Called by God
to share the Good News,
we are the hands
of Christ

- Lifted in worship
- Joined in learning
- Extended in service
- Supporting in love
- Reaching for justice

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And much more!

SAVE THE DATE
"RALLY SEPTEMBER"
SEPTEMBER 10
9:30 Worship
10:30 Coffee Hour with heavy snacks and Ministry Fair
11:30 Service Opportunities "God's Work, Our Hands"

SEPTEMBER 17
9:30 AM Worship
4:30 PM Church Picnic with Live Music & Games

And much more!
From Pastor Jana

One of the things that drew me to want to be your pastor was how you truly live out your name: Christ the Servant Lutheran Church.

I have been astounded seeing the ways you emulate Jesus by serving within and beyond the walls of CTS: setting up communion, making meals for Gardenview Tiny homes, fixing our WiFi issues, building water systems in Honduras, serving on committees, donating to the Bellingham Food Bank, and the list goes on and on.

This month we are inviting our whole congregation to do service together on the day our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, sets aside for "God's Work, Our Hands" day, September 10.

From the ELCA website:

"The ELCA’s first dedicated day of service, in September 2013, was held to celebrate the church’s 25th anniversary. Through the years we have embraced “God’s work, Our hands” Sunday as a way to be church together. On this day we bear witness to the love and concern God’s people have for one another. Our congregations do this work every day — loving their neighbors and improving their communities. These acts of service allow us to explore one of our most basic Lutheran convictions: All of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.”

There's something powerful thinking about the ways that 9,000 ELCA congregations and ministries, all working in their own communities, can impact God's church and world. We embody God, and witness to the grace of Jesus, when we take time, energy, resources, and love to serve, and Lutherans make an enormous impact when we do it together.

I look forward to serving alongside you on September 10 as we improve spaces for our children, write letters of advocacy, serve our Gardenview neighbors, and help with landscaping for an Interfaith property. Please look for more information in this newsletter and choose one of those ways to serve on Sept. 10.

This month we also are calling "Rally September" so you can have THREE chances to learn more about CTS's ministry and sign up in some way. Visit the Ministry Fair tables in the narthex and fellowship space on September 10, 17, and 24 to find out more about what our committees do and sign up for a way to serve all year long!

Thank you, Christ the Servant Lutheran, for living out what your name says you do,

Pastor Jana

P.S. I have so enjoyed meeting many of you as part of the "Meet with PJ" sign ups. There are a few slots left (https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084caeeaa28a1fdcf8-meet#), but if you can't find a time that works for you, contact me directly and we'll set up a time.

Pastor Jana is available:

In the Office: Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday
By email: pastorjana@ctslutheran.org
By cell 360-325-5269, including for emergencies anytime—messages checked regularly
Off on Mondays and most Saturdays
Working from home on Fridays for sermon writing
From the Bishop:

I went to the musical 1776 a few nights ago where I learned some new things about how the Declaration of Independence came to be written. As I watched, I felt proud to be an American – to be part of a group of people who wanted freedom from tyranny, freedom to vote, freedom from an empire far away.

There were also moments in this play when I was horrified at some decisions made. At the last minute, the clause to abolish slavery was removed so that all of the representatives would sign the document. The most powerful song in the musical, Molasses to Rum, reminds the audience how all the colonies were complicit in the selling of humans – not just the south. (https://genius.com/John-cullum-molasses-to-rum-lyrics)

As an American, I hold two realities. First, I rejoice in the wonder and aspiration of the United States of America. I am grateful for this country and I love what it is striving to be. At its best, it is a country where freedom and liberty are supreme. It is a place where care is given to those arriving on its shores. It is a place where people can freely go to church and other places of worship (or not go at all). In short, the United States is a promise of what can be.

At the same time, I hold the truth of this country’s sins. Enslaved men built the White House, the U.S. Capitol building, and others. Homes of former presidents including George Washington’s Mount Vernon and James Madison’s Montpelier were built by men “owned” by them. The land that we in the Northwest Washington Synod are living on was once land that belonged to Samish and Duwamish, Lummi, and Muckleshoot and many others. Japanese people were unjustly imprisoned during World War II. Sundown laws and redlining laws were written throughout this country. As a white woman, I know that I could not vote until 1919. For women of color, the right to vote did not come until later. People who are part of the LGBTQIA+ communities have been harassed and discriminated against, beaten up and killed in this country. And discriminatory practices and violence continue to this day. In short, the systems in this country have violated and harmed people since its inception.

This is what it means to be an American: to vote, to engage in civic society, to appreciate this country, to grieve past and present sins, and to truthfully stand up and speak when it falls short of its ideals.

But what about those of us who are American and also Christian? Unequivocally it means that as much as one might love this country, this is not where our ultimate allegiance lies. For we are part of the body of Christ that extends beyond the borders of any country. As Lutheran Christians, we know that we are named, chosen, and called by God through Jesus. We hold deeply the joy that we are freed from sin, and, because of this, we are called into radical love, acceptance, and welcome – far beyond being a citizen of any country. We are freed to live beyond racism, injustice, and bigotry. Martin Luther wrote that freedom is a gift from God, not just for our sake, or our country’s sake, but for the sake of the world.

Tragically, there are those who want to distort this freedom. To somehow merge Christian and American identities. Rather than freedom, conflating religious authority with political authority leads to tyranny and marginalization - especially of minority groups. Christian Nationalism is neither patriotic nor is it faithful. You do not have to be Christian to be a “true” American. And you do not have to be American to be Christian. At its heart, it is idolatrous. As the First Commandment states, “You shall have no other gods.”

Together, as faithful Christians, let us live into Jesus’ words – into radical love, acceptance and welcome. Let us speak truth to power and stand with those without power. Let us follow Jesus who commands us to love everyone as our brothers and sisters and siblings including our fellow citizens, those of other belief systems, and those of other nations. Together, as faithful Christians, let us stand up and speak out against Christian Nationalism and any system that marginalizes, harms, and subjugates another. As Jesus announces in the gospel of Luke, ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because God has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’ For freedom Christ has set us free. May we live and dance and revel in the freedom of Christ.

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee / bishop@lutheransnw.org
**Calendar September 2023**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, September 3</strong></td>
<td>9:30 AM Worship</td>
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<td>10:30 AM Confirmation mini-retreat</td>
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<td><strong>Monday, September 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>Labor Day</strong> Church office closed</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, September 5</strong></td>
<td>8:30 AM Catch The Son Preschool school year begins</td>
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<td>11:30 AM Women’s Book Club</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4:00 PM Sunday Bulletin announcements &amp; prayer list due</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00 PM Community Ministries (via Zoom)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:30 PM “Into Action” AA</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday, September 6</strong></td>
<td>7:00 PM Justice Seekers Meeting</td>
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<td>7:00 PM Property Committee</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, September 7</strong></td>
<td>11 AM Stewardship Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, September 8</strong></td>
<td>9:00 AM Men’s Fellowship @ Boulevard Park</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:00 PM York Street AA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, September 10</strong></td>
<td>9:30 AM Worship - Rally Sunday</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:45 AM Compassion Circle &amp; Ministry Fair</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:30 AM Service Opportunities—God’s Work, Our Hands</td>
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<td><strong>Monday, September 11</strong></td>
<td>5:30 PM Finance Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, September 12</strong></td>
<td>11:30 AM Women’s Book Club</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>4:00 PM Sunday Bulletin announcements &amp; prayer list due</td>
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<td>7:30 PM “Into Action” AA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, September 13</strong></td>
<td>11:00 AM CTS Staff Meeting</td>
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<td>7:00 PM Compassionate Friends</td>
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<td>7:00 PM Deep Waters (Zoom)</td>
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<td>7:30 PM Servant Singers</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, September 14</strong></td>
<td>12:00 PM Lunch at the Willows</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1:15 PM Communion Service at the Willows</td>
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<td><strong>Friday, September 15</strong></td>
<td>9:00 AM Men’s Fellowship @ Boulevard Park</td>
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<td>5:00 PM York Street AA</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, September 16</strong></td>
<td>9:00 AM Hearing Loss Association</td>
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<td><strong>Sunday, September 17</strong></td>
<td>9:30 AM Worship</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:00 Acolyte Training</td>
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<td>4:30 PM All Church Picnic with music and games</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday, September 19</strong></td>
<td>11:30 AM Women’s Book Club</td>
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<td>4:00 PM Sunday Bulletin announcements &amp; prayer list due</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:30 PM Church Council meeting</td>
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<td>7:30 PM “Into Action” AA</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday, September 20</strong></td>
<td>CTS Newsletter deadline</td>
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<td>7:30 PM Servant Singers</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, September 21</strong></td>
<td>10:00 AM Text Study with Pastor Jana</td>
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<td><strong>Friday, September 22</strong></td>
<td>9:00 AM Men’s Fellowship @ Boulevard Park</td>
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<td>5:00 PM York Street AA</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, September 23</strong></td>
<td>12:00 PM Celebration of Life for Bob Ham, all are invited</td>
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<td>Reception following at Broadway Hall</td>
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<td><strong>Sunday, September 24</strong></td>
<td>9:30 AM Worship</td>
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<td>11:00 AM Adult Education &amp; Ministry Fair</td>
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<td><strong>Monday, September 25</strong></td>
<td>7:00 PM Property Community</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday, September 26</strong></td>
<td>11:30 AM Women’s Book Club</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4:00 PM Sunday Bulletin announcements &amp; prayer list due</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:30 PM “Into Action” AA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, September 27</strong></td>
<td>7:30 PM Servant Singers</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, September 28</strong></td>
<td>Pastor Jana—all day Synod meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, September 29</strong></td>
<td>9:00 AM Men’s Fellowship @ Boulevard Park</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:00 PM York Street AA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, September 30</strong></td>
<td>12:15 PM Community Meal @ Assumption Church</td>
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Sunday, September 10  11:30am-1:30pm

Be God’s hands in our congregation and community by choosing one of these service projects:

1. **Painting the Godly Play classroom at CTS.** Meet at the Godly Play room. Wear paint clothes. Supplies will be provided. Nicole Pridachuk and Veronica Hains, leaders.

2. **Write local/national letters of advocacy with Justice Seekers.** Meet in the "living room" area of the narthex. Paper, pens, envelopes, and stamps will be provided. Peter Drewes, leader.

3. **Landscaping at the Interfaith Coalition Deemer Road property.** Meet at the front church doors to carpool. Wear work clothes. Bring weeding supplies, kneeling pads, etc. Mike Hess, leader.

4. **Help with Gardenview Tiny Homes.** Meet at front church doors to carpool. Wear work clothes. Project TBA. Pastor Jana Schofield and Jennifer Boteler, leaders.

Childcare available 9:15 AM-1:30 PM with Pizza lunch served.
Worship News

In responding to feedback we’ve received from the congregation, and after reviewing Covid protocols, the Worship, Music, and Arts Committee determined that we will return to continuous communion at the altar on September 10. The wine and grape juice will continue to be served in small glasses (i.e., no common cup at this time).

Livestreaming our worship has proven to be a wonderful link for those who are unable to worship in person over these last months. We recognize that there may be people in our congregation, or people visiting, who wish not to appear on camera, for personal safety or other reasons. Therefore, we are designating a few rows that will be outside of the Livestream filming: the back 3 rows in front of the Quiet Room window (on the right side of the Sanctuary). This information will appear in the bulletin for visitors. You may receive communion at your seat by simply letting an usher know to communicate that to the pastor.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

Do you like to sing? Consider trying one of the choirs / worship leading groups this fall! New (and returning) members are welcome in ALL GROUPS shown below. Instruments as well as singers comprise the Renewing Worship Team.

Note the NEW rehearsal day – Wednesday – for Servant Singers and Male Chorus.

SERVANT SINGERS—The CTS adult choir (HS and older)
Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, beginning Sept. 13
Director: Betsy Stuen-Walker, esw4viola@gmail.com, 360-441-2313

MALE CHORUS—Our tenor/bass choir (HS and older)
Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 6:45 pm, beginning Oct. 4
Director: Del VandeKerk, nw.trumpet@gmail.com, 360-319-1129

KIDS’ CHOIR—For children grades K-6
Praising God in a fun and supportive environment and learning how to be part of a choir!
Rehearsal day/time TBD, depending on participants’ schedules.
Director: Laura Loween, lauralowe@gmail.com, 360-966-6277

RENEWING WORSHIP TEAM —Our Renewing Worship team leads worship on the 2nd Sunday of each month. We are especially in need of a bass player and a percussionist!
Singers and other instrumentalists are welcome also.
Coordinator: Laura Loween, lauralowe@gmail.com, 360-966-6277
Procedures for submissions to office@ctslutheran.org

Do you submit newsletter articles, meeting minutes for council packets, prayer requests, Thursday Note items, and/or announcements to office@ctslutheran.org? If so, please make a note of the following procedures which will keep our articles, minutes, announcements, and prayer requests from getting lost in the inbox.

Please note the deadlines and the email subject line for each publication. Thank you.

**Sunday Bulletin Announcements:**
Deadline: Tuesday by 4 PM to be published in the upcoming Sunday Bulletin
Email Subject Line: Sunday Bulletin Announcement, M/D/YY
Example: Sunday Bulletin Announcement 5/24/23

**Thursday Note:**
*NEW Deadline: Tuesdays by 4:00 PM
Email Subject line: Thursday Note, M/D/YY, Ministry/topic
Example: Thursday Note 3/9/23 Community Ministries

**Newsletter (Servant Song):**
Deadline: 20th of the month
Email Subject Line:
Newsletter, Month, Year, Article Subject
Example: Newsletter June 2023 Peace and Justice Article

**Council Packets:**
Deadline: 2nd Tuesday of the month to be included in that month’s packet
Email Subject Line:
Council Packet, Month, Year, Ministry
Example: Council Packet March 23 Justice Seekers
2023-2024 School Year

Children and Youth

Sunday Childcare (ages birth-5)
Every Sunday 9:15 AM-12:00 PM

Godly Play Children's Chapel (Ages 3-8)
Every Sunday During 9:30 Worship
Godly Play Children's Message
Children's Chapel with Prayer, song, and Creative Expression

Bridge Youth Group grades 4-6
1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month
11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Youth Group grades 7 and up
2nd Sunday of the month
11:00 AM-12:30 PM (Lunch included)
First Meeting: October 8

Intergenerational events
Seasonal events, trips and service
Please contact Nicole to be included!

Contact
Nicole@ctslutheran.org
ELCA Truth & Healing Movement (elca.org/indigenous)

The ELCA’s Truth & Healing Movement is an opportunity for this church to increase our understanding of our colonizing impacts on Indigenous people in the past and present. Over the next several months, there will be opportunities to learn, raise awareness and engage in other ways to impact hearts and lives across this church.

We believe that the truth, and our knowing and embracing it, is the first step toward healing for all of us.

Visit the Truth and Healing Movement web page to learn more, get involved and share the Truth and Healing movement with others. Follow our ELCA and Living Lutheran social media channels for more stories and updates. CTS Adult Education will include this focus on October 8 and 15.

Crossways Bible Study

Ever had reading the entire Bible on your bucket list? Let Crossways and Pastor Mike Anderson be your guide. This two-year program, hosted by Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, begins October 1 with Genesis, and will include pre-recorded lectures sent on Sundays to your email address to be watched at your leisure. Optional Thursday evening Zoom discussions will follow each lecture’s release. The course is academic in nature and works well for those with or without Bible background. Click on the following link to register and to read endorsements from: Kathryn Buffum, Red Burchfield, Rena Connell, and Rebecca Langholz.

www.hslckirkland.org/crossways
Adult Education Info

Monthly Text Study with Pastor Jana

*Third Thursdays of each month from 10:00am-11:30am in the CTS Conference Room*

Take a deeper look at upcoming Sunday lectionary scripture texts with Pastor Jana as we use mutual invitation to explore what God is doing and saying to us--both personally and to our congregation/community. All are welcome.

Sunday Adult Forum Topics – Fall 2023

The Adult Education Committee has developed a slate of programs for this fall, and we hope you consider attending some or all of them! Adult Forum presentations begin at 11:00 and last about 45 minutes. So grab a snack and a cuppa from the gathering room and head to the far north end of the church (to the meeting room just beyond the kid’s gym) for some good conversation and fellowship!

**September 10:** “God’s Work, Our Hands” community service day and Ministry Fair
Heavy appetizers after church will be followed by several opportunities to participate in service projects around Bellingham and at CTS. **And visit the ministry fair booths to learn about and sign up to participate in CTS’s ministry!**

**September 17:** Acolyte training and Ministry Fair
All children and families are invited to the sanctuary to receive training in serving as an acolyte for worship. **For everyone: Visit the ministry fair booths to learn about and sign up to participate in CTS’s ministry!**

**September 24:** “Generations in the Church” and Ministry Fair
Join our Director of children and youth ministries, Nicole Pridachuk, for a presentation on "Generations in the Church." Nicole will guide us through some generational differences in American culture and how understanding those differences can make us a more inclusive community. **Visit the ministry fair booths to sign up to learn about and participate in CTS’s ministry!**

**October 1:** The “De-Churching” of America
Pastor Jana will present information on current trends regarding the decline of church membership and religious affiliation in America.

**October 8:** ELCA Truth and Healing Movement
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has commenced its Truth and Healing Movement, inspiring us to grow in better and right relationships with Indigenous people and tribal nations. This will be an introduction to the Truth and Healing Movement by Bonnie Drewes and Pastor Jana. For more information and to sign up for a series of classes being presented by the ELCA and Indigenous leaders (in Sept/Oct/Nov), go to: [https://elca.org/indigenous](https://elca.org/indigenous)
Sunday Adult Forum Topics – Fall 2023 (cont’d)

October 15: Guest presenter Renee Swan-Waite from the Lummi Nation
Learn from Lummi tribal member Renee Swan-Waite about Lummi history, culture, and timeline on this land. Grow more deeply into our commitment to “live consciously and respectfully, honoring our Coast Salish neighbors” as our land acknowledgement states.

October 22: What It Means to Be a Lutheran
Though our roots may be found in year 1517, much has changed (though some things have stayed the same). Pastor Jana will share thoughts and insights about what it means to be a contemporary Lutheran in both theology and living as a follower of Jesus.

October 29: Reformation Sunday
We celebrate our confirmands with a special reception after worship (no adult class today).

November 5: Faith Action Network
CTS is a member of the Faith Action Network (FAN), a multi-faith, non-profit organization through which thousands of people and over 160 faith communities across Washington State partner for the common good. FAN is a powerful voice of faith and conscience in advocating for a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world. Come and learn more from Elise DeGooyer, Executive Director of FAN.

November 12: Faith and Art
CTS is blessed to have multiple artists who are a part of our community. Come and learn more about how art, in its many forms, contributes to a richer spiritual life for all of us (whether we are artists or appreciators of art).

November 19: Guest presenters Micheal and Carmen Zoughbi from Palestine (with Rod Schofield)
Learn from Palestinian Christians Micheal and Carmen Zoughbi about the realities of being Christian in the Holy Land, a place fraught with religious and political upheaval. This day you will also have an opportunity to purchase olive wood ornaments, candle sticks, nativity scenes, etc. made by carvers from a co-op in Bethlehem which supports Christians in the Holy Land.

November 26: Thanksgiving Weekend (no Adult Forum)
Oh give thanks to the Lord, for God’s love endures forever.

December 3: TBD

December 10: TBD

December 17: Grief Work: Learning to Live with Grief
Ellen Harris will share her experience of learning to live with grief after the death of her beloved daughter, Anna, at the age of 19. Grief is not something that our culture "does" very well. It is something we will all eventually experience if we are lucky enough to live long enough, but few people want to talk about. She hopes she can help begin the conversation. (A Healing Service will be offered the following Thursday at 7:00pm at CTS, particularly for those who experience grief around the holidays.)

December 24 & 31: Advent 4/Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve (no Adult Forum)
Lunch and Communion at The Willows

Pastor Jana will be offering communion at The Willows at 1:15 on the second Thursday of each month. This will preceded by lunch at noon for anyone who wishes to participate.

LUNCH: All are welcome. Please contact Jennifer Johnson (360-920-3865) if you plan to have lunch as a head count for the staff is important. The cost is $15 and payment by check or cash is accepted. The staff requests no credit cards please. Dates: September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14, January 11, February 8, March 14, April 11, May 9.

Save the Date

Holden Village’s biggest annual fundraiser event is back for the fourth year! The all-online silent auction helps keep the daily operations and programs of the Village running. The Jubilee Auction also gives you the opportunity to donate to specific needs or projects. Save the date for the Jubilee Auction, October 4 – 8, 2023, and stay tuned for more information.

YOU can help by donating an item or experience to be bid on. Past examples of donations have included:

- Vacation homes/timeshares for a week or long weekend
- Art – pottery, watercolor, acrylic, woodcarving, weaving
- Handcrafted items that symbolize or reflect Holden Village
- Local business baskets
- Tickets to sporting events, performances, theaters, concerts
- Hosted dinners
- Date night packages
- Family oriented outdoor adventures: snowshoeing, skiing, golf
- Wine, beer, cider, whiskey tastings and tours

Coffee & Conversation with past teaching faculty or board member

To donate an item/experience, please visit https://www.holdenvillage.org/donate/

We will review your submission and get back to you about whether it is something we can use for the auction and if we need more information. The deadline for donations is September 5, 2023.
Artist-activists, educators, and faith leaders Paul Vasile, Maren Haynes Marchesini, and Leah Silvieus will facilitate this five-day retreat exploring topics of collaboration, connection, joy, purpose, rest, and repair. This retreat will be enriching for those seeking ways to incorporate creativity & play into everyday life, those leading or participating in organizations seeking to build communities, and those hoping to recover their sense of purpose and excitement. You can read more on Flourishing in the Field’s blog and Music That Makes Community’s website.

You are invited to arrive on Sunday, September 10th or Monday, September 11th, with retreat programming beginning on the 11th.

The Fourth Fall Sojourn to Holden Village  September 24 – October 2, 2023

After the busy summer schedule, fall is quieter and a beautiful time to visit. While at Holden Village you will have the opportunity to create your own rhythms for each day according to your interests. You are encouraged to take time for rest and recreation and a host of other activities. This late September week will feature the teaching staff Mark Gravrock, Larry Rasmussen, Jacqueline Bussie, and Mark Sedio.

How To Sign Up
On the Visit Holden page, scroll down to Visit in the Spring, Autumn, or Winter and click on Make a Reservation under the trio of photos.
An experiential exhibit to build understanding around forced displacement & resettlement

FROM HOME TO HOME

SEPT 12TH | 5:00 - 7:00 PM

4173 MERIDIAN ST, BELLINGHAM, WA 98226

Join us for a free open house night of From Home to Home! The exhibit is a semi-guided experience that puts you in the shoes of refugees and others who have been forced to leave behind their homes, and often loved ones. Learn about the challenges of resettlement in the United States, build greater empathy, and find out what next steps you can take.

The exhibit is recommended for ages 12 and up.
2023-24 COURSE CATALOG

Chosen: A Study in God’s People-Creating Project
Dr. Michael Chan; One-Day Retreat Sat, Sept 23, 9am-4pm
Examining the Old Testament stories and asking how God’s ongoing work to shape a people continues in your own lives and ministry contexts today.

Sovereignty Spirituality
Dr. Beverly Wallace & Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy
Wed’s 6:30-8pm Oct 4, 11, 18, Nov 1, 15 via zoom
How might those marginalized by colonizing systems of oppression (Indigenous and Womanist/Black women) help us to imagine life anew as Christians in today’s complex world?

Waiting for God: Reimagining Church Vitality
One-Day Retreat Sat, Nov 18, 9am-4pm
In an age of declining resources, how do we reimagine what it means to be Church created in God’s image?

Rest & Renewal
One-Day Retreat Sat, Feb 3, 9am-4pm
Developing wholistic ministry for the body, mind & spirit with a special focus on mental health.

Lent with Baldwin & Bonhoeffer
Rev. Dr. Edward Donaldson III & Rev. Dr. Dan Peterson
Thurs 6:30-8pm Feb 15, 22, 29, Mar 7,14,21
What might German Lutheran Theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer and James Baldwin, a Black, 20th century author, together have to prophetically speak to our own time?

Becoming Communities of Belonging
One-Day Retreat Sat, Apr 6, 9am-4pm
How does all that we’ve learned this year and the idea of Kingdom of God living apply to our specific contexts?

Abide in the Word Bible Study
Tuesdays, 7-8pm via zoom
Free Synod-wide Bible Study deep dive into the week’s Lectionary text.

CONTACT US:
live@lutheransnw.org
Instagram @the.live.project
https://www.lutheransnw.org/ministries/the-live-project
CTS Church Council Minutes
July 18, 2023

The Council of Christ the Servant Lutheran Church met in regular session on July 18, 2023.

In attendance: President Doug Sutton, Vice President Bill Salen, Congregational Secretary Shawn Dooley, Sally Holloway, Bryan Jones, Larry Moss, Tiffany Nangle, Peter Rosenberg, Holly Whittle, Kathi Willis

Ministry Staff Present: Pastor Jana Schofield

Other Congregational Officers: Kurt Willis, Treasurer

Absent: Don Berry, Sidney Evans

Call to Gather and Devotions
Pastor Jana Schofield opened with devotion and prayer.

Council & Constitution
Council Calendar is included in the Council packet. Kathi Willis will send the calendar to Nicole as a pdf for inclusion on the website. Pastor Jana noted that the Council Handbook is a great resource on the website. It was last updated two years ago. Doug and Bryan will search for the original document for archival purposes.

Bill Salen provided an overview of the CTS Constitution and Council liaison responsibilities. Each ministry team (committee) has a Council liaison to serve and support the committee as follows:

- Communicate Council information relevant to the committee.
- Bring issues, concerns, and action items from the committee to Council. (It was suggested that there be a “Council Action Items” section in committee minutes when necessary.)
- Remind committees about submitting annual budget requests, and help with budget processes as needed.
- Sign Request for Reimbursement forms, especially if the committee chair is the one being reimbursed.

The Council liaison may be more involved in committee work, depending on committee needs, though it is not recommended that the liaison serve as committee chair.

While ongoing presence is expected, the liaison does not need to go to every committee meeting.

Committees are expected to have minutes for each meeting and submit an annual report.

Veronica Haines, Preschool Administrator, represents the Preschool instead of having a Council liaison. If the Preschool has something to present, Veronica will attend the Council meeting. If the Executive Team identifies an agenda item related to the Preschool, Veronica will be invited to the Council meeting. If a Preschool topic arises at a Council meeting, Council will hold on decision making until Veronica is present.

Nicole Pridachuk will ask the Preschool Ad Hoc committee to review Preschool representation and whether the approaches noted above are satisfactory.

Review & Approval of Minutes
Motion to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2023 meeting, with suggested edits, made by Bill Salen. Seconded by Holly Whittle. Motion passed unanimously.
Pastor Jana asked for ideas of people who might be willing to serve on a Reconciling in Christ audit team. Five people were suggested. It was agreed that there is interest and the capacity to host a cluster-wide showing and discussion of the film *Luther* in late October near Reformation Sunday (as was discussed by the Adult Education Committee).

Camp Lutherwood has asked if CTS could make 2 picnic tables. Pastor Jana will ask Community Ministries to take on this project. The request could also be put in Thursday Notes.

Pastor Jana trained five people to be lay communion assistants today, and they will be installed on Sunday, July 23.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Kurt Willis reviewed the June CTS Recap Report. He noted we are at the halfway point of the fiscal year. A shortfall of $22,000 was anticipated at this point in the year, but there is a surplus of approximately $11,000. Expenses will be higher the second half of the year with a full staffing configuration, but any shortfall at the end of FY23 is anticipated to be smaller than budgeted.

The Preschool fiscal year ended on June 30. Kurt reviewed the June Preschool Recap Report. A shortfall of $10,000 was anticipated/budgeted, but they finished the year with only a $283 shortfall. Reserve funds are still healthy. Kurt will suggest to the Executive Team that Veronica be invited to the August Council meeting to present a Preschool report.

**Returning Members**

*Motion to approve the transfer of membership to CTS for Marian Yunghans, Melanie Cool, and Claydene Lederer made by Pastor Jana. Seconded by Kathi Willis. Motion passed unanimously.*

There was general agreement that formally receiving new or returning members is important to the spiritual life of members and the congregation, and Pastor Jana will follow-up to coordinate a date(s).

**In Memoriam E-mails**

Council agreed that Pastor Jana, in consultation with the family, will send an “In Memoriam” email to inform the congregation when a CTS member dies.

A question was raised about how long to keep families on the prayer list after a death in the family. It was decided that the Office Administrator will contact families after a month to ask whether to continue to include the prayer, change the language of the prayer, or remove the prayer. It was suggested that the newest prayer requests be at the top of the prayer list. Pastor Jana will inform the Office Administrator.

**Rally Sunday & ELCA “God’s Work, Our Hands”**

Each September the ELCA encourages congregations to participate in “God’s Work, Our Hands” – a day of service to their community. After discussing options about how to incorporate this with Rally Sunday, the following was decided upon:

- The month of September will be a time to kick off the new church year.
- September 10: Designated as “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday, this will be a day of service. Heavy snacks will be provided after the service (coordinated by Fellowship) followed by several community service opportunities (coordinated by Stewardship) beginning about ½ hour after the worship service. Holly will ask Gardenview if they have a project that could be done on this day, and will let Bill know. It was suggested that youth be considered when projects are being developed. It was also suggested that Justice Seekers find a way to do a project at CTS for individuals who cannot participate in physical activities.
September 17: Adult Ed is using the Adult Forum to hold a training session focuses on worship service roles.

September 17: There will be a late afternoon “Rally Picnic” at CTS with food and music, to be coordinated by Fellowship.

All September: Tables will be in the narthex each Sunday in September to provide opportunities for people to learn about the work of committees and ministry teams, and to express an interest in becoming involved. Stewardship will coordinate table set-up, and Council Liaisons should let Bill Salen know if their committee wants a table, and for which weeks. While it would be helpful for committees to staff their table each week, it’s not required. Bill handed out a template/example (slip of paper) outlining involvement opportunities for Worship, Music and Arts – and asked that Council Liaisons take it to their committee(s) to develop a similar slip with their committee’s involvement opportunities. These slips should be given to Stewardship and will be placed on committee tables. Holly will send the updated committee descriptions to each Council Liaison for inclusion on their slip. It’s important that people who express an interest be contacted within a week by the relevant committee.

An electronic interest survey will be sent out at the end of the month.

Council Retreat will be on Saturday, October 14th. Topics identified so far include:
- Lifecycle of congregations
- 500-year reformation of the church
- Engaging youth
- Possible discussion of CTS’s 50th Anniversary

Standing Committee Reports
Personnel – Office Admin Job Search Update
Applications have been reviewed and applicants selected for interviews which are taking place this week and next week. It’s hoped that a finalist will be selected and an offer will be made by the end of next week, after referencing and background checks are completed. A Council e-vote will be required for approval to hire.

Gardenvie Meals – Our Kitchen, Other Organizations
Gardenvie has organizations willing to provide meals but would need to use our kitchen for meal preparation. It was noted that they would need to follow the Building Use Policy and fill out an application. Motion made not to charge organizations using our kitchen for Gardenvie meal preparation made by Holly Whittle. Seconded by Peter Rosenberg. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Questions from Written Reports
In 2024, the Stewardship Committee hopes to use the four months with a 5th Sunday to highlight a ministry/committee on those Sundays, as well as in the bulletin, newsletter, and perhaps a temple talk. Depending on needs, a special offering may be requested.
Bryan Jones, Finance Committee Liaison, asked that Council make clear what account number funding is coming from when making a motion that involves funding.

Ad Hoc Committees
Tech Team Ad Hoc – Proposed Spending Plan Motion to authorize $1,280 from unallocated reserve funds to cover tech expenses, as defined on the request submitted by Sarah Satre, made by Shawn Dooley. Seconded by Kathi Willis. Motion passed unanimously.
Building Access – Ad Hoc Committee Proposal
Shawn Dooley reported that there is no proposal/policy for building access management. Shawn will reach out to Council to determine who should have key fobs, and will pull together an ad hoc committee (to be approved by Council in August).

Ad Hoc Committee Policy Statement
Kurt will put together a document for the August Council meeting to review nomenclature, language, and definitions to describe different types of committees at CTS: standing, long-term, ad hoc, task forces, etc., and also address reporting structures for the various types of committees and task forces.

Organizational Chart further refinement
The chart in the packet was updated by Sarah Satre following the June Council meeting and is meant to be a reflection of who we are now. The following needed edits were identified:
Change “Global Mission Committee” to “Deep Waters Global Missions”
Add another dotted bubble around “Worship, Music and Arts” to include Worship Music Ministers, Choir Directors, and Choir Accompanists
Change “Secretary” to “Congregational Secretary”
Add dotted line from Office Administrator and Custodian to Property Committee
Add the key to show that the red diamonds designate paid positions

Reminders
Interfaith Coalition – Acknowledge CTS Tuesday. October 24, evening, at Center for Spiritual Learning, Yew St.
Bob Ham Memorial Service at CTS scheduled for Sat. Sept. 23 at 12:00 pm at CTS
Council Retreat Sat. Oct. 14

Next Council meeting is on Tuesday, August 15th at 6:30 pm.

13. Meeting adjourned with prayer led by Pastor Jana
Respectfully submitted by Lisa Rosenberg, Recording Secretary

CTS Finance Recap Report
7/31/23

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Office Hours
Monday-Thursday
from 9:00 am—1:00 pm.
360-733-1277
office@ctslutheran.org
Pastor Jana Schofield
(she/her)
pastorjana@ctslutheran.org
Children & Youth Minister
Nicole Pridachuk
nicole@ctslutheran.org
Council Executive Committee
Executive Committee
Doug Sutton, President
Bill Salen, Vice President
Kurt Willis, Treasurer
Shawn Dooley, Cong. Secy.
Catch the Son Preschool
Veronica Hains
info@catchtheson.org

You are welcome at Christ the Servant!

Worship Schedule
Sundays 9:30 AM
Childcare 9:15 -11:00 AM