

The Messenger

Christ Lutheran
Church
5356 N. Hillside
Wichita, KS
67219



April 2025 Newsletter

Contact us at office@Christ-Lutheran.org

HOLY WEEK 2025

Palm Sunday
April 13

Worship Times:
9:00am & 11:00am

Maundy Thursday
April 17

Worship Time:
7:00pm

Good Friday
April 18

Worship Time:
7:00pm

The Resurrection of Our Lord
Sunday, April 20

Flowering of the
Cross
Everyone is
asked to
bring flowers
to decorate
the cross.

Easter
Egg Hunt
for all
children at
10:15am

Easter Worship Times:
9:00am Contemporary
11:00am Traditional

Spring Worship Schedule

9:00 AM- Contemporary Worship
 10:10 AM- Sunday School (All Ages)
 11:00 AM- Traditional Worship

Men's Breakfast

We will be at Auntie C's, located at 61st and Broadway. We will be there at 8:00 AM on Saturday, April 12th for some good food and fellowship. If you have any questions, please contact Donn Bischoff at 209-2138.

Quilt Day

Our next Quilt day will be on April 1st at 9:00 am. For questions, contact: Janice Cross 260-4282 (h) or 519-4776 (c)

This group of quilters is open to anyone who wants to join them. Sewing or quilting skill is not necessarily required. They meet once a month and you can come and go as your schedule allows. The morning is filled with conversation, laughter, encouragement, and by doing the important work of creating quilts for Lutheran World Relief.



2025 Bookkeepers Report



| | February 2025 | YTD 2024 | Rolling 12 Months YTD |
|----------|------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Receipts | \$14,651.78 | \$41,179.97 | \$211,791.94 |
| Expenses | \$20,602.92 | \$44,728.65 | \$251,065.97 |
| Variance | (\$5,951.14) | (\$3,548.68) | (\$39,274.03) |

Respectfully Submitted, **Alan Wondra**



Pastor Chad Langdon

Secretary: Kali Mills

5356 N. Hillside, Wichita, Kansas 67219

Phone: 316-744-1242 **Fax:** 316-425-8875

www.Christ-Lutheran.org

E-mail: pastor@Christ-Lutheran.org

Parish Nurse - Mary Garrelts



For any medical questions or concerns please contact **Mary Garrelts** at mbgarrelts@cox.net

NEW DAILY DEVOTIONS

The daily devotions for the next quarter are now available in the lobby under the bulletin board. These are free for anyone to take or giveaway, and the new ones cover April, May &



LENT

in view of

GOD'S MERCY

a Series of Services for the Season of Lent



ASH WEDNESDAY:
Mercy in Ashes



WEEK ONE:
Mercy in Temptation



WEEK TWO:
Mercy in Suffering



WEEK THREE:
Mercy in Betrayal



WEEK FOUR:
Mercy in Relationships



WEEK FIVE:
Mercy in Service

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. Romans 12:1

LENT 2025

Our theme for Lent this year is called, “In View of God’s Mercy,” as we explore the depths of God’s mercy for us displayed through Jesus Christ, and then ask how we can extend that same mercy to others.



We also have a daily devotional for you to take home and use throughout the season of Lent. Those are also available at the Opportunity Table.

There’s one last Lenten Supper!

April 9th – Potluck

Meal begin at 6:15pm & by 6:45pm we will start clean-up to be ready for service at 7pm. *We would like individuals/& or families to sign –up to help with serving as coordinators for a week.* Call or text Mary Garrelts at 316-640-7009 if you would be willing to step up.

FALCON FELLOWSHIP COMING THIS WEEK!

Wednesday, April 9th, is our monthly Falcon Fellowship, where we offer the kids a full lunch and have a great speaker to tell them even more about Jesus. If you would like to help set up, serve and clean up for Falcon Fellowship, we’d love to have you! You’ll need to arrive around 11:45 (a bit earlier if you want to help grill). We’ll start serving around 12:20. We’ll be cleaning up and you’ll be out of there by 1:45. Of course, you can come for any or all of it. We also take donations of homemade cookies! If you’d like to help, you can just show up, or you can mark the tear-off to let us know you’re coming.



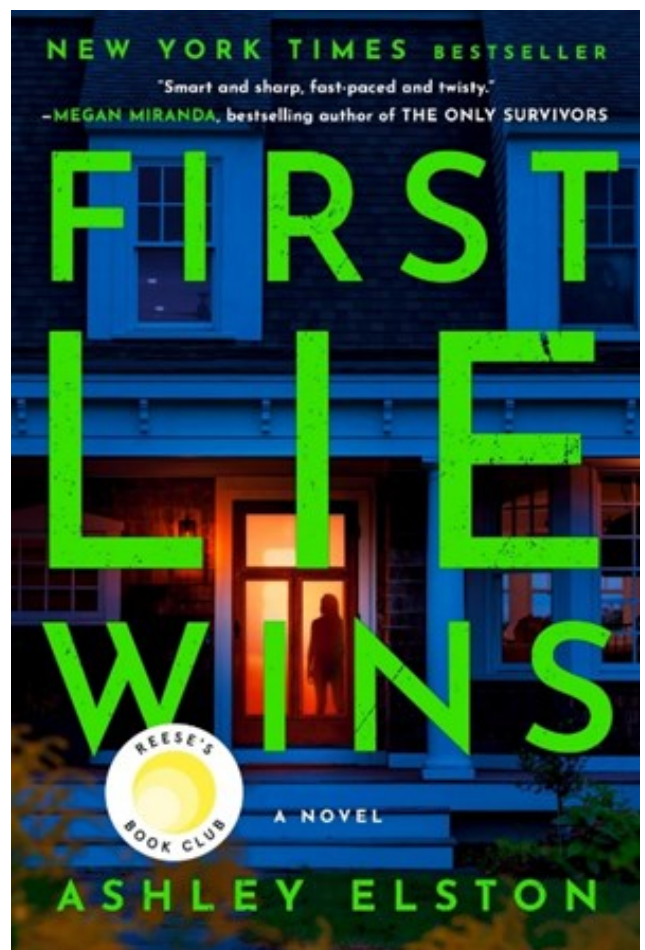
FAMILY OF GRADUATING SENIORS:



The fleece is purchased & now we just need to find a time to cut & tie the quilts for our seniors. Anyone is welcome to help. We like families to have a chance to put a little labor of love into each quilt. The time between services has worked well for some & I'm open to meeting another time as well. The large tables in the fellowship hall work well.

Let me know what works for you - I should be available all Sundays in April but we'll avoid Easter. Let me know when a time works for you. Call or text - Mary Garrelts 316-640-7009

Book Club is taking a break during Lent but will be starting back up with a fun mystery thriller. "First Lie Wins" by Ashely Elston was selected by Reese's Book Club and was a Goodreads nominee for reader's favorite mystery & thriller for 2024. We are always accepting new members! Please bring any dish of your choice to share before we dive into the book. We will be meeting Monday, April 28th at 6 pm.



MEET PATTY!



Patty Wheeler has accepted the job of being our next custodian. She will be starting immediately and doing most of the cleaning on Friday afternoons. Patty lives in Burton, is good friends with Jo & Audry, and has recently been serving regularly as one of our Heights' volunteers on Tuesday afternoons. If you happen to see her, please welcome her

onboard! And we also want to wish Pastor Ivan & Judith all the best. They recently resigned as custodians because Judith got promoted at her other job to become a trainer, and they could no longer fit this into their schedule. Thank you, Ivan & Judith!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

It is time to start preparing for Vacation Bible School this summer.

Our theme is called "True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World".

Right now, we are trying to select the best week to have VBS. If you would like to send your children or grandchildren, or would like to help & volunteer, please mark the tear-off with the best possible dates. The dates we are looking at are: **June 15-19, July 20-24, or July 27-31.** Thanks!



ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

We will be hosting our annual Spring Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, April 27**, at 12:15pm. The meeting agenda will include:

- Review of 2024 full year and 2025 first quarter financials
- Plans and changes coming from the Accessibility Committee
- Updates on the New Mission Church in Maize
- Justice Together updates



Copies of the financial information will be placed on the Opportunities table approximately two weeks before the meeting for your review.



EASTER CANDY NEEDED

If you would like to donate some candy for the Easter Egg hunt, there is a box for those gifts at the Opportunity Table. Thank you for your donations!

NEWS FLASH -- SHEMA-- (SHAY-MAH) **WHICH MEANS "TO HEAR"**

By: John Snow

DO YOU EVER WAKE UP IN THE MORNING AND FEEL YOUR MIND IS IN A STATE OF STRESS OR ANXIETY AND YOU ARE UNABLE TO FOCUS BECAUSE IT FEELS LIKE YOUR BEING PULLED IN MULTIPLE DIRECTIONS???? BUT WHILE STRESS MIGHT SEEM LIKE A MODERN ISSUE, PERHAPS THERE'S AN ANCIENT SOLUTION.

FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS JEWISH BELIEVERS HAVE SPOKEN A PRAYER THE MOMENT THEY WAKE UP THAT FOCUSES THEIR ATTENTION ON GOD RATHER THAN THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD. THE PRAYER IS CALLED THE "SHEMA", WHICH IS A HEBREW WORD THAT MEANS TO "HEAR OR LISTEN"

IT COMES TO US IN DEUTERONOMY CHAPTER 6:4-9

HEAR, O ISRAEL: THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE. LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH. THESE COMMANDMENTS THAT I GIVE YOU TODAY ARE TO BE ON YOUR HEARTS. IMPRESS THEM ON YOUR CHILDREN. TALK ABOUT THEM WHEN YOU SIT AT HOME AND WHEN YOU WALK ALONG THE ROAD, WHEN YOU LIE DOWN AND WHEN YOU GET UP. TIE THEM AS SYMBOLS ON YOUR FINGERS AND BIND THEM ON YOUR FOREHEADS. WRITE THEM ON THE DOOR-FRAMES OF YOUR HOUSES AND ON YOUR GATES.

THE WORD SHEMA IMPLIES ACTION. SIMILARLY, WE UNDERSTAND THIS IDEA WHEN JESUS SAID, "HE WHO HAS EARS, LET HIM HEAR,; WHICH WAS JESUS' WAY OF TELLING HIS FOLLOWERS TO LISTEN TO HIS WORDS AND OBEY. AS A JEW, JESUS WOULD HAVE PRAYED THE SHEMA EVERY MORNING AS A WAY OF COMMITTING HIMSELF TO A LOVING GOD AND LISTENING TO HIS WORD THAT DAY.

PRAY FOR ALL OF US; IN THE MORNING, AT NOON, AT DINNER, AND WHEN WE GO TO BED.

JUSTICE TOGETHER UPDATES

We are entering the season where we focus on our justice ministry. In partnership with the 39 other congregations of Justice Together, last year we made some important gains toward our focus issues of mental health and homelessness.



For **mental health**, because of our work, ComCare is now providing 24/7 mobile crisis units that are fully staffed. We also secured over \$300,000 in funding for the Substance Abuse Center to support their peer-mentoring & transportation programs, which is now helping over 300 people more effectively address their addictions.

better access resources and get jobs. They will start issuing these ID cards in April. When the City Council finally approved this program, they clearly stated that Justice Together was the group that helped make this happen. The city has also contributed \$500,000 to the Multi-Agency Center (the MAC) to help fund its operations, working toward the promises they made last year. The county, however, has not fulfilled their promises. So working with our county officials to address homelessness is one of our new priorities for the upcoming Nehemiah Assembly.

For **homelessness**, because of our work, the city has created the low-barrier, I-9 eligible municipal ID program that will help people

These are some huge wins! In addition to continuing to address homelessness, our new focus issue this year has been **affordable housing**. Our research teams have been working very hard with appropriate government and community leaders to address this problem. At the Solutions Rally, we will hear what final proposals we will be presenting to our City & County officials at the Nehemiah Assembly. You are invited & encouraged to attend both of these events, especially the Nehemiah Assembly. We are only able to achieve these justice wins by having as many people there as possible. And if you sign up to attend & promise to invite some of your friends & coworkers, you'll get a free Christ Lutheran Justice Team t-shirt.

SOLUTIONS RALLY

Thursday, April 10 @ 6:00pm
First United Methodist Church
330 N Broadway

NEHEMIAH ASSEMBLY

Thursday, May 8 @ 6:00pm
WSU Metroplex
5015 E 29th St N



Parish Education is looking for those in the congregation who are interested in helping with summer and winter holiday activities (VBS & Christmas Pageant). If you want to help put on these large events, or are maybe looking for a new avenue to help around church, then this is the place to be! We will only meet twice a year, once before each big event, to help get the details ironed out and responsibilities distributed. Please mark the THN if you are interested and Kelsey Helmick will get you added to her list of congregational volunteers.

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

Every year we like to send care packages to our college students around finals time. This reminds them that we love them and are praying for them during this stressful time of year. If you have a college student that would like to receive a Finals Care Package, please mark the tear-off with their current address. We plan to send these packages near the end of April. Thanks!





April
Human Needs
Collection benefits:
Members of Christ
Lutheran Church who
are College Students

Care Package

Items we are collecting:

- Beef jerky
- Chips (small bags)
- Popcorn
- Candy bars
- Rice Krispie treats
- Protein or granola bars
- Pretzels or party mix
- Ready to eat soup/ramen
- Coffee singles
- Individual drink packets



Nonfood Items

- . Post it notes
- . Highlighters
- . Pens and pencils
- . Gift cards for restaurants or grocery stores
- . Cash for gift cards



**Please bring items by Sunday, April 20
so that care packages can be mailed in
time for end of semester exams.**

**Our CLC College students
include:**

**Brett Albright
Noah Becker
Heather Boyce
Damion Brown
Caleb Freed
Vivine Langdon
Dale Smyser**

**Please let Pastor Chad know if you
know of other CLC members who are
college students.**

Opportunity to Provide Assistance to Refugee Families Resettled in the U.S.

Due to the elimination of federal funding, the need for support for our refugee families has become critical. The CLC Council voted unanimously to provide financial assistance, and asks each family at CLC to prayerfully consider making a donation to the IRC. For each donation made by the congregation, the Council has committed to match funds, up to \$4,900. These funds would be designated exclusively to provide direct support for refugee families in our local area. You can make your gift to Christ Lutheran and designate it “for IRC”. These are the gifts that will be matched and then sent to IRC.

Sunday, April 6 is the deadline to get your gift matched!

Christ Lutheran Church (CLC) has a long history of supporting those most in need in our community through a variety of outreach programs. One of these efforts is our long-standing support of refugees who have been resettled in the U.S. due to persecution in their home country. Each year, the president determines how many refugees will be resettled during the fiscal year. President Biden indicated that the U.S. would settle 125,000 refugees. To qualify for refugee status, a person must demonstrate that they are outside their home country, have a well-founded fear of persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group, and are unable or unwilling to return to their home country due to that fear; essentially, they must be fleeing persecution and cannot safely reside in their home country. On January 27, 2025, President Trump placed a 90-day pause on refugee admissions. Refugees who were currently in their first 90 days of admission were also left without funding. Subsequently, IRC was not paid for some work that they had already performed. The program, which had been on pause for 90 days, was then ended and the IRC directed to stop providing resettlement services.

IRC has been reducing the number of staff in their employment due to federal funding elimination. There were eleven staff that were laid off and most likely not able to return. IRC continues to provide services to many refugees, and these refugees have many needs. Historically, IRC will work with refugees for up to five years. Early in their resettlement, refugees especially require financial support to secure lodging, pay rent and utilities, and find transportation.

Other needs include medical care, school enrollment, job skills and employment, learning English, digital competency, etc.

How you can assist:

1. Money donated to IRC, which is not designated for a particular use, is most helpful. For example, one family may need rent assistance, another utility assistance, another funding to obtain a driver's license. Undesignated funding makes it easier for IRC to serve their clients. For a family of four, rent is typically about \$900/month, and utilities are about \$300/month. If writing a check, in the memo space indicate "unrestricted" and make the check payable to IRC Wichita.
2. IRC has a listing of items that they accept as donations. With no new arrivals, they will likely not have many home set-ups to complete, so less need for furniture donations. They still have many current families who need the items on their donation list. Hygiene, cleaning products, diapers and small household items, including electronics, are always welcomed.
3. IRC is in great need of volunteers to assist in many ways. The volunteer contact person is arely.navarrete@rescue.org, (316) 765-1038.

Volunteer needs include the following:

- A. Teaching job readiness.
 - B. Building resumes.
 - C. Assisting in job search. If anyone knows any business owners and/or HR staff, they'd like to have the information: Nayu.Wilson@Rescue.org (316) 550-2809
 - D. ELT/ESL teachers and teacher assistants.
 - E. Opportunities within their Digital Literacy program.
 - F. Opportunities with their youth program.
 - G. Citizenship classes.
 - H. Transportation.
 - I. Childcare at IRC for parents to attend classes.
4. Advocacy on both the federal and state level for refugees.

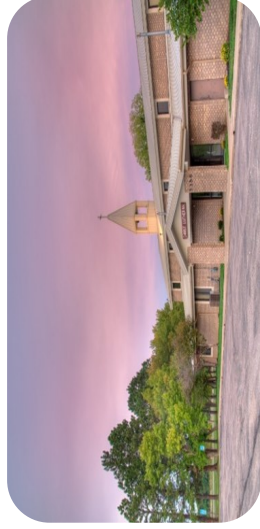
Thank you for considering how you and your family may be able to help local refugee families who are in critical need of assistance!

Christ Lutheran Church

SINCE 1951

Staff

Organist Margaret Dietz
 Cantor/Choir Director Jared Pector
 Custodians Patty Wheeler
 Bookkeeper Alan Wondra
 Parish Nurse Mary Garrelts
 Secretary Kali Mills
 Parish Ministry Associate Jody Helton



President Jim Garrelts
 Vice President Julie Stiebner
 Secretary Mitch Neuenschwander
 Treasurer Alan Wondra
 Worship Juanita Freed
 Human Needs Beverly Krasselt
 Resource Nick Baden
 Property Care Alan Schmidt
 Parish Education Kelsey Helmick
 Outreach Mary Garrelts
 Youth Emily Pector

Staff Relations Committee

Council Mallory Fowler
 Staff David Lechner
 Pastor Forrest Ehrnke

April Worship Volunteers

| Date | Time | Usher | Greeters | PPT | Soundboard | Leader | Reader | Goodies | Altar Guild | Tellers/Offering |
|------|-------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| 4/6 | 9:00 | Andrew Clouse | Landon Clouse | Justin Clouse | Jim Garrelts | Jody Helton | Julie Stiebner | Kari Clouse | Juanita Freed | Donn B & Cindy T |
| | 11:00 | Rich Harder | Becky Dykstra | NEED ONE | Matt Becker | Maynard Peterson | Ben Gibbs | Deb Bischoff | Dionne Becker | |
| 4/13 | 9:00 | Justin Clouse | Jody Helton | Noah Miller | Jim Garrelts | Landon Clouse | Lantana Howell | Jo & Audry | Janet Miller | Donn B & Jamie G |
| | 11:00 | Ben Gibbs | Taylor Cook | Casey Dykstra | Entwisles | Maynard Peterson | Jean Beal | Jamie Gibbs | Carol Dooley | |
| 4/20 | 9:00 | Landon Clouse | Justin Clouse | Mary Garrelts | Jim Garrelts | Alan Wondra | Robin Pressnall | Mary Garrelts | Deb Bischoff | Donn B & Paul S |
| | 11:00 | Paul Shaw | Kelsey Helmick | Paige Gibbs | Gibbs | Donn Bischoff | Rosie Harder | NEED ONE | Deb Bischoff | |
| 4/27 | 9:00 | Andrew Clouse | Landon Clouse | Noah Miller | Jim Garrelts | Mary Garrelts | Kari Clouse | NEED ONE | Juanita Freed | Donn B & Becky D |
| | 11:00 | Donn Bischoff | Connie Schlatter | Abby Banta | Matt Becker | Annabel Entwisle | Bobby Smyser | Kelsey Helmick | Chandra Entwisle | |

April 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| | | <p>1 Quilters 9 AM</p> <p>Men's Bible Study 10:30am</p>  | <p>2 Women's Bible Study 10:30am</p> <p>Meal 6:15 pm</p> <p>Lent 7:00pm</p> | | | |
| <p>6 First Communion Class 12:30pm</p> | <p>7 Falcon Falls HOA 7:00pm</p> | <p>8 Worship @ Shepherd's Crossing 9:30am</p> <p>1:00 Jean Knappenberger Funeral</p> | <p>9 Women's Bible Study 10:30am</p> <p>Falcon Fellowship 11:45am</p> <p>First Communion Class 4:30pm</p> <p>Meal 6:15 pm</p> <p>Lent 7:00pm</p> | <p>10 Solutions Rally @ 1st UMC 6:00pm</p> | <p>11</p> | <p>12 Men's Breakfast 8 AM</p>  |
| <p>13 First Communion Class 12:30pm</p> | <p>14 Council 6:00pm</p> | <p>15 Men's Bible Study 10:30am</p>  | <p>16 Women's Bible Study 10:30am</p>  | <p>17 Maundy Thursday 7:00pm</p> | <p>18 Good Friday 7:00pm</p> | <p>19</p> |
| <p>20 Easter</p>  | <p>21</p> | <p>22 Men's Bible Study 10:30am</p> <p>Earth Day</p> | <p>23 Women's Bible Study 10:30am</p> <p>Confirmation 6:30pm</p> | <p>24</p> | <p>25</p> | <p>26</p> |
| <p>27 Congregation Meeting 12:15pm</p> | <p>28 6pm Book Club</p> | <p>29 Men's Bible Study 10:30am</p>  | <p>30 Women's Bible Study 10:30am</p> <p>Senior High 6:30pm</p> | | | |



April Birthdays

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Wednesday, April 2– Stephanie Albright | Monday, April 7– Kelsey Callison | Monday, April 7– Clara Miller |
| Thursday, April 10– Katie Thompson | Friday, April 11– Karley Luper | Saturday, April 12– Karen Wondra |
| Sunday, April 13– Brian Lechner | Sunday, April 13– Walker Patry | Monday, April 14– Haley Smith |
| Monday, April 14– Zoey Baden | Tuesday, April 15– Brittany Garrelts | Tuesday, April 15– Matilda Spicer |
| Sunday, April 20– Bill Wenner | Sunday, April 20– Josephine Hysell | Wednesday, April 23– Bradlee Howell |
| Thursday, April 24– Lucas Lechner | Saturday, April 26– Abby Banta | Monday, April 28– Brian Miller |

April Anniversaries

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Tuesday, April 15– John & Gwyn Snow | Saturday, April 19– Jo Doerneman & Audry Brungardt | Sunday, April 27– Kevin & Becky Dykstra |
| Tuesday, April 29– Ben & Jamie Gibbs | | |



April Baptism Anniversaries

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, April 1– Sylvia Schmidt | Tuesday, April 1– Monica Spicer | Tuesday, April 1– Aspen Helmick |
| Thursday, April 3– Ryden Helmick | Sunday, April 6– Paula Rader | Tuesday, April 8– Warren Miller |
| Tuesday, April 8– Charlotte Brown | Wednesday, April 9– Lois Jensen | Wednesday, April 9– Melanie Barnhill |
| Wednesday, April 9– Lorelai Barnhill | Thursday, April 17– Kelsey Pressnall | Friday, April 18– Elaine Miller |
| Friday, April 18– Kameryn Thompson | Sunday, April 20– Christopher Smith | Monday, April 21– Freyja Carlstedt |
| Monday, April 21– Stephanie Albright | Thursday, April 24– Josephine Hysell | Friday, April 25– Kenny Shaw |
| Saturday, April 26– Bev Krasselt | Sunday, April 30– Jack Smith | |