



Servants' Song

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
and Catch the Son Preschool
A Reconciling in Christ congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

May
2024

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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Christ the Servant
Lutheran Church

May 2024
Newsletter



From Pastor Jana

May 1 marks one year since I began serving as your new pastor at CTS. As I mark this anniversary I am feeling immensely blessed to be your pastor.

I continue to be astounded by the quality of people you are individually and as a community. You embody Christ's love, mercy, and grace in your work inside and outside the walls of CTS. I am honored to work alongside you in worship, learning, service, support, and justice. I love serving and partnering with you!

At the April church council meeting, the council and I agreed to the special emphases of my ministry over the coming year:

- **Teaching:** Continue to provide pastor-led Bible Studies and other Adult Education learning opportunities, especially regarding Christian Nationalism, RIC topics, and anti-racism. (Monthly text study and once-a-month Sunday adult ed.)
- **Congregational Connections:** Nurture lay leaders. Work with task force to connect with and engage those who have lost connection with CTS, and help members identify their gifts/time/talent/treasure to support the ministries of CTS as a response to God's grace and love.
- **Evangelism and Outreach:** Work with task force to equip members to be evangelists, grow the church, and look outward (perhaps beyond their comfort zone for special events like retreats, involvement in ministries like Deep Waters, and even trips to the Holy Land).

- **RIC Updated Commitments:** Work with Justice Seekers Committee to encourage and support the updated RIC process and ensure inclusion of those resistant/hesitant/slow to change in carrying out RIC proposals.
- **Help celebrate CTS's 50 years of ministry and help envision future ministry:** Continue regular conversation with council about the changing nature of the church in a post-Christian age and our vision for the future.

The month of May the Personnel Committee is instituting regular reviews for all our staff, so I'll be looking forward to my review and preparing for and reviewing the six (wonderful!) staff members I supervise. Our staff is one of the key reasons I love working at CTS.

So, as I thank you for a marvelous first year of ministry together and look toward stepping into the next 50 years of CTS' ministry, may God continue to nurture, guide, empower, and bless us to be the hands of Christ in our community and world.

In thanksgiving for you,

Pastor Jana

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 have a confession to make, I am a terrible pool player. I am so bad that the last time I played, the person I was playing with stopped the game and said, “You are the worst pool player I have ever played with.” (I had told him I was horrible but he didn’t believe me.) I’m using this story as a very thin tangent to talk about gifts and the Spirit ... bear with me.

In Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 12, we read, *“Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”*

As many of you know, Paul was writing to a congregation in Corinth after receiving some correspondence from them and hearing their concerns. Throughout this letter Paul emphatically makes it clear that no one is spiritually better than others – no one has better faith, no one has better gifts, no one should eat better than another at the Eucharist table. Paul is adamant in this. (He is talking about this because of some struggles in the Corinth church. You are welcome to read the entire letter of 1 Corinthians to get more context.)

Paul emphasizes that because we all receive faith through the Holy Spirit, no one is spiritually superior. Paul further emphasizes that because we all receive a variety of gifts given by the Holy Spirit, no one has a worthier gift than another. And, to emphasize this point, Paul writes that the Spirit does not give only one kind of gift to all. Because the church and the world need diverse gifts, the Spirit gives different gifts to different people. In other words, Paul is simply saying this: same Spirit – lots of gifts.

You hear this? In a society where we emphasize certain gifts and skills and abilities above others (and often feel like we have fallen short), we hear in 1 Corinthians that the Holy Spirit gives a variety of gifts to a variety of people. Specifically, YOU have been given a variety of gifts, and this is good.

Further, these Holy Spirit gifts – they are not meant to benefit the individual person but are to benefit the entire community and world. Paul emphasizes that these gifts are not to be used in selfish ways or in self-seeking ways. Paul clearly states that if a gift cannot be shared, and shared for the good of others, it is not from the Spirit. Ultimately, the purpose of these different gifts of the Spirit is to share in God’s love and grace and mercy with all through Jesus Christ our Savior.

As Americans, we have often been told (and maybe believe) that as individuals we are responsible for ourselves. We are not to rely on others – we are to be strong and self-sufficient. We are taught that to have freedom is to be autonomous. But let’s be clear. This is far from what we read in 1 Corinthians. Paul says each person receives gifts for the common good. Paul says that each person receives the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. It is in community where the gifts from the Holy Spirit shine. It is in community where the Holy Spirit is made manifest.

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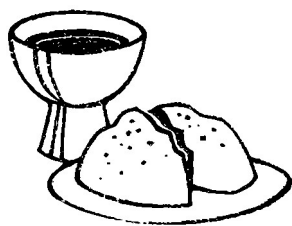
You see, it is God's intention that we are to be with one another – for one another – as the community of faith, as the body of Christ, as the Church on earth. The Holy Spirit has given a variety of gifts to a variety of congregations and individuals. And together we are called to bring these gifts together to help bear one another's burdens, to love and pray together, to bring justice and new life, to be made manifest in the Holy Spirit for the common good.

Honestly, it doesn't matter that I am a terrible pool player. But it does matter how I both share the gifts that God has given me and how I reach out to others in mutual support when I am in need.

I would love to hear stories from you about your gifts being made manifest in the Holy Spirit – individually and in your congregation. How are each person's gifts being shared in your own particular congregation? How is your congregation sharing with another congregation? What gifts were missing from your particular place of worship that you have found outside of your space? What gifts have you been able to share with others?

May we live into what we often say in worship, "The gifts of God, for the people of God." Amen.

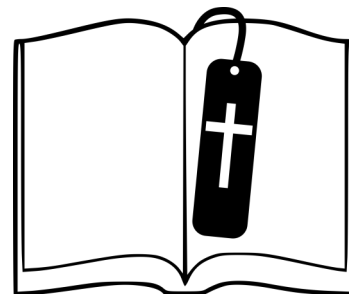
+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee / bishop@lutheransnw.org



Lunch and Communion at The Willows, Thursday May 9

Pastor Jana Schofield offers communion this month at The Willows (3115 Squalicum Pkwy.) at 1:00 on Thursday May 9. This will be preceded by lunch at 11:30 AM 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.



Monthly Text Study, Thursday May 16 with Pastor Jana

*Third Thursdays of each month from 11:30am-1:00pm,
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. Feel free to bring a lunch to eat while we share.

Calendar May 2024

Restroom Use for Groups Meeting at CTS

If your group meets at CTS during Preschool Hours, Monday - Friday 8:00 AM-1:00 PM, please use the restrooms at the far north end of the building while preschool is in session. There are two gender-neutral restrooms, including ADA accessible stalls, for your use.

Wednesday, May 1

8:30 AM Preschool
6:45 PM Male Chorus (Sanctuary)
7:30 PM Servant Singers (Sanctuary)

Thursday, May 2

8:30 AM Preschool
10:00 AM Stewardship Committee (Conference Rm.)
4:00 PM Care and Well Being Cmte. (Conference Rm.)
7:00 PM Justice Seekers (Zoom)

Friday, May 3

8:30 AM Preschool
9:00 Men's Fellowship (Church Narthex)
5:00 PM York Street AA (Fellowship Rm.)
8:00 PM York Street Monthly Business Mtg. (Fellowship)

Saturday, May 4

8:30 AM Preschool Golf Tournament

Sunday, May 5

9:30 AM Worship with Prayer Shawl Dedication
10:45 AM Bridge Youth Group (Youth Room)
11:00 AM Adult Education (Adult Forum)
11:00 AM Memory Loss Support Groups (Library)

Monday, May 6

8:30 AM Preschool

Tuesday, May 7

8:30 AM Preschool
11:30 AM Women's Book Club
4:00 PM Deadline for Bulletin/Weekly Note submissions
7:00 PM "Into Action" AA
7:00 PM Community Ministries (Zoom)

Wednesday, May 8

8:30 AM Preschool
11:00 AM CTS Staff Mtg. (Conference Room)
4:30 PM Preschool Exec. Team
5:30 PM Grief Support Group (Library)
6:30 PM Compassionate Friends (Adult Ed. Room)
6:30 PM Personnel Committee (Conference Room)

Wednesday, May 8 (continued)

6:45 PM Male Chorus (Sanctuary)
7:30 PM Servant Singers (Sanctuary)

Thursday, May 9

8:30 AM Preschool
9:30 AM Piano Guild Auditions (Sanctuary)
11:30 AM CTS Lunch at the Willows
1:00 PM Communion Service at the Willows

Friday, May 10

8:30 AM Preschool
9:00 Men's Fellowship (Church Narthex)
5:00 PM York Street AA

Saturday, May 11

9:00 AM Renewing Worship Team Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
9:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Kitchen/Fellowship)
1:45 PM Private Music Recital (Sanctuary)

Sunday, May 12

9:30 AM Worship
10:45 AM Compassion Circle (Youth Room)
11:00 PM Property Committee (Conference Room)

Monday, May 13

8:30 AM Preschool
5:30 PM Finance Committee (Conference Room)
7:00 PM Deep Waters Committee (off site)
7:00 PM BFOM Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, May 14

Council Report Submission Deadline

8:30 AM Preschool
11:30 AM Women's Book Club (Conference Room)
1:00 PM Executive Committee mtg. (Conference Room)
3:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry (Youth Room)
4:00 PM Deadline for Bulletin/Weekly Note submissions
7:00 PM Worship, Music & Arts Committee (Zoom)
7:30 PM "Into Action" AA

Wednesday, May 15

8:30 AM Preschool
12:00 PM OPOP mtg. (off site)
6:45 PM Male Chorus (Sanctuary)
7:30 PM Servant Singers (Sanctuary)

Thursday, May 16

8:30 AM Preschool
11:30 AM Text Study with Pastor Jana (Conference Rm.)
4:30 PM Mutual Ministry Committee (Conference Room)
7:00 PM BFOM Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday, May 17

8:30 AM Preschool
 9:00 Men's Fellowship (Church Narthex)
 5:00 PM York Street AA

Saturday, May 18

Synod Assembly
 9:00 AM Hearing Loss Association (Fellowship Room)
 3:30 PM Private Music Recital (Sanctuary)

Sunday May 19

9:30 AM Worship
 11:00 AM Adult Education (Adult Forum)
 11:00 AM Memory Loss Support Groups (Library)
 5:00 PM Churches for Middle East Peace Presentation
 (First Congregational Church)

Monday, May 20

Newsletter submissions deadline
Semi-Annual Reports deadline
 8:30 AM Preschool
 7:00 PM BFOM Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, May 21

8:30 AM Preschool
 11:30 AM Women's Book Club (Conference Room)
 4:00 PM Deadline for Bulletin/Weekly Note submissions
 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting (Adult Forum)
 7:00 PM "Into Action" AA

Wednesday, May 22

8:30 AM Preschool
 5:30 PM Grief Support Group (Library)
 6:00 PM Pre-K Graduation (Sanctuary)
 6:45 PM Male Chorus (Sanctuary)
 7:30 PM Servant Singers (Sanctuary)

Thursday, May 23

Pastor Jana - all day Synod Candidacy
 8:30 AM Preschool
 3:00 PM Gardenview Meal Prep (Kitchen)
 7:30 PM BFOM Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday, May 24

8:30 AM Preschool
 9:00 Men's Fellowship (Church Narthex)
 5:00 PM York Street AA

Saturday, May 25

12:15 PM Assumption Community Meal

Sunday, May 26

9:30 AM Worship
 11:30 AM CTS Hikers and Walkers

Monday, May 27 - Memorial Day

CTS Office open 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Tuesday, May 28

9:00 AM Preschool End-Of-Year Clean
 11:30 AM Women's Book Club
 4:00 PM Deadline for Bulletin/Weekly Note submissions
 7:30 PM "Into Action" AA

Wednesday, May 29

8:30 AM Preschool
 6:45 PM Male Chorus (Sanctuary)
 7:30 PM Servant Singers (Sanctuary)

Thursday, May 30

Nicole - vacation day
 7:00 PM BFOM Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday, May 31

Kay - Memorial Day observed
 9:00 Men's Fellowship (Church Narthex)
 5:00 PM York Street AA

Saturday, June 1

CTS 50th Anniversary Celebration
 5:00 PM Dinner and Program (Sanctuary)

Please see our church calendar on our website at
<http://www.ctslutheran.org/> for any calendar updates.

Wear RED for Pentecost!

On May 19 we celebrate the fire of the Holy Spirit coming upon the first Christian church and the fire of the Holy Spirit continuing in our lives. If you own any red clothing, please plan to wear it to worship that day. (We'll have a few red bandanas and scarves if you'd like to borrow one that morning.)



Join us for our 50th Anniversary Celebration
GROWING GOD'S SERVANTS, THE FIRST 50 YEARS!

SATURDAY | JUNE 1st
CELEBRATION DINNER & PROGRAM

5:00pm – Music & Mingling
 5:45pm – Hosted Dinner
 Taco Bar, Salad, Fruit, Dessert & Beverages
 6:30pm – Memories & Music

RSVP by
MAY 15th
for the DINNER at:
bit.ly/3Uqxn2W
 OR scan QR code



SUNDAY | JUNE 2nd, 9:30am
CELEBRATION WORSHIP SERVICE

We're creating a
Digital Memory Book!
 Submit a **MEMORY** at: bit.ly/4aHLEwx
 Submit a **PHOTO** at: bit.ly/4aJphXu
 Or mail to: **Christ the Servant,**
2600 Lakeway Dr,
Bellingham, WA 98229
This book will be shared via email once we have it completed.

Hope you'll join us for our festive 50th Anniversary weekend on June 1st and 2nd. The planning team is busy checking things off the list as the celebration gets closer!

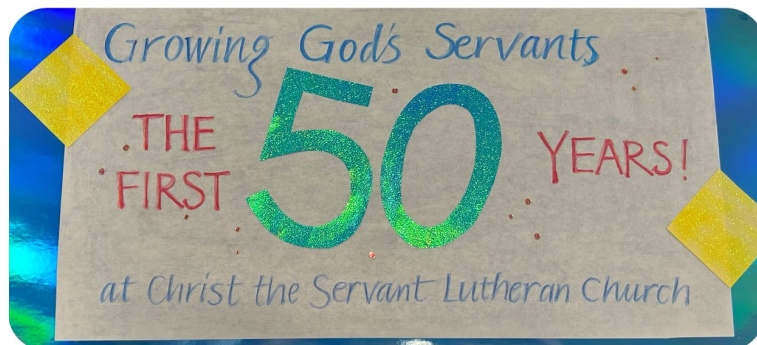
RSVP by May 15th for the **Celebration Dinner** if you and your family are planning to attend so we know how much food to order from Tacos El Tule! We're delighted to hear that there will be some folks from our past coming to celebrate with us!

Opportunities for Fun & Service:

Sunday, May 5th – Paint-the-Banner Workshop will take place right after church so we can create a celebratory red banner for our Celebration Worship Service on June 2nd.

Carl Cozier Elementary Garden Service Project – We want to commemorate and give thanks for our first gathering and worship space at Carl Cozier Elementary School by beautifying a couple of small garden beds that 5th grade students walk through as part of their end of year ceremony. Please **Sign-Up on the Kiosk in the Narthex or email Kathy.dooley60@gmail.com if you and your family can help with this project!** A work party date will be set once we have volunteers.

Our thanks to everyone who sent photos for the slide show, wrote newsletter articles about the history of CTS, and have offered to help with upcoming events, as well as to all of you who have been part of the adventure of ministry and service here at Christ the Servant over the past 50 years!



ANNIVERSARY THOUGHTS OF CTS AND THE INTERFAITH COALITION

Do you know what the Interfaith Coalition is? And do you know how closely tied CTS is to the formation of Interfaith? In fact, CTS was the primary founder of the Interfaith Coalition. Since then, thousands have focused on meeting human need as volunteers in an interfaith workforce here in Northwest Washington.

In the late 1970's while our young church was growing and beginning to thrive, the nation also was facing a down-spiraling economy with cuts of government. Everywhere foodbank lines grew longer; people lost their homes; health services were unavailable, and the mentally ill were left with no reliable support systems. At that time CTS's own Pr. Clinton sparked action in our community to meet the human need we faced.

It began with Don Clinton, pastor at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, being inspired (while showering) to organize an interfaith response to federal budget cuts to human-service programs. He reached out to other local clergy and the Opportunity Council and by April 1981 they held a "Congressional Forum" at Faith Lutheran Church to address poverty needs in Whatcom County. In October of that same year, representatives from 29 local congregations gathered for the first Interfaith Coalition Assembly meeting and Interfaith Coalition was chartered.

One month later, the Medical Task Force began meeting and within another 5 months, Interfaith Coalition, Opportunity Council, and Whatcom Medical Bureau began recruiting local physicians to volunteer services. Forty-one patients were treated in the first three weeks.

Our own Dave Lynch, MD., a key participant, tells of himself and many other doctors at first treating people in need for \$1 a visit in their offices -- a clear and pure focus of responding to human need.

There's so much more to celebrate in the amazing spirit of the Interfaith Coalition over the next 40+ years! The medical effort grew into the Interfaith Community Health Center, an independent non-profit organization in 2002, and then into today's Unity Care Northwest in 2015.

The services grew from medical to dental to mental and behavioral health and clinics expanded to Point Roberts in 2003 and Ferndale in 2008. Note that in 2002 Hoagland Pharmacy (our own Mike Hoagland) was the first to begin providing low-cost prescription drugs in support of medical services.

God's Work – Our Hands remains an integral part of our church's participation in today's Interfaith Coalition. Our recent participation in the Family Promise program, providing warm coats in winter, giving Christmas gifts to children in needy families, and much more continue our long-time ties with and respect for the Interfaith Coalition.

Submitted by Charlene MacKenzie

MAY 2024 ADULT ED DATES AND INFORMATION

Sundays 11:00AM - 12:00 PM



May 5 **Tribalism (Adult Ed Room)**

Led by Paul Grout

Tribalism occurs within every facet of human life. Borders are created around nations, states, towns, neighborhoods, religious affiliations, schools, grades in school, levels of education, groups of belonging and un-belonging. Human beings evolved within tribes. For thousands upon thousands of years living within tribes improved our chances of survival. Our deeply ingrained tribal patterning is at this time in human history turning against us to the degree that it threatens our future survival. Come hear from Paul and engage in discussion.

Memory Loss Support Groups (Library)

Facilitated by Jennifer Johnson, Lynn McKinster, and John Reitz, these groups are for anyone experiencing memory loss symptoms or anyone caring for or living with someone experiencing memory loss symptoms. Join us for one hour on the first and third Sundays of the month in the CTS Church library following worship service.

May 12 **MOTHER'S DAY- (No Adult Ed class)**

Compassion Circle (Youth Room)

Compassion Circle, facilitated by David Westerlund, is a process of story sharing that builds deeper connections, and vital skills of listening, empathy, and compassion. Meets in the Youth Room, and begins 15 minutes following the end of worship.

May 19 **Christian Nationalism**

Christian nationalism is a cultural framework that idealizes and advocates a fusion of Christianity with American civic life. Christian nationalism contends that America has been and should always be distinctively "Christian" from top to bottom – in its self-identity, interpretations of its own history, sacred symbols, cherished values, and public policies – and it aims to keep it that way. But the "Christian" in Christian nationalism is more about identity than religion. It carries with it assumptions about nativism, white supremacy, authoritarianism, patriarchy, and militarism. Come learn more from Pastor Jana Schofield and have discussion about this phenomenon in America.

Memory Loss Support Groups (Library)

May 26 **No Adult Ed class**

CTS Hikers and Walkers Sunday May 26

Join us for our next gathering, Sunday May 26th, 11:30 being a day for City walk, circumnavigation around Sehome Hill.





Fellowship Helpers Needed

Sign up now so we might continue to offer weekly Fellowship Hour after worship service. Each Sunday three roles are available:

"Host" to set up,

"Goodie Provider" to supply 4-6 dozen treats,

"Clean Up" to tidy and sanitize.

Volunteer through the link in your weekly note, or contact Sally Holloway 360-510-7092.

From Property Committee

Thank you to Dave Hageman for finishing the job of replacing outlets in the preschool. And thank you to Rick Gordon for eliminating the pesky moles from the front lawn! And finally thank you to Mary Beth Neal and Connie Clement for filling in for the Oberlanders while they were away in April. And a big thank you to Rick Congdon for coordinating the roof repair which happened quickly and without a glitch.



June 2 Semi-Annual Meeting

After our 50th anniversary worship we'll join for our semi-annual meeting (around 11am) in the sanctuary to elect new council members and hear reports of our ministry as we look forward to the next 50 years of ministry at CTS!

Synod Assembly

Five CTS members (Pastor Jana Schofield, Lisa Cornwell, Sam Martinez, Liz Mathias, and Leith Swenson) will attend the one-day Northwest Washington Synod Assembly on Saturday, May 18 at Grace Lutheran in Des Moines. The assembly will include worship, reports and news from our synod leaders and ministry partners, elections, ministry anniversary celebrations, and a few fun surprises!

The theme, **We Lift Our Eyes**, is based on Psalm 121:1-2: *I lift up my eyes to the hills - from where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.* Please pray for the assembly and our CTS voting members.

Welcome new member Peggy Carr



From Community Ministries

Work Weekend at Lutherwood! May 31st - June 2nd

Come help us get ready for summer camp! Your stay is free of charge, all we ask is your time and abilities. There will be projects for all ability levels, from trail clearing and platform building to cleaning and organizing. There is always a way you can help serve camp! Registration is up on our website and if you can offer specific skill sets, please reach out directly to marty.martinez@camplutherwood.org to discuss opportunities.

Dine Out for Maple Alley Inn starting May 15

It's time to Dine Out for Maple Alley Inn starting May 15. Check out the participating restaurants at <https://www.opcco.org/dineout/> to help support Maple Alley Inn, which has been dedicated since 1987 to serving healthy and sustaining meals and fighting hunger in Whatcom County.

Interfaith Update

Interfaith properties currently house 3 or 4 families. Three of those families are scheduled to leave within one month. The housing units will be turned around and refurbished to take in families who are being displaced by the remodel project of Dorothy Place (Opportunity Council housing). Opportunity Council and Interfaith will partner for this project. Families will be asked to co-house Interfaith units for 2 months during the renovation project.

The family in Jeff's house were given an extension and they will remain for approximately another 9 months.

Interfaith has three organizations who are interested in renting and managing the Interfaith properties to be used by their organizations. The organizations are planning on submitting proposals.

Interfaith is working on restructuring. Shawn Dooley is currently working on the By-laws and Fundraising committees.

Interfaith has the following positions available:

Congregational Liaison. To reestablish and expand two-way communication between IFC and member congregations, as well as to oversee expansion of membership and carry news of IFC's work directly to congregations. We have been needing to fill this since Janie's departure, so this is an urgent hire.

Operations Director. This will be someone to oversee new programming and, after a period of growth, program staff.

Volunteer Manager. This person will recruit, onboard, train and supervise volunteers for new programming.

Interfaith Coalition is definitely working towards finding direction and renewing its purpose. We at CTS are working with Interfaith through its transition.



**WHATCOM ELCA
High School Event!**

**Mindport
&
Mallard's**

**Sunday May 5
1:45 pm-3:45 pm
Meet @ CTS Parking Lot**

**Please RSVP to Nicole
nicole@ctslutheran.org
360-220-1348**

\$5 donation suggested

Plan ahead for Summer Fun



JUNE 28-30

GOD'S BARNYARD VBS WEEKEND

Friday, June 28: Family Night

Saturday, June 29: Day Camp for Ages 4-11

Sunday, June 30: Worship and Brunch

Registration Open for Camp Lutherwood

CTS Youth Director, Nicole Pridachuk, will be on staff

July 7-12 for Grades 3-9

CTS member Sam Martinez is on staff at Lutherwood year-round!

Register: www.camlutherwood.org/summercamp



AUGUST 2-4, 2024

ALL-AGES CAMPOUT [AT] LUTHERWOOD

TENT & RV SITES AVAILABLE

\$20 PER NIGHT PER CAMPSITE

Day Visitors Welcome on Saturday August 3

All Day: Crafts, Hiking, Swimming, Boating

5:00 PM Bring-Your-Own Supper

6:30 PM Worship, Campfire, and S'mores



Sign-up Genius for Campsites:
tinyurl.com/3hxkeec4



Working Together: Justice can prevail. Peace is possible.

Join staff members from Churches for Middle East Peace for an evening of learning and conversation about peacebuilding and advocacy related to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.

Sunday, May 19, 5:00

2401 Cornwall Ave, Bellingham

Featured speakers will include:

Tamar Haddad, a Palestinian Christian from Jerusalem currently serving as the coordinator of CMEP's *And Still We Rise* women's empowerment initiative

Destiny Magnett, CMEP's Programs and Outreach Manager who has also spent time on the ground in the region.

Giving special attention to **October 7th** and the subsequent **bombardment of Gaza**, Tamar and Destiny will help participants learn about the realities of life on the ground in the Holy Land and share insights about **the role Christians around the globe have to play in working for peace.**

First Congregational Church of Bellingham is hosting,
with Christ the Servant Lutheran and Garden Street United Methodist



Christ the Servant Lutheran Church is supportive of and a member of Faith Action Network (<https://fanwa.org/>). This organization has been active in recent weeks when the state legislature was in session. Here are some reasons we appreciate Faith Action Network:

a) Faith Action Network (FAN) is helpful in highlighting bills before the legislature that improve the lives of Washingtonians, and they focus on bills promoting justice and shared values of faith communities.

b) FAN showed on its website the "Bill Tracker" which helps us as individuals vote pro or no about specific bills being considered and in hearings.

c) As the session continues, FAN tells us if bills are passed in one branch or if they failed to pass. Ultimately they report on budget decisions.

d) On FAN's Lobby Day the staff arranges appointments with legislators' staff so we can lobby for a specific bill focusing on justice, and in break out sessions we may learn about how our legislators have amended bills.

e) This year FAN informed us about the initiatives proposed for our votes this November and their implications for all of us.

Faith Action Network helps us focus on justice for all Washingtonians.

From Justice Seekers:

When people seeking asylum or are survivors of trafficking, they may be sent to the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma. Records show that Charles Daniel, an immigrant from Trinidad and Tobago, died by suicide after experiencing solitary confinement for over three years. There needs to be standards for proper treatment of our neighbors, and one bill that would meet that need is the Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act, S 1208 and HR 2760. Please consider writing or phoning Representative Rick Larsen or Senator Maria Cantwell to encourage them to become a co-sponsor of this legislation on the national level. Senator Murray has already agreed to be a co-sponsor, for which we are grateful. Prolonged solitary confinement is torture we can avoid.

CTS Church Council Minutes

March 19, 2024

The Council of Christ the Servant Lutheran Church met in regular session on March 19, 2024.

In attendance: President Doug Sutton, Vice President Bill Salen, Congregational Secretary Shawn Dooley, Tiffany Nangle, Peter Rosenberg, Bryan Jones, Larry Moss, Don Berry

Ministry Staff Present: Pastor Jana Schofield

Other Congregational Officers: Kurt Willis

Absent: Sally Holloway, Sidney Evans, Holly Whittle

1. Call to Gather, Devotion and Opening Prayer

Pastor Jana asked for reflections on what was happening in people's lives and at CTS four years ago at the start of Covid, followed by a reading of Psalm 46.

2. Review & Approval of February 20, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2024 Council meeting made by Bryan Jones. Seconded by Peter Rosenberg. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Monthly Reports from CTS Staff

Pastor's Report

- Some of the people that will be joining the church on Easter Sunday have not yet been approved by Council due to pending paperwork. There will likely be an additional 2-4 people joining in April.
- There was discussion about the listening sessions recommended by the Executive Committee to provide information and get feedback about Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Audit recommendations. In addition to Justice Seekers members, it was suggested that a Council member and RIC Audit Team member take part in the sessions. General agreement was that for the listening sessions Justice Seekers should have a draft of a revised welcome statement to discuss, recommendations that help us live into the new statement, and a list of other opportunities that go beyond what's required to remain a RIC congregation. It was suggested that the sessions include an overview of Reconciling Works.
- There was general agreement that it is okay for Pastor Jana to put an announcement in the newsletter about the April 10th Cares Day, an annual day of giving, at Cal Lutheran University.
- During Pastor Jana's April 1-10 vacation, Claudia Ackerman will serve as pastoral emergency back-up, with Pastor Harry Grinstead serving as a back-up for Claudia.
- A question was raised about vacation leave tracking, and it was shared that supervisors currently track leave with their staff. It was also shared that MinistryWorks likely has the HR functions necessary to track employee leave status – and this will be followed up on by the Personnel Committee and Kurt.

4. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Kurt Willis reviewed the 2/29/24 Finance Recap Report and noted that income was higher than budgeted and expenses were on track with what was budgeted in February. The higher income is largely attributed to one large annual gift that was received in February.
- Executive Committee approved that the ERC balance of \$44,333 in the dedicated fund account be transferred to unallocated reserves. Council still has the authority to expend it. Finance Committee is working on a policy for recommended unallocated reserve levels.

5. Council Retreat Follow-up: How do we create the environment for resonance?

There was discussion about the 8 minute video "The Church in the Accelerating Age: Resonance vs. Relevance". Reflections included:

- Relevance seems more acquisition-oriented and focused on strategies to grow while resonance seems more relational.
- Relevance and resonance is not necessarily a dichotomy, but more a matter of what strikes a good balance and what percentage of each is optimal.
- There is a challenge of deepening congregational life in a secular society. People are seeking “good” without God, so what would draw them to church?
- Lives today are so busy, perhaps there’s a need to slow down in faith life.
- CTS is a congregation that puts faith into action.
- The context of the video is the declining church, so how can we market CTS in a way that resonates with people who are unchurched? Could consider an ad in newspapers, including “CTS resonates with me because ____” attributed to a member.
- The New Members/Inquirers class focuses on relationship building, Lutheranism, and the congregation of CTS.

6. New Business

Constitution is approved by Synod and is official

Pastor Jana’s updated compensation, benefits, and recommendations/emphases form was tabled to the April meeting.

Congregations stocking Narcan and training to use it

Pastor Jana learned at a recent cluster meeting that some congregations are interested in stocking Narcan with their AED machine for opioid overdoses. The Whatcom County Health Department is willing to give training at the June cluster meeting, so Pastor Jana asked if there is interest. It was recognized that training would need to include learning how to diagnose an overdose and how to administer Narcan. There are no negative side effects if Narcan is administered to someone who is not overdosing. In order to proceed we would need to identify the cost, shelf life, who would be trained, and who would be responsible for tracking when it expires (potentially the Care & Well-Being Committee). The likely staff to be trained include Pastor Jana, Kay, Nicole, and Veronica. **Pastor Jana** will bring more information to the April Council meeting.

“Renewal of Vows” of CTS mission, vision, values as a part of CTS’s 50th anniversary

Council reviewed the mission/vision/values document. There was general agreement that the sections on Mission, We Believe, and We Pledge still resonate, but that the Strategic Initiatives section needs some work and updating.

Motion to use the Mission, We Believe, and We Pledge sections for a “renewal of vows” as part of the 50th Anniversary worship service made by Bill Salen. Seconded by Bryan Jones. Motion passed unanimously.

Semi-Annual meeting on same weekend as CTS 50th celebration

Doug confirmed that the semi-annual meeting will take place on Sunday, June 2nd, the same weekend as the 50th celebration.

7. Standing Committee Reports

Worship Music & Arts: Revised Committee Description

Committee definitions are Continuing Resolutions in our Constitution, therefore revisions are by approval of the church council. The Worship, Music & Arts Committee voted to adopt the following revised committee definition and has submitted it for Council consideration:

- **Worship, Music, & Arts:** plans and implements vital and diverse worship of the Triune God in word, song, and art. In addition to the core ministry of worship—whether Sunday, weekday, or festival services—the

committee tends and fosters the liturgical, musical, and artistic gifts of the congregation. It coordinates and trains lay servers, organizes choirs, and commissions artists. It stewards the congregation's liturgical spaces as well as maintains and purchases liturgical furniture and vestments, musical instruments, and sound equipment. This ministry is guided by the pastor in collaboration with the church musicians and lay volunteers.

Motion to approve the updated Worship, Music, & Arts committee definition as submitted by the Worship, Music, & Arts committee made by Peter Rosenberg. Seconded by Don Berry. Motion passed unanimously.

Personnel Committee

Job Description Updates

Peter shared that there has been a multi-month collaborative process with position holders to update job descriptions to a more standardized format. The Director of Children and Youth Ministries and the Custodian job descriptions have been completed and are included in the Council packet. All job descriptions require Council approval.

A question was asked related to evaluations, and it was shared that evaluations utilize all key job component areas as well as annual goals as established by the supervisor and staff person.

Motion to approve the updated Director of Children and Youth Ministries job description made by Bryan Jones. Seconded by Doug Sutton. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the updated Custodian job description made by Don Berry. Seconded by Bill Salen. Motion passed unanimously.

A recommendation was made to change the name of the "small kitchen" and Peter will modify the language in the Custodian job description.

New Personnel Committee Chair

Liz Mathias has agreed to be the new Personnel Committee Chair and Peter shared her bio. As per the Constitution (C13.01.07) Personnel Committee members report to the Executive Committee and Congregational Council, and are appointed by the Council.

Motion to approve Liz Mathias as the new Personnel Committee chair made by Peter Rosenberg. Seconded by Shawn Dooley. Motion passed unanimously.

Update on Personnel Committee activities

- Working on the remaining job descriptions including Choir Director, Accompanists, Musicians, Childcare Attendants, and Preschool Administrator.
- Updating the Employee Handbook and highlighting sections that are "procedures" to be separated out and included in the CTS Operations Manual once that's ready. If anyone wants to review and give feedback on the Employee Handbook to Liz, please do so (**Pastor Jana** will ask Kay and Nicole to do so).
- Formal written evaluations will happen in May, to be completed by June. The Personnel Committee is developing evaluation templates.
- Organizing staff personnel files in the office and creating efiles in the future.
- There is a significant need for additional Personnel Committee members with relevant experience. **Council members** are asked to let Peter know if they have any suggestions.
- Pastor Jana and Doug thanked Peter for all the amazing work he's done as Personnel Committee Chair this past year.

Justice Seekers

Peter shared that the ELCA Council of Bishops put out a document calling for a permanent cease-fire in Gaza. Justice Seekers is recommending to Council that we send the Bishops' statement to our federal elected officials with a cover note from the CTS Council to personalize it. The proposed cover note is in the Council packet.

Motion to approve the cover note from Council to be sent to federal elected officials along with the “ELCA Conference of Bishops calls for permanent bilateral cease-fire in Gaza” document made by Pastor Jana. Seconded by Larry Moss. Motion passed unanimously.

Doug and Pastor Jana will sign the cover letter. **Peter** will ensure the documents are sent to our federal elected officials and **Pastor Jana** will try to hand deliver them to offices while she is in D.C. **Pastor Jana** will include the documents in the April newsletter.

Stewardship – Special Offering Details

The Stewardship Committee approved that the Easter special offering will be split 50/50 between the Hearing Loss Association and the Western Washington Lutheran Counseling Network.

Technology Committee

Shawn shared that the Technology Committee is requesting an increase in the technology budget as explained on the document that was sent to Council.

Motion to increase the technology budget by \$376 out of unallocated reserves to allow for both TV screens included in the committee’s initial budget request to be purchased at one time, rather than to purchase one TV this year and the second TV in 2025 made by Don Berry. Seconded by Shawn Dooley. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Ad Hoc Committees Reports

No reports

9. Reminders

- May 20, Semi-Annual Report deadline for submission
- Sunday, June 2, Semi-Annual Meeting

10. Meeting adjourned with closing prayer led by Doug.

Next Council meeting is Tuesday, April 16th at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Rosenberg, Recording Secretary

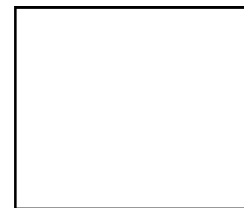
CTS Finance Recap Report 3/31/24

Expected Income \$402,000 - Budgeted Expense \$442,743 = (\$40,743)

	Budgeted	Actual	Differ-	
Income to date	\$100,500	\$126,167	\$25,667	25.5%
Expenses	\$110,686	\$110,369	-\$317	-0.3%
Difference	<u>-\$10,186</u>	<u>\$15,798</u>		

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church

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Office Hours

Monday-Friday
from 9:00 am—1:00 pm.
360-733-1277
office@ctslutheran.org

Pastor Jana Schofield (she/her)

pastorjana@ctslutheran.org
360-325-5269

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 AM -12:00 PM