the selection for "RIC program" Select "mapping your RIC journey" The first section, in a purple box is called "Building the Foundation." The last entry in that box, written in blue, is called "Living the Journey – RIC video vignettes". Click on it.

Here you will find the two videos. The first one, at 6 minutes, is from St. John's Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, Florida, and the second one is from Edina (MN) Community Church and is 3 minutes long.

ENJOY! Makes you proud to be a Lutheran!!

~ Peggy Haug



Since 1974, ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation has advocated for the full welcome, inclusion, and equity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual/aromantic (LGBTQIA+) Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their Church, congregations, and community.

An independent 501(c)3 organization.

Reconciling Works believes representation matters. So we are excited to have a NEW Reconciling in Christ (RIC) logo!

Inspired by the Progressive Pride Flag design, these updates to the RIC logo include the colors blue, pink and white to represent our transgender siblings, as well as a black and brown stripe to represent the fullness our Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) Community brings to the queer community. This logo is used by RIC Partners to better communicate their commitment to the work of welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy of God's Beloveds.



Installation Service for Pastor Lars Hammar



Pastor John Knapp talking about this spinning wheel he made, which is an authentic replica of the spinning wheel Narcissa Whitman used.



Attendance Report

Average Sunday Worship Attendance

June 2025 - 109

June 2024 - 118



Here is our sexton, Jeff and his partner, Kevin preparing dinner at the Christian Aid Center along with Janet, Peggy, Deanne and Larry as they served a spaghetti dinner.



Council Updates

Although the Church Council didn't meet in July, there was still lots going on behind the scene. Council members are meeting with Pastor Lars individually or in small groups to bring him up to speed on their various ministry areas.

Special thanks go to Fellowship chair Janet Mobley, her committee members, and to everyone who contributed food for the lovely reception after Pastor Lars's installation on July 13. Janet appreciates everyone's contributions! We are also grateful for our office manager Erin Acock, who coordinated many details around the installation, including the invitations and installation program.

As mentioned in the minutes from the June Council meeting, Jim Peterson presented a spending plan revision to the Council, which was tweaked during the meeting to provide a more accurate plan for the remainder of the year. The revised plan reduced total expenditures based on actual year-to-date spending and actual numbers for salary/benefits for our called pastor; the original spending plan was based on estimates. The Council continues to carefully monitor expenses and will make further adjustments if necessary.

CLC's Finances

June Total Income: \$15,883
June Total Expenses: \$22,234
June Net Loss: \$6,351

Year-to-Date Total Income: \$145,788
Year-to-Date Total Expenses: \$162,743
Year-to-Date Net Loss: \$16,955

Pastor Lars is looking for help designing a new web site for Christ Lutheran Church. The contract for the current site runs out in a couple months, so it's a good time to get a new template and update our appearance for visitors to our church. Most people today check out a church web site before attending worship, so it's an important evangelism tool. You don't need to know code, just be willing to research different web sites and brain storm ideas. Maybe 3 meetings and then we're done. Contact Pastor Lars at pastorlarsww@gmail.com or call the church office.

August Birthdays!

Jennifer Hein	8/3		Bill Keyes	8/19
Doug Berry	8/8		Keith Swanson	8/20
Julie Swenson	8/8		Tim Anderson	8/23
Tracy Rutledge	8/9		Andrew Gomsrud	8/23
Clarice Swanson	8/9		Greg Romaniuk	8/27
Malin Bailey	8/13		Lorna Hewitt	8/29
Kari Isaacson	8/15		Hannah Lohrmann	8/29
Tonyel Nelson	8/15		Lori Peterson	8/29
Thomas Tabacco	8/17		Ed Hermsen	8/30

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30 am Worship Service		9 _{am} Mission Group		10 _{am} SJAG Meeting		
		6:30 _{pm} Mission Group		1 _{pm} Bible Study		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30 am Worship Service		9 _{am} Mission Group		1 _{pm} Bible Study		
		10 _{am} Men's Group				
		6 _{pm} Council Meeting				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30 am Worship Service		9 _{am} Mission Group		1 _{pm} Bible Study		
		6:30 _{pm} Mission Group	Newsletter Deadline			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:30 am Worship Service		9 _{am} Mission Group		1 _{pm} Bible Study		
		10 _{am} Men's Group				
31						
9:30 am Worship Service						

Return Service Requested

We're on the Web!

www.christwallawalla.org

August 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.