

# Welcome to Worship

September 28, 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.

### 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](mailto: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, CLC President

# Take Home News

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

This Sunday:

Sept 28<sup>th</sup> 9:00 Contemporary Worship  
 10:10 Sunday School  
 11:00 Traditional Worship  
 5:00pm Rite of Installation

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

Wed 10/1 10:30am Women's Bible Study  
 6:00pm Choir Practice

Sun 10/5 **10:00am One Worship Service**

Mon 10/6 7:00pm Falcon Falls HOA Meeting



## 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](http://www.christ-lutheran.org) or just scan →
- **To give electronically:** Scan & then scroll down →



# Transition Consultant Report – “Community”

It was my pleasure to worship with you on September 21<sup>st</sup> and to do the first of our “Process Sessions” together on “Community.”

First of all, you win the prize for the most engaged congregation! You had well over 100 participants stay and engage in conversations and turn in survey response forms! This is immensely helpful in the work of your transition team as they listen intently to what you have to say about your community, their perceptions, and their hopes!

The purpose of these larger group gatherings is for the Transition Team to gather information as you all discuss areas together. What they hear and discover will go into the “Ministry Site Profile”, which is the document you put together to introduce yourself to potential candidate and which gives the Synod Bishop and her associates information about your ministry site to assist them in identifying potential candidates.

I began the day with brief introduction to an optional instrument that your council could use. It is called a “Sustainability Study.” It is comprised of a series of questions and scenarios that the congregation might find helpful in getting an overview of facilities and the needs required for continued ministry.

Here are a few “highlights” from that presentation.

**Facilities** – The study asks questions about the age of structures, their condition, mechanical systems and then poses questions about how the congregation might handle major events (Such as an HVAC failure, roof replacement, etc.)

**Finances** – This portion of the study looks at your demographics, giving and stewardship practices, and helps you identify strengths or potential weaknesses in sustainability.

**People** – This area of the sustainability study looks at people resources and asks questions like

“Do we regularly have a variety of people willing to serve on council?”

“Do we regularly have enough people to fill all our committee positions?”

“Do we regularly have enough people to staff all our important ministries and lead worship?”

The concern here in terms of sustainability is that Jesus regularly challenged his disciples to service but also recognized the need for them to “come away” and rest.

Sustainability requires the sharing of mutual burdens and giving people the ability to be renewed and refreshed in the task of ministry.

While doing a “Sustainability Study” is optional and is completed by the Council Leadership, its findings can often be helpful.

**“Community Session.”** -- We then went into a process session as small groups, looking at the matter of “Community.” Using a “Likert Scale” (Are we a little like this, or a lot like this?) We scaled three questions and held conversations as small groups about ourselves.

On the question of whether we are **“Formal” or “Informal”**, the scale showed that Christ Lutheran tends to lean “formal.”

There are caveats to this however, as indicated by the comments collected.

You have a strong Lutheran tradition and that informs even your informal worship as you craft services using fairly traditional elements of liturgy and music.

You are, however, much more informal and spontaneous in your fellowship and execution of events and worship.

There is some flexibility in how things are accomplished and some adaptation already taking place. I did not sense any anxiety connected to changes, even when a person unfamiliar with your worship came to lead!

So, despite liking formality, you can be flexible and spontaneous within certain parameters. Formal liturgy is augmented by variety of instrumentation and expression/interpretation of hymnody.

On the question of having **“Clearly defined plans” or “No goals,”** the Likert preference was pretty evenly split in the middle.

That does not mean you are rudderless, it just means that you sense your “flux” time clearly.

Comments were very helpful here, as clearly defined plans tended to focus on both ministries underway and your sense of mission in the community.

There is a general desire to have more clearly defined goals or plans, but also an acknowledgment that often such plans require leadership. While the transition time might be a good time to look at future possibilities, implementation may have to wait for a pastor in place.

There were significant comments about confidence in leadership of the current council and the leadership in outreach and small group ministries.

There is also prevalent in the comments a “can-do” spirit in the congregation

Several comments made clear that once a need is identified or a project is proposed, there is often momentum to jump in and do it.

The question about community make-up which asked “**Are we Diverse**” or “**Homogenous**” leaned heavily into the “Homogenous” area.

This is no big surprise, as most of our congregations grew out of European waves of immigration. It is not that we do not wish to be more diverse, it is simply the case that our focus on tradition and backward looking ties tend to blind us to possibilities in the present.

There were a couple of qualifiers.

There was general acknowledgement of the community surrounding Christ Lutheran is ethnically pretty homogenous, but that you are aware of and engaged in ministries in other parts of Wichita that enrich your contact with diversity.

Diversity was also noted in your work with the Heights youth who come to Christ Lutheran.

Like most congregations, there is a general wish to be accepting and more open, but an acknowledgement that cultural factors have mitigated against broad diversity in the congregation and community.

There was generally a greater acknowledgment of the kind of economic diversity that exists in the area and at Christ.

Another positive was the general “mix” of people in worship. They were not all “grey hairs.” You do have children, young adults, and kids actively involved in worship. Don’t discount those signs of vibrancy and being comfortable with a mixture of ages. You are not as “same looking” as a good many congregations are these days!

The “next step” will be in the court of the Transition Team appointed by your Council. They will get all the comments from the process time to use to fold into the writing of the Ministry Site Profile. That team has already met and has begun to do some writing and research for the profile.

Or next large group session will be **Sunday, October 5th**, when I will once again be with you to lead worship, preach, and then facilitate another congregational conversation.

We will be looking at “**Leadership**” on that day.

Pastor Merle will do a brief presentation called **“May the Forces Be with You!”** which highlights the situation within the ELCA for leadership and some of the challenges as well as blessings connected to these rapidly changing times.

In the meantime, remember to keep your “Transition Team” members in your prayers as they begin the task of writing and reflecting on the data they are collecting.

Keep also in prayer that “one” whom the Holy Spirit is already working in who will become your next Pastor. God is good, and God is at work in the process!

Thank you for taking this process seriously and engaging in it! I look forward to seeing you all in September!

-Pastor Merle.

### Living Lutheran Update

Many of you have likely received the most recent issue of Living Lutheran recently, with a notification on the front that it will be your last quarterly issue. The church Council will be discussing this at their October meeting to determine whether to cover the cost of renewal for all church members. If you have thoughts and ideas, please share them with a Council member.

### Upcoming Transition Update

Thank you to everyone who came to the combined worship service, led by Pastor Merle, on September 21<sup>st</sup>, and for staying after service for pizza and a meeting with Pastor Merle and our Transition Team to provide your thoughts toward preparation of our Ministry Site Profile. Mark your calendars for October 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, when we will once again have a combined service, with Pastor Merle presiding and then followed by additional sessions where he and the Transition Team can get your input as we prepare to search for a new pastor to call.

## Men's Breakfast

We will be at our usual location at Auntie C's in Park City at 61<sup>st</sup> and Broadway at 8:00 am on Saturday, October 11th for some good food and fellowship. If you have any questions, contact Donn Bischoff at 209-2138.



# *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

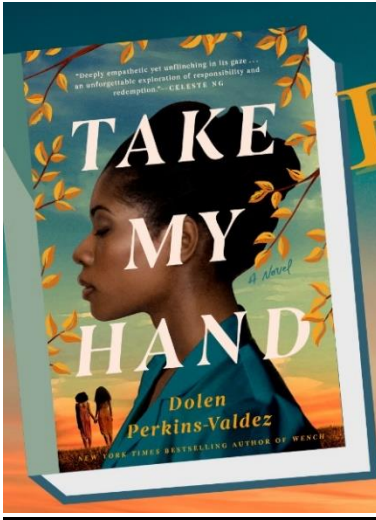
*The Reverend Donna J. Simon*

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.






# Book Club

October 22nd  
at 7 p.m.

This is an open group  
to anyone who enjoys  
books and snacks!



Scan for  
Goodreads review



**Know Someone  
Hospitalized or  
Experiencing Serious  
Illness?  
*Having Surgery  
Soon?***

Please let Mary Garrelts, Parish Nurse,  
by ***phone or text*** –  
**316-640-7009.**

I'll follow up & we'll keep abreast of our  
members with health issues.



## October Human Needs

We will be  
collecting items for military  
veterans by supporting the  
organization called:

**P A S S A G E W A Y S**  
ALL MILITARY COMMUNITY MEMBERS HAVE  
SHELTER, FOOD, HOPE AND A NEW MISSION

**Items veterans need when transitioning  
from Homeless to Hopeful!**

**Note: if you have furniture to donate,  
please bring it to the designated  
locations on the list. CLC will collect  
the smaller items.**

# In October we will also be collecting Christmas cards and gifts to send to active-duty troops and donating them to:



**Help us support our military troops during Christmas!**  
**Here is a list of items they LOVE to receive:**

**CARDS & LETTERS** The troops love to hear from all of us, and mail brightens their day!

## **CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**

- Garland
- Plastic ornaments
- 1ft tall or smaller artificial trees
- Wrapping paper in squares
- Strands of lights
- Christmas hats
- Santa stockings

## **ENTERTAINMENT**

- Blank note cards with envelopes (to send mail back home – NO postage required)
- Gamebooks like crossword puzzles, etc.
- Toys:
  - Nerf footballs
  - Playing cards
  - Frisbees
  - Hacky sacks

## **SNACKS/FOOD** They appreciate items new to market.

- Beef jerky/Slim Jims
- Granola bars & protein bars
- Herbal teas
- Pringles
- Trail mix
- Dried fruit
- Microwave popcorn
- Hostess cake products
- Instant oatmeal
- Dry soup and ramen noodles
- Boxed chips & crackers
- Pop-Tarts
- Ground coffee - all flavors
- Tuna & chicken in pouches or ready-to-eat kits
- Powdered drink mixes & protein powders
- Gum & hard candies (NOTHING that will melt)
- Boxed cookies (Boxed are best and NOTHING that will melt)

## **TOILETRIES** NO AEROSOLS CAN BE MAILED and NO MEDS!

- Baby wipes
- Body wash
- Sunblock (SPF 45 or higher)
- Socks (Black & white cotton)
- Lip balm

**\*\* ALL items must fit into a 12 x 12 x 5 box to be shipped overseas. \*\***

**PROHIBITED/RESTRICTED** items that CANNOT be shipped:

- Chocolate
- Hand sanitizer
- Fragile (glass)
- Batteries

## 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!

## WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT WEEK,

### OCTOBER 5:

#### ONE SERVICE (10:00AM)

Usher	Ben Gibbs
Greeter	Kelsey Helmick
PowerPoint	Jody Helton
Soundboard	Jim Garrelts
Worship Leader	Alan Wondra
Reader	Jamie Gibbs
Goodies	Deb Bischoff
Altar Guild	Chandra Entwisle
Counters	Donn B & Cindy T

**ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 84**

Scripture reading for October 5:

*Exodus 16:1-18*

**Christ Lutheran Church**

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