

Angelos

FEBRUARY 2026

Thank You

And now I come to my last church newsletter article! How many of these have I written over the past 40 years?! How in the world did I come with something for every month (truth be told only at Christ Lutheran have I written every month, in Whitefish and Eugene that was the 'senior pastor' job!)?

By today I'm not struggling with what to say because all I want to say is thank you! Thank you for the privilege of being your pastor for these past 18 plus years. Thank you for all the baptisms and weddings, the confirmations and the funerals (yes, even a funeral is worthy of a thank you because of the ways I have been invited into this most difficult but also holy place in your lives). Thank you for how warmly you have received Thelma and me for all these years. Thank you for the fact that so many of you aren't parishioners anymore but friends. Thank you for the ways that you have embraced out-of-the-ordinary things like Compassion Weekend, Christmas in Narnia, the Journey to Bethlehem, the Resurrection Trail. Thank you for your faithful financial support of our ministry and mission together. Thank you for allowing me to do those science and faith trips to Europe with my son-in-law, and for supporting the Israel and Footsteps of Paul trips. Thank you for entrusting your children into my care because I know there is nothing more precious to parents than their children. Thank you that you have not only accepted me as your pastor but loved me, not just as pastor Ralf but also simply as Ralf.



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Annie Dillard, in a wonderful book called 'Pilgrim at Tinker Creek', once wrote:

"I think that the dying pray at the last not please but thank you, as a guest thanks his host at the door. Falling from airplanes the people are crying thank you, thank you, all down the air..."

Thankfully I'm not dying (or falling out of a plane!) but I understand what she means – in the end there is gratitude not regret, thankfulness not sorrow.

Almost without exception the Apostle Paul begins all his letters on a note of gratitude. He does this because he is so convinced that everything in the Christian experience finally is an expression of God's grace given to us in Jesus Christ. Karl Barth, one of the great Paul expositors, writes: "Grace and gratitude belong together like heaven and earth. Gratitude evokes grace like the voice and echo. Gratitude follows grace as thunder follows lightning."

I hope you know my gratitude today follows 18 years of receiving grace at Christ Lutheran.

Because so much of what I believe about pastoral ministry grew from my youth ministry background (ministry is about relationships!) I am so grateful for the wonderful relationships I have had and will continue to have because of Christ Lutheran.

What a gift you have been in our lives and as we prepare for the next steps, Thelma and I want you to know very simply: We love you and are so thankful for you!

One final time, with love from your pastor,
Ralf

P.S. #1 from Thelma

Thank you so much for the beautiful tea on Sunday afternoon. I loved the tables and dishes and hats and especially all of you beautiful women! You so filled my heart and soul, and I am so grateful!

With love and thanks from Thelma

P.S.#2 from Ralf And a final thank you to the wonderful staff I have been blessed to work with – Lyndi, Aubrie, Sandra, Auren, Betsy, Tyler, Ashley, Rylie, Michele, Tracy, Evin, Rose (not to mention all the other staff through the years). It's so much less like work when done together with people like you!

Some great things still ahead:

Adult ed starting in February

Back by popular demand, Thomas Thompson leads this 5 week video based class.

'Share the Dream: Shining a Light in a Divided World through Six Principles of Martin Luther King, Jr.'

Thursday's Feb. 5th - March 5th at 1:30pm and Sunday's Feb. 8th - March 8th at 9:40am

And then ...

A 3 week Lenten class led by our interim pastor, former Bishop Ricard Jaech!

Thursday March 12th - 26th at 1:30pm and Sunday March 15th - 29th at 9:40am.



Children & Families

A note from Lyndi...

I do not have a long article this month, as I am just 2 days out from all the Retirement Festivities, but I do want to highlight a could of important things.

1. We will publish a Special Addition Angelos later in the month with some photos and recaps of Ralf's retirement! We expect to get the photos from the photographer soon. Watch for that special addition, later this month.
2. This upcoming Sunday we are celebrating the Seahawks making it to the Super Bowl and hopefully clinching the win, AND we are having our own SOUPer Bowl Sunday and hoping to clinch a TOUCHDOWN for the Tillicum Food Bank. Wear your Seahawks gear and bring your canned soups/chili/etc!!!
3. On Tuesday, February 17th we will be having our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner! We have this event each year to have a final celebration and clear out all the sweets from our kitchen before we go in to the season of Lent. We again will have a pancake dinner, play some fun games, enjoy some Mardi Gras music and this year we will also be welcoming Pastor Jaech. This event is being sponsored this year by our Latchkey (Before and After School Program) as a fundraiser for their program. We have so many families in our local neighborhood who attend this program and we want to support them and their children. Latchkey will use all donations to help families with scholarships, purchase some much needed new supplies and to add enrichment to their program. Thank you for help us support this great ministry of our church!

With love and thanks for all the ways we shine a light in our community,
Lyndi



Lent @ CLC

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18th

**Traditional Services @ Noon & 7PM
Children & Families Service @ 6PM**

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

February 25 - March 25

Wednesdays @ 6PM

Holden Evening Vespers @ 7PM



Can you help?

Shampoo Needed

The Monday Growth Group needs Shampoo donations for their on going project, to fill pill bottles for the Tacoma Rescue Misson. Please contact Karen Claussen with any questions. Thank you for your help!

Nonperishable Food Donations

We have teamed up with the Lakewood Rotary Lions to stock the Little Free Pantry and the Tillicum Food Bank. They are in need of cereal, canned tuna/chicken, small jars of peanut butter, trail mix/nuts, canned soup, ramen, fruit or pudding cups, protein bars, and bottled water. Please consider adding a few extra things to your grocery list in the coming week and dropping them off at our foodbank box.

Altar Flowers

Interested in providing the flowers on Sunday morning? Altar Flowers are \$29.00. You can find the sign-up sheet in the Friday email, or call the church office. The 2026 Altar Flower sign-up is now available!

Worship Helper Scheduling

Do you have a preferred weekend that you like to serve? Would you like to have a set schedule?

If you answered, “yes”! Please email Aubrie at secretary@clc-lakewood.org or call the Church Office and I would be happy to schedule you!

Angelos

If you have any information or articles for the Angelos, please email them to Aubrie at secretary@clc-lakewood.org by the 15th of the month. Thank you!

Save The Date

Memorial Service for Jan Schuler

Saturday Feb. 14th 1pm

Cookies and reception help is needed for Jan Schuler's memorial services. Please see the sign up sheets in the Gathering Place. Thank you for your help.

Men's Monday Meal & a Movie At Mike's

5pm Monday, February 16th

We will be watching Season 2 Episodes 1 of "The House of David"

Dinner will be Chicken tortilla soup, cheesy bread, salad, and dessert.

Sign up in the Gathering Place.

World Vision Warehouse

Thursday Feb. 19th 9:00am - Noon

Volunteers are needed to help at the World Vision. For any questions please contact Roger Nelson. A sign-up sheet is available in the Gathering Place.

Compassion Weekend

Save the Date! Compassion Weekend will be on Thursday, April 23rd, and Saturday and Sunday, April 25th-26th. We are currently looking for service project ideas that will make a positive impact in the community. Your ideas and suggestions can be given to John and Lisa Korsmo or Dan and Suzanne Weimer. We hope to have great church wide participation and will have projects for all ages and skill levels.

Quilters

The 2025 Quilters winter Silent Auction yielded \$1610.00 The Quilters matched that amount and sent \$3220.00 to Lutheran Disaster Relief which is part of Lutheran World Relief. We wish to thank everyone who donated items for this auction and everyone who made bids. Several donated more than bid amount and a couple folks made an offering for this cause. Thanks for your participation.

Outreach

We would like to thank everyone so much for the abundance of Christmas gifts for the children of Tillicum. The parents were overwhelmed and thanked us many times. You are such a generous congregation and we are so grateful. We have some other opportunities coming up. In February we have our soup donations for Tillicum and will also start collecting dog food. March will be a focus on shampoo for the rescue mission. Again, thank you for all your generosity.

LASA Breakfast



YOU'RE INVITED!
to

LASA'S *FriendRaising* Breakfast

Wednesday, April 29th at 7:30 AM

Clover Park Technical College

Building 23 – McGavick Conference Center

4500 Steilacoom Blvd. SW, Lakewood, WA 98499

Questions? Email shannon@lasawa.org

Please book your (free) ticket at
www.LASApierce.org or here:

SCAN

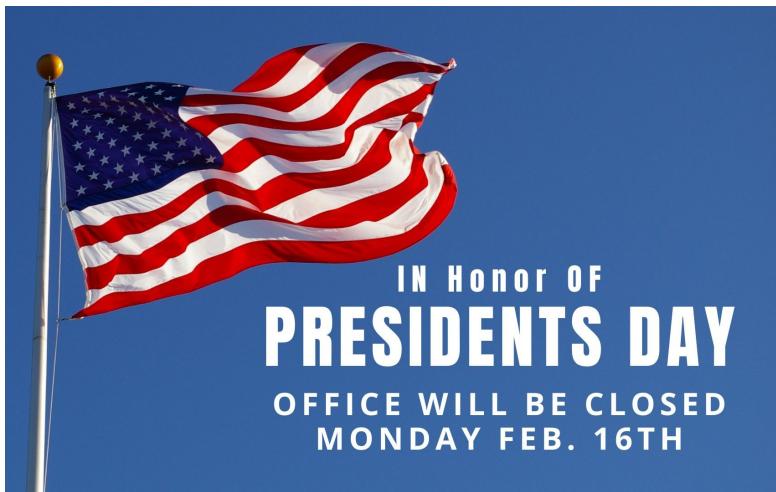


LASA is a community supported agency committed to the prevention of both homelessness and recurrent homelessness.

**Thomas Thompson has reserved a table for Christ Lutheran,
please contact him if you are interested in going!**

Young adult valentine gifts

If you have a young adult between the ages of 18 and 24, please email their current address to Aubrie at secretary@clcl-lakewood.org by Tuesday February 10th, so that we may send them some valentine love in February.



Money Matters

December 2025 Offering and Expense Report

YTD Offerings for Salaries, Utilities & Programs	764,873
YTD Reimbursable Receipts (Book Fees, Events, Reg.)	256,587
YTD Transfer from Sustaining Fund	0
YTD Total General Funds Available	1,021,461
YTD Expenses for Salaries, Utilities & Programs	(951,547)
Estimated General Fund Balance (end of December)	69,914

Faith Circle

9:30am Thursday, February 22nd in the Alpha Room.

Dorcas Circle

3:00pm Thursday, February 22nd in the Alpha Room.

Miriam Circle

10:00am Tuesday, February 27th in the Fireside Room.

Monday Morning Bible Study

Bible Study will meet at 9 AM in the Alpha Room. We are finishing our study of the book of Acts in The Gospel on the Ground by Kristi McLelland. This has provided us with lively discussion and several Spiritual challenges.

Prayer Group

The Prayer Group meets Monday mornings after Bible study (around 11:15 AM). If you have prayer requests, you may click the prayer request "button" in the CLC weekly email or call the Church secretary. You may also drop a written prayer request in the offering plate. We celebrate the power of prayer.

Book Group

The CLC book club meets on the third Thursday of the month (02/19/2026), in the Alpha Room at 10 AM. February's selection is The Queens of Crime by Marie Benedict. Please note that I had listed this as our April selection! My apologies.

The self-titled Queens of Crime: Dorothy Sayers, Agatha Christie, Emma Orczy, Ngaio Marsh and Margery Allingham, are tired of being slighted by the all-male Detection Club of mystery writers. Dorothy Sayers gathers her fellow female counterparts to solve an actual cold case to prove their detection skills.

This band of writers in the 1930 decide to solve the mysterious disappearance and death of May Daniels, a young English nurse who vanished in France. The writers sharpen their detection skills, they discover the collaborative power of their intellect will hopefully unmask a killer who thought he has "gotten away with murder". This is historical fiction so the reader also get a look at the personal scandals of these real life crime writers.

2/19/26	<i>The Queens of Crime</i> by Marie Benedict
3/19/26	<i>Only the Beautiful</i> by Susan Meissner
4/16/26	<i>The Book of Hope</i> by Jane Goodall, Douglas Adams
5/21/26	<i>Making the Best of What's Left</i> by Judith Viorst
6/18/26	<i>The Backyard Bird Chronicles</i> by Amy Tan
7/16/26	<i>Vera Wong's Guide to Snooping (on a Dead Man)</i> by Jesse Q. Sutanto
8/20/26	<i>The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece</i> by Tom Hanks
9/17/26	<i>The Jackal's Mistress</i> by Chris Bohjalian
10/15/26	<i>The Correspondent: A Novel</i> by Virginia Evans

Please join us. If you use the library, always check the availability of the selection as well as the Lucky Day shelf. Some of the titles later in the year have long wait lists. If you would like more information for Monday Morning Bible Study, Prayer Group or Book Discussion contact Mikel Robinson: text or call (253)307-9373 or email at mar8412@hotmail.com.

February Worship Helpers

8:30am	02/01	02/08	02/15	02/22
Ushers	Jerry Dunlap Harry Haroldson	Dick Ferrell Harry Haroldson	Don & Donna Crump	2 Needed
Greeters	Thelma Kalms Sandy Reed	Mel & Fran Keuch	Ellie Wilson 1 Needed	2 Needed
Reader	Kate Amundson	Grace Meloeny	1 Needed	1 Needed
Communion Set Up	Bob & Sandy Reed	2 Needed	2 Needed	2 Needed
Communion Assistant	Thelma Kalms Lyndi Reed	Jerry & Maren Dunlap Lark Orvick Moore	3 Needed	3 Needed
Communion Clean Up	Bob & Sylvia Allen	Betsy Miller Lark Orvick Moore	2 Needed	2 Needed
Coffee Hour Host	Lark Orvick Moore	Linda Cole, Suzanne Weimer	Needed	Beco Larson
10:30am	02/01	02/08	02/15	02/22
Ushers	Jeremy Mitchell Ben Clair	Scott & Kathy Buser	Scott Buser 1 Needed	Scott Buser 1 Needed
Greeters	Michele Green Lisa Korsmo	Kristi Roy Nancy Selland	2 Needed	2 Needed
Reader	Fran Phelan	Linda Peightel	Fran Phelan	1 Needed
Communion Assistant	Michele Green Thelma Kalms Lyndi Reed	Linda Peightel Kristi Roy 1 Needed	Kristi Roy Sharon Shaffer 1 Needed	Sharon Shaffer 2 Needed
Communion Clean Up	Karen Claussen Donna Cordingly	Linda Peightel Nancy Selland	2 Needed	2 Needed

The Worship Helper sign up sheets are available in the Gathering Place.

Lent Worship Helpers	
Wednesdays 7pm	Ushers
02/18 Ash Wednesday Traditional Worship	2 Needed
02/25 Holden Evening Vespers	2 Needed
03/04 Holden Evening Vespers	2 Needed
03/11 Holden Evening Vespers	2 Needed
03/18 Holden Evening Vespers	2 Needed
03/25 Holden Evening Vespers	2 Needed

FEbruary 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 PBJ Sunday Traditional Worship 8:30am Fellowship 9:40am Contemporary Worship 10:30am Retirement Service 2pm	2 Women's Bible study 9am Quilters 9am Prayer Group 11:15am	3	4 Rooted Dinner 5:30pm Classes 6:00pm Youth Group 6:30pm	5 Worship Noon Education Hour 1:30pm Exec Meeting 4:30pm Council Meeting 5:30pm	6 Office Closed	7 TGILS 9am
8 Traditional Worship 8:30am Adult Ed/Fellowship 9:40am Contemporary Worship 10:30am	9 Women's Bible study 9am Quilters 9am Prayer Group 11:15am	10	11 Rooted Dinner 5:30pm Classes 6:00pm Youth Group 6:30pm	12 Worship Noon Education Hour 1:30pm MomCo 5:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 7:30pm	13 Office Closed	14 Jan Schuler Memorial 1pm
15 Traditional Worship 8:30am Adult Ed/Fellowship 9:40am Contemporary Worship 10:30am	16 Presidents Day Office Closed Men's Meal & a Movie 5pm	17 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 6pm	18 Ash Wednesday Ash Wed. Service Noon Family Service 6pm Ash Wed. Service 7pm	19 Book Group 10am Worship Noon Education Hour 1:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 7:30pm	20 Office Closed	21 TGILS 9am
22 Traditional Worship 8:30am Adult Ed/Fellowship 9:40am Contemporary Worship 10:30am	23 Women's Bible study 9am Quilters 9am Prayer Group 11:15am	24	25 Miriam Circle 10am Book of Acts Study 10:30am Book of Acts Study 7pm	26 Lenten Soup Supper 6pm Holden Evening Vespers 7pm	27 Office Closed	28 TGILS 9am

Christ Lutheran Church
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ELCA Synod
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Office Hours M-TH 8-4:30

Missed church last Sunday?

Did you know you can watch live worship and
catch up on our YouTube page!

Search: Christ Lutheran Lakewood

Did you know you can make an offering online
www.christlutheranlakewood.com

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