

The Messenger

Christ Lutheran
Church
5356 N. Hillside
Wichita, KS
67219



September 2025 Newsletter

Contact us at office@Christ-Lutheran.org

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

Fall Worship Schedule

9:00 AM- Contemporary Worship
10:10 AM- Sunday School
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, September 13th 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 October 7th 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



	July	YTD	Rolling 12
	2025	2025	Months YTD
Receipts	\$14,029.15	\$132,767.53	\$229,240.62
Expenses	\$22,892.64	\$154,590.25	\$260,656.89
Variance	(\$8,863.49)	(\$21,822.72)	(\$31,416.27)

Respectfully Submitted, **Alan Wondra**



Secretary: Kali Mills

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E-mail: office@Christ-Lutheran.org

Parish Nurse - Mary Garrelts



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

Dear Friends:

Thank you for making August 17 a memorable day for me! It has truly been a joy to serve 60 years as organist/ pianist of Christ Lutheran Church! I appreciate your cards and kind words. I like this quote by Martin Luther : Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.



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



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 "inbetween" 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.

You can contact me via e-mail. I check it multiple times a day.

My e-mail address is mb17300@gmail.com.

You can also call me directly if you have questions or concerns, or want clarification about anything. My cell phone number is **(816) 8964961**.

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



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.

HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP

Christ Lutheran Outreach intends to continue our outreach mission to the youth of Heights High School. We invite any Junior and Senior student to walk across the street and receive our love of Christ to them by providing free snacks and a place to have fellowship and/or quiet during their lunch hour.

We need Volunteers for this important program. I will be confirming the ability of our previous volunteers to be able to help again this school year. A couple of additional volunteers are needed either on a regular basis or as a substitute.

One reason is the absence of Pastor Chad, so I will be greeting and watching outdoor activities and not available inside. Secondly, Heights has changed their lunch schedule for this school year.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: Lunch 11:36 to 12:16.

Volunteers on those days needed by 11:20.

Wednesday: Lunch at 10:54 to 11:34. Volunteers needed by 10:40.

Thanks to all who are able to volunteer and to those who provide funding for this major outreach mission.

-Donn Bischoff





THRIVENT MEMBER?

Are you a Thrivent Member and do you have any remaining Actions Team grants available for 2025? If you are a Thrivent member, you are likely eligible for two \$250 action team grants every calendar year. Last year we were able to use these to purchase A LOT of chips & soda for

the Heights students, and it is about time to do that again. If you apply before the end of July, you will be entered into a drawing for even more money to be funneled to Christ Lutheran. If you used your two grants in late 2024 (like many of you did), you're eligible for two more in the 2025 calendar year again. If you were planning to support the Heights' Outreach with your grants again this year, this might be the month to apply for those grants. Thank you!

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!





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.

Due to the sale of St. Paul's 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



**NEWS FLASH : "RACHUM" IS HEBREW FOR MERCY
PRONOUNCED "RAK-OOM" AND IT MEANS TO "ACTIVELY
SHOW COMPASSION".**

By: John Snow

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23 SAYS-- " THE LORD'S LOVING KINDNESS NEVER CEASE, FOR HIS COMPASSION NEVER FAILS. THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING; GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS."

ANCIENT BELIEVERS USED TO THINK THAT EVERY NIGHT WHILE THEY SLEPT, THEIR SOULS WENT BACK TO GOD TO BE CLOSE TO THE CREATOR AND BE GIVEN WISDOM.. THEN GOD WOULD RETURN THEIR SOULS TO THEM EVERY MORNING TO BEGIN THE NEW DAY.

I KNOW SOME OF US FIND IT HARD TO START A NEW DAY BECAUSE WE STILL CARRY THE TROUBLES OF YESTERDAY. MAYBE YOU WAKE UP FEELING LIKE YOU DON'T DESERVE GOD'S MERCY. YOU FEEL LIKE THE BAD THINGS THAT HAPPENED IN YOUR PAST WILL OVERWHELM YOU IN THE DAYS TO COME.

THIS IS NOT HOW THE HEBREW'S THINK!!

FREDERICK BUECHNER (GOD REST HIS SOUL) SAYS IT BEST
" THE JUSTICE AND MERCY OF THE JUDGE ARE ULTIMATELY ONE."
WAKE UP AND PRAISE THE LORD EVERY MORNING.

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

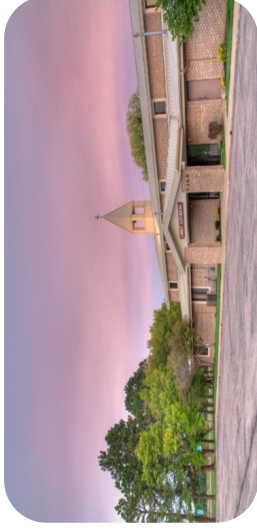


Christ Lutheran Church

SINCE 1951

Church Council

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



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

Staff Relations Committee

Council Mallory Fowler
Staff David Lechner
Pastor Forrest Ehrke

September Worship Volunteers

Date	Time	Usher	Greeters	PPT	Soundboard	Leader	Reader	Goodies	Altar Guild	Tellers/Offering
9/7	9:00	Justin Clouse	Jody Helton	Landon Clouse	Alan Wondra	Robin Pressnall	Kari Clouse	Jo & Audry	Derek Farris	Donn B & Bonnie J
	11:00	Ben Gibbs	Becky Dykstra	Casey Dykstra	Matt Becker	Annabel Entwisle	Jamie Gibbs	Deb Bischoff	Emily Pector	
9/14	9:00	Landon Clouse	Justin Clouse	Mary Garrelts	Jim Garrelts	Jody Helton	Julie Stiebner	Kari Clouse	Janet Miller	Donn B & Becky D
	11:00	Paul Shaw	Taylor Cook	Paige Gibbs	Courtlynn Dykstra	Donn Bischoff	Steve Slipsager	Jamie Gibbs	Schweitzer	
9/21	9:00	Justin Clouse	Landon Clouse	NEED ONE	Jim Garrelts	Mary Garrelts	Robin Pressnall	NEED ONE	Juanita Freed	Donn B & Jamie G
	11:00	Donn Bischoff	Connie Schlatter	Maynard Peterson	Entwisles	Bonnie Johnson	Rosie Harder	Kelsey Helmick	Deb Bischoff	
9/28	9:00	Landon Clouse	Jody Helton	Justin Clouse	Jim Garrelts	NEED ONE	Lantana Howell	Mary Garrelts	Derek Farris	Donn B & Paul S
	11:00	Rich Harder	Deb Bischoff	NEED ONE	Gibbs	Rosie Harder	Jean Beal	Bonnie Johnson	Dionne Becker	

September 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1 Falcon Falls HOA 7 PM	2 Quilters 9 AM 	3	4	5	6
7 Happy Grandparent's Day	8 Council 6:00pm 	9	10 Women's Bible Study 10:30am Men's Bible Study 10:30am	11	12	13 Men's Breakfast 8 AM 
14 Justice Together Listening Session Between Services	15 Worship Meeting 6:00pm 	16 Men's Bible Study 10:30am 	17 Women's Bible Study 10:30am Book Club 7 PM	18	19	20
21 Peace Day 	22	23 Men's Bible Study 10:30am Willowbend North HOA 7 PM	24 Women's Bible Study 10:30am 	25	26 St. Paul's Breakfast Prep 5:30 PM	27 St. Paul's Breakfast 7 AM
28	29	30 Men's Bible Study 10:30am 				



September Birthdays

Tuesday, September 2– Connie Schlatter	Thursday, September 4– Carol Jones	Saturday, September 6– John White
Sunday, September 7– Nicholas Lechner	Sunday, September 7– Nora Callison	Saturday, September 13– Kevin Dykstra
Saturday, September 13– Brittany Lechner	Saturday, September 13– Breanna Foster	Tuesday, September 16– Lantana Howell
Wednesday, September 17– Grant Stucky	Tuesday, September 23– Courtlynn Dykstra	Wednesday, September 24– Mallory Helton
Monday, September 29– David Lechner	Tuesday, September 30– Shannon Banta	Tuesday, September 30– Christopher Harris

September Anniversaries

Saturday, September 27– Kim & Tara Brown		
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September Baptism Anniversaries

Monday, September 1– Margaret Dietz	Wednesday, September 3– Paul Shaw	Friday, September 5– Paige Gibbs
Friday, September 5– Lucy Garrelts	Saturday, September 6– Nathaniel Becker	Sunday, September 28– Ben Gibbs
Sunday, September 28– Henrik Vingerud	Tuesday, September 30– Donn Bischoff	Tuesday, September 30– Jeffery Garrelts

