



THE MESSENGER VOLUME 66 #8

Pastor's Column August 2026

I'm back in Walla Walla, just in time to get an article in the newsletter. It's been a busy month of not working.

First I took some continuing education time and attended the ELCA Rostered Ministers Gathering in Indianapolis. It's for all pastors and deacons and happens every three years. A vision of the previous national bishop Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, the event gives pastors from wherever a chance to hear good preaching, workshops, and catch up with new people, and some old. If you haven't heard of it, that's because this was only the third one ever. No business is conducted, no resolutions or memorials or budgets – that's for the ELCA National Assembly, a different event. Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry was there, whom I hadn't met. I was a pastor in Metro Chicago Synod when I first was ordained, but I never met him then.

Our theme was “Woven Together”, so the sermons all had a “we need each other” bent. Lots of stories of churches and families lifting each other up. I get why they picked it, in a world where so many of our churches are struggling, we need each other more than ever. To add to the theme, a weaver (who is also a pastor in Schenectady, NY) was literally weaving tapestries on a side stage during the presentations. At the end she hung it on a banner and we used it in worship. I love liturgical art, so this gave me all sorts of ideas 😊.

It was a good four days of rest and meeting new people, and seeing some seminary friends I hadn't in a while.

After that it was off to Minnesota for my 35th high school reunion. Always fun to see old friends and find out what everyone's doing. I had to explain over and over, “yes, Walla Walla is a real place. Yes I like it there. You should stop by some time.”

The rest of the time was vacation at the family cabin one last time. After 37 years in the family my parents sold it. It's a beautiful place, a little slice of heaven, but a lot of maintenance (and very far from here). Some times you just have to let go of good things. Your head tells you it's the right decision, while your heart grieves. Tobias joined me after the reunion, as did my sister's family from Germany – where they live and work as church organists.

The summer is a good time for things like this, with programs quieted down and schedules light. We can worship busy-ness some times, and feel that more is always more. It's not. Stepping back makes us better when we do work, and makes life more enjoyable. I was watching the fires from afar – which we had in Minnesota as well. Praying for everyone in the Blue Mountains and Weston who lost property, and for the firefighters still working to contain it all.

Things will pick up this month, but you won't see it in this newsletter. I'm going to start confirmation again for grades 7-8. Worship is going to start planning out our fall, and the Design Team will get back to reviewing how to use our building for growth. Lots of good stuff coming up, and hopefully we're all well-rested and refocused.

God Bless,
Pastor Lars

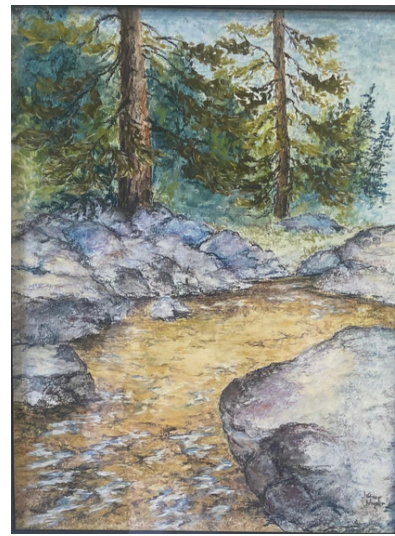


Mission Quilting Group Shares Comfort and Care

Our Mission Quilting Group continues to be a wonderful example of faith in action. Through their dedication, creativity, and countless volunteer hours, they have completed an impressive 133 quilts so far this year. Each quilt is lovingly made and sent to people in need, offering warmth, comfort, and a reminder that they are cared for by others. In addition to quilting, the group has been assembling care kits for Lutheran World Relief. These kits are filled with much-needed toiletries and personal care items that provide dignity and practical support to individuals and families facing difficult circumstances around the world.

Every stitch sewn and every kit assembled reflects the generous spirit of our congregation and our commitment to serving our neighbors near and far. We are deeply grateful to the members of the Mission Quilting Group for sharing their time, talents, and compassionate hearts.





The recent addition of the above pictured new artwork in the church is a testament to the creative talents of Jeff Wagner, Joyce Anderson, Peggy Haug, Judith Hedberg-Duff, John Knapp, and Cassie Spangrud. Each artist brings their unique perspective and style, enriching the spiritual atmosphere of the space. Jeff Wagner's pieces might capture the eye with their bold expressions, while Peggy Haug's work could offer a serene, contemplative experience. Joyce Anderson's art may add a touch of vibrant color and emotion, juxtaposed with Judith Hedberg-Duff's intricate details that invite closer inspection. John Knapp adds a touch of calm reflection. Cassie Spangrud's creations round out the collection with innovative flair. Together, these artists transform the church into a gallery of inspiration, where their works foster reflection and connection among the congregation and visitors alike.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Elizabeth Maib	8/3
Skyler Barnett	8/5
Doug Berry	8/8
Julie Swenson	8/8
Tracy Rutledge	8/9
Clarice Swanson	8/9
Malin Bailey	8/13
Kari Isaacson	8/15
Tonyel Nelson	8/15
Thomas Tabacco-Hines	8/17
Keith Swanson	8/20
Timothy Anderson	8/23
Andrew Gomsrud	8/23
Greg Romaniuk	8/24
Joel Ley	8/27
Becky Benzel	8/29
Lorna Hewitt	8/29
Hannah Lohrmann	8/29
Lori Peterson	8/29
Edward Hermsen	8/30

Needs for the Sleep Center

Gently used flat sheets in all sizes, twin, full, queen and king. These sheets will be cut down to fit the cots at the sleep center. The cots are smaller than twin size, but they tie the corners to help the sheets fit.

There is also a need for gently used pillows.

Thank you very much for helping to fill this need.

There will be a box in the narthex marked Sleep Center.

Please call Lori Peterson if you have questions. 206-618-3632

Meet the New Sexton

Humberto "Bert" Rodriguez started in late April as our new Sexton. Bert was born and raised right here in Walla Walla. He went to WA-Hi. He worked as a Maintenance Technician before coming to us. He likes to hike & camp and just about anything outdoors. After training he has been doing a great job around the church. Welcome aboard Bert. If you see him say hi!

CLC'S FINANCES

June 2026

Total Income: \$15,849

Total Expenses: - \$12,866

Net Gain: \$2,983

Attendance Report

Average Sunday Worship Attendance

June 2025 - 110

June 2026 - 105

AUGUST 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Weavers 1:00pm-4:00pm
2 9:30am Worship Service	3	4 9:00am Mission Group 10:00am Men's Group	5	6 1:00pm Bible Study	7	8
9 9:30am Worship Service	10	11 9:00am Mission Group 5:30pm Council Meeting	12	13 1:00pm Bible Study	14	15
16 9:30am Worship Service	17	18 9:00am Mission Group 10:00am Men's Group	19	20 1:00pm Bible Study	21	22
23 9:30am Worship Service	24 Newsletter Deadline	25 9:00am Mission Group	26	27 1:00pm Bible Study	28	29
30 9:30am Worship Service	31					



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

August 2026

Church Staff

Pastor Lars Hammar	President Kay Shelton
Office Manager Dee Kasten	Secretary Julie Michener
Sexton Bert Rodriguez	Treasurer Greg Romaniuk
Organist James French	Stewardship Lori Peterson
	Fellowship Janet Mobley

Church Council

Property Management Anne Swant	Outreach Melanie Hein
Finance/ Budget Jim Peterson	Adult Ed./Library Cheryl French
Worship Peg Haug	Personnel Mara Palumbo
Evangelism Linda Lohrmann	Youth Education Vacant
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.