



**Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
2600 Lakeway Drive Bellingham Washington 98226
Ctslutheran.org**

**2024 Semi-Annual Report
June 2024**

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Agenda
2024 Semi-Annual Meeting
June 2, 2024

1. Call to Order and Opening Litany
2. Verification of quorum
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Minutes - January 2024 Annual Congregational meeting
5. Standing reports
 - a. Ministry Staff
 - b. Congregational President
6. Standing committee reports
 - a. Finance presentation
 - b. Synod Assembly report Leith Swenson and Liz Mathias
 - c. Nominating Committee Recommendations for Church Council
 - i. Further nominations?
 - ii. Vote
7. New/other business
 - a. Recognition of those completing service on Council
 - b. Other new business
8. Closing prayer and adjournment

Next Congregational Meeting - Annual Meeting January 26 (?), 2025 (unofficial date until Council set the 24-25 calendar).

Christ the Servant Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2024

To be approved at the semi-annual congregational meeting on June 2, 2024

1. Call to Order and Opening Liturgy

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 am by the congregational president, Doug Sutton. Pastor Jana Schofield led the opening liturgy and prayer.

2. Verification of Quorum

A quorum was met, with 75 members in attendance.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The 2024 Annual Meeting Agenda was adopted by consensus.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. January 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the January 29, 2023 Annual Meeting made by Bryan Jones. Seconded by Lisa Cornwell. Motion approved unanimously.

b. June 2023 Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the June 4, 2023 Semi-Annual Meeting made by Don Berry. Seconded by Sally Holloway. Motion approved unanimously.

5. 2023 Membership and Statistical Report

President Doug Sutton called attention to the 2023 Membership & Statistical Report on pages 8-9 in the 2023 Annual Report.

6. Presentation of Reports

a. Ministry Staff

Written reports are on pages 16-20 in the 2023 Annual Report.

- i. Pastor Jana noted that she has served as our Pastor for nine months and shared her thanks and reflections on our ministry together during this time.
- ii. Nicole Pridachuk, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, highlighted the good news that she needed to redo the children's roster three times last year due to growth.
- iii. Veronica Hains, Catch the Son Preschool Director, shared highlights including the cohesion and commitment of teaching staff, relationship building with families, and the enrollment of children of alumni.

Enrollment is at about 67% of capacity, and next year’s staffing will be determined based on enrollment.

b. Ministry Committees

Written reports are on pages 21-39 in the 2023 Annual Report.

c. Family Promise Presentation - Mary Hess

The Family Promise program concluded at the end of December 2023. Mary gave thanks to Rich & Ardelle Gronquist and Rick & Michele Gordon for the many years of leadership they provided for the program. Mary has stepped down as chair of the Community Ministries Committee, and Doug Sutton recognized Mary for her four years of service as chair.

7. New Business

a. Finance Presentation by Kurt Willis, Treasurer

i. Financial Summary 2023

- The 2023 approved faith budget was \$43,599 short of the expected income, with the projected shortfall budgeted to be covered by operating reserves. Ultimately, the actual income was higher than budgeted, and expenses were lower than budgeted, resulting in a shortfall of \$5,106 that was covered by reserves.
- Kurt shared a graph of operating expenses and revenues from 2017-2023.

ii. Presentation of the Proposed 2024 Budget and Vote

- Budget Planning Assumptions for 2024
 - Income projections are 15% higher than the 2023 budget
 - We will remain at one Sunday worship service
 - No new staffing (2024 represents the first stable staffing in the past several years)
 - Reserve funds to be used to cover major repair items
- The Council proposed a 2024 “faith budget” with a budgeted shortfall of \$40,743. This shortfall would come out of operating reserves, if needed, to balance the budget.

Projected Income	\$402,000	
- Outreach Expenses	-\$39,700	10% of offering
income		
- Operating Expenses	<u>-\$403,043</u>	
balance budget	(\$40,743)	Reserves budgeted to

- Overview of Operating Reserves

Jan. 1, 2024 reserve balance	\$131,692	
- Budgeted '24 shortfall	\$-40,743	
- Major projects from reserves	<u>\$-52,000</u>	
	\$38,949	Projected 12/31/24

Reserves Balance

Motion to approve the 2024 Operating Budget made by Harry Grinstad. Seconded by Sarah Satre. Motion approved unanimously.

iii. Planned Capital Expenditures for 2024 and Vote

Motion to approve these one-time capital project expenses to be paid out of operating reserves:

Roof Section Replacement	\$24,000
Fire Detection & Alarm System Replacement	\$23,000
Contingency	\$5,000
Total	\$52,000

Moved by Rick Lysen. Seconded by Mike Hess. Motion approved unanimously.

b. Proposed Constitution Ratification Vote

The proposed constitution was approved at the June 2023 meeting. The ELCA requires congregational ratification of the constitution, and requires a 2/3 vote to ratify. Once ratified by CTS, the constitution goes to the Synod for approval and it becomes our official CTS constitution after notification of Synod approval.

Motion to ratify the proposed constitution made by Rick Congdon. Seconded by Don Berry. Motion approved with 70 yes votes and 0 no votes.

8. Elections of Voting Members

a. 2024 CTS Nominating Committee

- i. Purpose: To select new Council members to be elected at the June meeting.
- ii. The Nominating Committee is comprised of two members from council and four from the congregation. Doug Sutton and Sally Holloway have volunteered from Council and four volunteers from the congregation are needed. Mary Hess volunteered and three more congregational volunteers will be found later. *This was approved by consensus.*

A suggestion was made to provide an opportunity for self-nominations as part of the nominating process. There was discussion that in the past the Nominating Committee has also helped to recruit for committee openings based on committees' requested needs.

- b. **2024 Synodical Assembly** - Sat May 18, 2024, 9 am - 4 pm, Grace Lutheran Church, Des Moines
 - i. We are allotted five voting members: 2 men, 1 woman, one youth (under 18), one young adult (18-30). Leith Swenson, Lisa Cornwell, Liz Mathias, and Sam Martinez volunteered to attend. Nicole will talk with high school youth to recruit a youth attendee. *This slate of attendees was approved by consensus.*

9. Closing prayer

Meeting adjourned at 12:12 PM with a closing prayer led by Pastor Jana.

Next Congregational Meeting - Semi Annual Meeting June 2, 2024, part of our 50th Anniversary Celebration Weekend.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Rosenberg, Recording Secretary

Pastor Jana Schofield
Semi-Annual Report
June 2024

A half-century of vibrant ministry! Although I have been your pastor only one year, I have witnessed the fruit of 50 years of faithfulness at CTS. You have graciously lived out Christ's mission in worship, learning, service, love, and justice for five decades. Thanks be to God!

During this first half of 2024, our church council and committees have worked faithfully to continue that mission, and I've been grateful to partner with them in these ways:

- Supporting the release of our One Parish, One Prisoner friend Nathaniel
- Beginning the process of updating our Reconciling Christ commitments
- Co-leading the women's retreat (with a huge turnout!)
- Focusing on how our ministry "resonates" in the community
- Mourning deaths and holding memorial services for 2 saints
- Celebrating milestones, such as "special communion" for 12 children and youth during Holy Week
- Educating about the Bible, Christian Nationalism, and our synod/ELCA
- Connecting with our Whatcom ELCA Cluster of churches/ministries by co-sponsoring an Interfaith Immersion for youth and hosting a gathering of cluster executive committees
- Joining with other local Christian congregations to host a Churches for Middle East Peace event
- Supporting Camp Lutherwood and Holden Village, as well as other synod and ELCA ministries
- And, of course, planning for our 50th anniversary celebration!

So now on the heels of our 50th, we turn our vision toward our next 50 years at CTS. What is God teaching us and where is God leading us? I offer a few thoughts at this early juncture:

- As we've been planning the 50th celebration, we've been returning to our name and the origin of this congregation: we are Christ ***the Servant*** Lutheran Church. We emulate the work of Jesus, serving inside and beyond our walls, responding to the work of Christ in our lives by doing the work of Christ in the world.
- Since all congregations have life cycles, as we release parts of our ministry or do ministry differently than in the past, the "compost" of what has been becomes nourishment for what will be.

- All Christian churches in this country are going through transition and often decline (I believe the history books will see Covid-19 as the turning point for this phenomenon). The future of the church will not look like the church of the past.
- Our “posture” during this transition will have everything to do with how we navigate it. God is calling us to openness, humility, flexibility, a willingness to adjust, confidence, hope, and trust, as well as an experimental imagination, to help us build our ministry for the next 50 years.

I look forward to continuing this journey of discovery with you, opening ourselves to what God through the Holy Spirit is emerging for our next half-century. May we all trust in God’s promise of a future with hope!

Children and Youth Ministries
Semi-Annual Report to the Congregation
June 2, 2024

Where are we now?

At CTS, we currently offer a full range of programs for children and youth, including Sunday programming, acolyte and reading ministries, special children's events like VBS weekend and the Christmas Pageant, and intergenerational offerings such as the "You Are Loved tea Party."

We pray, that with God's guidance, our congregation can continue to be a community that welcomes and includes children and youth in everything we do. Please include our children and youth ministries in your prayers and consider how YOU might help this vital ministry in the coming school year.

Where are we going?

The Children and Youth Committee gathered early in May and is currently constructing a comprehensive Children and Youth programming plan for the upcoming school year. In the fall, we plan to offer the following programs:

- Sunday Childcare (Ages infant-5 years) will continue to be offered most Sundays
- Godly Play Children's Message (all ages) will continue to be offered every Sunday during 9:30 Worship.
- Godly Play Children's Chapel (Ages 3-8) will continue to be offered most Sundays. Children's chapel includes prayer, song, and creative expression for young children during the readings and sermons.
- *NEW* Kids' Club (Ages 3-12). This will be a new program offered on Sundays during the school year when Adult Forum is offered. This program will include:
 - For ages 3-8 we will offer supervised playtime in the gym or outside on the playground.
 - For ages 9-12 we will offer a rotation of faith and fellowship activities with Crafts on the 1st Sunday of the month, Bible Study on the 2nd Sunday of the Month, Games on the 3rd Sunday of the Month, and Service Projects on the 4th Sunday of the Month.
- Confirmation: New confirmation pods are forming to begin two- and three-year confirmation preparation. Our next confirmation date will be Pentecost 2026.
- *NEW* County-wide program for youth! **W.A.Y. (Whatcom Area Youth)** (7th grade and up). Nicole is working towards a big goal of getting a formalized plan for a Whatcom youth group that is welcoming to youth from all congregations. Retreats, service opportunities, events, and more. Keep an eye out for the August newsletter for more information.

CHRIST THE SERVANT LUTHERAN CHURCH

FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR THE JUNE 2, 2024 SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

Financial Summary through April 30, 2024

Expected Annual Income \$402,000 - Budgeted Annual Expense \$442,743 = (\$40,743)				
	Budgeted	Actual	Difference	
Income through April 30, 2024	\$134,000	\$167,743	\$33,743	25%
Expenses through April 03, 2024	\$147,581	\$147,119	(\$462)	-0.3%
Difference	(\$13,581)	\$20,624		

Comments & Highlights: Year-to-Date

- Financial Summary noted above is for one-third (33%) of the year.
- Contributions to date are ahead of the budget estimate
- Operating expenses to date are at budgeted levels
- Re: Major Projects
 - Roof section repair/replacement finished near budgeted expectation
 - Sidewalk repair finished near budgeted expectation
 - Siding project finishing and fire alarm system replacement still to occur this year

Comments & projection for Remainder of 2024

- If current income and expense trend continues, it is anticipated that the budget will finish in a slightly positive position at year-end.

Reserve Fund: Year-to-date

- Is at \$169,504 which is \$37,800 or 29% higher than the start of year primarily due to the transfer in of Employee Retention Credit funds from the dedicated accounts.
- April Reserve fund balance does not reflect pending summer debits of roughly \$30,000 for siding repair and fire alarm system replacement.

Catch The Son Preschool

- Preschool Fiscal Year is July 1 2023 – June 30 2024
- Annual budget projected a \$7,418 operating shortfall. With two months still to go, the year-end projection is estimated to be a shortfall in the range of -\$10,000 to -\$15,000.

THANK YOU for your continued support of CTS and its ministries!

Kurt Willis – Treasurer

Committees and Ministries

Adult Education

The Adult Education committee is pleased to have kicked off the first half of 2024 with a steady schedule of adult forums gathering at 11 a.m. following most Sunday services. Topics have been varied and well attended. Melanie Cool from Lutheran Counseling Network shared tips for staying healthy and happy in the New Year and that self-care is part of God's stewardship plan. Children and Family Minister Nicole Pridachuk demonstrated ways to interact with our children and young people to keep them safe and protected at church events. Sam "Marty" Martinez thoughtfully educated attendees on transgender identities and pronouns and how to start the conversation. Pastor Jana facilitated a Lutheran higher education and campus ministry panel. Forums also included Bible studies on three short books of the Bible. Pastor Jana led discussions on Ruth and Philemon. Mary Beth Neal led a discussion on I John. The One Parish One Prisoner (OPOP) team shared their work with our (now formerly) incarcerated friend Nathaniel and asked for congregational support upon his release and return to Whatcom County. The Deep Waters team presented on their recent trip to Honduras. Sam Grubbs and Marawa Stanley gave an informative presentation on dyslexia and the learning challenges those who live with dyslexia must overcome. Paul Grout provided a Holy Week journey with his own artistic video presentation "Stations of the Resurrection." Paul also led a discussion about Tribalism. Author Pr. Terry Kylo shared from his book, "Go and Do Likewise: Following Jesus into our Common Humanity."

Along another branch of Adult Education's ministry tree, nearly 50 women gathered in April at Fort Casey for the first weekend-women's retreat in five years. The theme was friendship, and the facilitators were all women from our congregation, including Jennifer Johnson, Linda Petrasek, Pastor Jana, Kasey Potzler, and Tiffany Nangle.

Fellowship Committee

Members of the Committee: Dar Bock, Tammy Yoder, Diane and Niel Pfundt, Shelly and Leith Swenson, Mary Beth Neal, Buce Henninger, Sharie Schofield, Melanie Cool, Claydene Lederer, Bob and Mary Ann Merrill, Gregg Burton, Nick Holloway

Council Liaison: Sally Holloway

According to our church constitution, our committee has the responsibility for "offering opportunities for members to make connections, grow relationships, and share their lives through congregation and small group social and recreational events...demonstrating a ministry of hospitality where all are included." Since the beginning of this year, we have:

- Hosted Fellowship Hour every Sunday after worship, providing goodies and beverages for 120-150 people.
- Supported three grieving families in planning and hosting receptions as part of their celebration of life in the death of their loved ones.
- Organized and hosted five Lenten Soup Suppers

- Monitored the Breaking Bread small groups as they meet or struggle to meet.
- Participated in the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee where we will host a fun dinner for 200 people on Saturday night and a special Sunday Fellowship Hour.

Our group does not meet on a regular basis, rather we use Sign-Up Genius to recruit help and emails to connect. We try to avoid using disposable paper/plastic products, so the kitchen dishwasher is in frequent use. Options for gluten free and low carb diets are respected, but we also make certain folks have opportunities to enjoy a good doughnut or pastry now and again.

In June, the Fellowship Committee will celebrate with an end of the program year gathering. It is not too late to join us!

Community Ministries

1. The Community Ministries Team is assisting with the Interfaith Coalition Ice Cream Sundae Fundraiser on June 23, 2024. The Fundraiser will bring together members from Christ the Servant, Faith, and Our Saviour Lutheran Churches.
2. A Gardenview Pantry - Food Drive will be held in July.
3. Lutherwood has a work weekend May 31st and June 1st.
4. The CTS Council has approved the God's Work, Our Hands program for early September and Community Ministries is looking for community projects to participate in.
5. The CTS Council approved a new approach for determining which community organizations CTS will support in 2025. Community Ministries will create a form for interested members to complete for consideration. These forms will be available in June.

Faithfully submitted by:
Mary Hess

Deep Waters Global Missions

The Deep Waters has identified two Honduran communities interested in installing a water filtration system to treat their contaminated water source. Members of Deep Waters visited Concordia and Camalotal in February 2024, to assess their level of interest, preparedness, and potential leadership. We will work closely with the village we choose, teaching them about the health benefits of filtered water, how to install and care for their system, and how to run a business selling the water to pay the people who operate their system and to save for repairs. In turn, they are charged with training other members of their community.

Both villages are working on plans for renovating (Concordia) or constructing (Camalotal) a building for the water system they hope we will help them install. We are staying in touch via WhatsApp with representatives from both villages and with the Honduran in-country coordinators of Living Waters for the World, who will visit the communities in our absence.

Lee Potzler is the point person for organizing and planning this next installation. We are tentatively planning the installation trip for January 2025, after the hurricane season (our fall) and during the coolest part of the year there. Much depends upon the progress of the communities, but we are excited to see how far along Concordia is with their planning. We are actively seeking individuals from the congregation who are interested in learning more about this installation, and perhaps joining the team.

Submitted by Rachel Budelsky 360-966-6393, budelsky@comcast.net