

Christ Lutheran Church

Life Lines



Pastor's Pen

The Fourth of July - Independence Day. This one holiday we celebrate with a vengeance. We are all about being independent. We mark saying "so long" to King George III with parades, fireworks and hamburgers! The sacrifice of our foremothers and fathers is rightly part of our national heritage. We look back with pride and forward with hope. And rightly so.

Embracing all of that, I would like to suggest that we expand this holiday to celebrate our interdependence as well. There is far more to our national narrative than "You're not the boss of me!" Two hundred and fifty years ago, the members of the 13 colonies understood that they were in this new endeavor together. As individuals they would be crushed, but as a cohesive unit they just might be able to move forward.

I fear that we have lost a large portion of that social contract. We have become so individualistic that we are almost isolationist. It is tempting to think we don't need anyone else. We can do it ourselves - by ourselves - for ourselves. We become the 21st century embodiment of the Rugged Individualist.

Interdependence Day is a time to remember and celebrate the fact that not only do we need each other, but we are bound to one another. We have not just rights, but obligations. Your well-being is linked to mine and vice versa. We are in this experiment together. Community is not simply a

fun phrase to toss around, it is a fact of our existence.

Those of us who have reached a certain level of maturity can remember the old Schiltz jingle: Go for the gusto or grab all the gusto you can. Yet there is more to life than grabbing all the gusto we can. We are not competitors, we are companions. Before there were red states and blue states, there was a United States of America. Not red Americans or blue Americans - just Americans. Americans who pulled together, worked together, talked together, lived together.

Grabbing all the gusto I can is OK, I guess, as long as I don't trample on you in my zeal for said gusto. Civility and community are the hallmarks of my mythical Interdependence Day. A time to celebrate what we have in common as opposed to focusing on how we are different. Works for a country and it works for a faith community as well.

We are brothers and sisters in Christ. Baptized into the same Jesus. Journeying through this life event as companions. Me looking out for you and you looking out for me. Within the Recovery world there is a saying (we have lots of sayings in AA) which is helpful: "I get drunk, but we stay sober." For the math people, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. We need each other and when we forget that, we are on thin ice!

So, fly the flag - shoot off fireworks - and have a burger. While we celebrate Independence, don't lose sight of our Interdependence. We are in this

country and faith community together and we need each other. Happy Interdependence Day!

God's Peace-

Pr. Groce



July Readings

July 4 & July 5

Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 11 & July 12

Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65 (1-8) 9-13; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 18 & July 19

Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-17; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 25 & July 26

1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Thank you for all the cards, calls and most of all for just being here. Karl and I were truly touched by the outpouring of love and kindness. You all are a caring community of baptized Christians.

Special thanks to Pastor Groce, who was there for us every step of the way.

With a grateful heart, your sister in Christ.

Denise Knebel



1 st Bob Brown	21 st Jon Kowalsky
3 rd Pamela Masterson	23 rd Daniel Maloney
6 th Pam Mattheis	23 rd George Sengstock
7 th Patti Floros	23 rd Diana Wessels
9 th Linda LaBreux	26 th Lou Oniga
17 th Kay Neeb	29 th Karen Bachynski
18 th Denise Knebel	30 th Judi Moenck
18 th John Pluff	



3 rd Gary & Vicki Deierlein
4 th Ron & Jo Borges
7 th Leroy & Kay Kibbel
10 th JoAnn & Terry Wise
16 th Bill & Kay Neeb
18 th Paul & Karen Sloboda
20 th Bob & Cathy Lada
30 th Paul & Bev Smith



Council Corner

Church Family,

The Preamble is the introductory statement of the U.S. Constitution, outlining its purposes and guiding principles.

The **Preamble** reads: *"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America"* [Congress.gov+1](https://www.congress.gov/1/1/bills/1/1-1-1). It serves as a concise declaration of the Constitution's objectives and the philosophy behind the government it establishes.

Purpose and Significance

The Preamble **expresses the foundational goals** of the Constitution:

- **Form a more perfect Union:** Strengthen the unity among the states beyond what existed under the Articles of Confederation [National Archives](https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript).
- **Establish Justice:** Ensure fairness and the rule of law for all citizens [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justice_in_the_United_States).
- **Insure domestic Tranquility:** Maintain peace within the nation and prevent internal conflicts [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domestic_trouble).
- **Provide for the common defence:** Protect the country from external threats [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov/1/1/bills/1/1-1-1).
- **Promote the general Welfare:** Support the well-being of all citizens through policies and governance [The National Constitution Center](https://www.constitutioncenter.org/).
- **Secure the Blessings of Liberty:** Protect freedoms for current and future generations

Happy 250th Independence Day Celebration,
Everyone!

Richard Wessels

6x6 Singles

6X6 Singles is a group for singles or caregivers in CLC interested in gathering for fellowship. Participants can attend a monthly brunch at Stonehenge on the 3rd Saturday of the month. 1 additional activity in the community is usually offered. Please sign up on the bulletin board at church during July. Members will meet August - November. More guidelines are posted by the signup sheet. Please include an email address on the sheet. Contact Monica Jahn at (931) 287-0856 or djmj5@hotmail.com with questions.

3x3 Groups

Haven't met some of CLC newer members or gathered with familiar faces for a while? Are you new members who'd like to meet other members in a fun and low key way? Summer 3x3 Groups offer an easy way to meet and socialize. Three couples meet for food and fellowship 3 times from Sept - Dec. Singles are welcome – just double up with a church friend. A signup sheet/more info is on the church bulletin board during July. Please include an email address. New group information & instructions will be sent by mid- Aug. Contact Monica Jahn at 931-287-0856 or djmj5@hotmail.com with questions.

Bread of Life

Nearly 70 individuals enjoyed our chicken rice casserole on the second Sunday of June. Thanks to many for providing the various food items. We had enough leftover to serve lunch during the week.

Due to a generous gift from members, we will be working on a plan to ease the cost of making the meal. Look at the sign up sheet on the bulletin board to see how this can help you. We are always looking to hear from you about how we can make this mission possible for our neighbors.

We have learned more people are coming to the mission for meals. Is this because schools are out for the summer and lunches are not available? No

one seems to know. The one thing we do know is that the need is great. The meal we provide is needed and appreciated. Thanks!!

Confidential Prayer

Do you know someone in need of prayer? Christ Lutheran offers public prayer each week during worship services. Often individuals want to remain silent about what's happening and Christ Lutheran offers confidential prayers daily as well. Contact Beverly Olin to be included on her prayer list. It helps to know a bit about the request and to receive updates so she can be remain relevant. Beverly can be reached at 931-200-4610.

A Note from the Fellowship Team,

We are planning ahead and want you to know, the Fellowship Team is setting up a **Potluck dinner on August 30th**. All you have to do is bring a dish to pass. The Fellowship Team will provide paper plates, cups, plastic ware and beverages. The long term plan is to do this on months that have 5 Sundays and call it "5th Sunday Potluck". Come and join the food and fellowship with your church family!

COLUMBARIUM NEWS

Our Columbarium provides a safe, comfortable liturgically correct way to honor the deceased faithful.

Unfortunately, we have recently lost several of our congregants. Several had purchased Columbarium spaces. How comforting it must have been, for the families of these deceased, to have final resting places already taken care of.

If you are thinking about your final resting place, pamphlets are in the Narthex, providing information and names of people to contact for purchase.

Education Team News and Events:

Safety and Security seminar coming in August (watch bulletins for exact date). We will have 2 guest speakers: Lieutenant Wood from FFG Police Department 🚓 to discuss identifying local scams 📱 and security safety 🔒 measures for your home, and Monica from Cumberland Prevention Coalition to discuss safe disposal of medications 💊.

Save the Date of 9/20/26.

Due to high interest and inquiries for more information, we will be having another End of Life seminar with several sessions exploring popular topics in more detail. First session is 9/20/26. (Watch for more details in bulletins and newsletters.)

Men's Bible study, discussing the book of Mark, every Thursday at 2:30. All men welcome.
Women's Bible study, discussing 1st Corinthians, every Monday at 9:30am. All women welcome.
Feel free to bring a friend with you, from outside our church.

Don't forget about the church library 📖. We have so many great resources including books on several medical 🏥 topics, grief, devotionals (✝️), Christian fiction stories, inspirational biographies and many more. Come check it out.

BARREL MINISTRY FOR JULY

We are continuing to collect for **Kiswahli Lutheran Mission AND Martin Elementary School** in Crossville. Let's see our barrel overflowing with school supplies, tissues, hand sanitizer, crayons, colored pencils, pens and pencils, erasers, lined paper, spirals, scissors (blunt nose), glue sticks, construction paper, folders, notebooks and backpacks. Remember tax free day!

If you want to make use of Tennessee's traditional back-to-school sales tax holiday please note the

date below. We will hold off delivering supplies until after August 2.

TAX FREE WEEKEND for 2026 runs from **Friday, July 31 through Sunday, August 2**. During this weekend, qualifying items can be

purchased online or in-store completely free of state and local sales taxes. [\[1, 2, 3\]](#)

The following items are eligible for the tax exemption:

- **Clothing & Shoes:** Priced at \$100 or less per item (does not include jewelry or handbags).
- **School & Art Supplies:** Priced at \$100 or less per item or set (e.g., backpacks, notebooks, crayons, and art supplies).

Thank you to all who contributed to the **Baby Bottle Drive** for Plateau Pregnancy. We will share the final tally with you when it is available. They do the counting – We don't.

Also thanks to all who donated to our **Baby Kits**. It was our first effort and we have learned some lessons from it. We will share the total sent to Lutheran World Relief once they are assembled and mailed.

The Service Team hopes you were able to buy the carnations and flag pins that were sold on June 27 and 28 for our nation's 250th birthday. All proceeds will be sent to the VA Hospital in Murfreesboro to support their housing for families with veterans getting care in the hospital.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS HEARTS!

Southeastern Synod Assembly Report Christ Lutheran Church

Terry and I would like to thank Christ Lutheran Church for giving us the opportunity to attend the 2026 Southeastern Synod Assembly as your voting members and representatives.

This year's assembly theme was "**Revive Us, God: Church for the Life of the World**," based on Psalm 85:6. Throughout the assembly, we were

reminded that God continues to renew the Church and equip us to share Christ's love in our communities and throughout the world.

The assembly brought together pastors, deacons, and lay members from congregations across the Southeastern Synod for worship, learning, fellowship, and the business of the church. One of the most encouraging aspects was seeing how congregations throughout our synod are finding new ways to serve their communities and share the Gospel.

One of the highlights for us was participating in a Leadership Lab titled "**Revive Us: Imagining Worship as Invitation and Sending to Serve**."

The workshop explored how worship not only gathers us together but invites us to actively participate and also sends us into the world to serve our neighbors in Christ's name.

A particularly meaningful experience was helping write the **Prayers of Intercession** and read them during the closing worship service. It was an honor to contribute to the worship life of the assembly and a powerful reminder that prayer remains at the heart of the Church's mission.

The assembly also conducted important synod business. Elections were held for Synod Council positions, and the **2027–2028 Ministry Spending Plan** was approved. The Credentials Committee reported final attendance of **285 voting members, 19 visitors, and 18 volunteers**, ensuring that the assembly could conduct its official business.

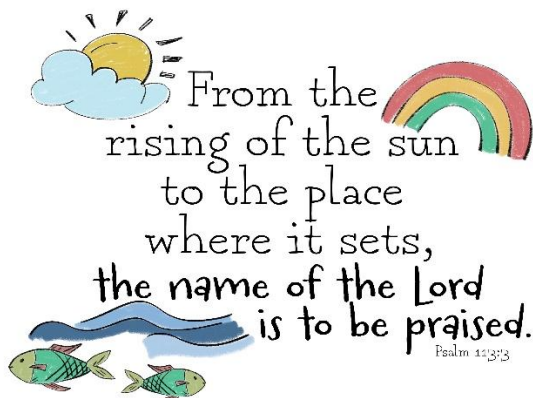
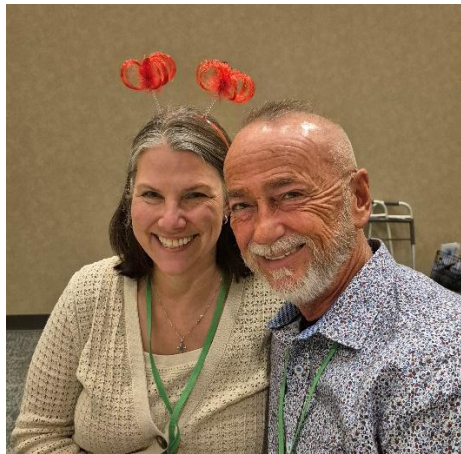
Throughout the assembly, we heard reports about ministries that our congregation supports through our partnership with the ELCA Southeastern Synod. These included disaster response efforts, leadership development, campus ministry, global mission partnerships, and programs that support congregations throughout the region.

Our biggest takeaway was the reminder that Christ Lutheran Church is part of something much larger than ourselves. Through our shared ministry with other congregations, we help

support missions and ministries that extend far beyond our local community.

We returned encouraged, inspired, and grateful for the opportunity to represent Christ Lutheran Church. Thank you for your trust, your prayers, and your support.

May God continue to revive us and guide us as we serve Christ together. Thank you.



The Sacred Pace of Rest

Jesus, who often withdrew with his disciples to quiet, deserted places, understood something we easily forget: transformation takes time. The richest, most life-giving compost does not form overnight. As author James Gleick observes, "You can't hurry compost for the same reason you can't hurry love and you can't hurry a soufflé. The biochemistry has its own inherent pace." In much the same way, the most meaningful parts of life unfold slowly. Relationships deepen over years. Wisdom grows through experience. True rest cannot be rushed.

Disciples of Jesus today are invited to rediscover the value of the deserted place. It is not empty or wasted space, but sacred ground. It is where long books can be read, unhurried prayers can be offered and deep thoughts can take root. It is where Sabbath is honored through rest, renewal and quiet attentiveness to God.

In a culture that prizes speed and productivity, stepping away may feel counterintuitive. Yet it is in these still moments that our souls are restored and made fertile for growth. The deserted place becomes a gift, shaping us into people who are grounded, attentive and spiritually mature, ready to reenter the world with renewed strength and purpose.

Life Lines

If you have an article for Life Lines, please email to Heather Pelfrey at hlphope@yahoo.com or you can place in her mailbox no later than the 20th of the month. She is handling this part until further notice. Thank you for your patience.