



**Pastor's Column
April 2026**

This is my first spring in Walla Walla. I'm enjoying seeing things sprout from the ground, and trees bloom in colors other than yellow. One of my many grand plans for the yard is to plant vegetables, something I've been missing for a while. Since so much of this is new to me I've been consulting the videos and blogs on what to plant when. I've found them helpful, sometimes. Often, though, they come from different climate zones, and the information doesn't transfer to here. For that I have good neighbors who can give me specific advice, down to the details of the soil quality of my yard. I guess it helps if you installed the garden with the previous owners.

One overwhelming feeling you get in all this is that of not knowing what you're doing. So much fumbling, learning, failing. So much trial and error. It gets exhausting. It makes you long for the times when you felt like you knew things like a local, and didn't have to take on the humility of asking for help all the time.

Bob Dylan, in one of his 600 songs (that's the actual number), says the line "Oh but I was so much older then, I'm younger than that now". It was the theme of one of my high school graduation speeches (Bob Dylan went to my high school). At one stage in life you are the expert. You've risen through the ranks. Now you leave and start over, like a kid. You were older then, but younger than that now.

Change takes a lot of humility. Trying to learn and relearn names. Getting names wrong and being corrected. Mispronouncing "Touchet." Calling the high school by its full and proper name. On and on. You step out of one stage the expert and walk on to a new one the novice.

Reflecting on our feelings about these things helps us understand a lot of the resistance we put up to transitions. The future might be good, but how good is it really? What will be my role? How will I fit in?

Am I going to be the fool who gets corrected, or the smug expert who scoffs at the tourist? There's anxiety there about the new, and a fear of parting with the old. Holding on becomes a way of protecting myself from feeling stupid.

The irony of it all, of course, is that by refusing to step out and learn new things we become less wise and less knowledgeable. Our expertise in our local area of influence is great, but narrow. To avoid feeling stupid we avoid experiencing. To avoid the humility we avoid the gains we might get.

All this comes down to the central problem of living the resurrection. It requires death first. I can't get to the new life in Christ without going through the death of the old self. And my old self may not be perfect, or I may not even be happy with it, but it is mine, and I know it well. What is coming, what Jesus has in store for me, I don't know for sure what that will look like.

So we fear the growth we could have because of the death to get there first. Easter is usually celebrated as a celestial event – cosmic event – Jesus is resurrected in the body and now we can be resurrected too. Totally true. But only part of the story. Resurrection is really a way of living, of going through the world, of embracing futures we cannot see trusting in Jesus' promise to raise us again when we get through. It's a way of living, of being in the world, of taking on growth without fear.

So this Easter, we will gather to sing of the resurrection, and remember that no matter what change happens to us, what giving up we have to do, there is Jesus on the other side saying, "come with me"

Happy Easter
Pastor Lars



New Email addresses for the Church
Pastor Lars : pastor@christwallawalla.org
Office : office@christwallawalla.org
Care Team : Care@christwallawalla.org



Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday Soup Supper @ 6:00pm Service @ 7:00pm

Good Friday Service 7:00PM

Easter Sunday Services

8:30am & 10:30am with breakfast from 9:30am to 10:20am

Sign-up sheets for Easter Breakfast are in the Narthex.

Saturday April 4th at 3 pm, the CLC Youth and Community Congregation are invited to participate with our set-up for the Easter Breakfast. Congregation participants and youth family are invited to help instruct and guide our youth on how to serve our Congregation at the breakfast.

After set up and instruction, the youth are invited to participate in an Easter Egg hunt.



Easter Sunday, April 5th will be our annual Easter Breakfast youth fundraiser.

This happens in between our Easter services.

Donations to our youth are encouraged.

The Breakfast will be pancakes, sausage, fruit and eggs. Juice and coffee to drink.



Easter Sunday Flowers for the Cross



We will be bringing out the big cross and would love everyone to adorn it on Easter Sunday with fresh cut flowers. You can bring flowers to either service. After the later service the Cross will be placed outside for all to see. What a beautiful way to represent Resurrection Sunday!!!



CARE TEAM IS READY!

The CARE TEAM of Christ Lutheran Church is ready to go live! After a second meeting, we were able to come up with the logistics of how this would work. With Pastor Lars getting a new website for our church, as well as new email addresses, we have the ability now to have an email address, which will be specific for accessing the care team. Here it is:

Care@christwallawalla.org.

This email address will be monitored by members of the care team. When a need arises, - whether for a member of Christ Lutheran, or a neighbor/friend of a member, you will be able to send us an email with all the details such as what the need is, how to reach the person and the best time of day to reach them, etc. It will also be an option to contact the church office and have Dee send us an email or call us. If you prefer to call us, Melanie Hein has agreed to list her phone number at 509-386-4635.

Look for the information poster board in the narthex as well as near the back entrance. (Thank you, Judith H-D!). And once again we would like to reiterate, the person who may need some help does not need to be a member. Let's show the people of Walla Walla what it means to live out the love of Christ for our neighbor. Thanks!

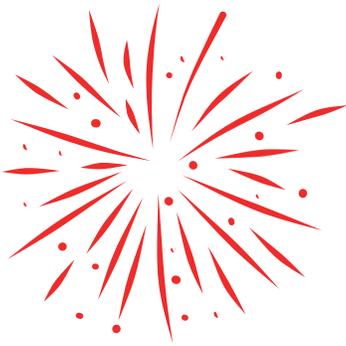


APRIL BIRTHDAYS

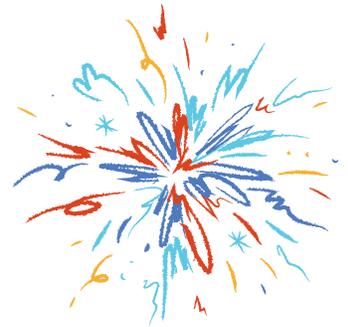
Nick Carter	4/1
Donna Snider	4/1
Jeannine Manny	4/4
Paul Holce	4/5
Jordan Ness	4/5
Christina Swanson	4/6
John Telstad	4/6
Laura Berry	4/7
Peter Swant	4/8
Zachary Hill	4/9
Debbie Moberg-Williams	4/9
Anne Sumner	4/9
Dan Anderson	4/11



Mike Gwinn	4/11
Jeremy McCroskey	4/12
Tallulah Sickles	4/14
Scott Sumner	4/14
Dutch Sickles	4/20
Emily Stone	4/20
Liv Gomsrud	4/22
Melanie Hein	4/22
Sara Van Donge	4/23
Jon Jenson	4/26
Dale Norby	4/30



IT'S TIME FOR A NEW DIRECTORY



We would love for you to be included in our new directory. Linda Lohrmann & Janet Mobley are working to make this happen. They would like to complete this project by the beginning of June. In order to make this happen we are going to need your help.

First we would love **current** photos of you and your spouse, you and your family, or just you. There are going to be several ways to accomplish this.

- Send a current close up photo in Jpeg format to office@christwallawalla.org.
- We will be taking photos after Sunday service at coffee hour. Those dates will be announced in the near future.
- We will also have someone here at the church several times during the week and those dates and times will be announced in the near future.

We also need your current information. Have you moved? Gotten a new phone number? Gotten a new email address? Please let us know by calling Dee at 509-525-2243 or emailing her at: office@christwallawalla.org.



COLLECTION TO BENEFIT HOPE HEALS

At the March meeting of the social justice group, we welcomed Annette Bovent, founding director of Hope Heals. (Hopehealswallawalla@gmail.com). It's a nonprofit organization she started 10 years ago dedicated to supporting people who are transitioning from homelessness to housing in the Walla Walla community. She was accompanied by Kathryn B. who is a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Kathryn invited us to join St. Paul's in a **SPRING CLEANING DRIVE** to benefit Hope Heals. Annette's organization delivers extensive care packages with everything a client needs when they move into stable housing, from dish towels to sheets, to hair care items, kitchen wares, cleaning supplies – she thought of everything.

Look for an info poster in the church narthex as well as copies of Annette's extensive list to guide you in knowing what is needed and useful for their mission. On Sunday April 12, 19, or 26th, plan to bring your donated articles to church to place in boxes that will be located in the narthex alcove. On Saturday, May 2nd, we will transport the donated items to St. Paul's.

Christ Lutheran SJAG invites you to do your spring cleaning this year with Hope Heals in mind.

Christ Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2026

Council President Kay Shelton called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm. Those attending were Pastor Lars, Kay Shelton, Greg Romaniuk, Lori Peterson, Peggy Haug, Linda Lohrmann, Melanie Hein, Kirsten Brannon, Janet Mobley, Anne Swant, Mara Palumbo, Jim Peterson

Devotions – Kristen Brannon lead devotions on “The Joy of Laughter”.

February Minutes – Minutes of February 10 meeting were approved on February 22 via email. Minutes of February 22 special meeting were approved. Linda Lohrmann moved, Lori Peterson, seconded.

Financial Reports – Greg Romaniuk – The Financial Report will be distributed this month.

Pastor’s Report – Pastor Lars Hammar – Pastor Lars sent his report to Council, and it will also be published in the congregation monthly news email.

Committee Reports:

Finance & Budget: Jim Peterson – Giving so far in 2026 seems to be on target with our approved budget. Some line items in the budget are experiencing more rapid spending than expected. Although our budget represents an expenditure plan, we expect our activities will function within budgeted funds. If that cannot happen (under spending or overspending) we should all be aware of deviations from the budget as soon as possible. Currently the savings account is not needed for checking account expenditures. Jim will monitor the checking balance to ensure it’s adequate for operations while funds not immediately needed are invested in the savings account.

Property: Anne Swant– Property has received a gracious offer by Tracy Rutledge to mow the lawn for the church. He will mow on Mondays. Thanks Tracy! Before Tracy volunteered, JC Landscaping did the first mowing of the lawn and did a cleanup of the flower beds focusing on weed removal. March 21st will be the church spring cleanup. It will start at 9 a.m. Bill & Kaye Miller will be providing coffee and donuts for the crew. Thanks, Bill & Kaye! Jim Peterson cleaned out the gutters at the church. Thanks Jim!! John Funderburk has been going through the church switching out fluorescents to LEDs. Thanks, John! The Artists’ Council placed our first display of art. This display goes through the end of May. Thanks, Jeff Wagner, Peggy Haug, Cassie Spangrude, Joyce Anderson, John Knapp & Judith Hedberg–Duff! The Design Committee is continuing to meet monthly. Thanks, Dan Grinsted, Melanie Hein, Allison Tabacco–Hines, Marit Nierman & Pastor Lars!

Worship: Peggy Haug – With the beginning of Lent, we chose to learn a new liturgy. It is setting number six from the ELCA hymnal. We are using the new keyboard for accompaniment as it fits this music better than organ and Clarice Swanson has been helping us learn the melodies. Wednesday Lenten services enjoyed good attendance with the bonus being that we get to hear James play our new piano. March 8, 15 and 22 will be rehearsals after church by our choir which plans to sing on Palm Sunday. By the end of this week, we plan to post our job offering for a musician as well as distribute flyers in key locations in Walla Walla.

Evangelism: Linda Lohrmann – Reviewing the Evangelism job description

Fellowship: Janet Mobley – There were several blank spots on the sign-up sheets supporting the soup suppers. If you signed up, thank you. No soup supper on Wednesday before Maundy Thursday so it sounds like Thursday is the only one left.

Stewardship: Lori Peterson – Lori met with Pastor Lars to plan Stewardship 2026. They are exploring new avenues for stewardship. There will be more details presented at the April Council meeting.

Personnel report: Mara Palumbo – Mara met with Office Manager Dee Kasten to discuss her first 3 months in the role. Pastor Lars, Peggy, and Mara will meet on Wednesday, March 11, to make final decisions about where to post the job description for Music Coordinator. After the job is posted, the church will begin accepting applications. The sexton job search committee will be appointed at the March council meeting.

Outreach: Melanie Hein: Outreach is very busy. 40 days of Giving goes on until Easter. A new service group is being formed called Caring Group, info in the newsletter. SJAG rep from Hope Heals and St Pauls talked with the committee about their group and joining in a spring-cleaning event. More info to come after Easter.

Youth Education & Youth & Family: Kirsten Brannon – March 15th will be a Lutherhaven Camp Information and Activity Event. Kids to do a temple talk to get volunteers for the Easter Sunday Breakfast Fundraiser. Sign-ups will be in the Narthex for Easter breakfast on April 5th.

April 4th the kids will meet to set up the fellowship hall and receive instruction.

Adult Education: A summary from John Knapp's report to Peggy. Classes on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, The Cost of Discipleship continue through March on Sundays after worship. On April 12, Cheryl French will begin facilitating a class on the book Accidental Saints, by Nadia Bolz Weber

Continuing Business:

A. Audit Committee consisting of Laura Berry, Julie Swenson and Chairman Jerry Ladderud, provided written copies of the 2025 Audit Report. Jerry provided a very useful and complete oral review. A council response will be forthcoming.

B. Pastor reported we will have an emphasized hiring focus: Musician, Sexton, Youth Coordinator. Pastor also reported that we have acquired a new email domain – christwallawalla.org. The domain will accommodate up to 5 email addresses for \$25 per year.

New Business:

A. A committee of Kay, Anne, and Greg was appointed to review findings and prepare response to the Audit Report.

B. Jill R. will be unable to attend the Synod Assembly. Anne Swant was elected to replace her as our voting delegate. Jim moved, Kirsten seconded, approved.

C. A committee consisting of Peggy, Lori, Clarice Swanson, Pastor Lars, Paul Holce, John Lohrmann was appointed to research and recommend purchases from the Cynthia Knutson Memorial Music Fund.

D. Hiring of Musician will be overseen by a committee of Pastor Lars, Mara, and Peggy.

E. Committee to oversee hiring of the Sexton will consist of Anne, Mara, and Pastor Lars.

F. Moved by Jim and seconded by Greg to reinvest the \$25,000 MIF Term Investment that expired on March 1, for 2 years at 4.0% APY. Motion passed. Moved by Jim, seconded by Kirsten to reinvest \$25,000 from the March 23rd maturing Term Investment at MIF, plus \$25,000 from our savings account, into a \$50,000 one-year MIF Term Investment at available rate (expected to be 3.85% APY). Motion passed.

G. Anne Swant moved, Peggy seconded to purchase a computer with internet capability for not more than \$1,500 for the financial workroom. Motion passed.

H. Youth will be hosting Easter Breakfast between the two services. Youth will do a temple talk regarding that. They will set up on Saturday. Youth will need help with cooking, dishes, clean-up.

I. Kay will update the Building Use Policy to reflect the current Musician fee of \$175/service and the building security procedures, effective immediately.

J. It was shared that Cheryl French was interested in Adult Education work. Linda Lohrmann moved and Kirsten seconded a motion to invite Cheryl French to consider the Adult Education position and council membership. Motion Passed.

Future Dates:

April 5 – Easter

April 24–26 – Synod Assembly in Kennewick

June 15–19 – VBS

June 27 – Sweets Game, 6pm in the Sweet Spot

Meeting Adjourned

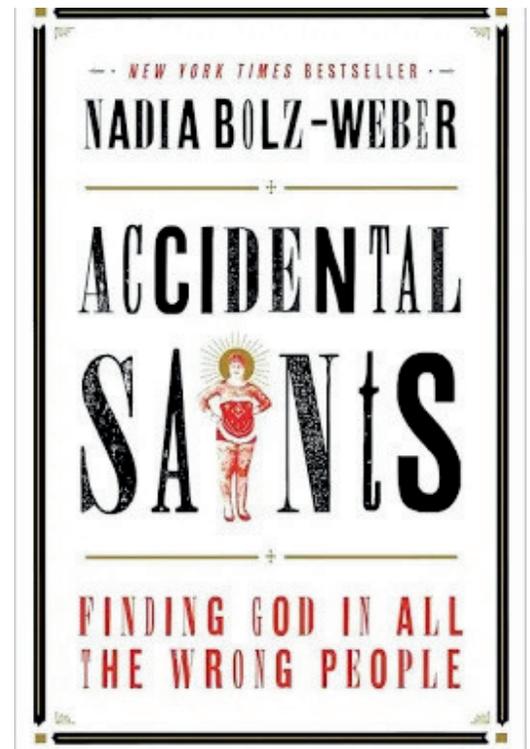
Respectfully submitted, Julie Michener, Council Secretary

Exciting News

Adult education will be starting a new class on April 12, 2026. after morning service in the library. So get your coffee and snacks and come join us for lots of friendly conversations.

The book we will be studying is; "Accidental Saints Finding God in all the Wrong People." by Nadia Bolz-Weber.. The book will be available at the first meeting. This book is an easy read with thought provoking stories about Nadia's experiences as a Pastor of a Lutheran Church in Boulder, Colorado. I look forward to seeing you there. Prayers to all for good health and fruitful lives in God's presence giving us grace and love at all times. Amen

Cheryl French Adult Education Director



Save the Date:

This year's WW Sweets
Baseball Game will be on
Saturday, June 27th

This year the price per person will be \$26
This includes gate entry as well as "Sweet
Spot" entry and all you can eat ballpark
food and non-alcoholic beverages; alcoholic
beverages are available for purchase.

More details to come!

If you have any questions feel free to ask

Janet Mobley
509 200-1363

CLC'S FINANCES

February 2026

Total Income: \$26,346

Total Expenses: - \$29,153

Net Gain -\$2,807



HELPLINE@SONBRIDGE

~ JOIN US FOR THE 19TH ANNUAL ~

SoupPort Luncheon



Wednesday - April 8, 2026

St. Patrick's Blanchet Hall, 412 W. Poplar St., Walla Walla

Anytime between 11:00am & 1:00pm

Tickets: In advance - \$40
At the door - \$45

For tickets, click the "Purchase Tickets" button.

Attendance Report

Average Sunday Worship Attendance

March 2025 - 110

March 2026 - 118

APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Maundy Thursday 1pm Bible Study Soup Supper 6:00pm Service 7:00pm	3 Good Friday Service 7:00pm	4 Weavers 1:00 - 4:00
5 Easter	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:30am Worship Service		9am Mission Group		10am SJAG		
9:30am Breakfast		6:30pm Mission Group		1pm Bible Study		
10:30 am 2nd Service						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30am Worship Service		9am Mission Group		1pm Bible Study	1:00pm Anderson Long Rehearsal	WW. Weavers until 3:00pm
9:30am Godly Play		10am Men's Group			4:00pm WW Weavers and spinners	3:00pm Anderson Long Wedding
11:00am Adult Ed.		5:30pm Council Meeting				
1:00pm Mighty Mila Fund Raiser						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30am Worship Service		9am Mission Group		1pm Bible Study		
9:30am Godly Play		6:30pm Mission Group				
11:00am Adult Ed.						
26	27	28	29	30		
9:30am Worship Service	7pm Design Team	9am Mission Group		1pm Bible Study		
9:30am Godly Play		10am Men's Group				
11:00am Adult Ed						



Christ Lutheran Church

1420 South 2nd Avenue

Walla Walla, WA 99362-4502

Return Service Requested

Church Website come see what's new!
www.christwallawalla.org

April 2026

Church Staff

Church Council

Pastor
Lars Hammar

President
Kay Shelton

Property Management
Anne Swant

Outreach
Melanie Hein

Office Manager
Dee Kasten

Secretary
Julie Michener

Finance/ Budget
Jim Peterson

Adult Ed./Library
Cheryl French

Sexton
Jeff Wagoner

Treasurer
Greg Romaniuk

Worship
Peg Haug

Personnel
Mara Palumbo

Organist
James French

Stewardship
Lori Peterson

Evangelism
Linda Lohrmann

Youth Education
Vacant

Fellowship
Janet Mobley

Youth & Family
Kirsten Brannon

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.