



MISSION STATEMENT

**Called by God to
Worship, Learn and
Nurture; Sent to
Serve and Tell**

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**Jesus is Lord and
Savior. We are called
to learn and share
the Good News.
Welcome and serve
all people. We are
servants of God to
others. Holy Spirit,
mighty in prayer
leads us to answer
God's call. Fellowship
sustains each other.**



To the Saints at Christ Lutheran

February is Lent month and my relationship with Lent has been interesting. When I was 9 or 10, we went to Wednesday night Lenten services, and it's still a mystery to me, but that's point when I decided to participate in worship: sang the hymns, prayer the prayers, and ignored the sermon. I was all in. As I became a teenager and knew everything, declared Lent as unnecessary and made up by the church. During Seminary I changed. I became curious about spiritual practices and even tried a five-day fast during Lent (full-disclosure, I dreamt about pizza and Chinese food every night though). After seminary, and let loose on the world as a pastor, I reframed Lent again. This time wondering if Lent is better observed not as gloomy self-denial, but as positive, a chance to add something good, something that helps us grow, reading the Bible or eating better. What does Lent mean to me now?

When we observe Lent together, we pause to reflect on life and what matters. As Christians, we use our time and resources with intention, and Jesus shows us the intelligent and resilient way to live; one rooted in hope and shaped by love for others. This Lent, we will see this in John's Gospel. John emphasizes the divinity of Jesus through signs and "I Am" statements; claims a rabbi would never make, but the Son of God would. Jesus' promises of Eternal Life refer to both life after death but also to a transformed way of living now. When we admit our powerlessness over sin and use Lent as a time to seek forgiveness, we experience grace. Jesus does what no one else can; forgiving our sin, reshaping our lives, and restoring us to live in the eternal life already at work within us. Lent is a time of reflection, forgiveness, and renewal.

To help us, beginning on the first Sunday of Lent, we will journey together with a daily devotional like I wrote for November; a short Scripture and prayer for each day leading up to Easter. This shared practice connects to our Lenten focus on prayer, reflection, and renewed life in Christ. To deepen that journey, we will gather for a mini retreat on a Saturday in March, at a cozy spot in Yakima (details to come). This retreat builds on last fall's prayer retreat and invites us to explore the heart of prayer: why we pray, how we pray, and what God does with our prayers. If you are hoping that this will be a planning meeting, it won't. It is space to slow down, worship, talk, laugh, eat good food, and pray together. If you are new to retreating this is also a wonderful way to spend the day with your friends. This time is for encouragement, restoration, and drawing us deeper into God's presence. Which is the true meaning of Lent.

Peace,

Pastor Chris

I read a devotional recently that made me think about our life here at Christ Lutheran. The author was talking about an azalea shrub (who knew an azalea was a shrub?) They tend to go unnoticed during most of the year, blending into the rest of the greenery. But come the spring, they are hard to miss. Their mass of blooms makes them stand out. The point of the devotion was about going through the year not noticing God's grace and love – only really recognizing it at Christmas and Easter. As a side posting, the author expanded on springtime being a "New Awakening".

Here's where I see Christ Lutheran. We've been known as "that little church on the corner by the flashing lights" or "that church with the really great sign". Those aren't bad things. It means that our church building is noticed and might even be missed if it wasn't standing anymore. I am sure our people would be missed if we weren't able to continue our Vacation Bible School and probably our National Night Out even. But what else would the neighborhood miss?

Over the past four years, I have seen a "New Awakening" in our church community. We experience God's grace and love throughout the year and express that in so many ways. We still are a very active church, reaching out to so many people outside our doors. We open our doors and our hearts to children through some of our programs and for the older people in our community. I think Christ Lutheran is a comfortable place for those of us who are no longer spring chickens and need a place for fellowship, for worship, and belonging.

As we go forward into this new year, let us rejoice for the way the Lord has blessed us as a congregation and as His beloved children. Let us continue to be kind and generous to both those who come inside our doors and to those who we serve near and far. Let us continue planting the seeds, allowing those seeds to grow wherever they are planted. We are a mighty, little church with much more love to give. God isn't finished with us yet!

Blessings,

Deacon Kathy



FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS



| | |
|------|----------------------|
| 2nd | Jay Carroll |
| 10th | Elisabeth Dunbar |
| 11th | Mel and Joan Jangard |
| 14th | Ilene Bushnell |
| 22nd | Jim Sebree |

Serving Our Country

David Carlson
Luke Harper
Hannah & Nick Brown—USAF
Ian Dunbar—USMC



| | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Jane Peterson | Victoria Hall | Brian Hatheway | Lloyd Crabtree |
| Lilly | Sandy Peterson | Jill & Suzanne Brown | Mel & Joan Jangard |
| Maxine Hall | Glen & Sally Atterberry | JD Sundseth | Earl Williams |
| David Lundy | Kane & Blake | Alisha | Jean Raabe |
| Norma & Christina Zucconi | Douglas MacDonald | Gene Kallenberger | Rob Turley |
| Ellen | Sana Kibler | Jerry | Eugene Hall |
| Kikue Lugo | Jeannie Hannon | Merillina Bruckner | Debby Coolnas |
| Bill Schultz, | Jim Eling | Gerald Larkins | Cindy |
| Don Oord | Tim Shanks | Luke & Atreyu | Vic Deblasio |
| Patsy Lake | Katie | Barry | Amara McCully |
| Lori Murphy | Jill Simpson | Chloe | Mike Westmiller |
| Devon Decker | Helen Dodd | Betsy Baugess | |

The friends and families of Steve Shirkey, Heath Larson, and Ivan Jorgeson.

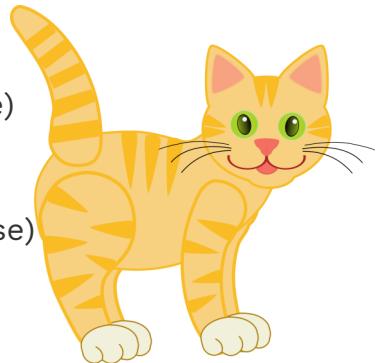
(The people listed here have been on our prayer list for the past two months. If your loved one is no longer on the list and needs our continued prayers, please let Deacon Kathy know.)

Yakima Humane Society Pet Food and Supply Drive

You are invited to participate in the Pet Food and Supply Drive to benefit the Humane Society of Yakima. We will begin collecting February 1st and will deliver the end of February. The list below are items in need by the Humane Society. Please note they request specific brands of dog, cat, puppy and kitten foods. This is to help them with detecting food allergies in the animals. Cash donations are also appreciated.

Items can be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall under the Angel Tree.

- Bath Towels
- Batteries (AA and AAA sizes)
- Blankets (no comforters or electric please)
- Cat Food (**Pedigree or Purina**)
- Cat Toys (that dangle)
- Chewy Dog Treats (no rawhide treats please)
- Copier Paper (white)
- Dish Soap (no citrus or lemon scented please)
- Dog Food (**Pedigree or Purina**)
- Fleece
- Kong Toys / Nylabone Toys / Interactive Toys
- Laundry Soap (*Liquid*)
- Lint Rollers (sticky paper kind)
- Martingale-style Collars
- Newspaper (remove slick ads please)
- Peanut Butter
- Pens
- Plush Cat Beds
- Portable Kennels (various sizes)



LOOKING FORWARD TO LENT

FEBRUARY 17TH



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Shrove Tuesday complete with a pancake feed prepared by the men. Join them at 5:00 to 6:30. Indulge in pancakes, ham, and sausage. A freewill offering will be collected going toward the Lenten offering for the Meals On Wheels new commercial kitchen campaign.

FEBRUARY 18TH

Ash Wednesday services will be held at 6:00 p.m.



On Tuesday nights, beginning FEBRUARY 24TH, join us for Soup and Bread suppers at 5:30 with a Lenten version of Holden Evening Prayer beginning at 6:30.



BLOOD SHORTAGE

Blood donors needed now



Red Cross Blood Drive

February 23rd

12:30 – 5:30

The extreme winter has caused over 500 blood drives to be cancelled since January 23rd. Please donate if you can. Volunteers are needed to help check in donors.

Ladies Lunch

February 19th, 11:45

Little Bake Shop

411 S. 68th Ave.



Guy's LUNCH

February 19th,

1:00

Abby's Pizza

4808 Tieton Drive



Meals on Wheels was created after the Older Americans Act of 1965 was signed into law on July 14, 1965; created to address a serious health issue of America's senior citizens: poor or inadequate nutrition. One of the many programs created under the act was the Nutrition Program which included: congregate (dining rooms) and home delivered meals. Both programs intended to increase the health, quality of life and extend the time in which a senior can remain independent and in their own home. People For People took over the program on July 1, 2011. Prior to that date Yakima County was in charge of the Meals On Wheels program.

Follow-up studies on the effectiveness of the nutrition programs has shown that Meals On Wheels intervention extends the time a senior can stay in their home instead of being placed into a nursing home by at least 3 months. The health of the senior receiving meals through either program is better, they have fewer doctor visits and the cost of the program is offset by the savings to the system.

Meals on Wheels is currently using three community centers to cook over 178,000 meals a year for seniors. The extra expense of additional staff at each location and the constant back and forth between the different kitchens has made it very inefficient to feed seniors in our community. Their goal is to raise \$2.785 million to build a new commercial kitchen which will combine all three locations into one location. Currently, they have reached 70% of their goal. Please check out this link to their YouTube video for more information.

<https://youtu.be/3CoD9iK4ylk>

The Social Ministry committee will be asking the council to approve this project as the designation of our Lenten offering. We do have a few members of our congregation that use this service. It would be great to support Meals On Wheels with funding to continue this service.



The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to our Advent offering. We are excited to tell you that the total offering was \$1,694.00!!! With that amount, Christ Lutheran donated one Abundant community, 2 Vegetable gardens plus bees; 3 Goats plus a flock of chicks; and 3 roosters. The Abundant Community consists of a goat, rooster, cow, three chicks, seeds and gardening tools, honeybees, three fruit-tree seedlings, farmers' field school and a community garden. These gifts will help families living in poverty to enrich their lives with food to eat and to sell plus the tools and training to increase their productivity. Thank you once again.



Congregational Budget Meeting

February 1st

There will be a brunch following the worship service, followed by our annual Budget meeting. The Support committee has been compiling the budget for 2026. This is an important meeting for all to attend. We have decisions to be made for the good of Christ Lutheran Church. Pastor Phil Misner will be a guest at our meeting.



Mardi Gras Fundraiser Dinner February 7

Happy Hour – 4:30, Dinner - 5:30

Holly & Laura will supply and prepare the meal

Proceeds will go towards our summer meal with the Pear Tree Place Veterans.



Souper Bowl Sunday

February 8th

This is a special offering opportunity that Christ Lutheran has participated in for over 20 years! The national purpose of this project is for local communities to support a local food bank or feeding program. We have supported Northwest Harvest, 2nd Harvest, The Henry Beauchamp Food Bank, and the Salvation Army.

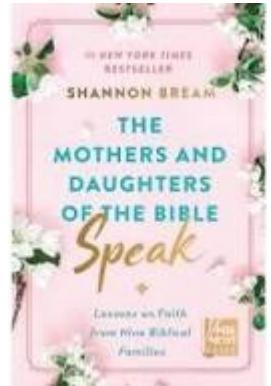
This year, the Social Ministry committee has chosen to support our own feeding ministry – **Camp Hope**. Janet Frank and Suzanne Brown have done a great job of making our funds stretch to cover the costs of providing nutritious meals. However, our funds are shrinking and the costs have risen. Please bring your change, folding money, and checks on Souper Bowl Sunday so we can continue this outreach into our own community.

Thank you.



We have a new book study beginning Monday, February 9th. We will be reading **“The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak”** by Shannon Bream. Throughout this book, we will be examining the lives of biblical women to see how God’s plans can turn our worlds upside down.

Both the book and workbook are available on Amazon, among other suppliers. Please join us at 11:00 on the second and fourth Monday of the month. Enjoy the discussion and the fellowship.



Family Fun Night



COMING IN MARCH

Have you been interested in finding out more about Christ Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in general? Pastor Chris and Deacon Kathy are planning on an Inquiry Class in March. Please talk to one of them if you are interested.



PRAYER RETREAT, PART 2

Remember last October when we had our 2nd Annual Congregation Retreat? Those of us that attended came away refreshed, renewed, and asking “If you had one more day for this retreat, what would you have discussed?” Pastor Chris and Deacon Kathy are beginning the steps to plan a day retreat during the month of March. This would be on a Saturday and held somewhere close by, allowing all who want to learn more about prayer to attend. If you know a place that we could hold this one-day event, please let Deacon Kathy know.

COMING TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH SOON

1st Semi-Annual Congregational Budget Meeting, 11:00
4th Magical Mystery Tour, Noon
7th AARP Tax Preparations
Mardi Gras Fundraiser Dinner, 4:00
8th Souper Bowl Sunday! (Go Hawks!)
Council Meeting, 11:00
9th Book Study, "Mothers & Daughters of the Bible" 11:00
Camp Hope Meal, 5:45
11th Magical Mystery Tour, Noon
14th AARP Tax Preparations
15th Faith, Fitness, & Fellowship, 2:00
17th Worship & Music Meeting, Noon
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feed, 5:00
18th Magical Mystery Tour, Noon
Ash Wednesday Service, 6:00
19th Ladies Lunch at Little Bake Shop, 11:45
Men's Pizza LUNCH, 1:00, Abby's Pizza
21st AARP Tax Preparations
22nd Christian Outreach Meeting, 11:00
23rd Book Study, "Mothers & Daughters of the Bible" 11:00
Red Cross Blood Drive 12:30-5:30
24th Soup & Bread Lenten Services, 5:30 meal; 6:30 Worship
28th AARP Tax Preparations



3rd Soup & Bread Lenten Services, 5:30 meal; 6:30 Worship
7th AARP Tax Preparations
10th Soup & Bread Lenten Services, 5:30 meal; 6:30 Worship
14th Family Fun & Game Night, 4:00—5:30
17th Soup & Bread Lenten Services, 5:30 meal; 6:30 Worship
19th Yakima Valley Quilters Guild Class
Ladies & Men Eat Out Day
21st AARP Tax Preparations
24th Soup & Bread Lenten Services, 5:30 meal; 6:30 Worship
28th AARP Tax Preparations
29th Palm Sunday

