



CHRIST THE SERVANT LUTHERAN

APRIL - MAY 2021

April birthdays and anniversaries

4/7 Kyle Broders (10)
4/10 Tate Petersen (9)
4/12 Blake Olson
4/13 Elizabeth Broders (16)
4/14 Connie Petersen
4/14 Duane Theil
4/16 Mick & Doreen Kullbom
4/16 Gary & Mary Weich
4/19 Al & Sharon Boelman
4/19 Olivia Olson (2)
4/20 Bob Lutz
4/21 Mike Finkral
4/22 Katelyn Anderson (18)
4/24 Patrick Olson
4/25 Steve Freese
4/26 Brad Rogers
4/27 Brad & Kathy Rogers
4/27 Lonnie & Margaret Svitak
4/29 Don & Marsha Burke

May birthdays and anniversaries

5/8 Megan Phillips
5/12 Fern Zechmann
5/14 Sylvie Kowalski (4)
5/14 Judy Sparks
5/15 Louise Skoglund
5/17 Brad Beed
5/19 Jerry & Brenda Beaudette
5/20 Don & Mary Ann Knee
5/24 Marsha Burke
5/25 Brian & Michelle Anderson
5/26 Margaret Svitak

Card of Thanks

Thank you for the prayers and cards at the time of my recent surgery. I am on the way to recovery and will hopefully be able to join everyone again at worship.

Mary Ann Knee

Thank you to CTS for your prayers during my recent illness and also for your cards. It was all a blessing to me. May God bless CTS and all of you.

Arlis Lind

Thank you to everyone who remembered my 95th birthday. The cards, notes and calls brought back many good memories. Also I appreciated the gift of communion given to me by Pastor Dennis. It was the first time since Ash Wednesday 2/26/2000. My best gift on my birthday was a long visit with my three children. We got to hug one another after over a year. God has blessed me with good health, friends and a very loving family. "A friend loveth at all times" (Proverbs 17:17).

Mona Jean Roberts

Thank you for opening your doors for our community health screening in your area. It is because of your generosity that Life Line Screening is able to bring these health screenings into your community and for that, we are very appreciative. We look forward to working together again!

Brenda Clark

Thank you for your donation to the Student Health Fund. It will be put to good use. Your donation is greatly appreciated.

Norfolk Public Schools

Congratulations

Susie Lutz, chief financial officer at BankFirst, became the second woman in BankFirst history to be elected to its board of directors. Susie was featured in "Focus on Business" in the Norfolk Daily News.

Church Cleaning

We need everyone to please join the Women of CTS to a day/week of cleaning CTS! Sunday, April 25, we will be cleaning inside and outside. Bring something to eat for your family, after you are done eating then dive into cleaning! If you're not able to help on April 25, there will be a sign-up sheet for you to pick an area that needs work (what needs to be done in the area) then you clean it during the week of April 18-24. We would love to have the building and grounds of CTS clean by April 25. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Anderson at 402-640-8275.

Bless and Be Blessed annual rummage sale

Saturday, May 1

Bring items beginning Monday, April 26. Put a price on each item. Shoes and purses accepted (no clothing). Funds raised will go to the CTS kitchen fund.

Easter Lilies

Chuck and Jeanne Nicholson in memory of loved ones

Jerry Hayes in memory of Judy

Bob and Susie Lutz

Charlie and Louise Skoglund

Duane and Shirley Theil in memory of our parents

Don and Mary Ann Knee

Mike and Nell Finkral in memory of loved ones

MAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

	<u>ACOLYTE</u>	<u>GREETER</u>	<u>USHER</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>COMMUNION ASSISTANT</u>
5/2	<i>usher</i>	Andersons	Warren Bennett	Greg Moen	Bob Lutz
5/9	Delilah B.	Hoffarts	Danita Broders	Linda Sheppard	Louise Skoglund
5/16	<i>usher</i>	Jessens	Steve Freese	Connie Atkinson	Margaret Svitak
5/23	Lucas P.	Nicholsons	Wendell Hahne	Richard Hillrichs	Mary Weich
5/30	<i>usher</i>	Connie A.	Mike Finkral	Kay Jaeger	Michelle & Katelyn A.

Membership care: Lu Carter, Doreen Kullbom

Altar guild/communion bread: Sharon Koepp

No Guarantees!

When I graduated from Chapman University with a degree in Business Administration and Finance I had every intention of working in the investment world at some brokerage house. Well, the best laid plans of mice and men! I ended up going to work for Citicorp, and I can't complain about that because I was given the opportunity to learn a great deal about finance and investment products. I learned early on how to properly evaluate stocks. The one thing we were constantly reminded of was that stock values were influenced by many factors—some having nothing to do with the stock itself. There was nearly always a statement stating that past or current performance of a stock or fund is no guarantee as to its future performance. If you have ever played in the stock market you know how true that can be.

In other words—No Guarantees! I guess the stock market is a lot like life itself—no guarantees. For example, think about someone you may know who is very bright and seemed to have a pretty good life—then all of a sudden they are struck down with some terrible or maybe terminal disease; or maybe they were in an auto accident and forever disabled or maybe the victim of one of the recent mass shootings troubling our nation. Life doesn't come with a guarantee of happiness and safety. Instead we are given opportunities in which we can decide to take whatever comes our way and use it to the benefit of our life and the lives of those around us. St. Paul tells us in Romans 5:1-5, *“Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.³ And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,⁵ and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”* And again in Romans 4:14-16 he says, *“We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming.¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.”*

By now you are probably wondering where this is all going—glad you asked! Christ the Servant is preparing to seek and call a new pastor. But there are no guarantees that your new pastor will be what every member thinks they should be. I am saying this now because I have been listening carefully to what members are saying about what they desire in a new pastor. So, I am asking every one of you to be proactive in your communication with the call committee. They can't read your mind! Nor should they have to. And when the new pastor does arrive—love and care for them like a member of your own family—BECAUSE THEY ARE!

There is one thing that has disappointed me during my time here at CTS, that is members unwillingness to communicate directly with staff or the pastor. Far too many of you call the congregation president or another member and complain or ask questions that ultimately ends up being relayed to the staff member or pastor. Good grief—if you can pick up the phone to call another member you can surely call the church office. One of the most destructive habits congregations fall into is the failure to communicate directly with other members or staff. That bad habit is called “triangulation” and it is destructive. If you have a question or a problem with another member or staff member go directly to that person and speak to them about it. Which is exactly what Jesus tells us in Matthew 18:15-20:

“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses.¹⁷ If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

I think most of us appreciate when another person comes directly to us to talk about something we have done or said that may have offended them. It is no different when asking questions about something that is going on in the church. Wondering about the newsletter—call the office. Questions about worship style—call the pastor or the chairperson of the worship committee. It is far better to get a direct answer. So, if you are upset or angry about what I have written—come and talk to me about it—my door is always open.

Pastor Dennis

Christ the Servant Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2021

Those in attendance (in person) Pastor Dennis Reich, Steve Jessen, Bob Lutz, Warren Bennett; (via Zoom) Linda Shaffer and Brian Anderson

Absent: Laura Kowalski, Tara Peters

President Steve Jessen opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 15. Warren Bennett started the meeting with scripture, a devotion and prayer.

Pastor's Report:

Worship—I am planning to offer an Easter Sunrise Worship Service—contemporary format. The service will be scheduled for 7:00 a.m. if the council agrees. I have sent an email to the confirmation parents to see if any of the students would like to participate. We will send Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter information to the newspaper for the insert they publish.

The contemporary worship leader position is now posted on the Handshake website which advertises internships and jobs available to college students and graduates.

Parsonage update: I have submitted a bill for snow removal—total amount of \$210 (6 x \$35). The laundry room/upstairs bathroom drain vent seems to have gotten worse. Earlier this past summer when the washing machine drained the upstairs bathtub would make a gurgling noise. Now water actually percolates up into the bathtub. We probably need to have a plumber clean out the vent pipe.

I was finally able to visit Mona Jean Roberts last Monday, March 8th, at Heritage of Bel-Air. Had a nice visit and gave her Holy Communion. I have a visit scheduled with Roger and Donna Young on March 25th and will be calling Mick and Doreen Kullbom, Carlene (Arlis Lind's daughter,) and Dan and Nita Meyer for visits and communion.

One last item not included on emailed copy—when coming to the parsonage, especially if you are planning to enter the house, please call Donna or me before entering—especially if there are plans to take a realtor in or to show the house. We sincerely appreciate the consideration.

There are currently 79 candidates in the U.S. that are available for call or ordination. Among them are 2 in Nebraska, 2 in South Dakota and 8 in Iowa.

Any comments, concerns, or complaints we need to discuss? If you would rather discuss them privately, my door is always open!

The meeting minutes from the January meeting, financial report and Pastor's report were received and approved. Motion by Bob Lutz, 2nd from Chuck Nicholson. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Transition Team: No report

Building/Grounds:

Two windows have been ordered for the west Sunday school room.

Pastor Dennis reports that the gutters on the west side of the parsonage are full.

Fellowship/Evangelism: No report

Discipleship:

The board is in favor of paying for our youth to attend camps at Okoboji this summer.

We are planning to hold a daycamp this summer. Steve is planning to make contact with the camp in Okoboji to make sure we can get on the schedule.

Stewardship: Nothing to report

Worship:

Brian Anderson reports they have not received any applications or inquiries for the music leader position. Pastor Dennis got us signed up on the “handshake” website, which is a job board for college students who may be looking for an internship or work in this area.

Pastor is working on a 7 a.m. Sunrise service on Easter.

Local Mission/Outreach:

Meals on Wheels has started.

Stained Glass Windows Discussion

Richard Hillrichs attended the meeting and made a presentation pertaining to an interest in installing stained glass windows along the east side of the sanctuary. Richard reports that he has already received nearly \$8,000 in pledges so far from congregation members. There are a variety of windows and window pricing through Kruse Stained Glass out of Hartington. Prices range from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per window. Richard says the current clear glass would stay there and that the stained glass would be placed on the inside of the window to protect it from the weather.

Bob Lutz made a motion that “the congregational council approves of Richard taking this discussion to the full congregation for approval. If the congregation approves of project, the council also agrees.” Seconded by Warren Bennett. All members present voted in favor. Motion carries.

Richard will present information to the congregation during the annual meeting on April 11. The congregation will vote on the project at that time.

Congregational Council and Call Committee

The council discussed nominations for both the congregational council and for the call committee. It is the intent that all nominations will be in by April 5 with council members voted in on April 11. Council members and call committee will also be installed at that time.

With nothing further to discuss, Steve Jessen closed with prayer and the council adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

	<u>Apr 13, 21</u>
Designated Giving Checking Acct	
DG Church Emergency Fund	8,619.35
DG Good Samaritan Fund	1,261.45
DG Memorials	11,360.91
DG Missions/Growth	3,990.71
DG Parsonage Projects (Kitchen)	1,121.02
DG Special Projects (Kitchen)	6,080.21
DG Tanzania Travel	9,088.20
DG Worship Fund	2,323.47
DG Youth Checking Account	3,409.77
Interest-Designated Checking	<u>90.15</u>
Total Designated Giving Checking Acct	47,345.24
General Checking	61,659.66

Christ the Servant Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2021

Those in attendance: Bob Lutz, Brian Anderson, Tara Peters, Laura Kowalski, Chuck Nicholson, Warren Bennett
Absent: Steve Jessen, Linda Shaffer

Meeting opened at 6:30 p.m. Bob Lutz opened with a devotion/scripture/prayer. Approval of previous meeting minutes and financial report – motioned by Brian, second by Laura.

Call Committee Report: Brian Anderson reports that the call committee will be meeting for the first time on Thursday, April 29. This will be the beginning of the process and introducing the committee members to what their role is and what's expected of them. It was noted that there is no given timeline for the call process. This is a matter that should not be rushed, but the committee will hold regular initial meetings to get our church profile set up and get the call placed. The number of Pastors available for call is growing.

Church Credit Card: The council had a discussion about the CTS credit card, which has recently expired and includes the name of Steve Jessen, who is the outgoing President. With a change in leadership coming soon, the council is suggesting that we renew the card with Tara Peters' name on it. Tara was recently elected as Treasurer of the congregational council.

Secretary position: During the recent congregational semi-annual meeting, members of the congregation sought nominations for an individual to fill the remaining term of the congregational secretary that was recently filled by Emily Svitak. There is one year left on her term. There were two people nominated, Danita Broders and Linda Sheppard. Both are willing and would serve CTS well, however Monday nights do not work for Danita. The council members would like to keep meeting on Mondays as this works best for their schedules. Given this, it was decided to extend the invitation to Linda Sheppard.

Building/Grounds: Windows in the southwest Sunday school room will be replaced soon.

A call came in recently from neighbors who were asking if anything was going to be done on the bank on the west end of the parking lot/property. It was suggested that Warren seek some bids from some landscaping companies that may have some ideas at an affordable price. Warren will work to get the bids this week. Once he gets the bids, he will communicate with the council and they will hold discussion via email.

Worship/Fellowship/Evangelism: There will be a planned contemporary service on May 9. Susie Lutz is working on singers and a format for the service.

Church clean-up day is coming up on Sunday, April 25.

The Bless and Be Blessed rummage sale is coming up on Saturday, May 1.

Local Mission/Outreach/Stewardship: no report

Discipleship: Last Sunday school for the school year is May 16.

Day Camp – The dates of July 11-16 are favored, and these dates are available with Ingham Okoboji. Laura Kowalski will make contact with Ingham Okoboji to confirm dates/staff/deposit.

New Business

The congregation has voted to move forward with the stained glass window project. The council held discussion about putting together a committee to oversee the project and designs. Tara Peters has volunteered to be the council representative on the committee. Tara will touch base with Richard Hillrichs to get the committee organized and get the ball rolling.

(continued)

Tara Peters asked if we could explore making some improvements to the congregation's playground area in the near future. There have been several neighborhood kids that have been coming over to play on the playground. We want to be welcoming to our neighbors. Tara feels that the equipment could use improvements. She would also like to see some improvements made to the fire pit area and picnic shelter. She would be interested in exploring some options and possibly bids in the near future.

Tara mentioned that the technology in the Sunday school rooms could use updating. Brian Anderson will look into the cost of smart TVs to go in the rooms and also for the adult Sunday school area. Newer televisions will have Wi-Fi access to play videos from websites or social media apps.

Bob Lutz suggests some work be done on the sign out front of the building. The face of the sign is yellowing and looks old. It is suggested that we possibly replace the faces for the short term, then look at replacing the sign in the near future.

Warren Bennett closed with prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Rummage Sale
2 9 Sunday school 10 worship	3 7 Boy Scouts	4	5 6 Confirmation	6 9 PieceMakers	7 6:30 Girl Scouts	8
9 Mothers Day 9 Sunday school 10 worship 11 potluck	10 7 Boy Scouts	11	12 6 Confirmation	13 9 Agape Circle	14	15
16 9 Sunday school (last one) 10 worship <i>Norfolk High graduation</i>	17 6:30 Council 7 Boy Scouts	18	19 6 Confirmation	20 2 Card club 6 MOPS	21 6:30 Girl Scouts	22
23 10 worship	24 7 Boy Scouts	25	26 6 Confirmation	27	28	29
30 10 worship	31 Memorial Day (office closed)					