



THE LORD IS THE
STRONGHOLD
 OF MY LIFE.
 PSALM 27:1

The Beacon

May 2026

Christ Ev. Lutheran
 Church

320 N 28th St E
 Superior, WI
 54880

Office Phone
 715.398.3680

Web Site
Christlutheran-superior.org

Divine Worship
 Services
 Sunday - 9:00 a.m.
 Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.

Bible Study
 Sunday - 10 a.m.



“Set Apart to Serve”

That’s the theme of the awareness program in our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod as we seek to recruit men and women, to be “Set apart to Serve”-to bring the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to us and to the world.

You might find this article familiar. Or, it may be completely new to you. I write an article on this subject for pretty much every May newsletter to remind you of our need to encourage others to be “Set Apart to Serve.” As I revised this article on Monday, April 20, the vicarage and deaconess internship assignment service was just over a week away (the website counts down the days, hours and minutes) at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW). That’s the seminary I attended and graduated from, which is in Fort Wayne, Indiana. And, Wednesday, April 29 was the Candidate Call assignment service where pastoral candidates will have received their call assignments to serve God’s people around the country-and even around the world. Now, you might say “We at Christ Lutheran Church, serving Superior WI, and Duluth, MN already have a pastor, so we’re set for awhile. What do the “Call” services have to do with us?” Plenty, I say. Now, it’s true that you aren’t currently in need of a pastor. You can thank God for that. But you know that I am 65 years of age and will be retiring in the near future. There are many other congregations who will have the privilege of either helping a vicar or a deaconess intern to gain experience for future service to God’s people, or congregations with a vacancy will be getting a pastoral candidate fresh out of one of our two seminaries: the one in Fort Wayne, or Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri.

My point: I’m writing this to help you to see how God spiritually provides for us, his people.

Pastors, (and other church workers such as deaconesses and teachers) you see, don’t just *show up*. Here, I speak mostly of pastors, but of course, we need to recruit others to serve as well. In the case of pastors, God uses many different men to serve his people. Some are single men, 26 years old, right out of seminary with a Master’s of Divinity. Statistics show a majority of younger fellows graduate from Concordia, St. Louis. (We at Fort Wayne used to-in good humor-refer to St. Louis guys as from the “other seminary”). Some men’s paths have taken them to work for a few years-or in my case, over 20 years-because I heard the call to serve God’s people when I was nearly 40 years of age. There are men attending or graduating from seminary who are married. There are men like me who were not only married but had one, two, four, maybe even six(!) children. Incidentally, I chose CTSFW because Fort Wayne is smaller than St. Louis, as well as because affordable homes were located right near the campus. You might gather, then, that God uses men from many different experiences and all walks of life. By the way, Christ Lutheran has been privileged to help support Jacob Franck, whose home church is Mount Olive, Duluth, as he is “Set Apart to Serve.”

As I noted earlier, God uses many different men and women to serve his people. They all have unique gifts and unique experiences but they all have one thing in common: God has called them to serve alongside people like you as we **all work together** to share the Good News of Jesus Christ crucified and risen to “reach” the world in which they live. They are called to preach, teach, visit their people in good times and bad, laugh with them, cry with them-whatever the circumstances may be. They’ve heard the call to serve, so they quit their jobs, sell their homes, and move their families, all the while trusting that somehow God will provide for their physical and financial needs.

Now I'm not here to say that we pastors are some sort of super-Christian or some sort of hero— we're average people like anyone else. My point is that God takes care of his people through those he has called. You may know the story on me already; if not, here's a little history: I was working in Fort Collins, CO and served on the Evangelism board at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Pastor Russow said, "Have you ever considered being a pastor?" I said, "I'm a blue collar man, without a college degree, married with four children. I would either be broke or dead by the time I got through seminary." But God opened all of the doors—even the ones I wasn't sure I wanted to walk through—so that I could complete the education and be ordained into the Office of the Holy Ministry.

You will hear in our worship services that we often pray that God would raise up men who will serve as pastors, and men and women who will serve as teachers, deaconesses, missionaries etc. That's because we—and future generations—need pastors to teach, preach, and to pass on the Good News of God's love and forgiveness in Christ.

I thank God for all of the Christian teachers and pastors I had throughout my life. I thank God for bringing me here to the Twin Ports, to serve you, his people and to enjoy its beauty. Because God does indeed provide men and women who are, by his grace, "Set Apart to Serve."

May God bless us all as we serve together! Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

Love in Christ,

Pastor Kirk Schield

Voter's Meeting

May 31, 2026, at 10 a.m.

Election of officers and board members.

Boards & Committees

Our May Voter's Meeting is where we fill the vacancies and replace outgoing members of the various boards. We need some people willing to fill the positions. The biggest for this upcoming meeting are the congregation president and vice president.

Here are the boards and what they do to help you consider where you can serve your church. If you would like to be on any of the boards, contact a current member or the church office.

Board of Deacons: See that services are conducted in a proper manner, support the Pastor in matters pertaining to the spiritual welfare of the congregation

Board of Stewardship and Evangelism: The board works to help members discover their gifts and use them as caretakers of God's Kingdom and share the good news about Jesus Christ through his Word, our actions, and examples through planned events, and opportunities as they present themselves.

Board of Trustees: The Trustees take care of all things pertaining to God's house. They repair and maintain the building & grounds thereby providing a warm, clean, and welcoming place to worship. They will coordinate with contractors, when necessary, as authorized by the Voters' Assembly.

Board of Christian Education (BOCE): Concern itself with a program of Christian education for all age levels; work for the strengthening of the Christian home; set up programs to help the parish perform its educational task for each specific age level; review and appraise all phases of the educational program and plan for improvements; bring to the attention of the Church Council the facility and equipment needs for all educational programs; see that all programs of Christian education are receiving proper and adequate financial support.

Committees

Here are some of the committees that could use some volunteers, these positions are not voted on, if you wish to volunteer, contact the office.

Scholarship Committee: Reviews, discusses, and contributes towards selection of scholarship recipients.

Memorial Committee: Receive, Record, and deposit all memorials received by the church.

Disburse designated and undesignated memorial funds appropriately. Document all expenditures.

Endowed Funds Committee: General Purpose: to receive monies through gifts and bequests for the mission and ministry of Christ Lutheran Church; track income and interest from restricted and unrestricted funds according to the specific Endowment; segregate named funds, and at least annually, Endowment Funds Committee shall meet to consider requests for distribution of income of funds and submit an annual report to the congregation.

Memorial Garden Committee: Oversee the Memorial Garden at Christ Lutheran Church.

Preschool Committee

As there seems to be interest in Christ Lutheran starting a Lutheran preschool it has been decided to create a committee to gather more information and keep moving forward. If you are interested in being a part of the committee, please reach out to Marcy Bennis, Elisabeth Hannula or the church office. Help is needed, please prayerfully consider helping.

Also, Please mark your calendars for the May 31 voters meeting.

There will be a 15-minute informational presentation and an opportunity to ask questions about a possible PreK program at Christ Lutheran. We want you (our stakeholders) to come and be part of the conversation and share your thoughts, suggestions and concerns. We will hold a special voters meeting in June, where you will have the opportunity to vote in favor or against a PreK at Christ Lutheran.

Thank You to Our Sunday School Teachers

Another year of Sunday school has flown by with the last day of Sunday school being May 17 and the Board of Christian Education would like to thank all our hard- working Sunday school teachers who work hard teaching our children the Word of God and bringing the love of Jesus to them. So, when you are dropping your kids off be sure to thank them for their devotion to your children. Our Devoted teachers are:

Pre-K – K: Jessica Stumpf & Sammie Mormann
2nd – 5th Grade: Deb Winans & Jill Markee
6th & 12th Grade Youth: Dominic Frost

Substitutes: Shane Kroeplin,
Pastor Schield – Confirmation & Bible Study

Elisabeth Hannula, Marcy Bennis, Marilyn Pingel
For leading the music.

Shannon Allen for doing the Nursery Roll, which sends out cards and stuff to the kids who are not old enough for Sunday School.

Thank you to Marilyn Pingel for serving as the Sunday school Superintendent!

Please consider teaching for the 2026-2027 school year, help is really needed.

Annual Audit of Financial Records

On Wednesday, May 6 after the service, the Executive Committee of Christ Lutheran Church will be auditing the treasurer's books and financial records of all groups and boards that have checkbooks/individual accounts. Please turn in bank statements, written check register and records (payment & back up) by Sunday, May 3. You may leave the records in the church office.

Lawn Mowing

It's that time of year again—time to assemble a team to mow the church lawn!

If you're interested in helping, please contact Don Hauser. You can:

- Leave a note in my mailbox
- Email me at donald.p.hauser@gmail.com
- Call or text 715-969-4510

I'll take care of May and create a schedule for June through September.

Attention All Graduates

If you know someone graduating from high school, trade school, or college please contact Roni at clcoffice320@gmail.com or 715-398-3680 so the names can be listed in the bulletin.

Summer Camp Brochures

Interested in having your child attend summer camp? Check out the brochures for Lutheran Island Camp and Camp Arrowhead. They are on the table in the narthex,

Christ's Men

Men, Let's Do Lunch

Christ's Men will meet on Tuesday, May 5 at 11:30 a.m. at Superior Family Restaurant. This is an opportunity to gain guidance and spiritual support from God's Word as well as an excellent opportunity for Christian friendship.

LWML

Join thousands of other Lutheran women who focus on missions and God's Word. Our Christ Lutheran LWML will meet on Tuesday, May 5 at 1 PM. Come join us for Bible study, discussions on ways to help our church and community, fellowship and treats. All ladies of the church are invited.

Church Council Minutes

April 9, 2026

Members Present

Paul Klomhaus, Don Hauser, Elisabeth Hannula, Chris Stumpf, Kim Klomhaus, Mike Miller, Chris Kirchoff, Mike Stumpf

- I. Call to order and opening prayer - 5:00 p.m.
- II. **Call for additional agenda items.** None.
- III. **Minutes from the 12 February 2026 meeting (no March meeting):** Chris K. made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Kim seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**
- IV. **Pastor's Report in absentia**
 - A. Pastor has been meeting with shut-ins and hospitalized members.
 - B. He conducted one funeral (Pete Jablonski).
 - C. Two students will be confirmed at the end of September.
 - D. Pastor will be gone July 12 for a family wedding.
- V. **Treasurer's Report**
 - A. Our CD was renewed for 13 months.
 - B. Roni reported that the District closed its LCEF account and refunded our portion (approximately \$1700). It was placed in our expense account and will cover expenses for the synodical and circuit conventions.
 - C. Chris Stumpf reported a current checking account balance of \$49,567.82 Along with LCEF General Savings (\$4362.87), Christ the King Gift Savings (\$169,713.28), and LCEF Building Fund Savings (\$3300.47) our total assets are \$226,944.44. Mike M. made a motion to accept the financial report. Don seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

VI. Committee Reports

A. Board of Trustees

- a. Don worked on our HVAC system. It looks fine.
- b. A minor toilet issue was resolved.
- c. The humidifier in the organ loft seems to be dying too quickly. Since we're at the end of the season, we'll buy new filter kits closer to fall and hope they work.
- d. We need new bids for the Sacristy automatic shut-off valve, and then we'll vote on it in May. The former bids are now outdated.

B. Board of Deacons

- a. Disruptive Incident Response Plan (see Old Business)

C. Board of Stewardship and Evangelism

- a. The new member reception was well-received.
- b. A church picnic may be scheduled for August 2.
- c. Spiritual Conversation 2.0 is scheduled for May 2.
- d. Busy bags are being created for children to use during the service. LWML is also helping with this.
- e. Name tags will be created soon to help with the many new members.
- f. A suggestion was made to create a short bulletin insert with board descriptions and openings.

D. Board of Christian Education

- a. Cradle Roll now has 5+ infants and toddlers on its list.
- b. The last day of Sunday school is May 17. Children will sing during the service and have a pizza and bowling party after the education hour.
- c. We hope to help host a church clean-up this summer followed by a rummage sale Aug. 15 to coincide with East End Days.
- d. Summer Lutheran camp information is out for Camp Arrowhead and Lutheran Island Camp. We will inform parents.
- e. VBS is scheduled for August 17-20.

E. Memorial Committee

- a. The Memorial Fund stands at \$2616.43. There were no deposits in March. Disbursements in March: \$364.20. The check book balance stands at \$2252.23.

F. Endowment Committee

a. Endowment fund balances as of March 2026:

1. Dr. Stanley W Oexemann Endowed Education Fund: \$62,058.94
2. Miriam J Oexemann Endowed Mission Fund: \$59,227.80
3. Eleanor A. Oexemann Endowed Youth Fund: \$68,985.12
4. Christ the King Memorial Scholarship Endowed Fund: \$121,486.33
5. Eleanor A. Oexemann Endowed Fund (Organ Fund): \$25,751.66

G. **Memorial Garden Committee** The garden is resting. A new manager is needed.

VII. Old Business

A. Marcy Bennis shared a room design plan for the proposed preschool. She discussed an Amazon wish list for items needed (furniture and non-consumables). The total is approximately \$4000 for these one-time purchases. Paul will speak with Steve Pool to get an estimate for playground fencing. New playground equipment is very expensive, so we would use our current equipment and supplement with large balls, etc. We are looking into grant money to help with start-up costs, plus we could possibly use the \$18,000 in Stifel. Marcy will create a PowerPoint for the May voters meeting to present specific financial needs and ask for pledges from the congregation, after which the congregation will have a period of time for prayer and thoughtful consideration. At a later special voters meeting, we will ask for a congregational vote in favor of or opposed to moving forward with the preschool. A suggestion was made to form a designated Preschool Committee. Marcy agreed to act as the point person.

B. Roni researched chair options for the Fellowship Hall. We are still exploring options.

C. Boards are wrapping up with terms expiring at the end of July.

D. Mike M. reviewed ideas in the case of a disruptive incident (trespassers). A simple plan is already in place.

VIII. New Business

A. The Deacons discussed creating an appointed recruiter position. This person

would meet new members and recruit people to serve on boards and committees. Len Campbell is considering accepting this role. A motion was made by Elisabeth to create the position of recruiter; Chris K. seconded. **Motion passed.**

The meeting was adjourned, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting: May 14 at 5 p.m.

Next Voters Meeting: May 31 at 10:15 a.m.

Stewardship

Follow Him in Generosity

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. "For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you" (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job is already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus' generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: "The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity" (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each "as he has decided in his heart," as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly that they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.
(Originally published in May 2023)

Youth Upcoming Events

All 7th – 12th grade youth are invited to attend any or all events! We study God’s Word in a variety of ways – music videos with today’s current Christian artists, creative Bible lessons, and issues that relate to the youth! Join us! Bring a friend!

Vacation Bible Study

Our vacation Bible School will be held August 17-20. Watch the news & notes and newsletter for information.

The June/July Newsletter will be out mid-June.

Please have any information or articles in by June 7.

My Savior Lives Northland

LCMS Service of Worship – Every Saturday & Sunday at 9:30 a.m. on My 9 Channel 6.3

"My Savior Lives Northland" is a locally produced TV program that includes a 30-minute worship

service led by participating pastors of the Minnesota North District of our LCMS. [MSL Northland](#) is broadcast every Saturday & Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Central time on My 9 Channel 6.3 and cable and satellite systems carrying these stations. Please check your local listings.

Please send contributions c/o: Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 2012 East Superior St., Duluth, MN 55812
Checks should be made to: MSL Northland

Defending the Faith, Teaching the Truth

Issues, Etc. is a talk radio show hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio. Recent topics include: Same-Sex Marriage, Reformation *Solas*, Depression, Radical Islam, What Boys Need, Pro-Life Women and more. Listen to what you want when you want at www.issuesetc.org.

Food for the Local Food Shelf

The first Sunday of every month is when you need to bring in your donations of non-perishable food items for the local food shelf. You may put your items under the table in the narthex. This is given to those in need and then to the local food pantry.

Do We Have Your Current Email Address?

Are you receiving email from Christ Lutheran? If not, you are missing important and timely information from your church. We will not flood your inbox or share your email address (addresses are always hidden when sent from church). Please help us keep you informed! Call the office at 715-398-3680 or send it to clcoffice320@gmail.com



- 2 Missy Mormann
- 3 Lois Teich
- 4 Michael Stumpf
- 5 Edward Sielaff
- 6 Gloria Meier
- 7 Lori Flynn
- 8 Michael Flynn
- 9 Everett Pool
- 13 Bob Blomquist
Jason Pahlen
- 14 Arthur Pfeil
- 15 Harriet Barnard
Tom Vengrin
Kenneth Thimm
- 17 Repeka Tuinei
- 18 Mickey Sternberg
- 20 Nancy Doane
Jonah Kroeplin
Katerina Pfeil
- 22 Samuel Kroeplin
- 24 Brent Winans
- 26 Sandy Kari
Jack Anderson
- 27 Jeffrey Allen
- 29 Matt Pfeil
- 30 Phoebe Fowler
Donna Dittbrender
- 31 Kim Klomhaus

Puzzle!

Who made the following statements in the Bible?

1. "Am I my brother's keeper?"
Samuel, John, Cain, Andrew
2. "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you."
Peter, James, John, Paul
3. "What is truth?"
Herod, Pilate, Simon Magus, Cornelius
4. "Choose you this day whom you will serve ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD!"
Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua
5. "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
Nathaniel, John, Peter, Paul
6. "In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?"
Herod Agrippa, Pilate, Caiaphas, Annas
7. "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go."
Rebekah, Rachel, Ruth, Rahab
8. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
Paul, Peter, James, Barnabas

Answers: 1. Cain (Genesis 4:9); 2. Peter (Acts 4:9); 3. Pilate (John 18:38); 4. Joshua (Joshua 24:15); 5. Peter (Matthew 16:15); 6. Herod Agrippa (Acts 26:28); 7. Ruth (Ruth 1:16); 8. Paul (2 Timothy 4:7).