



CHRIST THE SERVANT LUTHERAN

FEBRUARY 2021

January Birthdays

Katelyn Hall	Jan. 1
Mick Kullbom	Jan. 4
Warren Bennett	Jan. 6
Emilee Olson (14)	Jan. 15
BJ Koeppe	Jan. 16
Tara Peters	Jan. 17
Tammy Buckendahl	Jan. 22
Jacob Svitak	Jan. 24
Nita Meyer	Jan. 25
Lucas Petersen (13)	Jan. 25

February Birthdays/Anniversaries

Vern & Tama Krause	Feb. 2
Bob & Susie Lutz	Feb. 2
Doug Witte	Feb. 8
Dagney Petersen (6)	Feb. 11
Jeremy Olson	Feb. 12
Millie Drey	Feb. 18
Rhonda Beed	Feb. 19
Deb Olson	Feb. 20

Roger & Donna Young, 50 years on Feb. 20th!

Nell Finkral	Feb. 23
Joy Potts	Feb. 25
Jan Puls	Feb. 27
Carter Olson (16)	Feb. 28

Card of Thanks

Thank you for your gift of three quilts! We believe that together, we will make a difference.

—*Pastor Will Perrigan, Norfolk Rescue Mission*

Thank you for all the cards and gifts I received after my brother's death.

—*Marilyn Woolard*

Thanks to all of the CTS family for your thoughts, prayers and cards during our time of loss.

You were a comfort to us. God bless you all.

—*Greg Moen*

Thank you for all the prayers for my stepfather, Dale Beckmann.

—*Danita Broders*

Pastoral Acts

Ellery Elizabeth Seagren, daughter of Dan and Michelle Seagren, baptized Nov. 29, 2020

Membership Changes

Dennis and Linda Miller, transferred to Our Savior Lutheran Church

February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7 Boy Scouts	2	3 5:30 book study 6 Confirmation	4 9 PieceMakers	5 6:30 Girl Scouts	6
7 9 Sunday school 10 worship 11 special budget meeting	8 7 Boy Scouts	9	10 5:30 book study 6 Confirmation	11 9 Agape Circle	12	13
14 9 Sunday school 10 worship 11 potluck	15 6:30 Council 7 Boy Scouts	16	17 Ash Wednesday 5:30 book study 6 Confirmation 7 Service w/ ashes	18 2 Card club 6 MOPS	19 6:30 Girl Scouts	20
21 9 Sunday school 10 worship	22 7 Boy Scouts	23	24 5:30 book study 6 Confirmation 7 Lenten service	25	26	27
28 9 Sunday school 10 worship						

UPCOMING EVENTS: Meals on Wheels March 15-19 and March 22-26

Crafting Weekend March 18-20

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I . . . I took the one less traveled by,
and that has made all the difference.

~ from the poem "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost

January 2021

For many of us, as we look back at 2020, we might be thinking, "maybe I took the wrong road." As we look forward to 2021, I believe most of us are hoping and praying that things will be better. The question is how much better . . . is "better?" I can't say I am an eternal optimist, but in this case I believe with all my being that things will be better in 2021; and by better I mean "really better!" We probably won't get completely back to "normal," whatever that means; but I do believe we will be far better at dealing with whatever "normal" will be. So, I decided to focus on the future—as in Spring.

When you think of Spring, what comes to mind? Crocus breaking through the ground or Daffodils shooting up toward the sun or maybe it's the Tulips reaching up arching to catch every drop of sunlight before the cool night arrives? Or is it all the work that you need to do in order to recover from the harsh winter months? You know, the gutters that need to be cleaned or the outside windows that need cleaning or maybe the patio that's in need of a good power wash. Maybe this year you planned to paint the house or some other major project you've been happily putting off since your spouse asked you to do it! Whatever it is that comes to mind about Spring, the one word that truly expresses what Spring is all about is "transformation."

[I know . . . that was a long road (no pun intended) from a difficult 2020 to here!]

Transformation is the technical word for "Change." Yes, that dreaded word that does not exist in the Lutheran Dictionary. By the way, 'How many Lutherans does it take to change a light bulb? None, of course! Lutherans do not change anything!' OK—no more bad jokes.

Change is one of the most difficult things most of us have to deal with. When something changes it becomes unfamiliar and that unfamiliarity causes disruption to our routine. In general, humans are habitual beings—I don't mean that in a negative way—most of us develop habits that are often called routines. Like a morning routine or a bedtime routine—in fact those are habits. In general, habits are not a bad thing. But unchecked habits can get in the way of our own growth. They can become "bad habits" and result in unhealthy or even destructive behaviors. So it also is with the church; we develop habits—some good, some bad. For instance a church may have the habit of celebrating member's and guest's birthdays and anniversaries at the end of each worship service—or—maybe it is having fellowship immediately after worship where people congregate in the narthex and enjoy donuts and coffee. Those both can be great "habits" of the congregation. But what happens if the congregation decides only certain people are worthy of having their birthday or anniversary celebrated or when during fellowship the congregation develops small cliques and visitors and some members are left out of the fellowship? Sometimes things that were meant to be inviting turn into something that excludes.

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So how do we as loving Christians who truly desire to see our church continue to be a vibrant and healthy congregation not allow our “habits” to keep us from that? How do we build up and encourage our sisters and brothers in Christ? I think we have to ask ourselves some difficult questions, like; Do we have events that are exclusive? Do we invite people in our community to come to events that are usually for members? How can we transform ourselves to be “little Christs” to our neighbors? Martin Luther encouraged us to do that. Can we transform our thinking to recognize the gifts we already have? Can we be a vibrant congregation with middle-aged and elderly persons? How can we be better about visiting members who, for whatever reason, are unable to attend worship in person? How do we help members and visitors who are struggling in their faith? Do members realize they too are the “ministers” of the congregation, or does everyone expect the pastor to do all the work? Questions like these face us at every turn in the church, but we cannot allow ourselves to refuse to address them—because to do so would allow the evil one a foothold—and we cannot let that happen.

I believe Christ the Servant is standing at the threshold of opportunity. We have the ability to step out into a world of possibilities. These are difficult and scary times. But if we do not push aside our fear and trepidation we will remain captive to a secular world. I cannot envision Christ the Servant in that way—and that is why we must begin our transformation. I know change is a scary thing—believe me—change is hard! But I know we are able to transform ourselves to be what God created us to be. And as St. Paul says, there is nothing in all creation that can keep us from God’s love through Jesus Christ, and because of that I believe there is nothing in all creation that can keep CTS from becoming that beacon of God’s light through Jesus Christ right here in Norfolk.

Pastor Dennis

I want to thank all of you who gave Donna and me cards and gifts for Pastor’s appreciation and for Christmas. You have all been such a true blessing to both of us throughout our time here. Again, Thank You!

Pastor Dennis & Donna Reich

CTS TRANSITION TEAM COTTAGE MEETING REPORT NOVEMBER, 2020

PURPOSE: The purpose of the cottage meetings was to gather input and data from the congregation about their church “story” (their history) and where they see CTS going in the future. Exploring each member’s story will help create a congregational profile to be used in the search for our next pastor. As you may know....God already has our new pastor picked out, we just have to find him. The qualities that brought our current members to CTS, and have helped them remain here, is something we want to make known so future members may have the same experiences. The meetings were also used to gather thoughts and visions of how **each member of CTS** may play a role in moving the congregation forward and further into the community and mission field. How are YOU willing to help? What does God say His church should look like? It is the opinion of the transition team that in order to move CTS forward, to gain more members, and for outreach efforts to be successful in the community/region/world, **each** of us must play a role.

****NOTE: We will not be laundry listing EACH response to these questions. The responses will be in summary form. The transition team reviewed each comment and looked for a common theme or message that the congregation was trying to convey. We appreciate your comments and want you to know that each person’s responses were recorded, discussed and considered for this report. ****

QUESTION #1: WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO CTS?

Many say they were introduced to CTS by family, friends, the pastor or through marriage. Some respondents said they were “church shopping” and randomly attended CTS or came because of a certain program that was being presented. It was also noted that the small congregation and a family-type atmosphere is what helped draw them to CTS. They didn’t want big and flashy. Many people noted how welcoming people were and how warmly they were received. They felt like they were at home when they first visited.

QUESTION #2: HOW HAS CTS BEEN A BLESSING TO YOUR LIFE/FAMILY?

There were a wide variety of responses to this question. It was very evident that CTS is a special place. Many respondents said CTS makes them feel like they are part of a family/community. They have been helped through struggles/crisis, joined in celebrations or have created lifelong Christian relationships that extend beyond the walls of the church building. They enjoy the fellowship and have had good experiences with congregation members being accepting of their children or family situations. Another common response was how CTS was there for them/children in attaining faith milestones such as baptisms, confirmations, marriages and funerals. They felt a good foundation was built here. Finally, many felt blessed by the many opportunities for faith development and growth at CTS. Whether it was a bible study, quilting group, special class or Sunday school each week. Some adults even said their faith was formed at CTS.

QUESTION #3: WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO TO HELP CREATE THE FUTURE OF CTS? QUESTION #4: WHAT WOULD HELP YOU PROACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN CREATING A NEW CHAPTER IN THE LIFE OF CTS?

While these are two different questions, with different meanings, we felt the questions could be asked together. These questions drew quite a bit of silence and pondering. They also drew a good amount of opinion as to what CTS should be doing to welcome more people, but we did not have many responses or commitments that would indicate that someone is willing to lead an effort. A prospective pastor may look at this as a red flag. We did, however, have a few that said they would be willing to lead/help with Sunday school, youth program, helping with local mission/outreach, and lead a group/bible study.

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QUESTION #5: HOW CAN CTS TANGIBLY HELP BUILD YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST (ex: bible study, outreach, small groups, membership care)?

This question gathered a lot excitement and good responses. People would like to see more small group studies, online bible study options, opportunities to help with local/area mission and outreach. They like classes such as “Experiencing God”, “The Journey” and “Men’s Fraternity” along with helping local outreach such as the food pantry and the Norfolk Rescue Mission. People are also looking for more encouragement from others, making contact with those in the older population of our membership on a more regular basis and providing opportunities to engage our youth/young families. Some respondents say the new pastor will play a vital role in the tangibility for them.

QUESTION #6: WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE VISION OF CHRIST THE SERVANT?

When asked, most people remembered and know that the vision of Christ the Servant is TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN. It was agreed by many that we all need to recommit ourselves to this mission and be **active** participants by listening to God and following his direction.

PASTOR DENNIS’ COMMENTS: Although the transition process does not allow Pastor Dennis to apply for the permanent pastor position, he has told us that if he were a pastor seeking a new call, there are several questions he would have to answer before considering whether or not to apply.

Does the congregation have a vision and know where they plan to go?

What does the congregation see as the need in their new pastor?

Is the congregation looking to have a pastor for a long time or just a few short years?

Is the congregation going to help with ministry, or will they expect the pastor to do it all and fill the pews?

Are there teams in place to help with the ministry?

**CHRIST THE SERVANT CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 14, 2020**

Those in attendance: (in person) Pastor Dennis Reich, Steve Jessen, Bob Lutz, Warren Bennett, Brian Anderson, Laura Kowalski, Tara Peters (via zoom) Chuck Nicholson, Linda Shaffer, Sharon Koeppel.

President Steve Jessen opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, December 14.

Bob Lutz opened the meeting with scripture, a devotion and prayer.

The meeting minutes from the November meeting and financial report were received and approved. Motion by Bob Lutz, 2nd from Tara Peters.

Committee Reports

Transition Team: Steve Jessen reports the transition team has compiled the cottage meeting report, which will be made available to all members of the congregation. We are nearly ready for the Pastoral call process to begin. The cottage meeting report will help the call committee build a profile for CTS.

Building/Grounds: No Report

Fellowship/Evangelism: No Report

Discipleship: Sunday school is on break until January or February.

Stewardship: No Report

Worship: Brian Anderson reports that the worship committee is in the process of creating a job description for filling Emily Svitak's position on the worship team. The position will be advertised internally first, then will consider placing an ad to gather outside interest. A formal presentation will be made for the January meeting for approval.

Local Mission/Outreach: CTS will be the hosting site for a drive-thru food distribution for Good Neighbors on December 16/17. More listed below.

Pastor's Report

Confirmation is on break until January 6, 2021. Pastor is now requiring sermon notes which began with the Advent season. Each student is required to complete 8 sermon notes each year of confirmation.

At the candlelight service on Christmas Eve, Pastor would like to offer communion in two forms (kits and in-person). Practicing distancing and other safety practices should allow us to do so. Pastor needs a couple volunteers to assist. We will also need a few ushers.

Parsonage update: Volkman plumbing came out and installed a pressure limiting valve on the water softener. It's working well. It no longer sounds like a banshee haunting the basement.

"I would like to thank all of you again for the opportunity to be here as your interim pastor. CTS is a great congregation!" Pastor Dennis and Donna have formally joined CTS as members.

Pastor used two vacation days when he went to Lincoln for injections on December 2-3.

COVID

The State of Nebraska has moved to a "Yellow" level on their risk dial. The local health district is also near a Yellow level this week (still in orange). We also have a city ordinance (mask mandate) that will remain in effect until February 16, 2021 or until the city council cancels it. Since the CTS congregational council voted to follow the directed health measures, here is what that means for CTS:

Return to coming forward for communion (with precautions)

Bibles and hymnals will return to the pews

Fellowship after worship is optional for worshipers

Potlucks may take place and are optional for all.

Every other pew will remain roped off for social distancing.

Services will continue to be streamed LIVE on Facebook.

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Offering Counters: Offering counters are needed. If anyone is interested in volunteering, you are asked to contact the church office at 402-379-1775 or by email (christtheservant@cablone.net)

Local Benevolence: CTS gives 2% of their offerings each month to a local non-profit organization. We have two open slots to receive funding. It was noted that Meals on Wheels has an increased need. It was also suggested that the Christian Cross Festival be added to the list. It was agreed upon to add Meals on Wheels and to stay with 11 organizations to receive funding and start a rotation so a recipient sees a different month each year. The list will be review annually by the congregational council.

Outreach: It was noted by Steve Jessen that there are several members of CTS that have been sheltering in place since March due to the pandemic. Others may be avoiding crowds to minimize their chance of getting sick. These members could use some personal contact from us. They need to know we are here and are thinking of them. An idea was presented that a committee be formed to make soup meals to deliver. It was unanimously agreed to move forward with this. Following the meeting, several members of the council held a discussion about a timeline. It was agreed that Saturday, January 16th would be a soup making day with delivery dates to follow. A bulletin insert will be distributed on 1/3 and 1/10 to gather support of those who would like to participate in the making/delivering. Steve Jessen will be making a list of those who should receive a meal delivery.

With nothing further to discuss, Laura Kowalski closed with prayer and the council adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

	Jan 6, 21
Designated Giving Checking Acct	
DG Church Emergency Fund	8,619.35
DG Good Samaritan Fund	2,151.45
DG Memorials	11,360.91
DG Missions/Growth	3,940.71
DG Parsonage Projects(Kitchen)	1,121.02
DG Special Projects (Kitchen)	6,080.21
DG Tanzania Travel	8,643.20
DG Worship Fund	2,323.47
DG Youth Checking Account	3,409.77
Interest-Designated Checking	86.64
Total Designated Giving Checking Acct	47,736.73
General Checking	64,859.92

Christ The Servant Lutheran Church

Contemporary Music Leader

The Contemporary Music Leader at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church in Norfolk, Nebraska will provide vocal, instrumental and musical leadership to the Sunday morning contemporary worship service two out of four Sunday's per month. This is a 12-month position. This position will be responsible for the planning, preparation and coordination of all aspects of music for the contemporary worship services.

Qualifications:

- Strong lead singing voice, with a good understanding of and ability to lead contemporary Christian music.
- Accomplished musician with the ability to read music and play guitar and/or piano.
- Excellent verbal communication skills with the ability to engage the congregation in worship.
- Competent in Microsoft PowerPoint
- Committed to living a Christian lifestyle and to serving as a Christian role model.
- Ability to work in collaboration and cooperation with pastor, staff, and worship committee
- Have a good understanding of audio techniques and principles along with audio signal flow and technical requirements.

Responsibilities:

- Play guitar/piano, sing and lead musicians during worship two Sunday's per month. (typically 2nd and 4th Sunday)
- Be available for and lead practice during the week prior to the worship service.
- Work with the worship committee to choose the music selections for contemporary worship services. Coordination with the Pastor may be necessary.
- Communicate all plans with the church office. Creating PowerPoint slides may be necessary.
- Attend worship committee meetings/report to the worship committee
- Leading the set-up and tear down of equipment needed for contemporary services and rehearsals.
- Preparing sheet music in advance of rehearsals, keeping music organized, and continually seeking out news songs for services.

This is a part-time, year-round position. A successful background check will be required as a condition of employment.

Compensation: \$500/month – \$6,000 annually

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume and an audio sample of guitar playing/singing (CD, MP3, WMV, YouTube link, etc) to:

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church

ATTN: Brian Anderson

1100 East Benjamin Avenue

Norfolk, NE 68701