

Sharing  
Mission,  
Ministry,  
& Life  
in Christ

## Synod Assembly Recap: Be Good Listeners

Brothers and Sisters—

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as voting delegates representing Christ Lutheran at the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly, June 13-14. It was a time of learning, of conducting synod business and of joining together to celebrate our shared ministries.

Bishop Stacie, the Synod staff, and Synod Council are a remarkable team and it showed in the time and energy that they dedicated to the assembly. From the opening pageantry, the powerful prayers offered up and hymns of praise to the harmonious resolution discussions and detailed synod agenda.

Two resolutions were passed by the assembly. Resolution 1—for National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding School, to be held annually on or near September 30th. The goal of this day is to broaden our awareness of our role in Indian Boarding Schools. Educational programs will be created for lay people and clergy. Resolution 2—for Northern Illinois Synod to be a Reconciling in Christ Synod. As a synod we will strive to welcome and embrace people of every race, national origin, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, health and mental health status or socio economic status.

Our keynote speaker, Deacon Jessica Noonan from LEAD Connects, challenged congregations to “listen to our neighbors” that live and work around our physical church buildings. It used to be that you would build a church and people would come. That's what we do—we go to church. Life has shifted. Today, we as disciples need to show up where people are, be proactive, and be good listeners to their spiritual needs.

Do you have thoughts on Making Christ Known in our neighborhood? Please share with Deacon Laura and our Church Council.

Peace, Paul and Diane Larsen

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## TIPS TO IMPROVE OUR ACTIVE LISTENING



**Focus On The  
Other Person**

**1.**



**Avoid  
Judging**

**2.**



**Use Body  
Language**

**3.**



**Avoid  
Interrupting**

**4.**



**Respect  
Silence**

**5.**

## In the CLC Family

Christ Lutheran received three new families into membership on May 25. We are so pleased to welcome Brian Becker; Moises, Esperanza & Natalia Ruiz; and Donalle Zemanek to our church family. Blessings to you!

We express our condolences to the family of Rev. Dr. Arthur Bergren, CLC's first pastor, who died June 17. May light perpetual shine on him. +



Brian  
Becker



Moises & Esperanza Ruiz,  
Natalia



Donalle  
Zemanek

## Financial Update *through May 31, 2025*

Budgeted Contributions YTD:	\$ 216,700
Actual Contributions YTD:	\$ 222,663
Actual Expenses YTD:	\$ 181,584
<b>Net Surplus or (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 41,079</b>

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

*Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Brinkley, Treasurer*

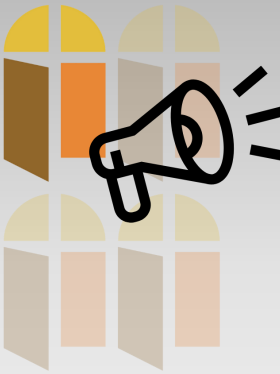
## Dwelling in the Word

Join PATHWAYS for worship on the labyrinth as we listen to and reflect on God's word proclaimed. Prayers will be at the heart of this service along with extended periods of silence as we make room for the presence of God.

*Dwelling in the Word* will be offered monthly at 6 pm on July 9 and August 6. (Rain location indoors.) Please plan to join us for this special summer offering.

**July 6**  
2 Kings 5:1-14  
Psalm 30  
Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16  
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

**July 13**  
Amos 7:7-17  
Psalm 82  
Colossians 1:1-14  
Luke 10:25-37



Calling on you...  
let's get better  
acquainted.

**NEWCOMERS  
ORIENTATION**  
**SUNDAY, JULY 20**  
**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, July 20 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, July 16.

## Deacon Laura's Office Hours

Beginning the first week of July, Deacon Laura's office hours will shift slightly. Her weekday schedule most weeks:

Monday: work from home  
Tuesday—Thursday: in office starting at 10am  
Friday: off

Always call the office before stopping by, as she may be out of the office doing a visit or attending an offsite meeting.

**July 20**  
Amos 8:1-12  
Psalm 52  
Colossians 1:15-28  
Luke 10:38-42

**July 27**  
Hosea 1:2-10  
Psalm 85  
Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]  
Luke 11:1-13

## One Bible Initiative

During the month of July, CLC will collect donations to purchase Bibles for those currently incarcerated in the state of Illinois. All monetary donations will be used to purchase and ship Bibles to One Bible Initiative, which provides them to prisoners.

To learn more, visit [jltwministries.aplos.org](http://jltwministries.aplos.org).

## Christ Cares

We are putting together a list of volunteers who are willing to provide a little help for our members in need. This might include providing meals on occasion, helping with light shopping, or giving rides to appointments. If you're interested in helping in these ways and joining the Christ Cares Team, please connect with [Deacon Laura](#) or [Deacon Jennifer](#).

## Thank You

Dear CLC Family – Thank you for the wonderful retirement celebration on May 18th! I appreciated the joyful worship filled with meaningful music. Your generous gifts, kind words, the slide show, the Spirit Singer's "special" song, and the delicious treats made the reception very meaningful. Thanks to everyone who made the day very special! Wishing you God's richest blessings as you continue your good work.

With love and gratitude, Dagny

## Congrats, Grads!

Christ Lutheran extends its heartfelt congratulations to these recent graduates and wishes them well in their future endeavors.

Anna Campbell  
Iowa State University

Camden Flack  
River Ridge High School

Jenna Madura  
Case Western Reserve University

Natalie Mander  
Belvidere North High School

Natalia Ruiz  
Belvidere North High School



# SUMMER SINGERS

Summer Singers is a great way to give choir a chance at Christ Lutheran. We gather at 8:20 to rehearse a piece to sing in worship that morning and to have a bit of time for fellowship and to catch up with others. Join us July 20 or August 17 at 8:20 am. Questions, contact Deacon Jennifer.

## Summer Picnic / July 13

*submitted by Jeff Bieck, Evangelism Chair*

On Pentecost Sunday, Bishop Emeritus Clements paid a huge compliment to Christ Lutheran, commenting on the warmth and welcomeness that visitors receive when attending our church. And to that end, we have been very blessed that in the past 18 months, we have received the following new members:

Brian Becker

Brad & Katy Cooper

Wesley & Morgan Ertmer, Charlotte

Kendra Hall

Steve & Jacqui Kudzma

Julio Lopez & Lindy Wefel, Adrizbeth, Eliana, Indie

Moises & Esperanza Ruiz, Natalia

Donnelle Zemanek

As we all have very busy schedules, you may or may not have had the opportunity to meet or interact with these new members. If you are in town and attending church on July 13, we hope you stay the extra time to join the picnic celebration following worship.

Hamburgers and hotdogs plus refreshments will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass. There will be games for all ages and comfortable temps (since we'll be inside) to guarantee enjoyment for all. Please sign up in the gathering space or call the office to RSVP. Join us for some summer fun!



Christ Lutheran

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Phone: 815-885-2522

[makingChristknown.org](http://makingChristknown.org)

[facebook.com/Christ.Belvidere](https://www.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 Herring  
John Herring  
Peter Hightower  
Lori Murphy  
Don Skadow  
Gil Stansell

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Council Member  
Council Member  
Council Member  
Council Member  
Council Member  
Council Member  
Council Member  
Council Member

##### 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

Details inside. Can't miss event!

# Indoor Summer Picnic

July 13

all are welcome!

