

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

A SEASON TO REFLECT

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. Psalm 136:1

Christ Lutheran has been blessed these past few years with the Kapels family in our midst. Pastor Kapels has made significant contributions to this ministry! He is one of the best preachers I have had the pleasure of hearing, and his zest and zeal are unmatched. Our congregation has been blessed by his presence here. Now, God has called him to another place to serve another congregation in need. There is a temptation to feel a bit defeated and sad. However, we know that God provides in all situations. So there are things I ask you to do in the coming weeks and months.

1) Give thanks to God for Pastor Kapels and the work done among us. For all of his sermons, his care for folks during difficult times, and his adult information classes! They are just a small part of his work here...and in all things He served people and shared Jesus with them!

2) Pray that God would fill the need here at Christ Lutheran. We will begin the search process shortly with our church leaders. Please begin praying now that God would fill the need we have. Remember, there are many churches that do not have one pastor! Yet we know that God will give that which is needful and in accord with His will.

3) Lend a hand where you can. Pastor Carretto and I will "hold down the fort". We have done it before and we can do it again. There will be some instances where we will need your help. When you hear a church announcement, see a request in the Focus, or on Facebook, please prayerfully consider if you can lend a hand as we continue to serve God and His people in Norfolk!



We began with the verse in Psalms, and we end with the same verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. Psalm 136:1

- Mike Moreno, Senior Pastor

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS



Hymn Festival

What a joyful afternoon of worship and music! Our recent Hymn Festival was a beautiful success, with outstanding attendance and heartfelt participation from across our community. The event featured incredible musicians from LCMS churches throughout the area, all coming together to lift their voices in praise. We are grateful for the talent, dedication, and unity of 30 singers, 20 instrumentalists, 11 ringers, 4 organists, and 3 directors. Thank you to everyone who attended and to all who shared their musical gifts to glorify God!



Youth & Children's Ministry

HEART FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

I have a goal. I want to spend an entire year of my life on youth trips. If my calculations are correct, With 18ish mission trips, a couple gatherings, and 20 something retreats, I am over halfway there. July I got to be a week closer, as myself, 4 other adults and 21 youth went to New Orleans for the youth gathering. Many of you have come up to me and shared stories about your gathering (or similar trip) experiences. Some of your kids have told me things like, "GUESS WHAT MY MOM GOT AWAY WITH ON HER TRIP!"

Youth trips make me think of the verse from Deuteronomy, "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." On youth trips, we get an opportunity to talk about Jesus when we walk and sit and lie down and rise. In this case, we are surrounded by 20,000 other people doing the same. We may not bind it on our forehead, but we wear it on our matching t-shirts!

In New Orleans, we focused on endurance. And no, I don't mean the lack of sleep and humidity. In Hebrews we are reminded that we can run the race with endurance, and that Jesus endured the cross for us! We got to experience and be reminded that we are not in this race alone as we worshipped, went to sessions and concerts and had communion with thousands of others people. As a youth told her parents, "I learned that we aren't alone!"

Somehow, it is easier on a youth trip to live out our faith in everything we do, and we hope to carry that home with us too.

Trips are an incubator for relationships. Not just with each other, but with God. I don't take it lightly, the gift it is to be a part of it.



Thank you for your support. Not just for the youth gathering, but for the faith of our youth. Want to continue to showing support? Ask the youth about it. Give them a chance to share about their experience with you!

- Cori Woltmann, Director of Christian Education



LET'S CONNECT Have a question or idea for our youth ministries? I'd love to hear from you!

 cwoltmann@clnorfolk.org



Childcare Corner

Providing loving care and early education rooted in Christ, nurturing young hearts and planting seeds of faith from the very start.

Childcare Update

While our program runs year-round, this season brings an exciting transition as we welcome new children and families for the school year. Classrooms are being refreshed, and our teachers are ready to nurture faith, learning, and growth. We're so grateful for the continued support and prayers from our church family. Please also help spread the word about the LB531 Childcare Tax Credit—a valuable way to give using funds already paid in taxes. Funds are limited, so early action is encouraged!

FAMILY RESOURCES

Looking to spark meaningful family moments? Try conversation cards! Great options like Talking Point, Sharing Joy, or Tales are available on Amazon. They're fun, faith-friendly, and perfect for dinners or quiet time. Just choose a set that fits your family best!



Summer Camp Lemonade & Cookie Sale



Adventurers Creations



SPOTLIGHT

With help from Priscilla's, we gathered supplies for Christmas Boxes for Orphan Grain Train. It was a great success! Our preschoolers will help pack the boxes during the first week of August—what a joy to see them learning to serve!

Rooted in Christ – Growing Together

Raising children is meaningful work—filled with joy, challenge, and countless small moments that matter. As Christian parents and caregivers, we trust that God is present in the everyday. Whether a child is learning to share, waiting their turn, or listening during storytime, these moments help shape a heart that follows Jesus. Colossians 2:7 reminds us: "Let your roots grow down into Him, and let your lives be built on Him." At Christ Lutheran Childcare, we believe faith is formed not just in Sunday worship, but in the daily rhythms—circle time, snack time, and even cleanup time. As we start a new year, may we stay rooted in Christ, knowing He is growing something good in every little life.



- Chad Bryant, Childcare Director



School Update

Impacting the hearts, minds, and spirits of our students for a lifetime.

Projected Enrollment for the 2025-2026 School Year

The chart below shows that we are currently sitting at 322 students for the 2025-2026 school year which is an increase from 309 we had last year. We have had a few families move recently as this number was a lot higher last week. We are still in a healthy spot!

258 Actual Re-Enrolled (25 leaving, 0 repeat K)

0 Projected Re-Enrolled

44 Enrolled in Kindergarten

20 New Students

322 Total Actual Enrollment

322 Total Projected Enrollment



1st-8th Grade for the 2024/2025 School Year



2024 Activities Center

Classroom Expansion

CLS is double tracked from kindergarten through 6th grade. Our goal is to add 7th and 8th to that list but we need two additional classrooms to make this happen. During our site plan committees is discussing our building project, it was discussed that we were short classrooms and plans were made to keep as many as we could with the new plans. We hope to add a wall between the 84' and 04' additions for these two classrooms or convert the computer lab to a classroom and just add one. Principal Urban has met with

Davis Design to put something together to go out for bids. Currently, the school has raised \$80,000 for this potential project through Plant Sale, REVEL, and few private donors. Our goal is to not ask the church for a large sum to make this expansion happen. After this expansion, that should be all the school needs in terms of construction or additions. If anyone wants to donate to this project, please let Principal Urban know.

2024 Activities Center Expansion Project Remaining Cost

Numbers were looked at to see how much money is still owed on the 2024 Activities Center Building Project. The loan was paid off to the Lutheran Church Extension Fund but the project owes the church \$316,000 as monies from special funds were used to reduce the debt for the loan. The school foundation just voted to chip in \$20,000 to go toward this debt. So, the number is now under \$300,000! We are expecting another \$150,000 from pledges to come in this winter. To put a bow on this project, any additional gifts would be welcome! Please contact the church or Principal Urban



-Drew Urban, Principal

FROM PEW TO PLAYGROUND

Full Hearts Full Backpacks

I recently asked a mom if she had her child's school supplies, and she quietly replied, "Some, just not quite finished." When I let her know that our church would love to help complete the list, her eyes welled up as she said, "That's wonderful—I truly have nothing and was worried how I was going to make it happen."

Because of your generous donations—both supplies and monetary—we were able to fully complete the school supply lists for 19 students!

What an amazing accomplishment and a beautiful way to share the love of Christ with these families. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus!



-Kenzie Pasold, Communications Director

TEE OFF FOR A GREAT CAUSE



Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 14th—the Christ Classic is back and better than ever!

Join us for a fun-filled day on the green, all in support of Christ Lutheran School. If you're a seasoned golfer or just in it for the laughs, this is an event you won't want to miss.

Sponsorship Opportunities are available. Whether you want to promote your business, honor a loved one, or simply show your support for Christ Lutheran. A variety of sponsorship levels are available, offering great exposure and a meaningful way to give back.

For more information, to register, or to become a sponsor, please contact:

Principal Urban at urban@clnorfolk.org or Communications Director Kenzie Pasold at kpasold@clnorfolk.org

Ministries in Motion

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SERVE?

We'd love to have you volunteer at the school during your free time! Whether it's serving vegetables at lunch, helping with a PTL event, supervising a class so a teacher can enjoy a quiet lunch, donating to our annual auction, or pitching in with general upkeep—there's a place for you to make a difference. Your time and presence are a blessing to our students and staff. Let us know when you're available, and we'll find the perfect fit!



Donuts with Dads & Dudes Event