



Christ Lutheran Church
Walla Walla

THE MESSENGER
VOLUME 66 #5

Pastor's Column May 2026

This is my first spring in Walla Walla, and I have to say I like what I'm seeing – flowers blooming everywhere, frogs and ducks in the creek behind my house, moderate weather and little fog. It's making me more motivated to stain my new deck so I can use it for morning and evening coffee.

As I've been telling everyone, it seems, I have not had a lot of time to get out on my bike. The projects in my yard have taken too much. Removing the big pool that was carved into the side of the hill, and then the pool deck and bricks, has been a much bigger job than I anticipated. I knew there were posts, but did not expect 28 of them poured 2' into the ground. So Fridays and Saturdays have been filled with a lot of de-construction and runs to the Sudbury Landfill. Then there were the 30' blackberry vines and the grass in the creek. That was another trailer full.

The end goal is to fill the bank back in and make my own private mini-golf course. We'll see if I can pull it off. Why mini-golf? Johan loves it, and Walla Walla doesn't have it (except there is a new inside one coming in soon), and I don't want to add more irrigation. When it's all done we'll have parties to show. Hopefully this year. Hopefully.

At times I do look at and wonder what the whole point is. Why do so much work? And the answer is that I have this vision of sitting in my back yard, on my newly bricked patio by the creek, in an Adirondack chair, drinking a beverage of some sort, while the kids play mini-golf with their friends. It's a vision of being a lazy bum while I hear the babbling brook. But to get there, I will exhaust myself digging and filling and laying paving bricks and railroad ties.

Such is the nature of projects. 90% of it is the grunt work, ungratifying and unfulfilling. But the reward is worth it, and the pause at the end, the sigh, the sitting back and smelling the lilacs, makes it all worth it. Without that work, I'd probably not appreciate it as much, nor would I gain the experience and strength.

I have a similar feeling every Easter. Lent is not drudgery, but it's also not celebration. Confronting my own sin and need for greater discipleship isn't exactly a party, but without it there is no Easter. We need Holy Week, and the Last Supper, and The Cross, and all that goes with it, for it to mean something. You have to have death to have resurrection.

But once that is done, rest and breathing is what we do. Stopping and pausing is as much a part of the cycle of our faith as work. In fact, without that we burn out, and faith becomes a chore.

It's why I like to keep the summer months a bit quieter. We have VBS, which is a big thing, but not much else. I will be gone a week in May for my daughter's graduation, and then again in July for vacation. Things will calm down, and that's a good thing. Churches can be notorious for equating more things with more success. And while it's good to be active, and have the community see that, it needs to be effective activity, not busy-ness for its own sake.

I've often wondered where it came from, the need for more programs, and all I can think of is it's a way to try to grow a church without going through the hard process of cutting things. It's sometimes called the "addition not subtraction" theory. You add a program, everyone cheers. You take away something, people get mad. But a church only has so many people and so much means, so what do you do? Risk burning people out? Or risk the battle of "subtracting" to devote resources elsewhere. Politically, subtraction is riskier than too much addition.

But more doing does not always mean more results. In fact, I'm a big believer that beyond a certain point it's the Law of Diminishing Marginal Returns, and you get less successful. And without time to breathe, to stop and pause, to sit and smell the flowers and soak in God's presence, where's the inspiration? Where's the creativity? It gets stamped out by a full calendar.

So this summer we can all chill. Definitely consider helping out with VBS. We always need people. Then don't forget the all-church kickball game on May 3rd at 4pm. It's for all ages to have fun and play. Beyond that, I hope you have a summer filled with breathing in the Spirit and renewing yourselves for life and discipleship.

Peace,

Pastor Lars

Holy Week 2026

Holy week was a busy time here at Christ Lutheran. We had services on Maundy Thursday & Good Friday As well as 2 services on Easter Sunday.

The youth had a great time preparing for their annual easter breakfast fundraiser. They started prep for the meal and learning how to serve on Saturday. That was followed by an Easter egg hunt!

There was a soup supper preceding the Maundy Thursday Service & Breakfast was served on Easter between the 2 services. Thanks to all who helped for your hard work!



LORD OF LIFE

Dear Sisters in Christ,

You are cordially invited to attend our WELCA Spring Retreat on Saturday, May 16, 2026, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It will be at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 640 North Columbia Center Blvd. in the Grace Place building. The theme of the retreat will be "Holy Week... Again". Even though Holy week has passed, many of us may have missed some of the events that occurred between Palm Sunday and Easter. Pastor Kirsten Sauey Hofmann from Lord of Life has developed a review of the events which will be the basis for our study.

There is no fee for the retreat, but a freewill offering will be taken during the lunch provided to help offset the cost of the retreat. Please, RSVP to: Melanie Hein, (509) 386-4635 by Thursday, May 14.

We are looking forward to seeing you.

HOPE HEALS - INDEED IT DOES!

During the month of April, Christ Lutheran has joined with Saint Paul's Episcopal to encourage members to do a spring cleaning in order to gather items that will benefit the mission of Hope Heals. This organization delivers substantial care packages to people who have been homeless, but now have been given housing. These care packages can contain everything from a coffee maker to a mop to bath towels to cleaning supplies and personal care items... You name it and it's probably on their list of needs. Hope Heals can make a huge difference when a family moves into a house or an apartment... Just think of all the things one suddenly needs!

You have one last chance to bring any items for donation to our church on Saturday, May 2, or Sunday, May 3. At that point all donations will be gathered up and delivered to the organization here in Walla Walla. WE ARE SEEKING ONE OR TWO VOLUNTEERS WHO OWN A PICK UP TRUCK WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO DELIVER THE BOXES OF GOODS SUNDAY AFTERNOON. Please contact Melanie Hein or Linda Lohrmann if you can help on Sunday, May 3.



2026 PRIDE FEST IN WALLA WALLA

THIS YEAR, THE PRIDE FEST WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 6 AND CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH HAS BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. LAST YEAR WE HAD A BOOTH WITH A WONDERFUL FULL LENGTH BANNER THAT IDENTIFIED OUR CHURCH. WE HAD A CANOPY TO GIVE US SHADE, AND WE PASSED OUT LITTLE FLYERS ABOUT WELCOMING EVERYONE. LAST YEAR'S EXPERIENCE WAS QUITE WONDERFUL! WE WERE THERE ALONG WITH SEVERAL OTHER CHURCHES AND FOLKS MADE A POINT OF CHATTING WITH US AND LETTING US KNOW HOW MUCH THEY APPRECIATED THE FACT THAT WE WERE THERE. THE FESTIVAL SET UP IS IN THE MORNING AND OFFICIALLY RUNS FROM NOON TILL 5 PM. WE NEED FOLKS TO HELP WITH SET UP AND WE ALSO NEED FOLKS TO BE IN OUR BOOTH. THERE WILL BE A SIGN-UP SHEET IN THE NARTHEX. PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING TO MAKE THIS YEAR'S BOOTH A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!



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.
- 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.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Beverly Hermsen	5/3
Mike Michener	5/6
Terri Gilbert	5/8
Linda Lohrmann	5/10
Peggy Haug	5/11
Joey Norby	5/15
Jagger Tucker	5/17
Steve Benzal	5/18
Kacen Stedman	5/18
Oscar Gomez	5/21
Vince Peterson	5/21
Norma Hanson	5/22
Gene Spangrude	5/22
Elias Bailey	5/23
Amber Stemp	5/23
Virgil Hein	5/24
Keldan Swant	5/25
Julie Michener	5/29
Carmen Funderburk	5/30
John Funderburk	5/31



LET'S KICK IT!

Join us for a church-wide kickball game. First time, no pressure—just fun! Play if you'd like, cheer if you prefer, or simply come enjoy time together. Everyone is welcome, no matter your age or skill level. Seating will be available & you're welcome to bring a lawn chair.

SUNDAY, MAY 3
4:00 PM
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
BALL FIELD

Church in Spring



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: \$20,951

Total Expenses: - \$30,471

Net Loss: \$9520

Attendance Report

Average Sunday Worship Attendance

March 2025 - 110

March 2026 - 118

Christ Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday April 14, 2026

Council President Kay Shelton called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Those attending were Pastor Lars, Kay Shelton, Lori Peterson, Peggy Haug, Linda Lohrmann, Melanie Hein, Janet Mobley, Mara Palumbo, Jim Peterson, Cheryl French and Julie Michener.

Devotions - Julie Michener with reference to 1 Peter 4:10 and stewardship

March Minutes - Minutes of the March 10 meeting were approved March 24 via email. Minutes of the March 25 meeting were approved April 3 via email.

Financial Report- Greg Romaniuk, emailed the current financial report to council members.

Pastor's Report- Pastor Lars Hammar, emailed his current report to council members and it will also be in the congregation monthly news email.

Committee Reports

Finance & Budget: Jim Peterson - \$25,000 has been added to our term investments at MIF making the Term Investment total \$125,000. The Banner Bank savings account balance is \$175,218. I will transfer \$25,000 from savings to checking to provide a cushion in checking. This action completes the \$25,000 investment at MIF. Through the first quarter of 2026 spending and income appear to be on track with the budget. Income is 26.9% of the budget. Solar installation is making a significant difference in our electricity expenses. The electric bill for the billing period that ended April 8 was \$84.73. That bill consists of BASE CHARGES ONLY. We sent more kilowatt hours of electricity to PP&L than we received from PP&L during that billing period.

Worship: Peggy Haug - Christ Lutheran had some wonderful worship services during holy week and Easter. We enjoyed the choir singing for the Palm Sunday service and appreciate Clarice Swanson's time and energy in directing the choir as well as all those who volunteered to sing. Our Organist, James French played for the two services on Easter, which happened to be his last time of officially serving in that capacity. April 12 saw the beginning with our new Organist, Dr. Feng Kang. He chose to play the Service from the piano which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. We look forward to many more Sundays with his service as our new Organist.

Evangelism: Linda Lohrmann - I've been looking into ways to send a positive, informative welcome to congregation members, visitors and out to the Walla Walla community. The plan is to create an informative display with flyers or cards about CLC's history, mission and ministry. The display could include cards about groups/activities such as the Quilting Group, SJAG and RIC, Tuesday Men's Group, Godly Play, Thursday Bible Study and so on.

Council members are invited to consider how you might be part of this effort. I found a substantial number of printed "Count Me In" cards from a few years ago. They invite people to serve during worship and include a section to ask for more information. Pastor agreed to them being placed in the pew racks until we have an updated welcome card. I am also looking into a Welcome Letter and Packet to be given to people who want to learn more about membership at Christ Lutheran. The Social Justice Advocacy Group (SJAG) ordered and received two signs with the Reconciling Works logo.

They will be displayed on the brickwork sign in front of the church. SJAG has registered for and will have a table at the Pride Festival on June 6, to help us to reach out to the wider community. Janet and I are working on a new directory.

Property: no report

Fellowship: Janet Mobley - Lent Soup Suppers were well attended with approximately 30-35 people enjoying a meal & conversation before each service. Sweets game signup sheet is up. Working on cleaning and organizing the kitchen. People are encouraged to take things home after their event or coffee hour. And finally, Linda, Pastor Lars and I met and started the process of updating our Church Directory. Anyone willing to help would be appreciated very much!

Stewardship: Lori Peterson – Exploring new and tried and true Stewardship programs. I would like to discuss ideas for the council to consider and develop during our Tuesday meeting. We can work to open the way for community and neighbors to be included in our stewardship ministry.

Personnel report: Mara Palumbo - Dr. Kang has signed the letter of agreement to be the musician for the church. Pastor Lars, Anne Swant, and Mara Palumbo met to review the Church Sexton position. It was decided to post the position and begin searching for a candidate.

Outreach: Melanie Hein: Melanie and Linda met with Annett from Hope Heals for a tour of her facilities. Temple talks will be given and a table set out for donations between now and May 1 to support Hope Heals. Care Committee put up posters and plan for blood pressure monitoring to be available on the last Sunday of the month. The Sleep Center meals and Christian Aid Center meals continue.

Adult Education: Cheryl French - The Adult Ed Class, Accidental Saints, has started. Attendance was good. We are off to a good start. There will be no classes this summer. Cheryl French is in the process of forming a committee to get ideas for future classes. All are welcome.

Youth Education & Youth & Family: no report

Continuing Business:

A. Motion made by Jim Peterson to appoint Cheryl French to the Council as chairperson of Adult Education, second by Linda Lohrmann. Motion passed by council vote.

B. Audit Committee report 2025 – Council response to the audit was presented, motion was made by Peggy Haug to accept, seconded by Lori Peterson, passed by council vote.

C. Motion by Linda Lorhmann to approve changes to Evangelism Job Description, seconded by Jim Peterson, passed by council vote.

D. Peggy Haug made a motion that we hire Dr. Feng Kang as musician for Christ Lutheran Church. Mara Palumbo seconded the motion. The motion was carried by email affirmation on March 20, 2026.

E. Feedback on hosting of Lenton Soup Suppers – they will continue to be supported by council members with host positions open to everyone in the congregation.

New Business:

A. Motion made by Melanie Hein to approve Braylee Tucker for confirmation at Christ Lutheran Church,

Jim seconded the motion, passed by Council Vote.

B. Policy reviews – Under the guidance of Kay Shelton, the Council developed our Annual Audit response and Policy revisions. These are noted on the attached drafts. Peggy Haug made a motion to accept the changes to the Employee Benefits Policy, seconded by Melanie Hein, passed by Council vote. Lori Peterson made a motion to accept changing the building usage fee to \$300 an hour for non-members and providing a temporary access code in the Building Use Policy, seconded by Melanie Hein, vote in favor 3, opposed 5, 1 abstention -not passed. Discussion to wait on fee increase but update access information. Motion by Julie Michener and seconded by Jim Peterson to approve the Building Use Policy as amended, passed by council vote.

C. Sexton Personnel committee– Mara Palumbo, Pastor Lars, and Anne Swant will post the job offering of Sexton for CLC on Indeed for 5 days.

D. Fundraising – fundraising requests; free will offering for coffee hour – Kay, topic tabled for now.

E. Re-home of miscellaneous church property – Anne, tabled for now.

F. Scholarship requests for Lutherhaven family camps next summer – Requests for camp scholarships for 6 children (Pinkerton, Hammar-2, Stone and Tabacco-Heins-2) were presented. Janet Mobley made a motion to approve the requests, Linda Lorhmann seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously by the Council.

G. Pre-view of Constitution Update including Potential Bylaws Changes for 2026

H. Church Directory – Janet Mobley, work in progress.

I. Building use requests: 1. Rotary Club-Motion to approve by Jim Peterson, seconded by Linda Lorhhman, approved by Council. 2. Norwegian Celebration-Motion to approve by Janet Mobley, seconded by Linda Lorhhman, approved by Council.

Future Dates:

April 19 & 26 – Campaign for Spring Cleaning Drive for Hope Heals on May 2-3

April 24-26 – Synod Assembly in Kennewick,

May 3 – Confirmation of Braylee Tucker May 12 – Next Council Meeting – Melanie will chair

June 6 – Pride Festival at Heritage Park, CLC will have a booth that Kara will set up

June 15-19 – VBS June 27 – WW Sweets Baseball Game

Adjournment – Lord’s Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Julie Michener, Council Secretary

MAY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 9:30am Worship Service 9:30am Confirmation 9:30am Godly Play 11:00Am Adult Ed. 4pm Let's Kick it Game	4	5 9am Mission Group	6	7 10am SJAG 1pm Bible Study	8	9 Weavers 1pm - 4pm
10 9:30am Worship Service 9:30am Godly Play 11:00Am Adult Ed.	11	12 9am Mission Group 10am Men's Group 5:30pm Council Meeting	13	14 1pm Bible study	15	16
17 9:30am Worship Service 9:30am Godly Play 11:00Am Adult Ed.	18 7pm Design Team	19 9am Mission Group	20	21 1pm Bible study	22	23
24 9:30am Worship Service 9:30am Godly Play 11:00Am Adult Ed.	25 Newsletter Deadline	26 9am Mission group 10am Men's Group	27	28 1pm Bible study	29	30
31 9:30am Worship Service 9:30am Godly Play 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

MAY 2026

Church Staff

Pastor
Lars Hammar

President
Kay Shelton

Office Manager
Dee Kasten

Secretary
Julie Michener

Sexton
Jeff Wagoner

Treasurer
Greg Romaniuk

Organist
James French

Stewardship
Lori Peterson

Fellowship
Janet Mobley

Church Council

Property Management
Anne Swant

Finance/ Budget
Jim Peterson

Worship
Peg Haug

Evangelism
Linda Lohrmann

Youth & Family
Kirsten Brannon

Outreach
Melanie Hein

Adult Ed./Library
Cheryl French

Personnel
Mara Palumbo

Youth Education
Vacant

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.