

## CHRIST THE SERVANT LUTHERAN CHURCH

From the Pastor – April 2025

For the next few months we are going to look at why we do what we do, in worship, in seasonal changes, in the Lectionary and readings. Let's begin to understand the reason behind what and how we do things. I will be quoting from the Manual on the Liturgy, which goes with the Lutheran Book of Worship.

We often want things our way, but as you will discover there are guidelines in how we do things. This is part of the understanding we have to how to share the story of Christ and God in the world. At times I know, it seems strict or silly, but there is a purpose in the end. We have to look at the full year and actually at the three year cycle we preach and teachin.

Let's begin our journey with looking at the Paschal Candle or Christ Candle.

We are asked often as to why we don't light it at each worship. It is to be used with Easter, Baptism and Funerals. It is to be placed near the altar on the Gospel side. This is a reminder of the presence of the risen Christ. It remains lite through the Easter season and then is used only at Baptisms and Funerals. At that time we place it next to the font or the casket/urn.

Let's return back to the beginning of the church year.

The church year is a reminder of the life of Christ with the focus on Christmas and Easter.

Let's look further at how we discern our calendar and understand it more fully. Principal holidays – Easter Day, Ascension, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, Christmas Day and the Epiphany always take priority over any other day and the colors are dictated by this day. Next we have Sundays and Days of Special Devotion – Ash Wednesday and the days of Holy Week. We then have Lesser Festivals – days of the Apostles, Evangelists, and other New Testament People and Events. Finally we have Commemorations – which celebrate the additional people from biblical and later times.

Now what does all that mean? It dictates the colors, the banners, whether we have flowers, how we add to the space, what hymns are chosen and what lessons we are teaching in the season. It also guide when we will have Baptisms and other activities within the church.

Advent – the Beginning

We begin our church year in Advent. Traditionally purple, which signifies royalty. The Swedish church uses blue as the color, which signifies hope. We find churches using either/or the colors, although the paraments will be different, if purple is used. When we look further into

what impact we should have on this season, we should restrain from having music, decorations and parties until the 12 days of Christmas – December 24 – January 5.

The first two Sundays should focus on the second coming of Jesus, the third focus is on John the Baptist and the fourth on the Virgin Mary as an obedient servant. We use the Advent wreath to help us see the progression to Christmas.

#### Christmas Season – the Fulfillment of the Advent Expectation

We should offer several worship times, so that people can experience the total joy of the season.

The color changes to white, which is the color associated with the festivals of Christ. Signifies the gladness, light and joy.

I think that ends our time for now and next month we will look at Epiphany and then move forward into the rest of the year.

God's Peace, Pastor Cindy

#### Rejoicing Worship

Come beginning Wednesday, April 9, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm and experience worship with Mosaic and other agencies, who work with folks with other abilities. On the second Wednesday of each month, we are hosting a new opportunity for many to share in worship, lunch, and fellowship with a new community. We will be hosting a great time and experience and your presence will be an important part of this journey for them and us.

How can you help? Just be present, share with the folks and let them know they are important.

This first worship, Mosaic will be providing the meal for each of us and after this, we will think of what to do. This is a work in progress and we will find our way.

I am excited about sharing the story of Jesus with these folks and their workers and sponsor families. We will each grow from this time together.

## Summer Education Program – for all ages

This summer we will model our Summer Program different. We will be doing all programs on Sunday morning at 9:00 am. All ages are invited to come and share in the fun. We will be working through units, that conclude with all participants earning a patch. There is no cost for anyone to come and learn.

Who to invite? All people, all ages

When? Sunday mornings, 9:00 am

We will be working as an intergenerational group....come and share in the fun.

THE GOOD BOOK			
 <p>Mark &amp; Debra Hazlewood*</p>	<p><b>A Lost Book</b> 2 Kings 22:1-11; 23:1-3</p> <p><i>Remember the importance of the Bible!</i></p>	<p><b>Getting to Know the Bible</b> 2 Timothy 3:16-17</p> <p><i>Learn more about the Bible, God's Word for you!</i></p>	<p><b>Training for Godliness</b> 1 Timothy 4:7-16</p> <p><i>Get into training! Read your Bible every day to strive for godliness and become a good servant of Jesus Christ</i></p>
OUT OF THE WATER			
 <p>P.R.A.Y. Board of Directors*</p>	<p><b>Baby Moses in the River</b> Exodus 1:1-2:10</p> <p><i>In troubled waters, we're not alone. God is with us and has a plan for us, even when we have problems.</i></p>	<p><b>Naaman Washing in the River</b> 2 Kings 5:1-19</p> <p><i>Obedying God (even in the little things!) is important.</i></p>	<p><b>Jesus Baptized in the River</b> Matthew 3:1-17</p> <p><i>Baptism reminds us when we ask Jesus to forgive us for our sins, we are forgiven!</i></p>
BIRDS OF THE AIR			
 <p>The Routh Family Foundation*</p>	<p><b>God Sends Ravens to Care for Elijah</b> 1 Kings 16:29-33</p> <p><i>God cares and provides for us!</i></p>	<p><b>God Lifts Us Up On Eagle's Wings</b> Isaiah 40:25-31</p> <p><i>God wants us to place our trust in Him. God wants us to soar!</i></p>	<p><b>God Cares for Sparrows</b> Matthew 6:19-34</p> <p><i>When we seek God's kingdom and his righteousness, we don't have to worry. God cares for us!</i></p>



January 23, 2025 CTS Council Meeting

Present: Jared, Greg, Kay, Al, Cindy, Brenda. Absent: Linda and Lonnie

Kay opened the meeting with prayer.

Kay motioned to approve the December meeting minutes. Al seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Financials:

A memorial was received from the Marilyn Woolard estate. Part of the monies will go towards new computers for the office and the sound booth.

The December income and expenses were discussed.

Went over the 2025 Pastor's Compensation report. Greg motioned to accept the report. Kay seconded. The motion carried.

Greg stated he checked with several people about an external audit and found it could cost several thousand dollars and isn't a requirement for a church.

Doug Witte has agreed to do an internal audit. He will need one other person to assist.

Brenda motioned to approve the December Financial Report. Kay seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Cindy went over her monthly report.

The IRS has increased mileage to .70 per mile.

Discussed having an indoor workday, We need to remove the television that is in the entry way to the Sunday School room. Move cabinets from sacristy and move banners from furnace room, etc. The workday will be Saturday, February 22 at 9 am.

CTS is scheduled to work at the Food Pantry in June. Volunteers will be needed. More information will be out closer to June.

Ash Wednesday is March 5, 2025. We will have a 3 pm and 7 pm worship. Lenten worship at 3 pm will be on Facebook. The 7 pm will be Bible/Book study

Easter is April 20.

New Business:

Jerry and Brenda will be stepping down as Sunday School teachers at the end of this school year. If you are interested in teaching Sunday School please let us know.

Kay suggested having a Pancake Feed. Al's lodge is planning one. Discussed the possibility of working together to put this on. More information will be out when it is available.

Greg motioned to adjourn. Kay seconded. Motion carried.

Brenda closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by

Brenda Beaudette – CTS Council Secretary

CTS Council Meeting – Thursday, February 20, 2025

Members attended through ZOOM due to extreme cold weather conditions. All members were present: Greg, Al, Pastor Cindy, Lonnie, Kay, Linda, Brenda, Jared (by phone)

Al opened the meeting with prayer.

January meeting minutes. Lonnie motioned to approve the minutes. Al seconded. The motion carried.

#### Financial Report

A large non-member gift was received. This provided for a sizeable net income for the month of January.

Greg transferred money into a Fidelity money market account.

Pastor Cindy is wondering if we can bundle the parsonage and church internet/phone service for a cheaper amount. This will be looked into.

Brenda motioned to approve the financial report. Lonnie seconded. Motion carried.

#### Pastor's Report

29 visits and other activities in January.

Boy Scouts Leader Roundtable meetings will be meeting in the fellowship hall once a month.

Mosaic would like to have a worship service once a month at our church. More information to come.

April 20, Easter Sunday, Pastor will be doing worship service at Madison House for residents.

Riley and Kat will be learning to do the sound both the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month.

#### Other business:

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feed, March 4, 2025. Kathy needs volunteers to help.

Al's Lodge will be hosting a pancake feed in the fellowship hall, Saturday, May 3 from 10:00 – 2:00.

Next meeting Thursday, March 20, 2025.

Lonnie closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by

Brenda Beaudette

CTS Council Secretary

#### **Pastoral Acts**

Funeral of Roger Young, Feb. 26, 2025

#### **Semi-annual Congregational meeting**

Sunday, April 13, following worship

#### **February financial report**

Income = \$11,297.87

Expenses = \$10,814.38

Net = \$483.49

### **APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

7th Kyle Broders, 14  
10th Tate Petersen, 13  
11th Sau Man Weich  
13th Elizabeth Broders  
14th Connie Petersen  
21st Mike Finkral  
24th Jared Weich  
26th Brad Rogers

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

19th Al & Sharon Boelman, 45 years  
27th Brad & Kathy Rogers, 34 years  
29th Don & Marsha Burke, 53 years

### **CARD OF THANKS**

First of all, I would like to thank our CTS family for all the love, support, prayers, visits, phone calls and hugs prior to and after Roger's passing. My family and I would like to extend a big Thank You to Pastor Cindy, Marsha Burke, Lu Carter, and CTS women's group.

My heart is full but my mind is racing, so whatever I may have omitted, please know that all is greatly appreciated.

*Donna Young*

*Mary and Dave Jackson*

*Corey Young*

*Tiffany and James Davis and Eleanor*

*Jeremy and Kim Young, Chase and Ryleigh*

### **Fellowship/Hospitality events**

Sunday, March 9: served pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee following worship. Freewill offering went to Meals on Wheels.

### **Thank You**

Many thanks for all your prayers for our dear friend and neighbor, Trudy Boeshart, who died Sunday night (March 23). She said she felt your prayers. *Dean and Doris Hoffart*

### **THANK YOU**

I am once again writing with a grateful heart for our church family and the enthusiastic, generous response for contributions to the luncheon following Roger Young's funeral. The funeral committee always strives to have our "ducks in a row" by the time of the meal. But as with everything else, there are always surprises. I am left feeling most indebted to the people I haven't necessarily called upon for food or kitchen help but who see a place we might be struggling to keep up and just chip in. There were several; you know who you are.

I feel blessed to call you all friend and family.

*Lu Carter*

### **April Food Pantry**

Pasta, sauce, canned tomatoes, meal helpers

### **Altar flowers**

As of March 1, the price per bouquet is \$15 with a delivery charge of \$5. You can provide your own flowers if you wish, as each vase has a liner. We would ask that you note this on the chart in the office.

### **Thank You**

Thank you for your donation of \$125.00 to Mosaic in northeast Nebraska in support of Partners in Possibilities.

*Pastor Twila Schock*

### **Housekeeping**

- ✓ Please run the dishwasher after fellowship when it is your turn to serve coffee.
- ✓ Make sure lights are off and doors are locked/latched if you are the last one to leave the building.

# APRIL 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 3p Lenten worship 7p book study	3 9 PieceMakers 7p Scouts roundtable	4	5
6 9 Sunday school 9 Confirmation 10 Worship 11 Fellowship	7 7p Bible study	8	9 11 Rejoicing Spirits worship, lunch 3p Lenten worship 7p book study	10	11	12
13 PALM SUNDAY 9 Sunday school 9 Confirmation 10 Worship, communion 11 Semi-annual meeting; potluck	14 7p Bible study	15	16 7p book study	17 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 2p Card Club 6 MOPS 7p worship	18 <b>Good Friday</b> 7p worship	19
20 EASTER 9 Sunday school 9 Confirmation 10 Worship, communion 11 Fellowship	21 <b>Office closed</b> 7p Bible study	22	23 7p book study	24 6:30 council meeting	25	26
27 9 End of Sunday school party 9 Confirmation 10 Worship, communion 11 Fellowship	28 7p Bible study	29	30 7p book study			



## APRIL VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

*If you are unable to serve when scheduled, please trade with someone.*

Membership Care: Marsha Burke	Altar Guild: Kathy Rogers
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Sunday	Greet	Usher	Lector	Communion	Coffee/run dishwasher	Offerings
<b>6</b>	Al & Sharon	Lonnie Greg	Brenda		Jared & Sau Man	Doug & Pat
<b>13 PALM SUNDAY</b>	Connie	Warren Ron	Kay	Brenda Al	Rich & Kay	Jared & Sau Man
<b>20 EASTER</b>	Dean & Doris	Doug & Pat	Charlie	Jared & Sau Man	Kathy & Brad	Charlie & Louise
<b>27</b>	Donna	Al Greg	Connie	Linda Megan	Steve & Nancy	Jared & Sau Man