



NEWSLETTER

CHRIST THE ROCK

THIRD TRIMESTER EDITION



Letter from Pastor

Anchored to Christ, our past and together!

As we approach Reformation season, we are reminded of the four great solas (the Latin word for alone) of the Reformation—Scripture alone, Grace alone, Faith alone, Christ alone. These truths anchored the church in the sixteenth century, and they anchor us today as God continues His work among us. Our ministry is not built on human wisdom or strength, but on the solid foundation of Christ and His Word.

It is a joy to see how the Lord is blessing our congregation in these days. We will be breaking ground on our remodeling project in the gym. We are growing with new members and focusing on adding team leaders for ministry impact. But just as the Reformers trusted that God would provide all that was needed for His church, we too step forward in confidence—not because of what we can do, but because of what Christ has already done and continues to do for us.

This expansion is more than walls and beams; it is about creating space where God's people can come together to open scripture for strength and guidance, to share stories and life to celebrate God's grace in our lives, and to encourage one another as we walk life's journey. Please continue to pray for the project, the workers, and our ministry as we head into the fall.

May God continue to reform and reshape us by His Spirit as we grow together here at Christ the Rock.

Pastor Jim



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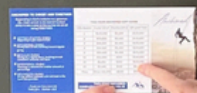
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TOGETHER
WE GROW TO
KNOW JESUS
AND SERVE TO
MAKE HIM KNOWN

CALENDAR FOR
EVENTS,
BIRTHDAYS, AND
ANNIVERSARIES
ON THE BACK
PAGE



A TWO-YEAR GENEROSITY
INITIATIVE
WE'LL GROW ANCHORED
IN JESUS AND TOGETHER.



Anchored

We'd love to have you step up with us!
Get info and a commitment card

Council

Dear Church Family,

As we continue to grow in faith and fellowship, we're reminded that the church isn't just a building—it's a living body made up of each one of us. Every ministry, outreach, and Sunday service is powered by the hearts and hands of people who step forward to serve. Right now, we're inviting you to prayerfully consider how you might get involved and help lead one of our many teams. Whether your gifts lie in hospitality, teaching, worship, tech, or behind-the-scenes support, there's a place for you to make a meaningful impact.



Right now, we're inviting you to prayerfully consider stepping into leadership or support roles across our ministry teams—and yes, that includes helping care for our building and grounds! Leadership doesn't require perfection—it simply asks for a willing spirit and a heart to serve. If you've ever felt a nudge to take a more active role, this is your moment. We're looking for team leaders who can help organize, encourage, and guide others in areas like children's ministry, small groups, outreach events, and Sunday logistics. You won't be alone; we'll walk with you, equip you, and support you every step of the way.



Getting involved in ministry at church is more than just lending a hand—it's a powerful way to grow spiritually and deepen your relationship with God. When you serve others, whether through teaching, hospitality, music, or maintenance, you become part of something sacred: the work of building up the body of Christ. Ministry invites you to step outside your comfort zone, rely on God's strength, and discover gifts you didn't know you had. It's in these moments of service—big and small—that faith becomes active, relationships flourish, and your heart aligns more closely with God's purpose. The joy of seeing lives touched, prayers answered, and community strengthened is a reward that goes far beyond the task itself.

If you're ready to explore where you might fit, reach out to Pastor Jim or someone on Council. We'd love to talk with you and help you find your place. Maybe you are not called to lead but to co-lead or you just want to be involved and part of a team, we will help you to find how you can connect.

Blessings on your days ahead.

Congregational President Kevin Jensen

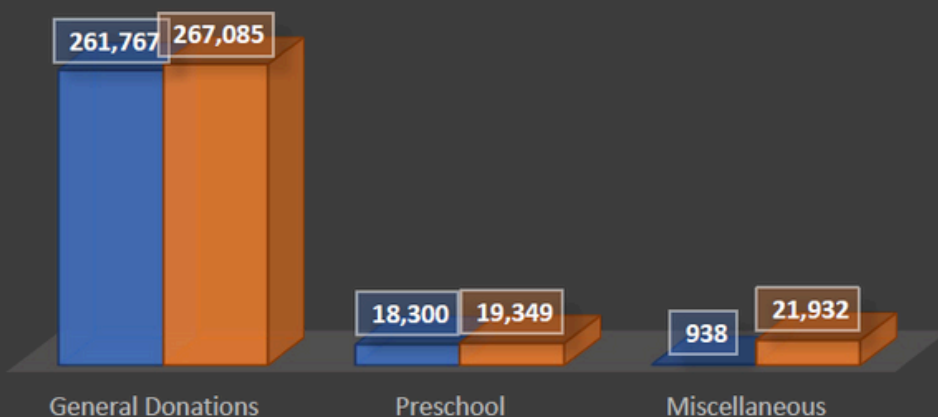
FINANCIAL

- TOTAL INCOME \$308,366
- TOTAL EXPENSES 284,607
- NET INCOME \$23,759

- OPERATING FUND: \$136,522
- ANCHORED INITIATIVE FUND: \$287,631
- DESIGNATED MEMORIAL FUND: \$2,134
- GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND: \$1,921
- ENDOWMENT FUND: \$31,512

2025 BUDGET TO ACTUAL REVENUE

■ Budget ■ Actual



2025 BUDGET TO ACTUAL EXPENSES

■ Salaries ■ Administration ■ Buildings and Grounds ■ Christian Education
 ■ Congregational Care ■ Elders ■ Missions ■ Mission Partners
 ■ Preschool ■ Women's Ministry ■ Youth ■ Council
 ■ Capital Projects

| | Budget | Actual |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|
| Salaries | 161,576 | 164,121 |
| Administration | 13,765 | 25,866 |
| Buildings and Grounds | 45,993 | 58,096 |
| Christian Education | 6,958 | 3,411 |
| Congregational Care | 3,881 | 2,494 |
| Elders | 7,150 | 5,735 |
| Missions | 3,080 | 430 |
| Mission Partners | 18,740 | 15,050 |
| Preschool | 2,499 | 1,405 |
| Women's Ministry | 1,781 | 2,506 |
| Youth | 5,396 | 5,493 |
| Council | - | - |
| Capital Projects | - | - |

FUN4SENIORS



Fall is the perfect time to thank our Lord for His many blessings and to share with others. With that in mind, the Seniors will be holding a Fall Bounty potluck luncheon on Wednesday, September 17, beginning at NOON. Perhaps you have a delicious salad or dessert to share using some vegetables or fruit from your garden. Or, maybe you'd like to share a hearty stew, soup or casserole. Not a cook? Come anyway, there will be plenty to sample! We will also have a guest speaker from the Northwestern Illinois Agency on Aging giving a short presentation on fraud. For more info, contact Ruth at dlvr100@hotmail.com or Pat at patty5941@hotmail.com. REMEMBER, this event begins at NOON.



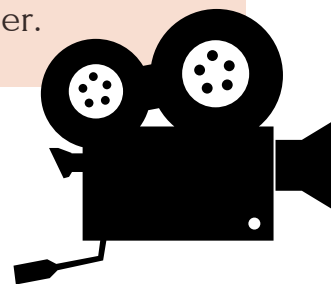
Upcoming Events

September - Harvest potluck (@ noon) w/guest speaker from No. Ill. Area Agency on Aging. (Jennifer Snow).

October - "Antiques Roadshow" comes to CTR.

November - Veteran's Observance Activity.

December - 2nd Annual Holiday movie at the CTR theater.



YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

September 13th 2:00Pm – 4:00pm

*Youth Meeting at Edward's Apple Orchard in Poplar Grove, Meet at 2:00pm at apple orchard at 2 then will go to Judy Fienes home afterwards for bible study

October 11th 12:00PM – 2:00PM

Lunch at the pumpkin patch, carving pumpkins and bible study.
More info to come

November 29th–Time TBD

church outreach event, each child must have a parent to be able to walk in parade. More info to follow

December 13th Time TBD

tentatively going to meet at the Landscape Connection for a walk through Christmas Event. Christmas stories, Hot Coca after/during and then a Christmas craft and study time

CHRIST THE ROCK LUTHERAN
CHURCH

JOIN US FOR YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAYS

9:15AM-10:15AM
YOUTH ROOM

09/14 Anything Goes

09/21 Anything Goes

09/28 Anything Goes

10/05 Song Study Series

10/12 Song Study Series

10/19 Song Study Series

10/26 Song Study Series

Nov: TBD

12/7 Every Heart Prepare

12/14 Every Heart Prepare

12/21 Every Heart Prepare

Young Adult Events

- Sept 6 – Jonamac Orchard
- Sept 13 – Main street Market & Edwards Apple Orchard
- October 5 – Corn Maze
- October 18 – Road Trip to Lake Geneva



ADVENT/DATES

As we enter the season of Advent, we'd love to gather photos from you to share on our slides throughout Christmas time. Old photos are especially fun we'll enjoy a little guessing game of who's who in the pictures!

You can start sending them right away. Bring them to the office, and we'll gladly scan them for you, or email them directly to office@ctrockford.org.

We also have a team working through old photos, letters, and historical documents, so this is a wonderful time to preserve and celebrate our shared memories together.



Be sure to check out the Trimester Handout for all of our events.

MomCo: Make it Awkward

We will be starting up again this September. This year's Theme Make it Awkward is very true for most moms, new or seasoned. We welcome all mothers with children with birth to graduating seniors. We are a community that helps mothers realize their potential as moms, women and leaders in their relationship with Jesus. Why Make it Awkward, because awkward is authentic and charming; it's a breath of fresh air. Sometimes in our quest to be seen as competent, professional and sophisticated, we forget the value of being real. This is a judgement free zone where we embrace all moms and all their awkwardness. The four tenets we will have our curriculum based on are as follows: Own your Story, Speak Kindness, Audacious Faith and Enjoy the Joy. All our curriculum is related to these tenets and faith based. With this new exciting theme we also have new news. Emily Potocki will be co-leading only the Monday Evening meeting with Julie Peterson, as she has decided to take an amazing job at Cherry Valley school. They are lucky to have her and we know she will be doing great things. With that Sara Shanks will be stepping into leadership shoes and Co lead the Am Group with Lisa Bredemann who after this year plans to pass the torch to new leaders and become a mentor mom. With Support we know this will be an amazing year. If you are interested in joining please contact either Lisa Bredemann, Emily Potocki, Sara Shanks or the church office.

Thank You

Lisa Bredemann, Emily Potocki, Sara Shanks and Julie Peterson

JOIN OUR TRIBE!
WHO IS INVITED?
→ **ALL MOMS!**

THE VISIONS OF MOMCO:
• TO SEE NO MOM ALONE.
• BUILD CIRCLES OF FRIENDS WHO LOVE EACH OTHER LIKE FAMILY.

AM MOMCO:
• MEET FRIDAYS
• 9:00AM-11:00AM
• TWICE A MONTH
• CHILDCARE PROVIDED

September 12
FIRST MEETING

PM MOMCO:
• MEET MONDAYS
• 6:00PM-8:00PM
• TWICE A MONTH

September 8
FIRST MEETING

2025 THEME: **MAKE IT AWKWARD**

For more information contact office@ctrockford.org

MOMCO/CONG. CARE

NEW MOMCO CO-LEADER

Hi, I'm Sara Shanks, and I'm excited to be the new co-leader for MOMCo! I'm a stay-at-home mom to two sweet and spirited boys, ages 6 and 3. Along with serving at church, I volunteer with the Poplar Grove Community Market committee and as PTO secretary at my children's school. I'm still fairly new in my faith—I was baptized just two years ago alongside my boys—and I'm deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve God through MOMCo and look forward to encouraging and walking alongside other moms as we navigate motherhood and faith together.



Congregational Care

- In June our Team assisted with the VBS Celebration meal. Other events were put "on hold" till after our remodel to celebrate its completion.
- HOSPITALITY adjusted its weekend schedules to be the 2nd & 4th weekends each month. We are in need of more volunteers for set-up, baking OR sponsoring Donuts for a weekend, & cleanup. To volunteer, see the Sign-up sheet in Sign-up Center. Thank you!!
- We are tentatively planning the Thanksgiving Eve Pie Event and Advent meals per construction status.
- Per construction status, church decorating for Christmas will be on Saturday, Nov. 29. Watch for sign-ups to volunteer for inside & outside decorating.

We look forward to planning more events in the spring.

Blessings in Christ's Love,
Vickie Kelly

PRESCHOOL

Welcome Back!

It's that time again. Mrs. Harder and I have been putting the final touches on our classroom as we prepare for our school year to begin on September 2nd. We have a total of 31 preschoolers enrolled. Our theme for this year is; The North Woods. The children will be involved in numerous activities that have to do with God's environment. We are looking forward to learning about the animals that live in the woods as well as some plants and insects. We held our "Get the Scoop" orientation night on August 14th with a packed crowd! It was wonderful to see that the families are as excited as we are about this school year. Please keep the preschoolers and their families in your prayers as we continue with this wonderful mission.

Doreen Peterson



PASTOR HESHAM

Guest preacher and teacher at CTR. An LCMS pastor in the Chicago area and leads Salam an outreach and care ministry to Muslim immigrants.



In July, Salam Christian Fellowship enjoyed two uplifting summer retreats at Spring Creek Reservoir Forest Preserve (Bloomington, IL) on July 19 and July 26, 2025. A total of 30 people attended, gathering for Bible study, fellowship centered on Christ's teachings, and a shared meal surrounded by God's creation. These retreats reminded us of the joy of Christian community and the freedom we share in the Gospel.

On Sunday, August 17, 2025, Salam Christian Fellowship was blessed to take part in a joyful occasion at Trinity Lutheran Church in West Chicago, IL. Pastor Hesham had the honor of officiating in the installation of Rev. Dr. Eric Moeller, and the service was enriched by the participation of Rev. Ron Weidler, a valued Salam Board member.

This celebration carried an added personal joy: Rev. Dr. Moeller is an old friend of Pastor Hesham. The two first met in 2005 at Fort Wayne and have remained connected in faith and friendship ever since.

The installation service was a meaningful expression of unity in Christ and partnership in ministry. We thank God for Rev. Dr. Moeller as he begins this new season of service.



Salam Christian Fellowship gathers every Saturday at Peace Lutheran Church in Lombard, IL. On Saturday, August 16, 2025, however, the fellowship joined an international gathering at College Church in Wheaton. The evening included a moving testimony from Mr. Raheem, a convert from Islam who was baptized at Salam and shared how he was called to faith in Christ.

Afterward, the group enjoyed dinner together, during which Mr. Raheem spoke further about God's transforming work in his life. The gathering concluded with a devotional led by Pastor Hesham, encouraging all to remain steadfast in the hope and freedom we have in Christ.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|---|-------------------------|--|
| 31 | 1 | 2 9:30am Picture People 11:30am Art Class | 3 Announcement Deadline | 4 6:30pm Congregational Care meeting 6:30pm Ladie's Lifelight 6:30pm Men's Life Light | 5 | 6 4:15pm NO Adult Bible Study 5:35pm Worship/Communion |
| 7 8am Worship/Communion 9:15am NO Adult Bible Study 9:15am NO Children's Sunday School/PreK-5th 10:30am Worship/Communion | 8 6pm elders meeting 6pm MomCO Meeting | 9 | 10 Announcement Deadline 9:30am Homeschool Group 9:30am Women's Bible Study 11:30am Staff Meeting 7pm Young Adult Bible Study | 11 6:30pm Ladie's Lifelight 6:30pm Men's Life Light | 12 9am MomCO Meeting | 13 4:15pm Adult Bible Study 5:35pm Worship/ Pastor Buss |
| 14 8am Worship/Pastor Buss 9:15am Adult Bible Study 9:15am Children's Sunday School 10:30am Worship/Buss | 15 | 16 9:30am Picture People 11:30am Art Class 6:30pm Church Council Meeting | 17 Announcement Deadline 9:30am Homeschool Group 9:30am Women's Bible Study 12pm Fun4Seniors | 18 6:30pm Ladie's Lifelight 6:30pm Men's Life Light | 19 | 20 4:15pm Adult Bible Study 5:35pm Worship/Communion |
| 21 8am Worship/Communion 9:15am Adult Bible Study 9:15am Children's Sunday School 10:30am Worship/Communion | 22 6pm MomCO Meeting | 23 2pm SENIOR BIBLE STUDY | 24 Announcement Deadline 9:30am Homeschool Group 9:30am Women's Bible Study 10:30am Card Ministry 7pm Young Adult Bible Study | 25 6:30pm Ladie's Lifelight 6:30pm Men's Life Light | 26 9am MomCO Meeting | 27 4:15pm NO Adult Bible Study 5:35pm NO Worship |
| 28 8am NO Worship 9:15am Confirmands Faith Statements 9:15am NO Adult Bible Study 9:15am NO Children's Sunday School 10:30am Worship/Confirmation Sunday/Communion | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 31 | 1 Kevin and Rebecca Bodey's anniversary Lorna Beu's birthday Roger and Jane Schmidt's anniversary | 2 Nolan DeBruyne's birthday | 3 | 4 Dave and Jane Williams's anniversary Kaylee Roe's birthday Kyle and Brittany Elmer's anniversary | 5 Chad Clendening's birthday | 6 Lori Hitzke's birthday |
| 7 | 8 Otha Bland's birthday | 9 Joshua Keske's birthday Todd Modrzejewski's birthday | 10 | 11 Rob and Ann Warren's anniversary | 12 Chris Miller's birthday | 13 Carol Robert's birthday |
| 14 Brittney Erwin's birthday David Brown's birthday Diane Roop's birthday | 15 Erin Pedersen's birthday Nathan and Jessica Grove's anniversary Vickie Kelly's birthday | 16 | 17 Matt and Joli Robinson's anniversary Tyler Grove's birthday | 18 Colette Foley's birthday Leanne Nikolic's birthday Ryan and Brenda Pierson's anniversary Stephanie Clay's birthday Zander Shanks's birthday | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 Scott Ross's birthday | 24 Freyja Davidson's birthday Mike Richardson's birthday | 25 Jackson Potocki's birthday | 26 Seth Peterson's birthday | 27 Kevin Jensen's birthday |
| 28 Rae and Dawn Denby's anniversary Tammy Modrzejewski's birthday | 29 Jacob Milbourn's birthday | 30 Brian Thueme's birthday Edward Koch's birthday Holly Clendening's birthday Kayla Clendening's birthday | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |