

Growing into Something New

grow

/grō/

1. To look after; assist the growth of by labor and care
2. As in to develop; to become mature
3. As in to become; to eventually have a state or quality.

I wonder...what would reimagining stewardship look like at Christ Lutheran? Our theme this year is "Growing Generosity Together." If we were to focus on the first word in the theme — growing — we can imagine the actions we might take together as a community of faith. We could take care and do the work to look after the ways our community grows closer to one another, listens to God and matures in faith, and expands the way we serve our neighbors both here and abroad.

Stewardship — the managing of things entrusted to our care — and generosity go hand in hand. We can find examples of this woven throughout scripture. In Deuteronomy 14:22-27, we see tithes turned into a feast for both the household and the neighbors. In Exodus 35-37, we hear of the Israelites, in the midst of their 40-year wilderness wandering, gathering what they can from their meager belongings to build the tabernacle, the dwelling place for God. Leviticus 19 and 25 speak to the year of Jubilee, where the harvest is shared and all disparities are rebalanced every fifty years. The year of Jubilee helped to create a more level ground for the entire community, where the gap between the rich and poor, the haves and have-nots, is lessened.



As we look at our own family of faith, how is God calling us to grow into something new? Where is God calling us to be generous with our time, our care, our love, and our financial gifts? How will you help us grow into a more generous community? I hope you will be part of the conversation as we work toward our future together. Grace and peace to you all!

Deacon Laura

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Marriage Blessing and Celebration

Join us in worship on October 12 as we unite in a blessing for the marriage of Deacon Laura and Aaron Fagan. A celebration with cake and a card shower follows worship.

We hope you can be with us as we lift up Deacon Laura and Aaron. Wishing you a lifetime of health and happiness! God bless your union!





NEWCOMERS ORIENTATION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19 10:15 AM

Have you been visiting and worshipping with CLC for a while and want to learn more? Come to the next Newcomers Orientation on Sunday, October 19 following worship to learn about our community life together. Please call the CLC office or notify Jeff Bieck, chair of the Evangelism Committee, if you plan to attend by Wednesday, October 15.

Call Committee Update

In August, at the counsel of Pastor Jen Beamsley of the Northern Illinois Synod and with the support of the CLC Council, the Call Committee modified CLC's Ministry Site Profile (MSP) job posting title from Senior Pastor/Head of Staff to Pastor/Head of Staff. As a result of this action, it is believed that the pool of potential candidates for our position will increase to include pastors with lesser experience than that of a senior pastor, but still ones capable of leading Christ Lutheran. This action was shared with the congregation on Sunday, August 31.

Based on information from the Synod, there are many pastor openings in our area with few senior pastor candidates. As of 9/23/25, Pr. Jen reported that there are four part-time and 16 full-time positions open. Every month, more pastors are retiring. Positions are filling slowly.

On the bright side, candidate paperwork coming into the region has not slowed down as in past years at this time. There is a steady flow of interest in our region. We are also experiencing more candidates entering the seminary than we have seen in the last three years.

We know that God has a plan for Christ Lutheran. Although we can't be certain of what it is, we can do the best we can to prepare for the right candidate.

Thank you for your continuing support and on-going prayers.

God's Peace.

Jack Wilson, Call Committee Chair

In the CLC Family

We express our condolences to the family of John Nandzik who died September 11. May light perpetual shine on him. +



Financial Update through August 31, 2025

Budgeted Contributions YTD:	\$ 319,130
Actual Contributions YTD:	\$ 338,426
Actual Expenses YTD:	\$ 297,664
Net Surplus or (Loss)	\$ 40,762

Thank you for your generous and continuous support of Making Christ Known.

Respectfully submitted:
Elizabeth Brinkley, Treasurer

October 5

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4
Psalm 37:1-9
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

October 12

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
Psalm 66:1-12
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

October 19

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Luke 18:1-8

October 26

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 46
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36

Service & Outreach

Calling all Thrivent Members! Request your Cause Kit (water filter or solar light) during the early weeks of October. Then bring your kit to CLC on October 26, where we will assemble the kits together before sending them back to Thrivent.

Need help? Find Deacon Jennifer or Deacon Laura with questions.



Adult Forum

Join us for these discussions starting at 10:30:

October 5	CLC Values (Generosity)
October 12	NO Adult Forum (Deacon Laura's marriage celebration)
October 19	Scripture Study (Remember)
October 26	Scripture Study (Reimagine)

Godly Play

This month, Godly Play will meet on October 5 and 19 to explore Bible stories, learn about God's love, and stretch our creative muscles. Kids, join us!

Loss & Grief Group

One of CLC's small group ministries is the Loss & Grief Group. Led by CLC member Patricia Cox, it is "a grief group and personal growth group" according to Patricia. In terms of loss, there are many forms: loss of a loved one, a job, health, youth, flexibility, etc. The group provides support, offers coping strategies, and nurtures hope.

The group meets monthly at Patricia's home every third Tuesday. During the spring and summer months, it meets at 5:30 pm, and 4:30 pm during the fall and winter months. A snack supper is provided prior to the discussion.

Its next gathering is October 21 at 4:30 pm. If you would like to hear more about the group or have questions, contact Patricia Cox at 815-222-8531.



Inventory Management, CLC-style

With the start of a new program year and volunteers taking on new roles, it's a good opportunity to remind everyone about our supplies inventory and ordering process. When you are working in the kitchen and notice that an item is running low, first check the supply closet located in the hallway (directly across from the janitor's closet) to see if there is backstock. If you cannot find the item, please leave a note on Michelle's desk with the information and staff will be sure to get the item restocked.

The staff works hard to keep office, kitchen, worship and janitorial supplies well stocked at all times, but occasionally an item can be missed from the multitude of products used at church. By letting the office know that we're running low on an item, we can prevent any issues. Thank you for your help with our inventory supply process.

Christ in Literature

Join us on October 6 as we discuss Lorna Collier and Tilli Schulze's book, *Tilli's Story: My Thoughts Are Free*. This true story of a Boone County, IL resident recounts her childhood in a small farming village in eastern Germany as World War II broke out. This tale of sorrow and terror, hope and triumph will keep the discussion flowing. Our time begins at 3 pm.



Christ Lutheran

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makingChristknown.org

 facebook.com/Christ.Belvidere

Also on Facebook, search:

Pathways: A Center for Spiritual Renewal

† **Worship:** Sundays 9:00 am

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Council

Jenny Campbell
Howard Yakey
Shirley Collins
Elizabeth Brinkley
Jenny Breckenridge
Brad Cooper
Scott Herrig
John Herring
Peter Hightower
Lori Murphy
Don Skadow
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Our Staff

Deacon Laura Gorton
Deacon Jennifer Fox
Katie Belinson
Michelle Nelson
Chris Parkinson

Interim Minister
Minister for Worship & Music
Dir. of Outreach & Communications
Finance & Office Administrator
Church Musician

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rockford, IL
Permit No. 521

NEW!

SPIRIT *wear*

Who doesn't need new spirit wear?

Our community celebrates two big anniversaries this fall — the 30th year of Christ Lutheran's founding plus the five year ministry of PATHWAYS. This is all the more reason to invest in new CLC and PATHWAYS spirit wear!

Shop our online store at christlutheranchurch25.itemorder.com/ to view the large variety of apparel and accessories available. All items can be made to order with the CLC or PATHWAYS logo. Orders are due by October 5. If you prefer not to order online, a basic order form is available at the Info Center where you can write down your order with all item details (item #, size, color, logo, etc.). See Deacon Jennifer if you have questions. Checks payable to CLC.

Let's celebrate and showcase CLC and PATHWAYS with new gear!



*proceeds to
benefit
PATHWAYS*