

## CHRIST LINE

# July Newsletter

## July Cause of the Month

### ELCA Refugee Resettlement Program

We are a church that does God's work in the world and in local communities pursuing justice, peace and human dignity for and with all people. In partnership with Lutheran congregations and Lutheran social ministry organizations, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service has welcomed more than 379,000 refugees to the United States since 1939. This ongoing partnership and work is driven by God's love for all people and a vision for congregations to be welcoming and generous centers for mission and ministry. The work of the ELCA through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service includes responding to people caught in conflict and facing persecution, advocating for their needs and interests, helping people access resources for basic human needs, working with foster care programs for minors, legal assistance, developing new and innovative service programs and partnerships, and much more. For almost 80 years, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service has been a champion for refugees and migrants from around the globe. Our legacy of compassionate service has made a difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people who have found safety and hope in America's communities. Join us in this courageous work of serving and loving our neighbors in the name of Jesus Christ. Your gift today will allow us to continue this life-saving work. Learn more about us and what we do at: <https://www.lirs.org>

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH IS ON  
FACEBOOK!!!**



**“Like” our page for information, events and updates!**

**Look for: Christ Lutheran Church -ELCA Arcadia, WI**

**- In Christ, All Things Hold Together -**

## Pastor's Report

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Dear Friends,

“Why don't so many people come to church anymore? Why aren't our pews filled, like they used to be?” I've heard these questions often over the years, especially recently. I've had the same question myself, especially on church festivals and on many a summer Sunday. We're not alone in having these questions. Churches all over the country are facing the same dilemma, even mega churches. It's not that people aren't interested in faith, or don't want to follow Jesus. Most people still consider themselves “spiritual”, and want God to have a place in their lives, but *they just don't like churches, and organized religion!* It's a tough thing for us in churches to hear.

Dwindling worship attendance seems to be a common challenge for churches in the United States and in Europe. It's not just a city or rural problem. So something cultural seems to be going on, shifts and trends that are affecting whole populations. A few years ago I attended Convocation at Luther Seminary. This is a meeting of leaders and pastors from all over the country to learn and talk about recent ideas and trends in the church. This time we heard that there are four trends that seem to be affecting church attendance and church membership. They are the association of organized religion with violence, abuse (priests and sexual abuse), exclusion, and political agendas.

Whether or not Lutherans had anything at all to do with any of these trends, the whole Church was lumped together by the media and the public, causing us all to suffer together. So why would someone want to come to church if religion is associated with violence, abuse, exclusion, politics? That's a good question and whether this association is true or not, that's the perception among many. It's a lot of baggage to overcome! So what does this mean for our church here in Arcadia?

Even though we are somewhat isolated from the “big city” problems we are still affected. I think we need to think differently about our audience, how to reach them, and what we offer. What is the message that we want to give that might connect with people who are judging what we do as well as what we say. Some people come to church wanting “answers” to their faith questions. They want to hear something that will give them hope. At the same time, they also want a safe place to bring their questions and their doubts. They want a community that will respect them and show them love even when their questions might be difficult to answer. Many people are looking for faith that is inclusive and open to a wide diversity of people and ideas. They want a place where they can express their faith through service in their community, and act for justice in the world. That is a far different “church” than many of us grew up in, but not at all different than the faith Jesus taught his disciples as we see in the gospels.

So that's the good news! We don't have to “re-invent” Christianity or the faith. It's already there! The scriptures teach this kind of faith! The good news of Easter is that the grave which once held Jesus is empty; he is no longer there, *he is risen!* The Church as we once knew it may not be what it was, but something new is rising up in its place! The good news is that Christ is alive, and His Body, the Church, is also still very much alive and growing! It's just that it is changing, just as the needs of the people and the culture in new generations always change. So if we know this and are willing to think “outside the box”, *we have nothing to fear! For Christ is risen!* Thanks be to God!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Bob Schoenknecht

### Attention All College Bound Students:

The Trust Fund offers a scholarship to those that are going to an ELCA college. Please contact the church office if you are interested in filling out a application.

### Membership Statistics

Funeral: Irene Guenther - 6/18/18

# CAT Survey Highlights

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## Christ Lutheran Church, Arcadia, WI Some Highlights of the Executive Summary

Thank you for the opportunity to work with the leadership and interim pastors of Christ Lutheran. You had excellent participation response (123 persons representing 136% of average worship attendance). This level of response insures that you have very high statistically valid, reliable and representative data of your congregation. Your responses were compared to (benchmarked against) the responses from nearly 2000 other mainline Protestant churches in the data base of Holy Cow! Consulting. Please remember that survey data is the beginning of a conversation not the end.

### Some things we learned from the survey.

Your members lean toward a conservative theological perspective index. This measure shows a diversity of viewpoint regarding the role of scripture and historic traditions of the church. There are also some members who hold a more progressive view of scripture and church teachings. A worthy goal would be to move toward embracing your theological diversity, respecting differences and committing together to offer a safe place for people of different backgrounds and perspectives to share Christ together.

You value relationships with one another, many of them quite long-term. Leaders spoke lovingly about the communal aspects of Christ Lutheran. This is not a surprise as many of them are life-long members. According to the evidence, two-thirds of respondents have been members for over 20 years. This presents more challenge than reason for celebration.

The data demonstrates those under 35 feel less of a connection to the church than older age groups. They indicate as a priority a wish to see the church provide more opportunities to create meaningful relationships. They, along with middle age adults (35-64) hold a priority to renew and revitalize the community of Arcadia by forming coalitions with partner organizations that hold the same goal.

### Transition Summary

There are several transitional tasks that must be accomplished as a church makes the journey from the leadership of one pastor to the leadership of its next pastor. The suggestions below are intended to serve as a starting point for developing a transition plan.

#### 1 Identity and Direction:

The priorities in the Vital Signs report are a step in the direction of the congregation establishing a vision independent of the previous pastor. In the transition period it can be important to prepare the congregation for what these priorities will require.

In your church the following steps may be helpful:

- Exploring best practices related to reaching people with the message of God's love in Christ;
- Providing different ways to explore the meaning of stewardship including a variety of approaches to deal with financial issues in the church.
- Introducing best practices in family ministry that encompass parents, youth, and children.
- Exploring different aspects of healing and how the church might become engaged in these.

#### 2 Change:

Your Vital Signs report indicates that your church is somewhat settled in its approach to change. With reaching new persons and improving the morale of your church as important priorities, you may want to consider taking some steps in the transition to help the church become more open to change. The evidence shows that members have a very strong desire for a significant change in the direction of the church compared to the recent past. The transition can provide a good opportunity to explore a variety of strategic options.

Again, thank you for the opportunity provide evidence-based discernment to Christ during this time of transition. You have reliable data on which to base decisions and engage all your members in conversation for the sake of your future together. My prayers continue to accompany you in this holy endeavor.

Pastor Kurt Jacobson, Interpretive Consultant , Mustard Seed Consulting, LLC

# June Council Minutes

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## Christ Lutheran Church Council Regular Meeting Minutes Wednesday, June 6, 2018

**Present:** Brad Duellman, Dale Howard, Tony Myers, Dan Reit, Dan Sampson, Connie Scharlau, Shanna White, Michele Ziegeweid, Pastor Bob Schoenknecht, and Pastor Tom Bryan, **Not Present:** David Knott and youth member Kaylynn Weltzien,

**President Dan Reit called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm** and Pastor Tom brought a devotion on Psalm 130.

**Approval of Agenda:** Trempealeau County Health Department request for help with car seat purchases. MSC to approve the amended agenda. (MSC = Motion made, Seconded, Carried)

**Announcements:** Connie would like to retire as secretary of the church council. Michele is willing to take up these duties. There was consensus that this change be made.

There will be a new member class this fall. Tony and Shanna both would like to take this class and the seventh and eighth grade Sunday School classes will also attend.

**Secretary's Report:** MSC to approve minutes of May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 council meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dan Sampson said no report was available from Kay Wiemer at this time.

**Next Meeting** will be a joint meeting with the call committee on Tuesday, June 12 at 5:45 pm. We will begin with a light lunch and then receive the results of the Congregational Assessment Tool survey. For the lunch Michele will pick up Subway sandwiches, Dan will provide drinks and Shanna a dessert.

**Next Regular Meeting** will be a combined July/August meeting at 6:30pm, Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. Dale Howard will bring devotions.

**Cause of the Month for July** will be ELCA Refugee Resettlement Program. Pr. Tom will do the newsletter article that is due June 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Pastor's Reports:**

Both pastors brought written reports of their activities. Here are some highlights.

Both attended the bi-monthly meeting of interim pastors at the synod office in La Crosse and they continue to visit the home bound. They are considering visiting other members as well.

Pastor Bob preached at the Baccalaureate service on May 9 and has met two times with new member David Knott. Pastor Tom reported that next Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Kurt Jacobson will come to share results of the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) survey with members of the council and the call committee. We had 123 responses which was far above our goal of 80. We will begin that meeting at 5:45 with a light supper. Pr. Tom also shared that he is dealing with some health issues and may be away for a time. In his absence Pr. Bob will take care of things. FYI both pastors need to be away for Sundays July 1<sup>st</sup> and July 8<sup>th</sup> as well as the week between. They will find supply pastors to lead worship on those days and will pay for them from their salaries.

### **Old Business:**

**Insurance:** We need another copy of the bid from Church Mutual for comparison purposes.

MSC that President Dan Reit, VP Tony and one or both pastors have the authority to change our insurance company if they decide together this would be of benefit to Christ Lutheran.

## June Council Minutes Continued...

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**Mt. Sinai Church Rental Agreement:** There was a very long discussion about the latest iteration of this agreement. In the end it was decided that Dan Reit would talk with Luis Cruz (liaison to the Hispanic community). We also need to find out from Church Mutual Insurance if it would be possible for them to cover Mt. Sinai congregation as a rider to our policy with them (if we choose them for our insurance).

**Blair Lutheran Churches:** Michele reported that she sent to Holly Anderson the answers to her questions. No further action at this time.

**Policies** are in the church office. We were presented with a page long list of policies and procedures to be documented. We need to recruit folks to write these policies.

### New Business:

**Call Committee:** The sixth person appointed to the Call Committee is Linda George.

### Committee Reports:

**Social Concerns Committee:** *Michele* was contacted regarding providing baby car seats. No action taken on this concern. There were no suggestions in the suggestion box.

**Parish Ed:** *Shanna* reports that the committee has submitted guidelines for its work.

MSC to approve the policies as submitted by the committee.

**Property and Management:** *Brad* has found six members for his committee. They are Bill Lockington, Tony Myers, David Knott, Bob Scharlau, Nancy Rohn and Tim Rohn.

**Membership/Stewardship:** *Shanna, Connie, Dale* – no report.

**Staff Support:** *Dan Reit* - No report

**Worship and Music:** *Dan Sampson* – Allison Ziegeweid Wright has agreed to do music at worship when she is able. She has been here and was well received as a very competent musician.

Marv Rodvold has looked at the problem with projection and it is now working better.

**Trust Fund:** *Dan Reit* – No meeting / no report.

**Youth Committee / Milestone Ministry:** *Tony*, - We probably have four or five young people going to Luther Park Bible Camp this summer. It is the first time in approximately 10 years that we have kids going to Luther Park.

MSC to adjourn with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Connie Scharlau

## Youth

### Valley fair Trip!

We are planning a Valley fair trip in August for grades 7-12! More information to come!

# Updates & Events

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## W-ELCA - Looking Ahead

Mark your calendar and plan to attend:

LaCrosse Area Synod W-ELCA Fall Renewal - Saturday, October 20, 2018 at Holmen Lutheran Church

LaCrosse Area Synod W-ELCA Spring Convention —Saturday, April 6, 2019 at Bethany Lutheran, New Lisbon

## Luther Park Family Camp - August 5-10

Take the whole family, including grandma and grandpa, to Luther Park Bible Camp at Chetek, Wisconsin, for a week of adventures. You can stay in a camp cabin or bring your own RV. There's a pool and a lake and tall pines. You'll enjoy kayaks, crafts, camp songs, games, campfires, inspiring worships, age related Bible studies and fun camp skits, the beautiful outdoors, lively conversations, new friends, and meals you don't have to cook. Find a brochure at the back of church or visit the website at [lutherpark.org](http://lutherpark.org) or call Luther Park at 715-859-2215.

## Ladies Bible Study

Please come join the Mary Circle for our July Bible study on Thursday, July 12, at 7:00 pm in the church library. We will look at "The Practices of Prayer, with the help of Psalm 19. We always have good discussions, some snacks, a few laughs, and a good time. We'd love to share this time with you.

## The Membership Class

If you are interested in becoming a member of Christ Lutheran Church please email the church office at [christlutheran@trivest.net](mailto:christlutheran@trivest.net) or call 608-323-3572.

## Newsletter Announcement!

**We have a new option for those who are interested! Our newsletter can be sent to you via-email!** If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically please send an email to [christlutheran@trivest.net](mailto:christlutheran@trivest.net) and include your email address and name!

## Mission Store

The Mission Thrift store needs store volunteers to ensure that we are able to keep the store open on the following days of the month: **Fridays, from 3pm to 6pm and Saturdays from 10:00am to 1:00pm, 3rd, 4th, and 5th**

Presently each volunteer hour brings about \$8.50 in receipts to the Mission. Working a 3 hour shift donates over \$25.00 to assist families and individuals struggling to make ends meet. Call Cyndy Jacoby at 715-530-0949 for more information. The Mission store is also in need of stockers to stock shelves. Please contact Cyndy Jacoby at 715-530-0949 if you are able to help!

## Christ Lutheran Church Website

Information about Christ Lutheran Church can be found at the Christ Lutheran Church website at [www.christlutheran-church.org](http://www.christlutheran-church.org). You can find information on coming events, pdf files of the latest Christ Line newsletter and newsnotes. There is also information on the history of our church, pastors who have served our church and well as information on the various groups in our church and organizations in the community that we support. There is information on the staff of the church also.

# Updates & Events Continued..

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## 93 Baby Care Kits Packed



Monday June 4<sup>th</sup>, ninety-three baby care kits were assembled at Sharon Schultz's home. Seventy-three were boxed that night and we now have nearly 250 baby care kits ready for shipping to Lutheran World Relief this October. Baby Care Kits are sent all over the world to families in need.

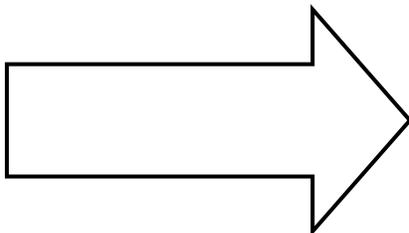
Each Baby Care Kit contains one large blanket, one small blanket, one hand towel, four cloth diapers, one baby gown, one two-piece baby pajama set, two shirts, two pairs of socks, one sweater, one hat, two bars of soap, and two diaper pins.

Thank you to Sandy Krueger, LeeAnn Saylor, Michele Ziege-weid, Mary Jo Fetsch, Nancy Schultz, Joan Fetting, Beth Killi-

an, Tami Taysom, Janie Maly, Toni Johnson, JoDeen Forsyth, Bob Forsyth, Cyndy Jacoby, Judy Borchert, Diane Herrmann, Kathy Hohmann, Judeen Berg, Marion Doenier, Darlene Boberg, Marj Kube, Charlotte Swenson, and Linda Backer for helping with this effort.



## Luther Park News!



### Heart for Luther Park Fundraising Event SUNDAY, Aug 5, 2018

**Yes, Save the Date!** We invite you to attend this day of fun for all ages. Help support this ongoing, year-round outdoor ministry as well as help fund kids to be able to come to camp!

**Auctioneer** for this event will be **former Bishop Bob Berg**. The day includes an outdoor, camp-style worship, grilled chicken dinner, pie and ice cream, children's activities for ages 5-12, silent auction and live auction. All this fun begins at 9:15 AM with the outdoor worship. Come and browse the Silent Auction, view Quilts and other art pieces that will be in our live auction. Join us for lunch, stay for the fun!

**Donated Items:** We welcome donated items; beautiful quilts for the Live Auction as well as Silent Auction baskets and other new items. We are excited to display these and hope you can attend to see them and bid!

**Returning this year:** Luther Park has invited local Artists to sell their specialties right here at camp. There will be unique items that you can purchase at the Heart for Luther Park event directly from their maker!

**Raffle—** Stars of Heaven is a red/gray/black queen size quilt, a chainsaw wood carving, and a colorful Confetti Cake quilt are what you can buy chances to win! Tickets will be sold until 3pm on Aug 5.

Tickets sell for \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00.

Luther Park Bible Camp, 944 24 1/4 St, Chetek, WI 54728  
715-859-2215 [www.lutherpark.org](http://www.lutherpark.org)



## La Crosse Area Synod News

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### La Crosse Area Synod Assembly

The La Crosse Area Synod Assembly in practical terms is the annual convention of the La Crosse Area Synod of the ELCA. This year's theme was Forward, Fearless and Faithful! Bill Lockington, Michele Ziegeweid and Bernard Ziegeweid were privileged to represent Christ Lutheran Church as our delegates to the Assembly which met for the opening convocation at English Lutheran Church in La Crosse Friday evening June 8. We got our first taste of the Assembly as we gathered, prayed, met some of the leading lights of our Synod and of the ELCA nationwide and brought our hearts together in common purpose to prepare for the next day's business.

The Assembly convened for business Saturday June 9 at the Lunda Center of Western Technical College, which proved to be an excellent choice for space and convenience. The day was a round robin of prayer, business, music, reports and what were called Holy Experiments. These were informal, sometimes zany explanations of creative ways different congregations used to improve their worship, liven up their Sunday schools, solve problems and more. Among the business conducted was a formal signing of a working agreement between the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (ECCB) and the La Crosse Area Synod of the ELCA as companion organizations. (See article elsewhere in this newsletter about the ECCB.)

The proposed 2019 budget of \$837,293.00 was approved, a 2.08% increase over the 2018 budget of \$820,224.00. This is projecting a net loss. However, the 2017 budget originally projected a loss, but actually resulted in a net positive income due to expense management and generous stewardship.

Four resolutions were passed: The first resolves to protect the human rights of Palestinian children living under Israeli military occupation. The second resolves to feed my sheep, in which Synod congregations are strongly encouraged to designate at least one World Hunger Sunday each year. Resolution 3 deals with the farm bill and balancing feeding people and also supporting rural communities. Resolution 4 condemns the separation of immigrant children from their parents and encourages their immediate reunification.

Assistant to the Bishop, Libby Howe, gave a presentation telling simply and directly and forcefully how much effect people can have in the world by supporting and strengthening each other and how vital this is on both a personal level and on a community level. She was truly inspiring.

### The La Crosse Area Synod and the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren

The La Crosse Area Synod and the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (ECCB) began discussions in 2016 and in January 2017 decided to pursue a formal relationship. A Synod subcommittee was formed and has been meeting and communicating with our Czech counterparts. A delegation from the La Crosse Synod visited the Czech Republic in the summer of 2017.

Now in conjunction with our La Crosse Area Synod Assembly, a Czech delegation consisting of the head of the Czech Church, Daniel Zenaty, Oliver Engelhardt, one of their communications persons, and Stephan Brodsky who is the director of the Czech equivalent of Lutheran Social Services, came to La Crosse on June 6. As Synod guests they toured south on June 7 to Sugar Creek Bible Camp and Freeman Lutheran Church. On June 8 they came to Arcadia, one of the northernmost points in the Synod. A visit to Arcadia High School was arranged, where Superintendent Louie Ferguson and Principal Alan Herman provided our visitors with an overview of the challenges and opportunities that have been presented to the Arcadia School District and to the larger community by the influx of Hispanic immigrants. The visitors also were given a brief tour of both the high school and the new middle school. The events were filmed by Trempealeau County Cable TV.

Following the school visit, our Czech and Synod guests were treated to an authentic Mexican lunch of carnitas, beans, rice, tortillas, guacamole, salsa and jarritos, Mexican style fruit beverages, at Christ Lutheran Church, catered by local caterer Juan Mateo and expertly organized and served by Kathy Lockington, Connie Scharlau, Jan Dworschak, Christina Ortiz, Nelly Veliz and Lexa Cesar. After a brief tour of the church, our guests returned to La Crosse to get ready for the Synod Assembly in the evening.

On Saturday the Czech guests were formally introduced to the Assembly and also signed a working agreement making the ECCB a companion with the La Crosse Area Synod. They left La Crosse after the close of the Assembly Sunday.

# Keeping in Touch

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**with Christ Lutheran Church Arcadia,  
the La Crosse Area Synod, and the ELCA**

**Interim Pastor: Bob Schoenknecht**

*Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday*

Cell Phone-715-797-3424 / Church Phone: 323-3572

E-mail: rschoenk@luthersem.edu

**Interim Pastor: Thomas Bryan**

*Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday*

Cell Phone: 715-829-2624 / Church Phone: 323-3572

E-mail: prtwb@hotmail.com

**Church Office Secretary: Tiffany Lambright**

*Office hours: Mon through Friday - 8:30 am to 1:00pm*

Church Phone: 323-3572      E-mail: christlutheran@triwest.net

**Minister of Music:**

**Bookkeeper: Kay Wiemer**

Leave a message on church phone or at home: 323-3916

**Caretakers: Mark & Lynn Finner**

Leave a message on the church phone: 323-3572

**Lutheran Social Services: Free assessment and referral** — For on-going care they accept insurance billing or, if you have no insurance, a sliding scale is available.      **La Crosse** 608-788-5092

## The OLPH Mission/Thrift Store

419 South Washington St. (the former convent on OLPH grounds)

**Volunteers needed at the OLPH Mission-Thrift Store**

contact Cyndy Jacoby at 715-530-0949

**Thrift Store Hours:**

**Mon:** 9:00 to noon    **Wed:** 1:00 to 4:00    **Fri:** 3:00 to 6:00    **Sat:** 10:00 to 1

**Dial 211 Free/Confidential 24 / 7**

Help with: Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, Sexual Assault, Suicidal Thoughts, Other Crisis Situations  
Information about: Support Groups, Drug/Alcohol Abuse, Food Resources, Housing, Many other needs

## Web Sites:

[www.christlutheran-church.org](http://www.christlutheran-church.org)

[www.lacrosseareasynod.org](http://www.lacrosseareasynod.org)

[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

## 2018 Council Members

Dan Reit- President .....608-484-1900

Tony Myers - Vice Pres.....608-797-1398

Connie Scharlau - Secretary .....608-323-7297

Dan Sampson - Treasurer.....608-323-2026

Brad Duellman.....507-458-5760

Michele Ziegeweid.....608-323-3395

Shanna White .....608-863-1326

Dale Howard..... 608-863-1370

David Knott .....715-440-1364

Youth: Kaylynn Weltzien

## Prayer List

Byron Seabern

Rhoda Seabern

Sherri Fredrickson

Jay Wiltse

Roger Reichwein

Pauline George

Norma Bautch

Jeff Anderson

Galen & Kay Rothering - Karen Kletzke's friends

Gary Bond—Friend of Karen Kletzke



Gods Work. Our Hands