

Sharing  
Mission,  
Ministry,  
& Life  
in Christ

## Reflections from Churchwide

During the last week of July, I found myself in the desert landscape of Phoenix, Arizona. I had not planned to be there, but I had been elected as the alternate voting delegate from our conference to attend the Churchwide Assembly. I found out only two months before the Assembly that the original delegate was unable to go, which meant I had a lot of catching up to do!

I had never attended a Churchwide Assembly, the primary decision-making body of the ELCA occurring every three years. It is similar to a synod assembly only larger. We heard reports and reviewed the work of churchwide officers, leaders, and units. We received and considered proposals from synod assemblies from the last three years, including one memorial from the Northern Illinois Synod itself. We elected officers and board members, and established ELCA churchwide policy. We approved a new social statement, adopted a budget, and worshiped together.

Although it has been nearly a month since I have returned, I still find myself processing my experience. I felt truly blessed to be able to attend and found myself very inspired by the work of the churchwide body. I was close to tears several times throughout the week and was moved by the Spirit more times than I can remember. I was grateful to build closer relationships with other voting delegates from our synod and reconnect with friends from seminary.

I'd like to share more about my experience, so I invite you to pencil in the Adult Forum on November 16. I will share my experience and some of the things we accomplished during our time together. Thank you for allowing me to be out of the office for a week and be a part of the larger church body, listening to the Spirit's movement for the future of the ELCA.



*Deacon Laura*

### In this issue

Time and Talent P2  
Let's Celebrate! P2  
Festive Fall Weekend P2  
Education P3  
Music Ministry P3  
Mission Endowment Fund P3  
Christ in Literature P3  
Rally Sunday P4

## CLC and PATHWAYS Spirit Wear

*We've got spirit, yes we do! We've got spirit, how 'bout you?*

As we look to fall and the celebration of CLC's 30th year plus the five year ministry of PATHWAYS, it is time to sport some new spirit wear! Beginning on Rally Day, we will open an online store where you can place your order for sweatshirts, T-shirts, pullovers, tumblers, tote bags, baseball caps, etc. with the CLC or PATHWAYS logo. The "store" will remain open through early October with a delivery date of early November. More details soon — it's time for something new to wear and showcase both CLC and PATHWAYS. *proceeds to benefit PATHWAYS*



## Time and Talent

Each fall is an opportunity to consider new ways of participating in the life of our church. With each commitment of your time and talent, there is a nurturing of your spiritual well-being and strengthening of our community. Booklets (one per family please) describing all the many CLC small groups and ministries in which you can be involved are available in the gathering space. After reviewing, we encourage you to fill out a [Ministry & Learning Commitment form online](#), as it makes less work for the staff on the back end. The online form will now accept multiple responses from the same email address. We also have a [Children & Youth form](#), too. Hard copies of the forms are available as well. Fill out or turn in your forms by Rally Sunday (September 7) to earn tickets towards winning a raffle prize. Try something new this year and stretch that faith muscle!

## Raffle Fun

It's not too late to drop off your Rally Day raffle donations. Bring items to the Pastor's Study. We're still looking for a few items for elementary-aged kids and youth in middle school or high school. Puzzles, games, or gift cards make great prizes!

## Celebration Time!

You may have heard — Deacon Laura is getting married soon. She and Aaron Fagan will wed on Saturday, October 4 during a small, private ceremony attended by close family and friends. Of course, we want our community to have an opportunity to celebrate their union. Join us for worship on October 12 as Pastor Jen Beamsley from the Synod will lead worship and offer a blessing of marriage. Following worship, we'll celebrate with Costco cake and a card shower. We hope you can be with us as we lift up Deacon Laura and Aaron and wish them a lifetime of health and happiness!



## PATHWAYS Fall Offerings

### Creation Morning



in conjunction with the  
Northern Illinois Synod Creation Care Team

A time to honor the earth as we savor the season's sights, sounds and smells in the scenic

gardens of CLC on Saturday, Sept 27. Join us for worship and meditation, song and earth centered discussion from 10–11:30 am with potluck breakfast treats at 9:30. Freewill offering received. This event is held in partnership with the Northern Illinois Synod Creation Care Team. Please register at [seekthepath.org](#).

## Autumn Fest

A PATHWAYS fundraiser to celebrate its past, present and future, *Autumn Fest* promises to be a festive offering for all ages. Pie auction (it's back!), potluck with famous CLC Sloppy Joes, pumpkin contests, face painting... we've got it all! September 28 — 9 am worship with festivities immediately following. Registration is needed. Join the fun!



## Pet Blessing

Bring your furry friends (and not so furry ones) to Christ Lutheran on Monday, September 29 as we celebrate the blessings of our pets. Gather with us on the labyrinth at 5:30 pm. You may also bring a picture of your pet to be blessed. Registration is encouraged; [sign up here](#) ([seekthepath.org](#)).

### September 7

Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
Psalm 1  
Philemon 1-21  
Luke 14:25-33

### September 14

Exodus 32:7-14  
Psalm 51:1-10  
1 Timothy 1:12-17  
Luke 15:1-10

### September 21

Jeremiah 8:18—9:1  
Psalm 79:1-9  
1 Timothy 2:1-7  
Luke 16:1-13

### September 28

Amos 6:1a, 4-7  
Psalm 146  
1 Timothy 6:6-19  
Luke 16:19-31

## Godly Play

Godly Play starts up soon! Our first three dates are September 14 and 21, and October 5. All kids three years old through fifth grade are invited to join the fun starting at 10:30 am. It's going to be a great year!

## Adult Forum

Adult Forums begin again September 14 following worship in the sanctuary. We'll start the year looking at what scripture tells us about the five values of CLC.

## Service & Outreach

Calling all Thrivent members! We invite you to request a water filter or solar light Cause Kit through Thrivent. (Don't worry, we can help walk you through the process). Bring the kit to CLC on Sunday, October 26, where we will assemble them together. See Deacons Jennifer or Laura with questions or for help requesting your kit.

## Music is in the Air!

One of the many rewarding ministries at Christ is the music program, and the start of fall is always an exciting time. We gather weekly to prepare music that will help us lead the congregation in worship and praise God. We work hard and have fun along the way!

The gifts, talents and contribution of our current musical family are wonderful, but we are always looking to expand! If you have a musical gift to share, please consider joining the Spirit Ringers and/or Spirit Singers! Choirs are open 6th grade — adult. Music reading skills are only required for the Spirit Ringers. We have acquired an additional octave of handbells and could use a few more ringers as well as those able to substitute.

We rehearse Wednesdays in the sanctuary beginning September 10.

Spirit Ringers: 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Spirit Singers: 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Contact Deacon Jennifer with questions or talk to a choir member or Chris Parkinson. We look forward to making music together!

## MEF Grants & Scholarships

Each year our Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) Committee has the joy of looking through scholarship and grant applications. This year we were able to grant a total of \$22,389.94 from our MEF fund.

\$8,955.94 in scholarships was awarded to three students (two entering their freshmen year of college and one entering the last year of graduate school). Blessings to Veronica Campbell, Camden Flack, and Natalie Mander for a good school year.

The committee also awarded \$13,433.90 to the following agencies:

ELCA Global Church Sponsorship (Chandran Paul Martin)  
The League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford  
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois  
Rockford Interfaith Community Garden

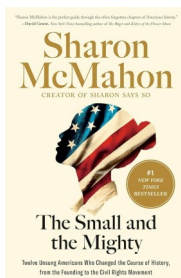
St. Andrew's Lutheran Campus Center  
Womanspace, Inc.  
Zion Outreach (Ruthie's Kitchen)

Some of these agencies will visit during the season of Lent to share about their work in the community as they strive to make Christ known.

## Christ in Literature

Love to read and discuss what you've read? Consider joining the Christ in Literature group. Our first meeting will take place on Monday, September 8. We'll be talking about Sharon McMahon's book *The Small and the Mighty*. The discussion starts at 3 pm!

**Looking ahead:** October 6 we'll look at Lorna Collier's book, *Tiili's Story: My Thoughts Are Free*.



## Financial Update *through 7/31/25*

Budgeted Contributions YTD:	\$ 288,495
Actual Contributions YTD:	\$ 302,696
Actual Expenses YTD:	\$ 255,191
<b>Net Surplus or (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 47,505</b>

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

*Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Brinkley, Treasurer*



Phone: 815-885-2522

**makingChristknown.org**



Also on Facebook, search:

### Pathways: A Center for Spiritual Renewal



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## Our Council

Gil Stansell

Council Member

## Our Staff

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

# let's go, CLC!

Another program year starts soon! Join us after worship on Sunday, September 7 in the West Wing for a time of fellowship and fun. We'll have a building contest, scavenger hunt (with prizes!) and our annual Rally Day Raffle. Don't miss!

## 9:00 Worship

## 10:15 Rally Day festivities

Another program year starts soon! Join us after worship on Sunday, September 7 in the West Wing for a time of fellowship and fun. We'll have a building contest, scavenger hunt (with prizes!) and our annual Rally Day Raffle. Don't miss!

**9:00 Worship**  
**10:15 Rally Day festivities**

**CLC**

**September 7**

**go**

