

Christ Lutheran Church

Life Lines



Pastor's Pen

Back in December of last year, I officiated a wedding in Nashville. Given our demographic, the opportunity to officiate a wedding is not to be passed up! Pr. Reemts was kind enough to fill in while Amy and I traveled over to Nashville for the blessed event.

A few months prior I had received an interesting email. Brett had been a Confirmation student many moons ago fairly early in my tenure at St. Timothy in Hendersonville TN. It seems that he and Hannah were planning to be married and they would like me to be the officiant. I thought about it for half a second. "I would love to officiate."

Over the course of the next few weeks, we traded emails with thoughts and suggestions. We zoomed since distance and schedules prohibited us from getting together in person. Somehow we prevailed and the wedding was planned. All was in readiness and the big day was rapidly approaching. I knew it was to be held at a wedding venue in Nashville. What I didn't know was that it was going to be an outdoor wedding.... in December.... in Nashville. Only when you are young and in love.

If you remember back to mid-December of last year, the weather was not great. Cold, really cold temps, were blowing in and out with all the predictability of, well, mid-December in middle Tennessee. Hannah was not to be deterred.

Friday came and we gathered for the wedding rehearsal at 7AM. Yes, that is correct. 7:00 in the morning. And it was cold. And it was early. And the wedding party was not amused. But still we gathered and moved quickly through the service. Then we retreated to our nice warm cars thinking that Hannah had lost her mind. There must be a contingency plan. There was not. We soldiered on.

Saturday arrived and it could not have been more different. Sunny and high 40s for temperature. It was absolutely beautiful. Sunday's weather forecast was a high of 17. The cold was returning with a vengeance. But for that brief window of wedding time, God smiled and all was absolutely perfect. I told the bride to go buy a lottery ticket, because she was the luckiest person I knew!

What a story... and what a wedding. Here is the point - the relationship which Brett and I established in Confirmation class all those years before endured and opened the door to a wonderful opportunity in late 2025. You just never know what is going to come from Confirmation class!!

Brett and Hannah are doing great. She didn't buy that lottery ticket, but she didn't need to. Brett and Hannah had already won the lottery!

God's Peace-

Pr. Groce



June Readings

June 6 & June 7

Hosea 5:15-6:6; Psalm 50:7-15; Romans 4:13-25;
Matthew 9:9-13

June 13 & June 14

Exodus 19:2-8; Psalm 100; Romans 5:1-8;
Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-20)

June 20 & June 21

Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69:7-10 (11-15) 16-18;
Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39

June 27 & June 28

Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Romans
6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42



4 th Rick Tenny	17 th Barbara Viskup
4 th Erik Bergvin	20 th Doris Sterud
4 th Kay Traub	20 th Terry Wise
6 th Denise Brown	22 nd Sue Gauerke
6 th Linda Queen	22 nd Don Gunston
6 th Chris Mattheis	24 th John Garvey
8 th Cindy Love	24 th Ron Levora
12 th Ann Dodge	30 th Judy Hammond
13 th Paul Bergvin	30 th Tamara Sengstock
16 th Al Love	



3rd Geir & Pam Bergvin
6th Dennis & Jean Haberhern
12th Mike & Ann Sloan
16th Max & Connie Peterson
17th Larry & Kathie Whiffen
19th Steven & Cheryl Brown
19th Jon & Sam Fischer
19th John & Linda Pluff
21st Matt & Barb Christiansen
23rd Lyle & Carol Schultz
29th Barb Boyce

Council Corner

I have been having sleepless nights over what to write. I do know most of you don't read what is written and many of you don't care. But I'm writing it anyway. I've written previously about serving your church in various ways, but what about your church serving you.

“As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much.

You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have community of faith on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa. Christians aren't consumers. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We pray by laying hands on the hurting. We do life together.

The church needs you.

And you need the church”

I, for one, get a feeling of peace and calm when I walk into the sanctuary. Whether it's Sunday

morning or when the church is empty and I'm setting the altar. I don't get the same feeling from my recliner even though I know God is with me. There is something about walking into the sanctuary.

I'll climb down off my soap box and hope to see you all in church one Saturday or Sunday. Please come seek me out and let me know you read my article!

Denise Knebel
Church Council Secretary

What is Stephen Ministry Anyway?

Every week the top of our bulletin announces that Christ Lutheran Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation. Perhaps you know what Stephen Ministry is, but we want you to know what being a Stephen Ministry congregation means to YOU.

Stephen Ministry is one of the ways our congregation tries to live up to the aspiration of being "a caring congregation of the baptized people of God." Stephen Ministers provide care for persons during a difficult time in their life. The Stephen Minister is, in a way, extending the love of Christ and of our entire congregation to someone who needs an extra measure of that love.

Who are Stephen Ministers?

Stephen Ministers are your fellow members of CLC. They have received 50 hours of training and have been commissioned by our congregation to do this work.

So, what does a Stephen Minister do?

A Stephen Minister meets weekly with someone who is dealing with a crisis or is overwhelmed by their life situation and has requested a Stephen Minister's care. The Stephen Minister's role is providing *confidential* emotional and spiritual support. He or she listens, provides encouragement and acceptance, and prays with and for their care receiver. Usually, the Stephen Minister and care receiver meet weekly in person

for at least an hour, and they may keep in touch between sessions.

What kinds of issues might a Stephen Minister encounter?

Here are some examples:

- Grief after a spouse or child has died
- Long term physical illness
- Recovery after surgery or medical treatment
- Caregiving stress
- Family issues affecting the care receiver
- Adjustment to a move

When might a Stephen Minister *not* be appropriate?

Stephen Ministers don't work with couples; when the relationship is the main issue, we try to help the couple find a counselor who can work with them. And we don't assign a Stephen Minister when a mental health professional is more appropriate.

What do I do if I might want a Stephen Minister?

You can speak with any of our Stephen Leaders (their photos are on the bulletin board by the kitchen) or with our pastor.

BARREL MINISTRY FOR JUNE

We were to collect for 2 worthy causes for May, and this was not advertised as it should have been. As a result, we will be collecting for:

1. Iglesia Crossville – New and gently used clothes for men women, teens and children, new or gently used toys, rice, red and black beans, sugar, corn oil and corn flakes.
2. Kiswahli Lutheran Mission AND Martin Elementary School in Crossville – 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.

THE BABY BOTTLE DRIVE CONTINUES

Continuing until Father's Day, June 21, we will be collecting monetary contributions in our Baby Bottle Drive for Plateau Pregnancy. Special collection baby bottles will be available to take home and fill with coins, cash or checks (made payable to Plateau Pregnancy Services). So pick up your baby bottle (ITS NOT TOO LATE) and bring it back with your donation by Father's Day. We will get all those donations over to the PPS office.

BABY KITS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF CONTINUES

The sign-up sheet is on the Service Bulletin Board

This is a new endeavor for CLC, and we hope you will enjoy purchasing all the little things that go into each baby care kit. As LWR states: "Bringing a baby into the world can be a difficult thing for a mother living in poverty. Caring for a young child in the midst of a natural disaster can be challenging. Keeping a new baby or young child healthy, clean and comfortable can take a lot of resources." These kits are sent all over the world and after disasters here in the USA.

Each kit MUST contain the same items (though they can be in different sizes). All items must be new, handmade, or in like-new condition. Gender neutral colors are preferred.

A sample kit is on display in the Narthex and a sign-up sheet to purchase the items is on the bulletin board. We have tried to put the quantities of items the same as they are often packaged. Please note the quantity you are signing up for. When you return the items, please remove all packaging to aid our assembly of kits.

Also note: Do not donate items with religious symbols or messages or any with flags, patriotic or military symbols, including camouflage.

We have set a goal of 25 kits. Any extra items will be given to Plateau Pregnancy.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS HEARTS!



Mother's Day was special for nearly 70 women and men as you provided the noon meal for them. We had extra chicken pasta salad for them to use during the week. Thanks to everyone who provided a part of the meal.

The June menu is posted on the first bulletin board. Please sign up for a food item to be shared with our hungry neighbors. As always, if you like to make something similar to an item listed, please bring it. Each main dish should serve 15.

To paraphrase John 21 as Jesus asks if we love him, then "Tend my sheep."

Blessings abound.

Donn and Linda Vance
Lvance2364@gmail.com
901-493-5529



Blooming In Grace

I want to thank the Donors for providing the funds & trust in me to put on such an event & the Team that made it a successful Sunday afternoon an inspirational talk & Great music food & fellowship.

The team has met & we plan to do it again next year. & hope for many years to come. Stay tuned for information & the date & time. I thank all of you that attended & let people know to plan to come in 2027.

God Bless Gary D



Called Friends by Christ

According to John's Gospel, Jesus said to those who knew him best, "No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends. ... You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit" (John 15:15–16, ESV).

The depth of Christ's friendship is seen in his willingness to give his life for his friends — and

for us as well. "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you" (John 15:13–14, ESV).

By obeying our Lord and showing love to others, we demonstrate our friendship with Christ. Friendship with Christ and with one another is, according to the Christian layman and president Woodrow Wilson, "the only cement that will hold the world together."



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.