

Staff Shifts

As we head into another program year, no one could have imagined that we would still be without a settled senior minister over two and one half years after we bid Godspeed and farewell to Pastor Twila. We have been faithful to God and to one another during this interim period. We have been blessed to welcome several new members during this time, and our calendar continues to be filled with meetings and activities — signs of a healthy, thriving faith community.

This time has not been easy, especially for the staff.

As we transition into yet another fall, there are some staff shifts on the horizon. First, there are changes in the music department. As you know, Dagny retired this spring. After some prayerful discernment, Deacon Jennifer Fox has decided to take on the leadership of the Spirit Singers as well as the Spirit Ringers. Chris Parkinson will still be present on Sunday mornings and assist with Ringers and Singers as needed, but Deacon Jennifer will lead rehearsals on Wednesday evenings.

Deacon Jennifer has also taken on more responsibilities around pastoral care. She will be visiting members at home and in the hospital, while also co-chairing the newly formed Christ Cares team with Lee Blackburn. Our hope is that this team provides meals, rides, and assistance with small errands for some of our members for whom these tasks are challenging.

The final shift in staff will affect Sunday mornings. Beginning September 7, Pastor Jeff Clements will be an active partner in our ministry each Sunday morning moving forward. He will preside over communion and baptisms, and share preaching responsibilities with Deacon Laura. Additionally, he will teach Adult Forums from time to time and help Deacons Laura and Jennifer with long-term worship planning. This will provide Deacon Laura with support as she continues in her role as Interim Minister. Think of it as “Pulpit-Supply Plus.” Pastor Jeff does not plan on attending council meetings or other committee meetings.

We are excited for the gifts that Deacon Jennifer and Pastor Jeff will bring to our church family. If you have any questions about these staffing shifts, please reach out to Deacon Laura or Deacon Jennifer directly.



In this issue

PATHWAYS P2
Finance Update P2
Facility News P2
Rally Sunday P3
Stay Connected P3
In the CLC Family P3
Backpack Blessing P3
Summer Singers P4

Churchwide Assembly

Deacon Laura will be out of the office July 28-August 3 to attend the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, AZ. It will be especially exciting this year as a new presiding bishop and secretary of the ELCA will be elected. Watch for details later on as Deacon Laura shares her experience at Churchwide during Adult Forum this fall.

Pastoral Care

While Deacon Laura attends Churchwide Assembly, Pastor Jeff Clements will help provide emergency coverage. If you are in need of pastoral care between July 28-August 3, please contact the office (or Jenny Campbell after hours) for his contact information.

Dwelling in the Word

Have you had an opportunity to attend outdoor summer worship this summer at CLC? There's one more offering on Wednesday, August 6 as we listen to and reflect on God's word proclaimed. Join us at 6 pm for *Dwelling in the Word*. (Rain location indoors.) We welcome your attendance.

Presented by PATHWAYS



Financial Update

through June 30, 2025

Budgeted Contributions YTD:	\$ 252,835
Actual Contributions YTD:	\$ 252,319
Actual Expenses YTD:	\$ 214,701
Net Surplus or (Loss)	\$ 37,618

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

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Brinkley, Treasurer

Q2 financial giving statements are available in the gathering space through Sunday, August 17. If you cannot pick yours up in person and would like your statement mailed (or emailed), please contact Michelle in the office.

Healing Service

A Healing Service will be held on August 31 following worship. Join us for a brief time of prayer, laying on of hands, and anointing in the choir loft area of the sanctuary.

Yoga Sessions

CLC hosts a weekly yoga class on Mondays at 3:30 pm, facilitated by Jeff Leach. There is a \$10 fee per session. All are welcome to attend.



Facility News

The carpets and tiled floors of our building will be cleaned during the week of August 11. Volunteers are needed to help remove a majority of the furnishings in the sanctuary in order to get more of a deep clean in that space from previous years. Many hands make light work, so consider staying an extra 30 minutes after worship on Sunday, August 10 to help move chairs and other worship furnishings out of that space.

Additionally, we will need volunteers to help move furnishings back into the sanctuary on Wednesday, August 13 at 5:30 pm. Thank you in advance for your consideration and assistance!



Pollinator Patch Takes Off

The first blooms of our pollinator patch have really opened up! If you get up close to the patch, you'll notice many insects and birds enjoying this green space. We look forward to watching this patch continue to grow.

August 3

Hosea 11:1-11
Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

August 10

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

August 17

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

August 24

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

August 31

Jeremiah 2:4-13
Psalm 81:1, 10-16
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

Rally Day

Save the date for our program year kick-off! September 7 is the official start of our 2025-2026 program year. Join us after worship to learn about fun opportunities to learn, serve, and have fellowship with one another throughout the year.

Raffle

We are seeking donations of Rally Day raffle prizes, which is a fun tradition here at CLC. Donations may include gift cards, themed baskets, a tray of baked goods, or a gift you received but never used. We are also looking for gifts geared toward elementary-aged kids as well as middle- and high school-aged youth. Donations are being received through August 31.

Time and Talent Materials

As we gear up for Rally Day and a new program year, we invite you to think about the ways that you'd like to be involved in the various forms of ministry at Christ Lutheran. Time and Talent booklets will be available for browsing in the gathering space this month. The ministry commitment forms are available online and we encourage everyone to fill one out through our website. There will be a few hard copies of the forms available in the gathering space. Make sure to fill out one form per person to be eligible to participate in the Rally Day raffle! Did you know that there's even a form for Children and Youth with specific ministry areas in which they can serve? Check it out!

makingChristknown.org

Stay Connected

The CLC Directory is a great resource for everyone to stay in touch with one another. Recently the office has been made aware of inaccuracies with some of the phone numbers and email addresses we have listed in the directory. We certainly want to maintain the most current contact information for all of our members.

Our visitation folks and newly-formed Christ Cares Team rely on accurate contact information for our families. It is essential that we are able to check on individuals and let them know that we are thinking of them. Sometimes a wellness check or general visit might be important, and a phone call is the first step in setting up the process.

We urge everyone to please check the directory to make sure your information is correct. Visit members.InstantChurchDirectory.com and enter the email address that is listed in the directory to login. From there you will have the option to sign in with your password or use a secure sign-in link—especially helpful when you can't recall your password!

You may also call the office to share updated contact information with us. Please help us stay connected with you!

In the CLC Family

Congratulations to Eliana Isabel Gonzalez, Adrizbeth Sophia Gonzalez and Indie Christine Wefel-Block who were received into God's family by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on June 29.

Congratulations to Charlotte Louise Ertmer who was received into God's family by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on July 6.

Backpack Blessing

All students — young and “old” — bring your backpacks, bookbags, etc., with you to church on Sunday, August 24 for a “Backpack Blessing” during worship.

We will pray for our students, teachers, families and administrators for a year filled with growth, opportunity, safety and fun. Mark your calendar and join us!





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

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Michelle Nelson

Chris Parkinson

Interim Minister

Minister for Worship & Music

Dir. of Outreach & Communications

Finance & Office Administrator

Church Musician

SUMMER SINGERS



Summer Singers has been a great addition to worship this summer. Two opportunities remain to rehearse at 8:20 am in preparation for worship:

August 17

September 7 (Rally Sunday)

Please join us to give choir a try and lift your voice in song. Weekly rehearsals will begin September 10 at 6:30pm.