

The Christogram

Psalm 86:5

*For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding
in steadfast love to all who call upon you.*

July 2025
Volume 63 Issue 7



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website page.

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Vice-President..... Dawn Peters
Secretary.....Robin Fox
TreasurerKaren Crickenberger
Finance SecretaryEmma Block
Christian Ed.....**Rev.** Thomas Block
Outreach & Missions Wendy Rogers
Stewardship..... **Lora** Wacker
Trustees**Sandy** Spanier
Youth Group
CommunicationsKris Welch

Board of Elders

Carlos Orellana (Head)
Keith Kallstrom
Steve Rosane
Dave Wacker

Committee Chairpersons

Fellowship Coordinators:
Joyce Munz and Charlotte Mantz

Altar Guild:

Dawn Peters and Charlene Rosane

Director of Music:

Elena Miraztchyska

Endowment Fund:

Helen Borgwardt

Mary-Martha Guild:

Charlotte Mantz

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Christ Lutheran Guiding Statement

Christ Lutheran Church is a growing family of believers who love, accept, and welcome all, so that we may share God's love in word and deed.

Serving in July

July 6

Elder.....Carlos Orellana
Lector..... Levi Hazzard
Greeters
Audio.....
Video Video/Streaming:
GFX:

July 13

Elder..... Keith Kallstrom
Lector..... John T. Doherty, Jr.
Greeters
Audio.....
Video Video/Streaming:
GFX:

July 20

Elder..... Steve Rosane
Lector..... Levi Hazzard
Greeters
Audio.....
Video Video/Streaming:
GFX:

July 27

Elder..... Dave Wacker
Lector..... Carlos Orellana
Greeters
Audio.....
Video Video/Streaming:
GFX:

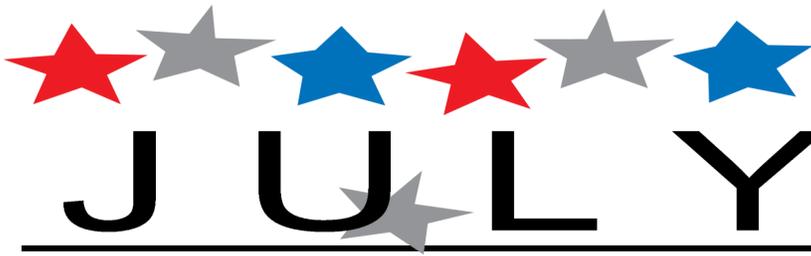
ALTAR GUILD SERVICES

Kim Kaniecki and Dawn Peters

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP @ 5:30 PM

Elder..... Steve West (7/5), Steve West (7/12)
Steve West (7/19), Steve West (7/26)

Lector.....Debbie Smith, Gerie Slaten
Carlos Orellana, Steve Rosane



Christ Lutheran Church

2715 Lakeland Hills Blvd

Phone: 863-682-7802

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Adopt a Block @ 11a	2 Trustee WD 9a Quilters @ 10a	3 Bible Study @ 10a	4  Independence Day	5 5:30p Worship
6 8:30a Bible Study 10a Worship Elders Meeting	7	8 Adopt a Block @ 11a	9 Trustee WD 9a Quilters @ 10a	10 Bible Study @ 10a	11	12 5:30p Worship
13 8:30a Bible Study 10a Worship Communications Mtg	14 Council Mtg @ 6:30p	15 Adopt a Block @ 11a	16 Trustee WD 9a Quilters @ 10a	17 Bible Study @ 10a	18	19 5:30p Worship <i>National Youth Gathering</i> ↔
20 8:30a Bible Study 10a Worship	21 9 AM Deadline for Newsletter items	22 Adopt a Block @ 11a	23 Trustee WD 9a Quilters @ 10a	24 Bible Study @ 10a	25	26 5:30p Worship <i>National Youth Gathering</i> ↔
27 8:30a Bible Study 10a Worship	28	29 Adopt a Block @ 11a	30 Trustee WD 9a Quilters @ 10a	31		

Bulletin announcements are due each Tuesday by 9:00 a.m..

***The Infirm and
The Homebound***

Remember to keep these people in your daily prayers.

- Carolyn Calendar
- Betty Coombs
- Joanne Ditton
- Donita Duncan
- Gerald Frizzell
- Rosie Fyffe
- Helen Gavin
- Donna Grant
- Pam Hanson
- Bob Kossel
- Fran Klug
- Sally Martel
- Nancy Matter
- Rose McLaughlin
- Fran Murphy
- Paul Schierschwitz
- Natalie Thiele
- Norma Tipton
- Amy Wilson
- Fred and Marlene Yost



Arthur Walls	Jul 2
Gerald Frizzell	Jul 7
Beth Keating	Jul 8
Nicki Davis	Jul 12
Allison Henning Terrell	Jul 14
Trevor Peterson	Jul 15
Rose McLaughlin	Jul 18
Garrett C. Timmons	Jul 22
Donna Grant	Jul 23
Tammie Farnsworth	Jul 26
Cindy Cavanaugh	Jul 28
Carol Ceagske	Jul 30



Cheryl and Charles Erwin	Jul 4 (47 yrs)
Christopher and Andrea Hazzard	Jul 15 (30 yrs)
Carlos and Stacey Orellana	Jul 15 (30 yrs)
Kent and Dawn Kahre	Jul 22 (47 yrs)
Brian and Wendy Rogers	Jul 24 (39 yrs)



Thank you Dawn Peters and John T. Doherty, Jr. for serving for the month of June. Kim Kaniecki and Dawn Peters will serve for the month of July. Thank you for your service to the Lord and Christ Lutheran Church. Are you interested in serving on an Altar Guild monthly team? Please contact Dawn Peters.

If you are a member or an associate member, and your information is missing or incorrect, please notify the church office.

Baptismal Birthday Blessing

Gracious Lord, we give thanks that in Holy Baptism we receive forgiveness of sins, deliverance from death and the devil, and eternal salvation. On this baptismal anniversary, bless [name] continually by Your Word and Spirit that [he/she] may faithfully keep the covenant into which [he/she] has been called, boldly confess [his/her] Savior, and finally share with all Your saints the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Manfred Yost	Jul 1
Jack Kersten	Jul 1
Eileen Hanson	Jul 1
Thomas Block	Jul 1
Daniel Zabel	Jul 2
Pat Mangum	Jul 3
Judi Rudolph	Jul 4
Joyce Munz	Jul 10
Charlene Rosane	Jul 10
Bill Siedenstrang	Jul 10
Jon Lindstrom	Jul 13
Natalie Thiele	Jul 15
Beverly Roberge	Jul 16
Debbie Smith	Jul 18
Jerold Munz	Jul 22
Donald Rohrbach	Jul 25
Pat Calhoon	Jul 26
Sandra Booher	Jul 29

First year Anniversary as
Member of Christ Lutheran Church

Janice Caffary	Jul 7
Michaela Farnsworth	Jul 9
Tammie Farnsworth	Jul 9

**DON'T FORGET BAGS FOR
TALBOT HOUSE —**



Thank you to all of you who continue to support this ministry! Talbot House does extraordinary things to help the homeless. We are blessed to share in that ministry! Their doors are open to both men and women and they provide meals, shelter & clothing, and direct them to medical care as needed. We collect offerings of canned goods-meat, vegetables, fruit, soup, paper goods-paper towels, toilet paper, napkins; cleaning supplies; dishwashing soap, personal soap, laundry soap; toothbrushes & toothpaste. We also collect gently used clothes -free from stains, and have working zippers and buttons. There are especially marked baskets in the mail room at the back of the church to place your offerings. Our pickup day is the second Tuesday of every month. We also have a box on top of the table where you may place unused medicines, empty pill bottles, and unopened bottles of over the counter medicines. Talbot House uses the empty pill bottles to measure out soap and shampoo for the residents. Please remove labels from the empty bottles. Large containers of spices, flour, and sugar are real blessings.



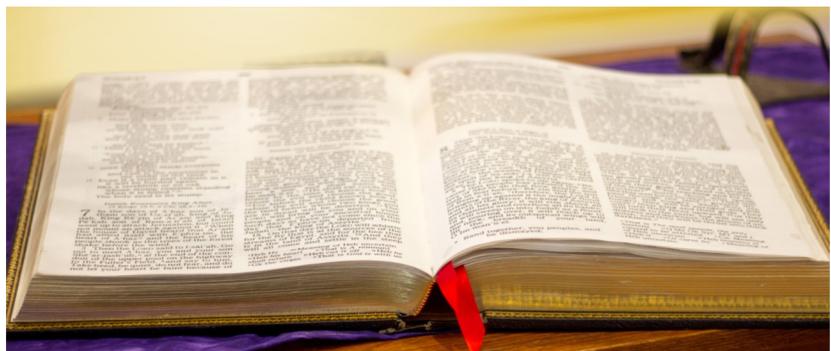
From the Pastor.....

In all areas of life, we seem to be easily caught in a desire to do as little as necessary to meet a goal. There are those on a youth sports team that show-up for practice, but do little work outside of team practice, and wonder why they are not a starter. There are employees who show up to work every day and only do the minimum tasks that are expected of them and then wonder why they are not promoted. There are those who plant gardens, but do not consistently weed and water, and wonder why the harvest is meager. There is a popular proverb that says, "You get out of it what you put into it." This also holds true for us as we live our lives of discipleship.

In the Collect of the Word, we pray that we might "read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest" God's Word. This is more than half-hearted showing up on a Sunday and letting the Word hit our eardrums. Rather, it is a hunger and thirst for the Word so that it goes down into our deepest being. Martin Luther writes in his Explanation of the Third Commandment in the Large Catechism: *Therefore not only those sin against this commandment who grossly misuse and desecrate the holy day, as those who on account of their greed or frivolity neglect to hear God's Word or lie in taverns and are dead drunk like swine; but also that other crowd, who listen to God's Word as to any other trifle, and only from custom come to preaching, and go away again, and at the end of the year know as little of it as at the beginning.....Know, therefore, that you must be concerned not only about hearing, but also about learning and retaining it in memory, and do not think that it is optional with you or of no great importance, but that it is God's commandment, who will require of you how you have heard, learned, and honored His Word* (Bent/Dau translation).

My prayer for us is that we all are marked as genuine disciples. That we hear the voice of our Lord and Master, and actually do what it is that he would have us to do. That we hear the comforting voice of our Savior that our sins are forgiven. Let us give up on attempting to do the bare minimum to hear God's word. Rather, let us absorb God's Word like sponges, saturating ourselves with His life, His love, and His peace. Amen.

Pastor Chris





FloridaGeorgia District CONVENTION

Orlando, FL



June 5-7, 2025

Please join Kim Kaniecki and Pastor Chris on Sunday, July 13th at 8:30 a.m. for a report about the proceedings of the recent Florida/Georgia District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. This will be your opportunity to learn more about what is happening in our church body. There is much to give thanks to God about!

ENDURE

JULY 19-23, 2025; NEW ORLEANS, LA



“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.” (Hebrews 12:1-3)

Please pray for Cassandra Alexis, Matthew Alexis, Josiah Hazzard and Pastor Chris as we travel to the National Youth Gathering. Thank you for your support!

Looking for Christ Lutheran in social media? Check us out at our website: www.clclakeland.org .
Feel free to leave comments! We are also on Facebook at: Christ Lutheran Church Lakeland-LCMS.
Please like, follow, and share on your Facebook page.
You may also leave comments on our Facebook page.

A Word from the President

The FL/GA District Convention was recently held in Orlando. Pastor Hazzard and I attended. Having never been to one of our district conventions before I was unsure of what to expect. The convention is different than the various conferences I've attended in that it is the time that the district takes to elect its various leaders and pass multiple resolutions. I was prepared for a lot of 'church business'. What I wasn't prepared for was the amount of worship, Bible Studies and inspiring speeches they provided. What a blessing it was!

The theme for the convention was taken from 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, "For Christ's love **COMPELS** us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again."

Speech after speech spoke of how the love of Christ has *compelled* various groups within and without our district to do the work of spreading the gospel to the ends of the world; and how the love of Christ has *compelled* individuals to do so many great things in His name. It's amazing to see God at work, using our hands, feet and voices.

The church at large is not dwindling as many would have us believe. It is alive and it is moving mountains! I am proud to belong to a denomination that stands strong; true to the unerring Word of God and is so determined to take it to the nations.

However, we must not ignore the need in our own homes, neighborhoods and cities. Most of us won't be the ones out in the other countries of the world proclaiming the gospel, but we most certainly can do that here in our own areas. Many people that have come late to the family of God, have stated that they never came earlier because....no one ever asked them. How sad.

I challenge you to reexamine the love of God in your own lives and then allow yourself to feel *compelled* to spread that love to those around you in a greater and bolder way than ever before. Have those conversations. It is said that Christ was asked more than 300 questions in His life, but only ever directly answered fewer than 10! Ask those questions that invite conversation; that make people think later on. Sometimes a question will open a door that a direct statement couldn't.

May God bless your conversations, and may you feel *compelled* by the love of Christ to speak out for Him to those that need to know His love and forgiveness!

Blessings in the month ahead,

Kim Kaniecki
Council President



Christian Education

From the Board of Education: Do you know what the official publication of the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod is? If you said the Lutheran Witness you are right. The Lutheran Witness is published monthly and sent to your home address. Each month I enjoy the many articles written in this publication. This month of July is the Youth Gathering Issue. The theme for this Gathering is "Endure." From July 19-23, around 20,000 youth will gather in New Orleans for learning, Bible study, service projects and fellowship, all organized around this theme of Christian endurance. Josiah Hazzard and Matthew Alexis. Keep our two newly confirmed and our chaperones in your prayers for safe travel to, during and back home again. We pray that it will be a truly life changing experience at the Gathering.

Let me continue with more information about the Witness. We are LUTHERAN because we confess the teaching of Scripture. To be Lutheran is to be biblical. We espouse the teaching of Martin Luther because he taught what the Scriptures teach. Through him, God preserved the proclamation of the Gospel for generations to come. We WITNESS to Jesus Christ in the sense of first century Christian martyrs. "Martyr" is, in fact, the Greek word for "witness." We will believe, teach and confess the truth --Christ Jesus -- even unto death. There is no greater truth that can be taught or expressed than Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Regardless of what may come, we will preach and teach this truth.

Each month you will be blessed with outstanding articles on our Christian faith and help you to continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).

To subscribe you can call 800.325.3040 (option 2) or go to:

cph.org/witness or lwsubscriptions@cph.org.

Now for some updates: Some of you have commented about Worship Anew. You have enjoyed the worship experience each week. Continue to keep Our Savior, Zephyrhills in your prayers. Today they received word their call to Pastor Guagenti was again another decline. This is now the fourth decline of a pastor for their congregation. I know our Lord is His time will bless this congregation with a new Pastor. I am thankful that we have a pastor at Christ and how blessed we are having Pastor Hazzard and his family here at Christ, Lakeland.

A blessed July!!!

Pastor Block



FELLOWSHIP

First, thank you so much to all the team leaders and team members who served so faithfully this past year! You provided yummy meals for our after-church gatherings and gave us time to socialize. Our Sunday fellowship hours are unique. Full fellowship hours don't resume until October, but, until then, enjoy coffee and cookies after church.

Now for the request! If you are interested in continuing to serve on a team, please send me an email @jamuz@yahoo.com. Charlotte and I will start working on teams next month. It takes a while to make teams and schedule around other activities on the church calendar.

For those of you who haven't served on a team: PLEASE sign-up! You can be single, married, widowed, young, old, male or female. We NEED you all! What is the time commitment? We would like to have 6 teams of at least 5-preferably 6-people. If we are blessed with 6 teams, you would be asked by your team member to bring a dish, bread or dessert every 6 weeks. You would also need to come early, whatever time your team leader says, to begin setting up for fellowship. You would leave church after Holy Communion to finish setting up and then help clean up after fellowship hour is finished.

THE BEST NEWS: YOU DON'T NEED TO COOK!! There are always veggie trays, desserts, etc. that can be purchased to be shared. We need everyone to help! This is a wonderful way to meet members and visitors as they come through the serving line. If you are willing to be a "back-up" person to fill in when someone is ill, out of town, whatever, we need you, too. "Many hands make light work! I will be looking forward to hearing from all of you!

By the way, the donations that are collected at our Sunday fellowship hour and go to mission projects chosen by the Outreach committee. The silverware, paper plates, etc. are provided by Christ Lutheran.

Joyce Munz
Phone: 863-937-6756





Does your week start on Sunday or end on Sunday? Either way, spend an hour with your church family. Summer plans don't mean you have to miss out. Please join us on Saturday evenings at 5:30. While you're here, watch for new updates to our bulletin board too.

Remember volunteers are still needed on Tuesdays for our Adopt-a-Block program.



It's another hour you can give to our church.....Jesus loved us so let's return the favor!

Central America Missions

This June, I did my fourth surgical mission for 2025. I feel that this is a lot, but the need is always there. These are not cosmetic surgeries. These are life changing for so many people, especially the children. Our goal is to always complete the cases we have scheduled for that day, so nobody is cancelled or rescheduled.

For our patients, to be put on the surgical schedule, it is like winning the lottery . Some of them have been trying for years.

Most of the patients are referred by Dioceses, word of mouth, or through advertisements. The Friars also have a program in the mountains that focuses on health care. All of these programs are run with donations, volunteers like us, and also with some paid staff who keep the hospital running all year 'round.

If we may say - the harvest is never ending. Every Sunday that we start our mission, the outside gates of the hospital are full of people hoping to their health issues taken care of.

Sometimes it feels like running a race, and you already gave all you have. You are wondering, where is the finish line?.....there is no end.

Continued on page 12

As we were finishing our last case on Friday, we had to add a ten year old boy with a fractured and infected femur. We were tired, but how lucky for the boy that we were there.

Thank you Christ Lutheran for supporting this mission. With your support we are certainly able to help our neighbors. Keep these missions in your prayers!

Carlos Orellana



Girls trying on dresses donated by Mary Vaughn and Kathy Sterns from their sewing club in Lakeland.



14 year old boy, with a mal-union fracture that occurred at the age of 6.



Sometimes, our little patients need some encouragement.



The hand of God! Our last shipment got there the day we needed it .



The lucky ones that will be evaluated by our surgeons.



These people have been screened for social and health issues, but haven't been called yet.



Little girl waiting to be sponsored at the Children's Home.

continued on page 14



Little girl born with her right hip dislocated. The surgeon will do a procedure to slow the growth of the left leg.



Both feet were like the left one. The right one was treated last year.



TRUST
IN THE LORD
and do good.
P S A L M 3 7 : 3

A friendly reminder from Sheriff Grady Judd -

Now that school is out for the summer, let's all look out for the safety of our children. Please watch out for our kids at play in residential neighborhoods – please drive with caution. Kids can be unpredictable! Be alert for bicyclists and pedestrians – they are harder to see than vehicles. Please avoid leaving children unsupervised in or near pools and lakes and talk to them about the dangers of talking to strangers. Let's make this summer safe and enjoyable. God bless you all!





PUZZLE

"IN DEPENDENCE" DAY!

Always live "in dependence" on God.

Directions: Use the vowel code to complete Psalm 16:8, NIV.

A= 	E= 	I= 	O= 	U= 
--	--	--	--	--

k _ _ p my _ y _ s
 I w _ y s _ n th _ L _ RD.
 W _ th h _ m _ t my
 r _ ght h _ nd,
 w _ ll n _ t b _ sh _ k _ n.
 Ps _ lm 16:8, N _ V

Answer: I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Psalm 16:8, NIV

