

May / June 2021 Newsletter



Christ Lutheran Church – Cottonwood, Minnesota

Find us on Facebook:
Christ Lutheran Church Cottonwood MN
Website: www.christcottonwood.org
Office Phone/Voice Mail 507-423-5100
E-mail: pstrjanel@gmail.com [Pastor Janel]
christlutheran@christcotton.com [Rhoda]



Worship Options

On Church YouTube Channel – links are posted on both the church Facebook Page and on our website.

On the Local Cable Channel 180
Sundays at 10:45 a.m. and Mondays at 4:30 p.m.

In person worship: Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Bulletins are emailed and are posted at our website:
christcottonwood.org.

QR Code for Online Giving



Thank You --The ministry to which God has called us is continuing in differing ways. We are grateful for your ongoing financial offerings that can be mailed to the church (P.O. Box 166, Cottonwood, MN 56229) or given online with the following link:
<https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1600>

“I Am...”

Over these past months (if honest a year), I have asked many of you, “How are you doing?” I have heard you say, “I am....”

Worried

Scared

Exhausted

Lonely

Missing my family and friends

Doing OK

Ready to get back to some sense of normalcy

Vaccinated

I have prayed for all of you as we have each struggled in our own ways through the months and months of uncertainty and all of our feelings. There are many times, that it has been hard to claim, “I am...” and whatever feeling was attached to this statement, and it may still be for some. Recently the Gospel lessons have had Jesus using the phrase “I am.” In the Gospel of John, Jesus has seven phrases where Jesus repeats the words, “I am.” In this repetition we see the fullness of his character.

And Jesus said to them, **“I am the bread of life.”** [John 6:35]

Jesus spoke these words after a quiet night alone in the wilderness where he fled after he had fed 5,000 men (and more women and children) with multiplying just five loaves and two fish. Jesus, as the Bread of Life, offers each of us the abundance of life.

Then Jesus spoke...saying, **“I am the light of the world.”**

[John 8:12]

Jesus uttered these words to a group that witnessed an incredible scene of Jesus not only saving a sinful woman from being stoned, but also giving her forgiveness to turn toward the light he offers the world. Jesus, as the light of the world, offers a choice between the darkness in our hearts of sin and the light of a life in his presence.

“I am the door.” [John 10:9]

Jesus tells his listeners that anyone who enters by him will be saved. Jesus is the door that offers the opening to the path of salvation through him.

“I am the good shepherd.” [John 10:11]

Jesus is the shepherd, the one whose voice the sheep recognize and trust. He will protect and save the sheep even at the cost of his life. Jesus, as the good shepherd, died on the cross to save each of us.

Jesus said....**“I am the resurrection and the life.”** [John 11:25]

At the time of the death of Jesus’ friend, Lazarus, he grieves with Mary and Martha. Even in her grief, Martha responds to Jesus in faith, affirming that he will rise in the last days. Jesus, the resurrection and the life, will raise all who believe in the last days.

Jesus said...**“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”**

[John 14:6]

Jesus has told his disciples that he will die and rise again in three days. His disciples cannot comprehend nor accept him leaving them. As they struggle with these words, he as the way, the truth and the life, points them with patience in understanding that he is the way to salvation.

“I am the vine, you are the branches.” [John 15:5]

As Jesus was speaking, the vines were hanging heavy with the ripened fruit of the season. His listeners would have understood the significance of the vine and the dependency on the branches for their source of nutrition and water. It is the same even today, Jesus, as the vine, is our source of life.

All of these “I am” statements from Jesus are meant to bring comfort in whatever way you are feeling and adjusting. Jesus took the cross of darkness on Good Friday and is resurrected in the light of the Easter Morning. A reminder to each of us that Jesus promises the same for us. This past year may have felt like its own Good Friday, but the light of Easter Morning is on the horizon. When your hearts wonder, read these “I am” phrases from the Gospel of John. They will bolster you as they do me.

Jesus is risen, Jesus is risen indeed! *Alleluia!*

Peace,

Pastor Janel



Financial *Update*

Thank you for your continued financial and prayer support for Christ Lutheran Church.

We finished last year with a 14% reduction in offering income. We had one quarter with a 20% reduction year over year. With so much uncertainty, the inability to worship together in person for much of the summer, and restrictions on gathering size for Christmas services, we are so thankful for your financial support.

In 2020, we qualified for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan, and qualified for grants from the City of Cottonwood Cares Act and the Lyon County Cares Act grant programs. However, in 2021, Christ Lutheran did not qualify for the latest round of PPP loans and were declined for the second round of the county grant program.

As of the end of March, our offering income is running about \$5000-5500 behind our budgeted needs.

Whether you are worshipping with us in person, or via streamed virtual worship on the internet, we ask for your continued financial support. We have the option to give a one-time gift or a reoccurring scheduled gift electronically at www.christcottonwood.org. You may also mail your giving envelope to Christ Lutheran Church, PO Box 166, Cottonwood, MN 56229.

If you have any questions regarding our budget, please contact President Carolyn Olson: 507-828-2643
cofairviewfarm@gmail.com - or -
Treasurer Tracy Sterner: 507-476-0215
tswednesday@gmail.com.

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2021, was the **First Communion** experience for these students. They received instruction and shared in the Lord's Supper together with their families.



Pictured with Pastor Janel Kuester:

Back Row:

Morgan Velde Conner Moseng Tucker Anderson

Front Row:

Conner Rialson Jayla Post Teagan Neuman

*We come unto Christ in the bread we share.
We come unto Christ in the cup we share.*





**Baccalaureate Sunday
Recognition of Graduating
High School Seniors**

*Trinity Broberg Evan Gregoire
Colby Marczak Lucee Olson*

May 9, 2021- during 9:30 am Worship

*Trinity—parents Chuck and
Stacey*



*Evan—parents Chad
and Julie*



*Colby—parents Les and
Kim*



*Lucee—parents
Charlie and Traci*



*You are
Invited!*

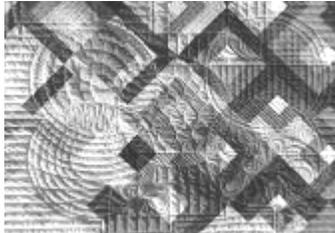
*to Graduation Open House
Receptions for our
High School Seniors —*

Trinity Broberg: Saturday, May 22, from 11:00am to 2:00pm at Cottonwood Community Center, 142 West Main Street, Cottonwood (Chuck and Stacey)

Evan Gregoire: Saturday, May 22, from 1:00pm to 4:00pm, at his home, 5 Northwood Drive, Cottonwood (Chad and Julie)

Colby Marczak: Saturday, May 22, from 4:00pm to 7:00 pm at his home, 2586 County Road 24, Cottonwood (Les and Kim)

Lucee Olson: Friday, May 21, from 7:00pm to 10:00pm at Shooters Sporting Clays, 10713 300th St (9.5 miles E of Marshall on Hwy 19; then 2 miles N on Co. Rd. 51/Aspen Ave., then 1/4 mile W on 300th St) (Charlie and Traci)



Thank you to all who contributed to the making of the high school senior quilts:

Sandy Boehne (coordination, creation and finishing), Scott and LeeAnn Boehne (Lakeview embroidery), Jean Dahl (personalized calligraphy), Karen Geihl (personalized embroidery), Quilting Crew (tying). It is a loving mixture of people to make these beautiful quilts come to fruition.

➤ *Next year the coordinator position will be open.*

Would you prayerfully consider leading the project and helping it to continue for future students? As you can see from the list of people thanked above, you are not alone in the project.

Received into God's Kingdom of Grace through the
Sacrament of Holy Baptism:

*Audrey Marie Busack, daughter of Samantha
Judovsky and Zakary Busack, on February 14, 2021*



Audrey / Mom Sam / Dad Zak

Received into God's Kingdom of Grace through the
Sacrament of Holy Baptism:

*Nora Marie Rykhus, daughter of
Cody and Tristin (Louwagie) Rykhus,
on March 7, 2021*



Nora / Mom Tristin Dad Cody/ big brother 3 year old Kason

Received into God's Kingdom of Grace through the
Sacrament of Holy Baptism:

*Sutton Mary Alm, daughter of Tanner and Haleigh
(Daniels) Alm, on April 25, 2021*



Sutton / Mom Haleigh / Dad Tanner



to our Christ Lutheran
faith community —

New Members
*Colton and
Madisen (Nelson) Swanson,
and infant son Huxley*



To be held at Christ Lutheran Church

***Service Celebrating the Life of Erwin Schwartz:
Saturday, June 26***

Visitation from 12:30 - 1:30 pm
Service at 1:30 pm

***Service Celebrating the Life of Charlotte “Shi” Aamodt:
Saturday, July 17***

Visitation from 10:00 - 11:00 am
Service at 11:00 am



Quilting Dates

The quilters are excited to be gathering together again to lovingly make quilts. Please note that masks are being worn but it does not stop the fun from happening. Hope you can make it! **Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to Noon, on the**

following dates:

May 18	
June 1	July 6
June 15	July 20

June Worship Assistants

Ushers: Jonathan Olson (captain); Scott Boehne, Greg Golberg, Conner Moseng, Corey Moseng, Michelle Moseng, Cal Teske. Linda VanUden-Wilson, Dave Wilson

PA Operators: Shawn Myers, Tracy Sterner

Video Camera Operators: Greg Isaackson, Sid Olson

Altar Care: Tom and Pat Hinz, Carolyn Olson



Fellowship Fun Night

Sunday, June 13, 7-9 p.m.

At Christ Lutheran Church Yard

For all ages – children are welcome

Is anyone else missing hanging out together in fellowship time? COVID has separated us for long enough. Be sure to mark the evening of June 13 for this “Fellowship Fun Night.” The evening will be filled with the following opportunities of being in fellowship and fun together on the church property facing the lake.

Bonfire Pits and a S’mores Bar – come and enjoy The Classic, The Nutty Buddy, and The Grasshopper.

Picnic Tables available for a place to sit down and enjoy catching up – or bring your own lawn chair.

Outdoor Games: Bean Bag Boards, Horseshoes, Giant Jenga, Yardzi, Tenzi Dice, Ladder Ball, Frisbee Golf, or Bocce Ball to name a few.

Paint Rocks: Rocks will be available for painting which will be used in part for the July event.

Save the Dates:

More Fellowship Fun Nights are scheduled for July 18, August 22, and September 12.



Have you heard the News?

The Cottonwood Food Pantry and the Clothed With Love Program were recipients of this ELCA COVID-19 Congregational Grant Award. They split the \$1,500 grant.

Here is some background information and the whole list of recipients: In 2020, the ELCA began a fund appeal to receive revenue to support ministries focusing on COVID-19 relief efforts. The Southwestern Minnesota Synod applied for and received a grant for \$7,500.00 last summer. In December, 2020, we received a second grant, this time for \$10,000.00. We are incredibly thankful to all those across the ELCA who helped grow this fund.

These funds have been awarded through an application process on the synod website, with a January 19, 2021, due date for applications. The following congregations will be sharing funds to support households facing food and emergency needs:

- \$250 – Zion Lutheran Church, Hanska
- \$500 – Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Dassel
- \$500 – River of Hope Lutheran Church, Hutchinson
- \$500 – Winds of the Prairie Ministry, Ivanhoe
- \$500 – Rejoice Lutheran Church, Clearwater
- \$1,000 – Healing Waters Lutheran Parish, Montevideo
- \$1,000 – First Lutheran Church, Worthington
- \$1,250 – Faith Lutheran Church, Becker
- **\$1,500 – Christ Lutheran Church, Cottonwood**
- \$1,500 – First Lutheran Church, St. James
- \$1,500 – Fields of Grace Lutheran Parish, LaFayette

We are grateful for the way so many congregations are showing our neighbors that people in faith communities see their situation and stand with them.

As part of the ELCA, we are church together, and we are better together. Our call as a synod is to walk alongside congregations as they “Embrace God’s Mission + Equip God’s People.”

Jesus said, “*Which of these was a neighbor?*”
“*The one who showed mercy.*”

Upcoming Synod Assembly

This year the Synod Assembly will look different on so many levels. It will all be Virtual through Zoom and will cover some more dates on the calendar to make sure the process for the Bishop election will happen smoothly. This will be an exciting process, as after 18 years, Bishop Jon Anderson has chosen to not run for the office again.

**If you are interested in serving as a voting member, please contact the church office as soon as possible.
The church covers your assembly costs.**

Dates to Set Aside:

June 6 - times to be determined, but mid-afternoon and evening is expected with long recess in the middle

June 11 – times to be determined, but afternoon and evening is expected with long recess in the middle

June 12 – times to be determined, but morning (a short call to order); afternoon through evening is expected with a long afternoon recess

There will be other dates where you can choose to be on Zoom to hear committee updates and test how to vote.



Gifts of Grace: *Gratitude for 18 Years of Leadership*

“Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.” – Philippians 4:9

On June 14, 2003, Pastor Jon V. Anderson was elected to serve as the bishop of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA. For the past 18 years, Bishop Jon has faithfully served as pastor to leaders and congregations, led synod governance, and flourished as a teacher of theology and Scripture. He has served on the boards of numerous church organizations and institutions of higher learning, as well as leading initiatives of the ELCA and the Conference of Bishops. During the last year, Bp. Jon guided us through the pandemic. His leadership over these 18 yrs. will have a lasting impact!

You can honor Bp. Jon’s legacy by making a special gift in support of a ministry he cares about deeply: *Gifts of Grace – Toward Financial Well-being.*

Checks may be given through the CLC Office written out to SWMN Synod, memo line should include “Bishop Recognition.” You may also mail them directly to the Synod office at SWMN Synod, PO Box 499, Redwood Falls, MN 56283

Here at Christ Lutheran, the third Sunday of each month is World Hunger /Disaster Response/Malaria Emphasis. Use Online Giving at christcottonwood.org ~~ OR ~~ use the special envelope available at church.

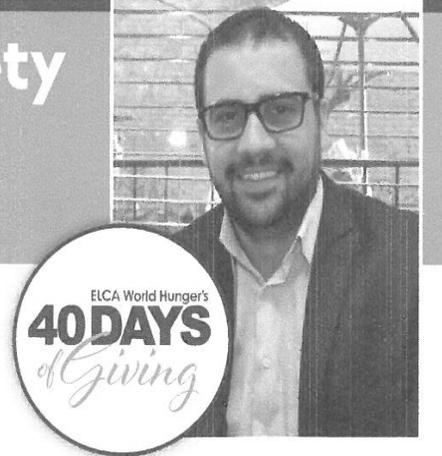
Hope for safety and stability

South Carolina

Manhal says that the day in June 2009 when Lutheran Services Carolinas (LSC) met him at the airport was the best day of his life.

A refugee from Iraq, Manhal says he realized that starting over wouldn't be easy, but with hard work he's forged a career for himself in the Columbia hospitality industry. He began his hotel career doing things that no one really enjoys, like cleaning bathrooms. Some days, he said, he'd go home and cry. But he never doubted that he could make something of himself. Within a year and a half he was promoted to supervisor, and later, he earned his current job as a manager.

Manhal is not alone in his success. Dylan Gunnels, a job recruiter for LSC's refugee services program, explained that 96% of LSC's refugee clients in the Columbia area become self-sufficient within the first 180 days of arriving



in this country, which means they are getting and maintaining jobs and able to cover their expenses. In the long term, Gunnels said, studies have shown that refugees will eventually contribute more in taxes than they received in relocation benefits and other public assistance. Manhal already has a good hotel job but says he hasn't achieved all of his goals – he aspires to be a general manager one day.

"I will never stop dreaming about my future," he said.

Gifts to ELCA World Hunger have supported Lutheran Services Carolinas and other ministries as they provide support for refugees who are working to build a new life in a new home.

Congregational Leaders for 2021

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President: Carolyn Olson
Vice Pres.: Tom Hinz
Secretary: Heather Velde
Treasurer: Tracy Sterner

BOARD OF DEACONS

Susanne Lee
John Sterner
Amy Jo Remmele

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dave Neuman (alternate contact)
Lee Huso (parsonage contact)
Jason Fischer (church bldg. contact)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Kayla Fromm Sara Keleher
Stephanie Neuman Shawna Tusberg
Heather Velde Deacon Rep Susanne Lee

MISSION OUTREACH COMMITTEE

LeeAnn Boehne Brenda Olson
Carolyn Olson
Deacon Rep – John Sterner
Youth Rep -
WELCA Rep -

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Larry Isaackson
Jon Myrvik
Julie Gregoire
Cong. Vice President (Tom Hinz)
WELCA Rep.
One or two Youth Reps.

LEAF COMMITTEE

Christine Wiatrowski
Ginny Bossuyt
Darla Morken

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Marv Kremin
Kelvin Listul
Shawn Myers
Josh Anderson
Mike Berglind
Sexton: Gary Morken

CHRIST CARE TEAM

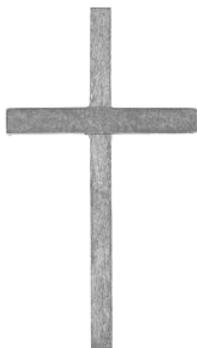
Allie Enga
Barb Crouse
Rose Wisdorf
Deacon Rep – John Sterner
WELCA Rep –

Clothed With Love

LeeAnn Boehne
Krista Listul
Tiffany Teske
Brenda Hoehne
Whitney St. Aubin
Tracy Sterner

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chuck Broberg
Jeff Varpness
Zach Pringle
Open Seat
Cong. President – Advisory Member
Only



- Who We Are -

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Mission Identity

The people of Christ Lutheran Church are daily

✠ called into God's new creation,

✠ empowered by the Spirit, and

✠ sent to show the Good News of Jesus Christ

bringing welcome, forgiveness, healing, renewal

and hope to our neighbors here and in all the world

Staff:

Janel L. Kuester, Pastor, 507 423 5100; cell 651 726 4003
pstrjanel@gmail.com

Rhoda Schmidt, Administrative Assistant, 507-423-5100
cell 507-829-1426 christlutheran@christcotton.com

Melanie Olson, Accounting Assistant, 507-530-2064
Melanie.olsen@usbank.com

Jon & Jeannette Myrvik, Custodians,
(Jon) 507-828-2401 (Jeannette) 828-2407
jeannette.myrvik@cygnusdelivers.com jjmyrvik@charter.net

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Mailing Address: PO Box 166, Cottonwood, MN 56229

Phones — Office: 507-423-5100 Kitchen: 423-5118