CHRIST THE SERVANT LUTHERAN CHURCH

From the Pastor - April 2026 - Article 3 of 3

We continue the journey of looking at our LBW, our worship book and discovering so much information. Continue after the Hymn of Praise and notice the Prayer of the Day, the Readings, the Alleluia and notice the Lent response. We stop with using the word Alleluia during Lent, therefore a different response. The Gospel reading **occurs,** the Sermon**,** the Hymn of Day can be sung in either position, before or after the Sermon (that is a Pastor choice).

Next comes the Nicene and Apostle's Creeds. Notice in the Ruberics, that it is dictated when we use each Creed. The custom of changing was written and formulated in the Book of Concord, which gives the history of how and when things are done. Also, by the Manual on the Liturgy and the Minister's Desk Reference give us guidance.

The questions always surfaces about why do we use catholic in our creed? Let us look at several things. First, this is little c, not big **C**...big C is Catholic church, little c means in unity with one another. The other piece comes in which language we translate from in German it translates catholic, in Latin it translates christian. Please remember that we can say it either way, neither way is wrong. Some references use catholic and some christian. I have found both ways and contend that you are free to say which way you want to say it. We do have to remember that in saying christian, that we are not talking about the denomination of church as well. I realize there is much confusion, but you are free to say it as you are comfortable.

The next section is the prayers and again the Ruberics give us guidance on how the prayers should be ordered. You also notice that if there is no communion we move forward several pages to the offering, Lord's Prayer and closing. Notice the service continues with the Communion Liturgy and concludes with the closing Benediction.

Let's move on past the other Settings and explore the rest of the book quickly. Service of the Word is often done when we have a mid week gathering. You notice that the Liturgy is all about the Word and no music, but a hymn.

Moving on we find a service for Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, Prayer at the Close of the Day, Responsive Prayer times, a Litany.

Next you find the Psalms for Daily Prayer, the Daily Lectionary **(**Readings), Corporate Confession and Forgiveness, Individual Confession and Forgiveness, Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation), Marriage, Burial of the Dead. Next we discover that the Psalms are included in our LBW and then we begin the hymn section.

Notice that in our LBW that the front of the book is considered page numbers and the hymn section begins a new numbering system and normally indicated with hymn or LBW before the number.

Keep studying my friends and know that I am always with you in your journey. Have fun, be patient, study hard, and grow in God's Love.

Shalom, Pastor Cindy

From the Vicar

This is my first newsletter writing in quite a while. I hope that it is one for the books, but if not let me talk about myself and my family. We are a small tight congregation so I'll get started with the youngest. Janie is always busy as any. I take delight in her desire to learn since she loves spelling. Her latest achievement has been getting a spot in the 3rd/4th grade spelling bee which will be at LHNE. Other schools will compete. She got runner up in her school age group. Janie is also an avid Bible scholar and on occasion asks me about such related topics. One such question was about the book Esther. (Why did Queen Esther tell the Jews not to eat or drink anything for 3 days?) I did a search and found out that it was a time for people to give their prayers to God. In doing it they were serious and showed it by fasting. They needed God's help and it came. But even if no help comes we give ourselves to God. I don't draw parallels to this story but only let it do something to me or speak something to me. It is hard to know; no it is impossible to know the complete context of historical stories. Even so God can speak His Word of miraculous resurrection in our time, even as you're reading this or Esther.

A…A…ron or Aaron as we normally say, is also an avid speller, but not so keen on math. Actually writing can get him in a regular brainstorm, but math is simply too detached from real things. Music has his ear most of the time. There may be great things waiting for his fingers.

Aaron and I will be going on an educational trip to Washington D.C. from May 23-26. It is a Christian oriented trip organized by his history teacher, Mr. Kant. I did not plan to go on this trip by looking ahead. It is Pentecost Sunday. It was a once in a lifetime and I jumped at it. They don't stay in the 7th grade forever. So skipping that Sunday will be my last time.

My wife, Sau Man, is very good at speaking Mandarin Chinese, besides her heart language, Cantonese. As we encounter anyone to share the Gospel, we have been happy to get to know Andrea's big family. They started the best Chinese food restaurant in town. We have been praying for them to come with their elderly parents and children to a time at Church that could best suit them. The oldest grandparents don't speak English and feel out of place in an all English environment. Pray for us as we see what we can do to be a community of faith for them.

I guess I am last. My life is about to take a great big new step. I am excited. I also know that it is a heavy burden to take on being a pastor/vicar in Pastor's retirement/transition. I am truly in awe of what God has been to me. I am only trying to be a tiny bit of that blessing poured out to you all. It humbles me. I pray for God to literally only speak His words when it is time. I pray also that in all circumstances that we can call on God even like Esther did. If not God has our life in His hands.

Jared Weich

HEALTH MINISTRY

Colorectal Cancer

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness month.

Physicians recommend colon screening to start at age 45, younger if symptoms or a family history of colon cancer. The disease is called a silent killer, because most cases don't present any symptoms until the cancer is more advanced. Of course, advanced cases are more difficult to treat, taking more invasive procedures and stronger medications. Often with early colonoscopies, pre-cancerous polyps can be detected.

In the past, medical professionals recommended initial screening at age 50, but now they are finding that advanced cancers are detected in people at age 50, therefore the earlier screening.

Often colorectal cancer arises from slow-growing, initially symptom-free polyps. These are often linked to aging, family history, and lifestyle factors like poor diet, obesity, smoking, and heavy alcohol use.

Key symptoms of colorectal cancer

Symptoms often do not appear in early stages, but when they do, they may include:

- Persistent changes in bowel habits: constipation, diarrhea, or narrowing of the stool lasting more than a few days.
- Rectal bleeding or blood in stools--bright red or very dark/black, tarry stools.
- Abdominal discomfort--ongoing pain, cramps, bloating or gas.
- Unexplained weight loss--losing weight without trying.
- Weakness and fatigue--often due to anemia from chronic blood loss.
- Feeling of incomplete bowel movement--the urge to have a bowel movement that is not relieved by doing so.

Causes and risk factors

Colorectal cancer usually begins as polyps (small, non-cancerous growths) on the inner lining of the colon or rectum that become cancerous over 10 to 15 years.

- Age--risk increases significantly over the age of 50.
- Family history/genetics--having a close relative with the disease.
- Lifestyle factors--diet high in red or processed meats, low-fiber, low-fruit/vegetable intake, lack of physical activity, obesity, tobacco use, and excessive alcohol consumption.
- Medical history--previous history of colorectal cancer, polyps, or inflammatory bowel disease.

When to see a doctor

It is important to contact a healthcare professional if you experience symptoms that last for more than two weeks as these can be caused by less serious conditions. Regular screening/colonoscopy as recommended by your doctor is critical to early detection.

Donna Young

Hello. This is Lu writing to you as your newly elected Congregational Council President. I hesitate to capitalize that word as I am no more important than any of you but spellcheck keeps doing it. I approach you humbly with a few things on my mind I want to "put out there."

The minutes of the meeting where I was elected state I volunteered for the position. I didn't like that word at all but could come up with nothing to describe the days and nights of soul-searching and prayer and meeting with Pastor it took me to arrive at the place I could do it willingly and with a positive attitude OR I could do it begrudgingly and make myself miserable. This is a big job; I understand that and, with your patience, help and cooperation, I promise I will do my very best.

I believe our goals for our little parish are all the same. Our dream is to thrive in a visibly Christian way but my first quarter on the Congregational Council have driven home to me that we are in a period of survival, not thriving. I slow down our meetings because I have to pick Greg's brain about the intricacies of the Financial Reports. I am hearing that our committees are struggling for purpose and volunteers. Our meetings tell me that we are just getting by. And I am a believer that we can do better.

I AM A BELIEVER because we have a good thing here. I am a believer that we each have a gift to bring. And I am a believer that we each need to question what more we can offer. I started offering more a couple years ago with the simple statement that I could play hymns on the piano. Okay, so mastering the Liturgy was a months long project but also a very rewarding one. Many of our volunteer opportunities take much less preparation—Membership Care, Ushering, Altar Guild, Outreach. Consider volunteering a morning to our Rejoicing Spirits service or at the Food Pantry. Maybe you are in a position physically that you feel you can only contribute financially. That's needed, too and never unappreciated. Cash in your jars of change and give.

I move ahead in this position prayerfully, and would welcome any of YOUR prayers—for your Council, for Jared in his new role, and yes, for me in mine. We also pray Godspeed for Pastor Cindy in her new adventures. We are bonded in Christ's love and faithfulness. We are good people with much to offer. Remembering that, our future shines brightly.

Lu Carter

CTS Council Meeting – Thursday, January 15, 2026

Attendance: Jared Weich, Lu Carter, Greg Moen, Brenda Beaudette, Linda Shaffer

Absent: Pastor Cindy Cone, Al Boelman

Brenda opened the meeting with prayer

We need a president. Lu said that after much consideration and prayer, she would volunteer. Greg motioned to nominate Lu as the new Council President. Linda seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Greg motioned that all other officers remain in their positions for 2026. Greg as financial officer and vice president, Brenda as secretary. Linda seconded. The motion carried.

December minutes were discussed. Greg motioned to approve the minutes. Lu seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Report: The December financial report was discussed. Brenda motioned to approve the December financial report. Linda seconded. The motion carried.

The yearly report was discussed briefly. We ended the year with a total income of $158417.27. Total expenses were $161402.34 for a balance of -$2985.07.

Pastor Cindy and Jared's compensation statements for 2026 were discussed. Linda motioned to approve the compensation statements. Greg seconded. The motion carried.

Greg discussed the need for a Pastor Cell Phone Policy. This would be part of the Pastor's contract and will require that the Pastor always have and maintain a cell phone. A portion of the cell phone charges are built into the annual budget as part of the Pastor's compensation for tax purposes. Linda motioned to approve the Cell Phone policy. Brenda seconded. The motion carried.

W-2 tax statements are done for church employees. There are several end of year tax reports that need to be completed. Greg and Jared will work on those.

We discussed Pastor Cindy's report that she gave us before leaving on vacation.

Old/New Business

The Transition Team will meet Monday, January 26.

Lu said that Riley and Kat asked for some meal assistance for Riley's mom who is having some medical issues. It was suggested that maybe a couple people could provide a meal a week for a few weeks. Gift Cards were also suggested. Lu will discuss this more with other church members.

The Worship Committee met on January 10 to choose hymns for the worship service through June. It was decided that due to low attendance at mid-week services, there will be no Wednesday Lenten services. Imposition of Ashes will be observed on the first Sunday of Lent.

Jared closed the meeting with prayer.

Next meeting will be Thursday, February 19.

Respectfully submitted

Brenda Beaudette – Council Secretary

Christ The Servant Council meeting – Thursday, February 26, 2026

All members were present: Greg, Al, Lu, Jared, Brenda, Linda. Greg opened the meeting with prayer.

Greg motioned to approve the January Council meeting minutes. Linda seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Financial Report: It was discussed that since Lu Carter has volunteered to be the Council President, she is also authorized to sign checks. Lu will also be listed as an authorized person for all other financial accounts.

The January financial report was discussed. Lu asked about the $45 for advertising. That was for advertising for Christmas services.

Lu will approve any giving requests from the Good Samaritan funds.

Al motioned to approve the financial report. Jared seconded. The motion carried.

Doug Witte and Megan Phillips have agreed to do the annual audit this year,

Al noticed the beautiful sunset that could be seen from the west windows. God is such a beautiful artist.

Pastor's Report: Ron has finished removing the linoleum from the laundry room floor at the parsonage. It was covering the floor drain. Pastor Cindy is having a cleaning person come in and clean the carpets and house after they move out in April.

It was suggested to put a hiring policy in place. This would include not hiring church members for such things as office secretary and janitorial.

Aaron Weich will be confirmed on Palm Sunday, Jared Weich will be ordained on Easter Sunday.

Grounds/Maintenance: The same lawn company will continue to do lawn care around the immediate church area. Warren and Al will continue to do the other church grounds. It was suggested to ask a couple other church members if they would be interested in helping with mowing and other grounds maintenance.

Mission and Outreach: Volunteers will be needed to help at the Food Pantry the first 2 weeks of June. A sign-up sheet will be put out as we get a little closer.

New/Old Business: Brenda asked if the Country Piecemakers Quilt Guild could meet in the Fellowship hall the first Monday of each month. The quilt guild may also have other times we meet for classes. All members were in agreement.

It was asked about having a Soup and Game night/afternoon. All interested in coming would be encouraged to bring a guest/friend. A committee will need to be formed to get things rolling. There would not be a charge, but a freewill donation. Would need to determine where proceeds would go. Possibly the Good Samaritan Fund.

Jared was released from the meeting so that Transition Team items could be discussed.

Transition Team: Pastor Cindy has been in contact with 3-4 pastors within about 1 ½ hours of Norfolk for pastoral support such as for worship service is Jared needs to be out of town.

Items on the Letter of Call for Jared were discussed. It was suggested to provide 2 weeks of vacation while still a student.

Several congregation members have been concerned as to what duties Jared can or cannot do while still a student. A list of these duties will be provided to the congregation so that they are aware.

Al closed the meeting with prayer.

Next meeting will be Thursday, March 16, 2026.

Respectfully submitted by Brenda Beaudette, CTS Council Secretary

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Please trade with someone if you are unable to serve when scheduled

APRIL	GREETER	USHER	LECTOR	COMMUNION	OFFERINGS
5	Al & Sharon	Warren	Brenda	Linda Megan	Charlie & Louise
12	Charlie & Louise	Greg	Lu	Mary Sau Man	Doug & Pat
19	Doug & Pat	Al	Greg		Charlie & Louise
26	Donna	Doug	Charlie	Al Brenda	Doug & Pat

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Altar Guild, coffee/fellowship, communion assistants, greeters, lectors, ushers, Membership Care, offering counters, sound booth. Contact the church office; training will be provided.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

4/4 Jade Maruska
4/7 Kyle Broders
4/10 Tate Petersen
4/11 Sau Man Weich
4/13 Elizabeth Broders
4/14 Connie Petersen
4/19 Al and Sharon Boelman
4/24 Jared Weich

Change of Address

Ron and Cindy Cone
13825 N. Kaanapali Drive
Sun City, AZ 85351

NEW OFFICE HOURS effective April 7
8 a.m. to 12 noon Monday -- Thursday

In Our Prayers

Living Word Lutheran in Seward and Pastor Scott Krohn

Membership Transfer Out

Rich and Kay Jaeger

Pastoral Acts

March 18, 2026
Funeral of Neva Bartak, Zion Lutheran Church, Creighton

February Financial Report

Income	$9,244.30
Expenses	10,670.43
Net	-1,426.13

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 2044
Norfolk, NE 68702-2044
402-379-1775

April 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 6 study of Ruth	2 Maundy Thursday 7pm worship	3 Good Friday 7pm worship	4
5 **EASTER** 10 Communion ordination of Jared Weich 11 Fellowship/ cake reception	6 **Office Closed**	7 **NEW OFFICE HOURS** 8:00 to 12:00 Monday -- Thursday	8	9	10	11
12 9 Sunday school 10 Communion 11 Potluck	13	14	15	16 6:30 Council	17 6:30 Girl Scouts	18
19 9 Sunday school 10 Worship 11 Fellowship	20 6 Quilting	21 6 MOPS	22	23	24	25
26 9 Sunday school 10 Communion 11 Fellowship *Food Pantry*	27	28	29	30		