

ANGELOS

November 2025

In the Footsteps of St. Paul and Some Thoughts on Stewardship

Thelma and I (plus 6 others from CLC) are just back from a wonderful 'In the Footsteps of St. Paul' trip. We joined 15 others from Little Church for a once in a lifetime experience.

We saw amazing ruins – Philippi and Corinth, Ephesus and Athens. These were the urban centers of Paul's world, a world to which Paul was determined to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

But if there was single place that I found most significant, and even touching, it was a small creek outside Philippi. It was here that tradition says Paul met a group of women including "a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer of purple cloth" (read the account in Acts 16:13-15). Luke tells us that her heart was opened to the gospel, and then her home was opened to Paul and his traveling companions (Silas, Timothy, and Luke).

Not in a fancy church, not in a big city, but along a quiet stream the gospel first took root. And also not in a man, but in a businesswoman, did the gospel find its first receptive heart.

This beautiful quiet place became a temple where God met a group of women.

I have read that the earliest we find any evidences of an actual church building comes from the time around AD250-300. Amazingly this was no hinderance to the early Christian movement. They believed something that Paul was to preach in Athens: *"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands"* (Acts 17:24). God is not connected to any particular piece of geography, and certainly not to any building.



The Creek Outside Philippi Where Paul Met Lydia (the first European convert)

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We saw the remains of Ephesus and Corinth and Philippi. We walked on the Acropolis and viewed the stunning reconstruction of the Parthenon. But it was a little stream that felt holy to me.

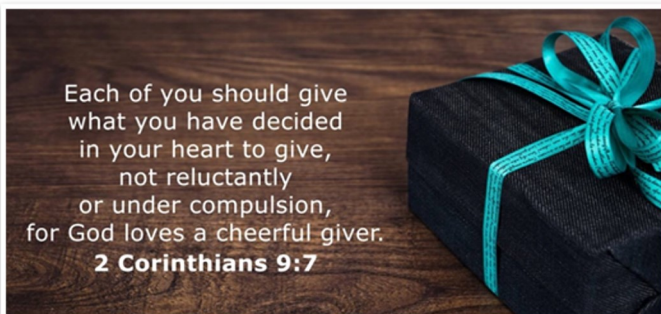
Where are the holy places we find ourselves every day? Places where God can be encountered? Paul was led to this little stream and there the church found its first home in Lydia.

Could it be that God might lead us so someone might have their heart opened to the gospel as was Lydia's? Is there a Lydia in your life? Where could you meet her (or him)?



*Thelma in front of the
Library of Celsus in Ephesus*

**With gratefulness for wonderful days of travel in St. Paul's footsteps,
Pastor Ralf**



A Note on Stewardship

Every year about this time we dedicate some messages to the idea of Christian stewardship. I've done this in numerous ways: talking on themes of time/talents/treasure or gift/gratitude/generosity. I've used slices of a pie or a 'Fun Sized' v. Costco sized bag of M&M's. Last year it was ruler and every inch being claimed by Christ as his own.

This year I think I will very specifically focus on money. For so many of us this is a challenging piece of our lives. We have a hard time talking about it even with our own spouses, let alone others. We feel embarrassed or guilty about it. Most of wish we were more faithful in our giving.

I hope talking about money will encourage us and remind us that we are mostly in the same boat. We are all works in progress.

I'm not sure exactly what this series will look like, but I know where it will begin:

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift."

2 Corinthians 9:15

All talk about giving has to begin with what we have been given; we are always receivers first, and then, in response, we become givers.

With gratitude for the financial resources I have been given.

Pastor Ralf

Children & Families

October has been a busy month!

October began as we welcomed Cora Dawn through Holy Baptism. One of the things I just love about baptisms is seeing all the other kids sitting and watching. I can tell that they see the mystery in the sacrament of baptism and they watch so intently. It is really beautiful!

Another beautiful event this month was the installation of Pastor Keith Marshall as the Bishop of the Southwest Washington Synod of the ELCA. His theme was, "The Spirit is Moving, Come Join the Dance." And the entire service was filled with The Spirit. Newly elected Bishop Yehiel Curry presided and gave a wonderful sermon.

Rooted is back up and running on Wednesday evenings and we have had a great turn out. We are so grateful to Francine for preparing our dinners each week. I have been going through the story of Moses with the kids and it has been so fun to pull out props and act out the story each week. The kids really loved taking off their shoes and walking on "Holy Ground" before our burning bush. They also loved the obstacle course through Egypt which includes snakes and quicksand.

Sunday Morning Kids Club has been focusing on learning the gospel message being shared in worship. We also packed small bags of dog food one week that will be delivered to Tacome Rescue Mission to help people who have pets. We talked about how God created and loves all the animals and we want to take care of them. At the end of the month we will be covering Reformation and talking about Martin Luther. The kids always love hammering the 95 thesis to the door as we talk about how we are saved by grace, faith alone!

We ended the month with Trunk or Treat, one of our biggest events of the year. A huge thank you to everyone volunteering to decorate a trunk and to all of you donating bags of candy.

It is such a joy to work with kids and share the gospel with them. The best part of my position at Christ Lutheran is the relationships I have with all the kids and their families.

Vicar Lyndi Reed



Notes From the Office

From Rooted to MomCo, Acts class to Bible studies, quilters, senior trips, a yard-work party, and even a big adventure to Greece, it's been a full and exciting month here at Christ Lutheran! There is so much happening in our church community, and it's such a joy to see people coming together in faith, fellowship, and service. In the midst of all the activity, we are also thrilled to announce that we've officially hired a custodian! Please help us welcome Auren to CLC, and if you see her around, make sure you say hi!

As the new Office Manager, one of my biggest goals is to help grow and strengthen volunteer involvement here at CLC. I know that sometimes volunteering can feel intimidating, especially if you've never done it before or aren't sure where to start. However, I want to reassure you that every helping hand truly matters. We each have unique gifts and talents- none too big or too small. Together, we have the wonderful opportunity to use those gifts to glorify God and share the love of Jesus with one another and our community.

Maybe your gift is hospitality—serving coffee on Sunday mornings or greeting new faces with a warm smile. Or maybe it's creativity—helping decorate the church or capturing photos at events. Perhaps you love to cook, garden, sew, or would prefer to help behind the scenes with proofreading or organizing. However you serve, your time and talents make a meaningful difference and help our church grow and thrive.

Let's serve together and continue building a community that reflects Christ's love in everything we do. If you're interested in getting involved or simply want to learn more about volunteer opportunities, I'd love to hear from you! Please send me an email at officemanager@clc-lakewood.org.

Happily,
Hannah Elliott

Quilters

This fall, the CLC quilters sent 82 quilts, 50 school kits, 36 fabric kits, and two baby kits to Lutheran World Relief. These materials will help people who have experienced disasters caused by extreme weather or wars. People in the USA now benefit from these life-saving materials, which were sent to the Midwest and Southern US, where tornadoes devastated many communities. We thank Mr. T., Pam Garrison, and Kay Skinner for taking our quilts and kits to Our Redeemers Church in North Seattle. Thank you to everyone who has donated materials for quilts and kits.

Nellie Schoenberg



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 Mission. 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 will be available in the Friday Email starting November 14th.

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!

With Thanks

Christ Lutheran Church,

The love and effort you put into the memorial for my dad was so touching. It has been hard saying goodbye to him over the last few years and it wouldn't have felt complete without a service with you. Thank you for all you did to make that happen and for being such a great family to my dad while he was in Lakewood.

Take care,
Heather Moe

The Little Free Pantries

For the last year we have been supporting The Little Free Pantries in addition to the Tillicum Food Bank. The ALICE graphic below illustrates how important it is to continue to help those in need here in Lakewood. If you are able please consider adding an extra item to your shopping list.

United Way

ALICE: **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed



ASSET LIMITED

ALICE has no safety net for emergencies



INCOME CONSTRAINED

ALICE's income falls short of basic necessities



EMPLOYED

ALICE is working, but can't afford the cost of living

Individuals and families who work, but are unable to meet their basic needs, including food, childcare, housing, health care and transportation.

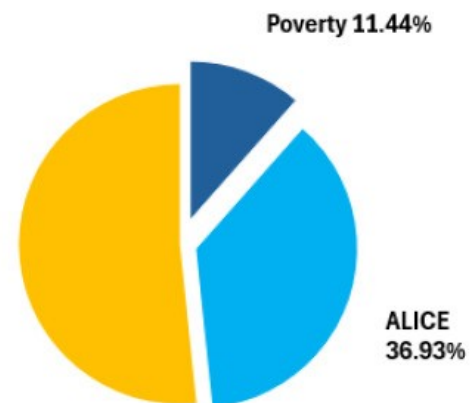
Food Insecurity in Lakewood

48.37% of Lakewood Households are either Below the **Poverty Level** (11.44%) or Below the **ALICE Threshold** (36.93%)

Lakewood has 53.87% MORE ALICE then WA State Average

Every Other Person You See in Lakewood

Above ALICE Threshold 51.63%



Upcoming Events

A poster for a concert titled "SALT & LIGHT". The background is dark with a central image of a glass vessel, possibly a chalice, with light rays emanating from it. The text "A concert presented by Joyful Noise @ Christ Lutheran Church" is at the top. The title "SALT & LIGHT" is in large, stylized letters. Below it, "God Speaks Through Pop Music" is written. The date and time "November 20th @ 7:00pm" are at the bottom.

A concert presented by Joyful Noise @ Christ Lutheran Church

SALT & LIGHT

God Speaks Through Pop Music

November 20th @ 7:00pm

A poster for an event titled "Pie & Praise". The background is a deep red with a black banner at the top containing the title in white script. Below the banner is a photograph of various pies, including a lattice-top apple pie and a pumpkin pie, along with apples, cinnamon sticks, and a small pumpkin. At the bottom, the date and time "Wednesday, Nov. 26th @ 7pm" are written in orange script, with musical notes and a treble clef on either side.

Pie & Praise

Wednesday, Nov. 26th @ 7pm

A poster for an "Advent Festival". The background is white with a decorative border of pine branches, red berries, and gold ornaments. The title "Advent Festival" is written in a large, red, cursive font. Below it, the text "Crafts, Food, Advent Centerpieces & Lefse." is in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The date and time "SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH @ 11:30AM" are at the bottom in a black, sans-serif font.

Advent Festival

Crafts, Food, Advent Centerpieces & Lefse.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH @ 11:30AM

Mark Your Calendar

CLC Seniors' Trips

Boeing Museum of Flight

9:00am Friday, November 14th

Join us for a trip to the Boeing Museum of Flight in Seattle. We will have Lunch at the Wings Cafe at the museum. For more information, see the signup sheet in the Gathering Place.

2025 PLU Christmas Concert, "All Shall Be Well"

Saturday, December 6th at 2:00 & 7:30pm

Tickets go on sale Tuesday, Nov. 4th, and will sell out in the first few hours. For ticket cost and payment information, see the signup sheets in the Gathering Place.

Payment is due to Robbie Courts or the Church Office by Sunday, Nov. 2nd.



Our October trip was to the Chehalis Veterans Museum and Lunch at McMenamins Olympic Club. Join us on our next adventure!

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

5pm Monday, November 10th

We will be watching Season 5 Episodes 3 & 4 of "The Chosen"

Dinner will be chili, cornbread, salad, and dessert.

Sign up in the Gathering Place.

Dog Food Drive

We are collecting bags of dog food (any size) for donation to the Tillicum Food Bank, Tacoma Rescue Mission, Nativity House, and the Lakewood Methodist Food Bank.

Packing Day Ste Changed to Thursday, November 13th at 9am.

Sign up in the Gathering Place.

Faith Circle

9:30am Thursday, November 20th in the Alpha Room.

Dorcas Circle

3:00pm Thursday, November 20th in the Alpha Room.

Miriam Circle

10:00am Tuesday, November 25th in the Fireside Room.

Monday Morning Bible Study

Bible Study meets at 9 AM in the Alpha Room. We are continuing our study of *The Gospel on the Ground* by Kristi McClelland. The author gives us a glimpse into the study of the culture, geography and lifestyle of the Early Church through her experiences of studying in Egypt and Israel. New members are welcome.

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. Please join us-no experience necessary!

Book Group

The CLC book club meets on the third Thursday of the month (11/20/2025), in the Alpha Room at 10 AM. November's meeting is an opportunity for each reader to select a biography or autobiography to share with the group. This is like a mini history seminar of fascinating and often overlooked people.

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 11/20/25 | A biography or autobiography of your choice |
| 12/18/25 | <i>Christmas Crimes at the Mysterious Bookshop</i> edited by Otto Penzler |
| 1/15/26 | <i>The Briar Club</i> by Kate Quinn |
| 2/19/26 | <i>Only the Beautiful</i> by Susan Meissner |
| 3/19/26 | <i>The Book of Hope</i> by Jane Goodall, Douglas Adams |
| 4/16/26 | <i>The Queens of Crime</i> by Marie Benedict |
| 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 |

Please join us. If you use the library, always check the availability of the selection as well as the Lucky Day shelf. 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.

November Worship Helpers

8:30am	11/02	11/09	11/16	11/23	11/30
Ushers	Carol - Wray Sturgill 1 Needed	2 Needed	Carol - Wray Sturgill 1 Needed	Dale Moultime, 1 Needed	2 Needed
Greeters	Don & Donna Crump	Cheryl Wilpone Ellie Wilson	2 Needed	2 Needed	2 Needed
Reader	Anne Cook	Grace Meloeny	1 Needed	1 Needed	1 Needed
Communion Set Up	Carol Brown 1 Needed	2 Needed	2 Needed	Veronica Hagman Kristine Moultime	2 Needed
Communion Assistant	Anne Cook Lark Orvick Moore Lyndi Reed	Carol - Wray Sturgill Lyndi Reed 1 Needed	Lyndi Reed 2 Needed	Kristine Moultime 2 Needed	Lark Orvick Moore 2 Needed
Communion Clean Up	Betsy Miller Lark Orvick Moore	Francine Sumrell 1 Needed	2 Needed	Kristine Moultime 1 Needed	2 Needed
Coffee Hour Host	Rod & Sharon Shaffer	Diane Chamusco Linda Cole	Hal & Kate Amundson	2 Needed	Grace Meloeny Lark Orvick Moore
10:30am	11/02	11/09	11/16	11/23	11/30
Ushers	John Korsmo Ben Sclair	Rod Shaffer 1 Needed	2 Needed	Rod Shaffer 1 Needed	2 Needed
Greeters	Jewel Cofchin Theresa Luedtke	2 Needed	2 Needed	2 Needed	2 Needed
Reader	Mikel Ann Robinson	Theresa Luedtke	1 Needed	1 Needed	1 Needed
Communion Assistant	Karen Claussen Kira Korsmo Mikel Ann Robinson	Kira Korsmo Lyndi Reed 1 Needed	Sharon Shaffer Lyndi Reed 1 Needed	Sharon Shaffer 2 Needed	3 Needed
Communion Clean Up	Karen Claussen Deb Sclair	2 Needed	2 Needed	2 Needed	2 Needed

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

Money Matters

September 2025 Offering and Expense Report

YTD Offerings for Salaries, Utilities & Programs	470,716
YTD Reimbursable Receipts (Book Fees, Events, Reg.)	94,781
YTD Transfer from Sustaining Fund	88,629
YTD Total General Funds Available	654,126
YTD Expenses for Salaries, Utilities & Programs	(710,308)
Estimated General Fund Balance (end of September)	(56,182)

NOVEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 TGLS 9am
2 PB&J Sunday Traditional Worship 8:30am Congregational Chat 9:40am Contemporary Worship 10:30am	3 Women's Bible study 9am Quilters 9am Prayer Group 11:15am	4	5 Rooted Dinner 5:30pm Classes 6:00pm Youth Group 6:30pm	6 Worship Noon Exec Meeting 4:30pm Council Meeting 5:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 7:30pm	7 Office Closed	8 TGLS 9am Rob Roy Memorial 1pm
9 Traditional Worship 8:30am Adult Ed/Fellowship 9:40am Contemporary Worship 10:30am	10 Women's Bible study 9am Quilters 9am Prayer Group 11:15am Men's Meal & a Movie 5pm	11 Veterans Day Office Closed Book of Acts Study 10:30am Book of Acts Study 7pm	12 Rooted Dinner 5:30pm Classes 6:00pm Youth Group 6:30pm	13 Worship Noon MomCo 5:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 7:30pm	14 Office Closed Seniors Trip 9:00am	15 TGLS 9am
16 Traditional Worship 8:30am Adult Ed/Fellowship 9:40am Contemporary Worship 10:30am	17 Women's Bible study 9am Quilters 9am Prayer Group 11:15am	18	19 Rooted Dinner 5:30pm Classes 6:00pm Youth Group 6:30pm	20 Faith Circle 9:30am Book Group 10am Worship Noon Education Hour 1:30pm Dorcas Circle 3pm Salt & Light Concert 7pm	21 Office Closed	22 TGLS 9am
23 Traditional Worship 8:30am Adult Ed/Fellowship 9:40am Contemporary Worship 10:30am	24 Women's Bible study 9am Quilters 9am Prayer Group 11:15am	25 Miriam Circle 10am	26 Pie & Praise 7:00pm	27 Thanksgiving Office Closed	28 Office Closed	29
30 Traditional Worship 8:30am Adult Ed/Fellowship 9:40am Contemporary Worship 10:30am Advent Festival 11:30am						

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ELCA Synod

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swwsynod@plu.edu



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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