

Welcome to Worship

September 14, 2025

After filling this out, please tear off this entire page and place it in the offering plate.

Check the reverse side to sign up for ministry opportunities.



Members and Regular Attendees

Name(s): _____



Guests & Visitors

If you are visiting with us here at Christ Lutheran, we would love to get some information from you!

Name(s): _____

E-mail: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please check what applies to you:

- ☐ Just Visiting ☐ I want to be a member of Christ Lutheran.
☐ I would like to know more information, please contact me.

Any change in contact info? (Email, address, phone, etc.)



Ministry Opportunities to **SERVE** & **GROW**

*Check all that apply. Newly added items are in **BOLD**.*

*If there are multiple people in your family,
please let us know who is signing up. Thanks!*

Yes, I'd like to sign up to volunteer for the Heights Trivia Night

Please include the following request to be emailed out to the Prayer Chain:

Have a Special Need/Question:



Hearing Assistance Available. You can pick up a receiver near the sound booth.

Justice Together Update:

In September, we will begin the activities for this next year for Justice Together . **TODAY**, September 14th, Alan Wondra will be holding a listening session between services at the church to give congregation members a chance to give feedback on your areas of concern around social injustice in Sedgwick County (or as Justice Together puts it, the things that keep you up at night). We did not hold listening sessions last year so I think it is the right time to give congregation members a chance to give us feedback again. Justice Together is still working on the issues, Homelessness and Affordable Housing in Sedgwick County. I believe these two issues are going to be tied together for this next year so a new area of concern may be voted on at the November Kick of Meeting at First United Methodist Church. So your feedback will be very valuable as we move forward. Thank you!

-Alan Wondra

Take Home News

WEEKLY CALENDAR

This Sunday:

Sept 14th 9:00 Contemporary Worship
Justice Together Listening Session
10:10 Sunday School
11:00 Traditional Worship

Mon 9/15 6:00pm Worship Meeting

Tue 9/16 10:30am Men's Bible Study

Wed 9/17 10:30am Women's Bible Study
6:00pm Choir Practice
7:00pm Book Club

Sun 9/21 **Peace Day**
10:00am ONE SERVICE ONLY



Worship Notes:

- **Communion:** All are welcome to participate & receive the grace of God! The bulletin has further instructions & information.
- **Children:** Young people are always welcome and encouraged to participate as much as possible. There are worship jobs available for the children to do during the service. They can just pick any lanyard & it explains how they can serve today. There are also Activity Bags in the lobby. We have a nursery/cry room available in Room #5 and you can watch the service from a TV in there.
- **Cell phones:** Leave them on, just turn off the ringer.
- **Wi-Fi:** Church Net **Password:** Christmas1225
- **Social Media & Livestream:** Christ Lutheran is on Facebook and we use #CLCWichita. We livestream both of our services each week. Feel free to text, tweet, share, etc. during or after the service to let your friends know what is happening in worship and to invite them to join you next Sunday.
- **Website:** www.christ-lutheran.org or just scan →
- **To give electronically:** Scan & then scroll down →



Pastoral Services Updates

Pastor Merle, our Transition Coordinator, will be joining us for worship on **Sunday, September 21st**. We will have one combined service that day, with Pastor Merle leading our worship service. Immediately following worship, Pastor Merle and our Transition Team will meet with everyone to gather your input. The Council will discuss and plan some type of meal for those staying for the meeting with Pastor Merle following the worship service. Areas that Pastor Merle and our Transition Team will review with us over this and two Sundays in October include our history, the mission and ministry that we've been providing, and determining where God is calling us as a congregation moving into the future. This information will be synthesized into a document called our "Ministry Site Profile", or MSP for short. A summary of the MSP will be posted on the Synod's website, which prospective pastoral candidates will view to learn about our church. The MSP is a critical document in our process for calling a new pastor. We strongly urge you to prayerfully participate in the information gathering meetings with Pastor Merle and the Transition Team.



Please speak with any Council member to get questions you have addressed, and I am also available to visit with you.

On behalf of the church Council,

Jim Garrelts



From the Interim Consultant:

It seems of late every season is one of change and transition. So much change is going on in the world!

Change too, for Christ Lutheran, as you both celebrate the call of your Pastor to Synod Leadership, grieve his leaving, and continue the journey from what was to what will be in your own pastoral leadership.

It will be my privilege to walk with you for a time in worship, study, and planning.

Since we're going to be walking together, it would be good for you to know

a little bit about me and about this strange time we will share together.

My name is Pastor Merle Brockhoff. (I go by Pastor Merle, as shorthand I am sometimes just called "PM.")

I've been a Lutheran Pastor for 40 years, serving in rural settings, small city settings and larger metropolitan areas. (Beatrice and Lincoln, Nebraska; Fulton, New York; Kansas City and St. Louis MO; Great Bend and Topeka KS.)

I am acquainted with a variety of congregation sizes, have supervised staff, and also been the "grunt" turning out my own bulletins. I even know my way around a mimeograph machine if those ever come back into service!

I am married to Elizabeth, a retired High School Vocal Music Instructor. She sings in the Kansas City Symphony Chorus, does private voice lessons from our home and enjoys her "Grandma duty."

We have two children.

Carl is married to Jennie and they have two children (Magnus and Bram). They live in the Parkville Missouri area. Carl is an HVAC Control Systems designer and engineer.

Jennie is a para-professional in the Park Hill School District, which gives her more time to do "mommy" stuff with her own kids!

Our daughter Nyssa is a Professional Mechanical Engineer with RTM Associates. She lives in Springfield MO. She has her PE and is signing off on plans and performing architect billing, cost negotiation, and managing work groups around the country and in the Philippines.

I served for years as an “Interim Pastor,” and in that role I was the “go-between” to help a congregation transition from saying “goodbye” to their previous pastor and preparing them to receive new leadership. In that role I was residential, basically “becoming” your pastor in that “in-between” time.

Now that I have retired from full-time ministry, I am doing transition work on a consultative basis. This is a bit more cost effective for the congregation, as I focus my efforts on helping you complete the “Ministry Site Profile” (MSP) that will be your document to introduce yourself to potential candidates.

The task of a “Transition Consultant” is to work with your appointed Transition Team and facilitate some congregational gatherings for conversation and discernment.

Together we will take a look at what is going well. We will ask some good questions about why that works so well for you, why you do some of the things you do around here, and consider what you have long done in the light of new and emerging realities in this world.

I am here to help you discern what God is up to in your spheres of influence, how you can join with what God is already doing in your community, and ask the question, “What is God calling Christ Lutheran into next?”

Pastor David Whetter, and then Bishop-Elect Donna Simon from the Central States Synod Office will also be working with your Council and eventually your Call Committee as you discern how best to move forward.

I will be with you to lead worship on September 21st, and then three other times in the coming months.

We will use those Sunday mornings and the opportunities after worship for a time for large group gathering. I’ll do a bit of teaching/presentation at those sessions and then lead you in conversations in smaller groups.

Your Transition Team members will be at those tables or groupings with you, listening to what you have to say and recording what they hear as you discuss.

The Transition Team will then gather after the large group session to process what they heard and to make some notes about where what they learned will help them complete the Ministry Site Profile.

Sometimes those Transition Team meetings will be done in person right after the event. Sometimes we need some space and time, and will do them via Zoom.

By doing these large group gatherings and breakout groups, your transition team gets a chance to hear the variety of concerns, hopes and dreams you have as congregation members. They will take what they hear directly to heart as they fill out the Ministry Site Profile.

There will also be a congregational survey opportunity made available to everyone on your membership list sometime in October/early November. Your response to the survey will help your Transition Team immensely. Please be diligent in completing it and returning it!

By the end of November we should have a pretty good handle on all the material we will need to complete the MSP.

While I am primarily a consultant working with the Transition Team and Council, I do want to make sure you have ways to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

1) You can contact me via e-mail. I check it multiple times a day. My e-mail address is mb17300@gmail.com.

2) You can also call me directly if you have questions or concerns, or want clarification about anything. My cell phone number is **(816) 896-4961**.

I'm looking forward to working with you, engaging in conversations, and helping you think creatively and in tune with the calling of the Holy Spirit.

There is much beauty in the change of things when you see God's hand at work in it all.

May we discover the beauty of transition as we experience it together and support one another, as the Holy Spirit begins even now to work in the heart of that one who is being prepared to become your next leader in Word and Sacrament.

Pastor Merle

**YES, WE
WANT
YOU!**



**Free Donuts.
Great Company. Real Talk.**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
MIDDLE AND SENIOR HIGH**



**Upstairs Youth Room
This Sunday, Sept 14th**

**We're kicking off the Faith Foundations
video series (Part 1). Come hang out,
make friends, and grow your faith together!**

Bring a friend — everyone's welcome!



Rite of Installation

Please Join us:

**Sunday, September 28, 2025
5:00 p.m.**

Atonement Lutheran Church

9948 Metcalf Ave

Overland Park, KS 66212

for the installation service of

The Reverend Donna J. Simon

as the fifth Bishop of the Central States Synod,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Rostered and Lay Ministers of all traditions are invited to vest;
the color of the day is red.

A reception will follow the service.

Updated Financials through the end of July:

RECEIPTS	2025 CUMULATIVE
Envelope	\$86,914.00
Loose	\$1,493.00
ACH/Tithe/Elect/Other	\$44,360.53
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$132,767.53
EXPENSES	\$154,590.25
OPERATING FUND GAIN/LOSS	(\$21,822.72)
OPERATING FUND BALANCE - JULY 31, 2025	(\$11,956.77)

As the church Treasurer, I feel like I need to bring to the congregation's attention to the decline in our monthly receipts of general funds to the total general fund expenses we have paid. Through the end of July, we have spent \$21,822.72 more dollars in expenses than we have received in congregational giving. True we will not be spending funds on a Pastors salary and benefits after August, but we will have to pay for Supply Pastors. Christ Lutheran is in a strong financial position right now, but we will continue to incur operating expenses without a called Pastor in the pulpit. We need to cover these operating expenses and hopefully bring the above negative dollar amount down to a smaller amount by year end. Staying in a strong financial position will benefit the church in our efforts to call a new pastor.

Many congregation families pay electronically. That is a sound way to know your giving is automatically being sent and you don't have to remember to write a check on a weekly or monthly basis. As we prepare pledge cards for 2026 in a couple of months, please make sure the amount being pledged is also being changed electronically with your financial institution.



SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

This year Sunday School will look a little different, for both adults and kids! We will be having only TWO adolescent classrooms. One for children in Kindergarten - 4th grade that will meet in classroom

number 6. Then there is another classroom upstairs that will consist of kids from 5th grade to confirmation age.

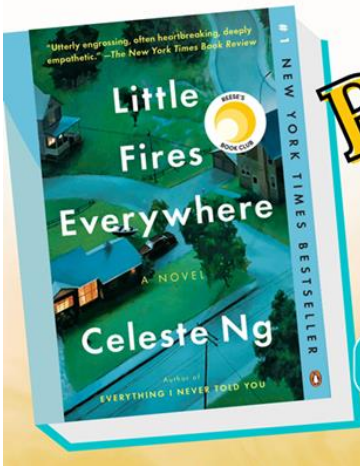
KIDS WHO HAVE COMPLETED CONFIRMATION will now be helping out in the two previously stated rooms. This will give them an opportunity to start teaching others about their faith and God, and form relationships with other children and adults.

There will ALWAYS be an adult teacher present to teach the lesson. These kids will not be leading a whole class unless they step forward and say that is something they are interested in doing. They will be acting like paras, if you will. They will help the adult teacher set up supplies, step in if one person is falling behind, and be a useful hand when needed.

ADULTS - the class that was led by Pastor Chad will now be shared by Jody Helton and Alan Schmidt. They will be working together to cover every Sunday as their availability allows.

Please give all these new changes some patience and grace as we work out the kinks for what is sure to be another successful Sunday School year. If you have any questions, feel free to call/text me at 785-408-6645 or email helmickkelsey@gmail.com

~Kelsey Helmick



Book Club

Sept. 17th
at 7 p.m.

We will be having dessert

TIME CHANGE!

Because of Choir Practice, we have changed the Book Club meeting to 7pm!

We will no longer be serving a meal. We will be sharing desserts.

Prayer Chain Requests

There have been many questions about how Prayer Chain Requests are going to be handled since Pastor Chad's departure. After much consideration, we have decided that the most efficient way for these to be handled is to have an e-mail specified for Prayer Chain Requests. If you have a request, please e-mail it to:

prayerchain@christ-lutheran.org

This e-mail will be checked at least once daily. Please type out your request the way you would like it sent out. If you are submitting the request for someone else, and you are including their name, please be sure you have their permission if you are providing details. Thank you!

-Jim Garrelts, President



Due to the sale of St Pauls building, September 27th will be the last scheduled breakfast feed and clothing distribution for our homeless population. As a congregation you have really rolled your sleeves up and made this a very worthwhile ministry, thanks so

much. Let's all contribute in a big way this one last time with helping hands and hearts.

We could use help building burritos Friday night the 26th, serving food on Saturday morning at St Pauls, and digging deep into your discontinued wardrobes. It wouldn't be too early to begin thinking of cold weather wear

donations. Needs for men and women are as follows:

- shirts/ tops
- pants/ jeans/ sweats
- jackets / coats
- underwear
- socks
- shoes/ boots
- belts
- blankets
- small toiletries

If you have any questions please feel free to text or call Gina Christensen at 316-727-1402



**September Human Needs
collection Benefits:**

ICTSOS

End Human Trafficking in Wichita

Freedom. Hope.

A new beginning.

For victims of human trafficking these may seem like unrealistic concepts. But there is help, and there is hope because people in Wichita are aware of the problem of sex trafficking and they want to help.

Christ Lutheran Church is supporting this organization by collecting items for Fresh Start bags for youth in need.

Items Currently Requested:

- **Sports bras in sizes large and XL**
- **Men's bottoms (shorts or sweats) in size large only**
- **Hoodies or sweatshirts for females in youth sizes small, medium, large, and XL**
- **Hoodies or sweatshirts for males in youth sizes small, medium, and XL**

Mark Your Calendars! Saturday, October 18th!



Our Annual Trivia Night will be rebranded this year as our Heights Ministry Trivia Night!

We will be asking for donations of Auction Baskets - Let Becky Dykstra or Mary Garrelts know of your intent.

We need lots of volunteers to put this on - Let Becky or Mary or Robin Pressnall know if you can help.

We want to sell lots of tables - get some friends together to play! -Registration forms are on the Opportunity Table!

Plans are in the works - make plans to join us that evening!

ONE SERVICE NEXT WEEK!

There will only be one service next week, Sunday, September 21st at 10:00 AM. Please disregard the volunteers on the early and late service bulletins (I had printed them before thinking about this, whoops!) The volunteers on the last page of the THN is correct. Thank you all for your patience during this difficult transition. We are all doing the best that we can. 😊

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT WEEK,

SEPTEMBER 21:

	<u>ONE SERVICE</u>
Usher	Donn Bischoff
Greeter	Landon Clouse
PowerPoint	Maynard Peterson
Soundboard	Jim Garrelts
Worship Leader	Bonnie Johnson
Reader	Robin Pressnall
Goodies	Kelsey Helmick
Altar Guild	Deb Bischoff
Counters	Donn B & Jamie G.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 93

Scripture reading for September 21:

Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17

Christ Lutheran Church

5356 N. Hillside, Wichita, Kansas 67219

Phone: 316-744-1242

Fax: 316-425-8875



ELCA