CHRIST THE SERVANT LUTHERAN CHURCH

From the Pastor — December 2025

Can you believe how fast the year has gone? I am amazed at what God has done in our midst and what He will continue to do in our lives. During this month, we will celebrate St. Lucy or St. Lucia day on December 14. On that day we will have the children tell the story, share the cookies and treats, and then invite each of you to share in a Swedish meal to continue our celebration.

I want to step back in time and imagine that it is pitch dark, black. It was the 4th Century and you are in Rome in the midst of the Diocletianic Persecution and you are hiding in the catacombs. This is a time of great persecution and called the "Great Persecution", in which the Emperor Diocletian was oppressing the Christians. He rescinded all their rights through a series of edicts and punished them by imprisonment, torture and even death. Not an easy time to believe in Jesus.

Many people went into hiding through this time period and they often went into the catacombs. It was smelly, humid and not very pleasant, but they endured all they had to hold onto their faith. Even through their plight, they wanted and needed help. The story goes that, Saint Lucy would sneak in and bring them food, water and supplies. But, she needed light and because her hands were full of food and supplies, she placed the candles in a wreath and placed it on her head.

This tradition continues in the Scandinavian countries today and even here in the United States. This day is called "Luciadagen" or Saint Lucy's Day, which falls on December 13 every year. The customs and traditions developed over time, but the candle wreath is the central hallmark on the girl's head.

Yes, Lucy or Lucia is Italian and the story found its way north. This festival falls during the long dark season and the darkest part of the Winter Solstice. Lucy means light and so it is a great way to celebrate that the light comes into the darkness.

She is the one who offers light, but it is Jesus' light that we celebrate this day. "The light of the world", John 8:12, is the light that Jesus brings into our lives during this season of Christmas and it offers us hope and guidance, just as Lucy's light gave hope to the people of old.

There are many stories about her trials during her time. Some pretty gruesome ones, of having her eyes taken out, of the guards spearing her in the throat and yet, she continued to share the story of Jesus with all she met.

How about for you and me? Can and will we share the Light in the midst of the darkness of the world, in the midst of the darkness of the season?

Maybe that's the opportunity you and I have as we light our Advent candles and continue to prepare for the feast ahead. Let us open our hearts and words to illuminate our world and share with others about this coming Christmas Day.

Shalom, Pastor Cindy Cone

CTS October Council Meeting – October 16, 2025

Attendance: Jared Weich, Greg Moen, Brenda Beaudette, Pastor Cindy Cone, Linda Shaffer

Absent: Al Boelman

Greg opened the meeting with prayer.

September meeting minutes were looked over. Greg motioned to approve the minutes. Jared seconded. The motion carried.

Pastor's report:

Pastor Cindy reported that the furnace for the office is not working. It was decided to have a repairman come out to fix.

Delilah Broders has asked for $100 for TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) enrollment. It was decided that Greg or Jared will speak with her about future requests.

Grounds and Maintenance:

Greg announced that maintenance on the hill has been completed.

Jared noted that the pile of sticks has been removed also.

Financial Report:

We have received notice that the church insurance will be going up nearly $2,000 next year. We discussed some add-ons on the policy that can be removed for a cost savings.

September financial report was discussed. Linda motioned to approve the September report. Brenda seconded. Motion carried.

Annual budget was discussed. Greg presented a couple different options. Linda motioned to approve the budget with several adjustments made. Brenda seconded. The motion carried.

Linda Shaffer has offered to be the second check signer for the general account since Kay's leaving. Greg motioned to approve Linda. Brenda seconded. The motion carried.

New Business:

Jared works with Adult Transition Students. He asked if it would be possible to have the class with their coaches come and do several chores. Pastor Cindy and Jared will make up a list of chores for the students to do.

Pastor Cindy closed the meeting with prayer.

Submitted by

Brenda Beaudette – Council Secretary

CTS Congregational Meeting – November 16, 2025

Council President Jared Weich opened the meeting with prayer.

Pastor Cindy read an article about Transition/Call and how things have changed over the years.

Charlie Skoglund provided information about Jared's TEAM for seminary and how things will progress. If he continues through Luther House the fee is $300 per month and this will be taken care of.

Charlie asked that we suspend the meeting agenda to discuss the option of becoming a Teaching Church. A motion was made and seconded to suspend agenda. Charlie explained the role of a teaching church, etc. Charlie asked to a motion be made that CTS offer an employment contract to Jared Wiech to act as our Vicar/Student Pastor in absence of an ordained certified clergy. This contract could be terminated at any time by Jared or the church. A motion was made and second. The motion carried.

Greg Moen went over the budget and asked for a motion to approve the Student option of the budget. A motion was made and second. The motion carried.

Jared announced the Lu Carter has accepted to join the CTS Council. A motion was made to accept Lu on the Council. The motion was seconded. Motion carried. We need 2 more members to have a full council.

Jared closed the meeting with prayer.

Submitted by

Brenda Beaudette

CTS Council Secretary

HEALTH MINISTRY

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is a problem that can affect anyone at any time. Victims are usually frightened of their abusers, therefore, often suffering in silence.

Domestic violence comes in many forms, including physical, emotional and verbal abuse. Many victims are "battered" into secrecy or are embarrassed surrounding being abused and do not share their experiences with others. Some victims may not even realize what they are experiencing constitutes abuse.

Some signs of domestic violence can be observed and a third party may be able to intervene. A few signs include:

- A partner who harbors unrealistic expectations. Generally, the abuser is a perfectionist and expects those around them to reach unattainable goals.
- A partner who is controlling. A person insists that you account for all of your time, the relationship may eventually turn abusive.
- Escalating threats: in many cases, domestic violence begins with verbal assaults which may develop into physical threats. Whether the abuse is verbal or physical, it can have profound, long-lasting effects on the victim.
- Partner with a noticeable temper: sometimes a temper goes hand-in-hand with domestic violence. This person may have a short fuse in a relationship also.
- A partner who limits access to the checkbook, money, belongings or the car. This may be a warning sign that something is not right.
- Hidden bruises or excuses for injury: such injuries that are covered up or happen with some frequency could be an early-warning sign of domestic violence.
- Conflict avoidance: usually those in abusive relationships will try to avoid conflict and will rarely speak up or voice their own opinions.
- Personality changes: withdrawal, inability or not wanting to meet up with friends, loss of enthusiasm, or any other personality changes may be indicative of abuse.

Domestic violence takes many forms and is often hidden. There may be warning signs that can be observed by an outside party.

All the above signs pointed out are "red flags," not always signs of domestic violence. We all can keep our eyes open for possible abuse.

Donna Young

DECEMBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

	GREETERS	USHERS	LECTOR	COMMUNION	FELLOWSHIP	OFFERINGS
7	Doug & Pat	Al Ron	Charlie		Sau Man	Charlie & Louise
14	Connie	Greg Doug	Lu	Sau Man Mary	Kathy	Charlie & Louise
21	Donna	Warren Al	Greg		Sau Man	Doug & Pat
28	Al & Sharon	Ron Greg	Brenda	Linda Megan	Kathy	Jared & Sau Man

Membership Care: Marsha Burke Altar Guild: Kathy Rogers

If you are unable to serve when scheduled, please trade with someone

Happy Birthday
12/11 Sharon Boelman
12/16 Katrina Lombard
12/23 Don Burke
12/24 Pastor Cindy
12/28 Jeff Petersen

Happy Anniversary
12/28 Roger and Dee Bailey, 34 years

God's blessings to everyone celebrating this month!

New Address:
Steve and Nancy Buss
18416 North Spanish Garden Drive
Sun City West, Arizona 85375

HELP WANTED
Sign-up sheets are on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Worship servants are needed in all areas.

FOOD PANTRY
pie crust mix, pie filling, cake mix, frosting, gelatin, pudding, whipped topping mix, marshmallows

October financial report

Income	$17,738.63	YTD $123,202.62
Expenses	$14,898.24	YTD $124,039.37
Net	$2,840.39	YTD -$836.75

December 2025

Sunday worship times	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday school and Confirmation 9 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. Communion 2nd & 4th Sundays	1 7 Bible study	2	3 3 Advent service 6 Bible study	4	5 6:30 Girl Scouts	6
7	8 7 Bible study	9	10 3 Advent service 6 Bible study	11 9:30 Bible study at Madison House	12	13 10 cookie packaging
14 Children's program Swedish potluck	15 7 Bible study	16 Pastor in Ashland 6 MOPS	17 3 Advent service 6 Bible study	18 6:30 Council meeting	19 Church reserved for wedding rehearsal, rehearsal dinner	20 Wedding of Riley Ingebritson and Katrina Lombard
21 Decorate tree	22 7 Bible study	23	24 7 Christmas Eve candlelight service	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27
28 Food Pantry	29 7 Bible study	30	31 6 Bible study	HAPPY NEW YEAR		

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
Lutheran Churches in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

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