CHRIST THE SERVANT LUTHERAN CHURCH OCTOBER 2026
1100 East Benjamin Ave. P.O. Box 2044 Norfolk, NE 68702 402-379-1775

Looking ahead to the next season of Advent has been exciting, because we will be looking forward to the new weather and seasons.

It has been a good season for me to get more comfortable in the role of Vicar/student Pastor. I am continually humbled by God's power shown in my life. To be a bit honest, I had never thought that I would be in a position like I am now. I also didn't plan on living in Asia for 20 years. This is God's way of making us into theologians of the Cross. We are all theologians.

A theologian of the Cross says what a thing is. In other words, he reads and hears the scripture in a way which is under and in the Cross of Jesus. None of the followers of Jesus went with him to the Cross. In fact, they all deserted and betrayed him. They were all theologians of Glory. I would say that they were sinners.

A question that may come up is: How does one become a theologian of the Cross. I would totally say that we don't start on this project willingly. We are baptized into a death like his in our baptism. It is not us that starts the project. We are pulled out of the Kingdom of the devil in our Baptism and made new. We are completely made new and placed in the Kingdom of God.

Baptism is our starting point for this "project." As the Small Catechism says, "In Baptism God forgives sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives everlasting salvation to all who believe what he has promised."

We feel like this project of becoming a theologian of the Cross is not of our own doing. This is certainly not something that people gravitate to. They are instead pulled to the ideas which make a theologian of Glory.

Sentences like, "My Faith is in my control." "I can work harder to create more confidence in God's plan for my life." "Doubt is part of the Christian life, just bear with it." could come to mind.

A theologian of the Cross will instead be drawn to the Gospel, because it is all they truly have. The Good News is that there are no works to be done to please God. The only work is to believe on the true Son of God, Jesus.

Amen

Vicar Jared

It's been a challenging last week in my life. I don't want to keep harping on my bad back, but I will go on record as saying when something one relies on so heavily fails, we are forced to ask God what the heck we are supposed to be learning. My Grandpa told me from the time I was in diapers to look for the lessons. There is a lesson in every experience, good or bad, he said. I listened to most of what my Grandpa told me, but that pearl is probably my favorite. I applied it in my family, my marriage, my career, and now my own recovery period. When I was a senior in high school, Grandpa also told me I should read the book of Proverbs before I "graduated into life." Grandpa was a very wise man.

Today was Rejoicing Spirits day, one of my favorite days of the month. You who have never attended cannot appreciate what you're missing as we offer the greatly challenged, physically and mentally, a comfortable place to celebrate the God who formed them perfectly imperfect. Aren't we ALL perfectly imperfect? On a day when I awoke wondering if my "imperfect" back would get me through, not one but two people showed up to help serve the sloppy joes (thank you, Marsha and Linda Sheppard). AND Jared had recruited a family from another parish who home-schools and relished the service opportunity. Mom was a better pianist than I'll ever be and her children, ages 12, 10 and 6, all fit in somewhere. The youngsters helped with the rhythm instruments and collected the offering cards. One participant who comes every month but never says a word actually smiled a few times and responded to greetings. And another usually talkative sort sat withdrawn and quietly. She shared with us during prayers that her dad was having surgery the next day and she was worried. I truly believe our ministry here means a lot to them. During the time they spend with us, perhaps their imperfections feel a bit more comfortable.

So I am left feeling pretty good about what we are doing here at Christ the Servant. We are small, but we have might and the inspiration of Jesus behind us. We have a genuine love for Jesus and for each other, and we accept each other just as we are. Included in my frequent prayers are God's continued blessing on CTS and our ministry. We've been through some difficult times but, by His grace, we're still on our feet, just fewer feet than once passed through the doors. May God continue to bless the things we do in His name to help make his ministry known as well as our own small ministries.

Lu Carter
Congregation Council President

TIPS FOR COLD AND FLU SEASON

We are coming up on the cold and flu season. Here are some simple tips to help reduce the effects of viruses.

1. Good handwashing is the best deterrent. Frequent handwashing with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds or, if unavailable, use of an alcohol-based hand rub.

2. Getting a flu shot in the fall is helpful as a primary defense.

3. Avoid touching your face, eyes, nose and mouth to reduce germs entering your body.

4. Cover coughs and sneezes using a tissue or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow instead of into your hands.

5. Frequently disinfect surfaces of "high-touch" items like doorknobs, phones and countertops.

6. Stay home when sick. Keep your distance from others to prevent spreading germs.

7. Get plenty of sleep, aim for 7 to 9 hours per night, to help support your immune system.

8. Eat a balanced diet.

9. Stay active to boost health.

10. Stay hydrated.

11. Stay away from sick people.

These steps may not always prevent illnesses, but will go a long way to reduce them.

Donna Young
Health Ministry

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES
August 20, 2026

All members were in attendance: Lu Carter, Greg Moen, Linda Shaffer, Al Boelman, Jared Weich, Brenda Beaudette (via phone). Greg opened the meeting with prayer. Everyone had time to read last month's meeting minutes. Lu motioned to accept the minutes. Greg seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Report: July giving was down but so were expenses. A suggestion was made to put some of the money in the Fidelity accounts into CDs for possible better interest. Greg will look into this. Jared reported miles in July due to LCMC meetings. Al motioned to accept the Financial Report. Linda seconded. The motion carried.

Vicar Jared's report: Rejoicing Spirits was held on August 12 with a good turnout. Aaron played the saxophone. Visiting Angels met with Jared and Kathy. The representative provided them with information about their company. LCMC Conference will be in Des Moines Oct. 4-7. Heartland District LCMC is hiring a Pastoral Care person. They are asking that churches give a donation to help with the cost. Jared is still meeting with Charlie and Pastor Karst.

Grounds and Maintenance: Al received bids to fix the main driveway where it is falling in. Best bid was $13,208.84 for entire entry. Bid just for the immediate spot that has fallen in was $9,621.22. It was suggested that two budgets be prepared for next year, each involving the different approximate costs, to be presented at the November Congregational meeting and obtain their input for the large expense. Al spoke with a city council member about the possibility of putting in a garden. It was suggested not to, due to liability issues. Greg will ask for volunteers to help put down edging, ground cover and sand per requirement by insurance company. We will go with one phone line. Greg offered to install it and remove wiring from the old line. One line will cost $35 per month.

Old/New Business: Mercy Meals is Oct. 3. Al is checking if possible to partner with Odd Fellows again. Health screenings: Donna Young has not been able to get anything scheduled; may need to schedule later in the Fall. Sunday School is continuing with the same program for this year. Lu would like to find organizations that she can speak to about Rejoicing Spirits. If you know or are part of an organization that would like Lu to come to a meeting, please let her know. Local Benevolence: Discussed different opportunities other than a monetary donation each month, such as donating food/time to the Food Bank, use of church for various meetings, etc., as some ways we give as a church. Linda motioned to give $85 to Buddy Baseball this month since we have some funds available. Greg seconded. The motion carried. Council will need to fill two positions at the end of this year as terms are up for Brenda and Linda. If interested in serving on Council, please speak with a Council member.

Al closed the meeting with prayer. Next meeting will be September 17, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Beaudette, Council Secretary

AUGUST FINANCIALS		YEAR-TO-DATE	
Income:	$7,403.77	Income:	$96,260.92
Expenses:	$6,039.03	Expenses:	$70,091.68
Net income:	$1,364.74	Net income:	$26,169.24

OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

10/1 Danita Broders
10/16 Delilah Broders, 18
10/16 Mary Ann Knee
10/19 Emmaline Seagren, 5
10/20 Pat Witte
10/31 Jerry Shaffer

ANNIVERSARIES

10/5 Jeff and Connie Petersen, 30 years
10/24 Dean and Doris Hoffart, 73 years

CALENDAR

Sunday school 9 a.m., worship 10 a.m., Bible study Wednesday 6 p.m.

Thu Oct 1 Scouts roundtable 7:00
Fri Oct 2 Girl Scouts 6:30pm
Sat Oct 3 Pack Away Hunger at Mercy Meals 2:00-3:30
Sun Oct 11 Pastor Appreciation Day; second Sunday potluck
Wed Oct 14 Rejoicing Spirits 11:00
Thu Oct 15 Council meeting 6:30pm
Fri Oct 16 Girl Scouts 6:30pm
Mon Oct 19 Fellowship hall reserved 8:00 to 5:00; Country Piecemakers 6:00
Tue Oct 20 MOPS 6:00
Sun Oct 25 Food Pantry Sunday

To reserve the fellowship hall for an event, contact the church office for availability

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

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

OCTOBER 4
Donna Young, greeter
Al Boelman, usher/acolyte
Greg Moen, lector
Charlie and Louise Skoglund, offerings

OCTOBER 11
Charlie and Louise, greeters
Warren Bennett, usher
Aaron Weich, acolyte
Brenda Beaudette, lector
Megan Phillips and Al, communion
Doug and Pat Witte, offerings

OCTOBER 18
Doug and Pat, greeters
Greg, usher/acolyte
Tara Maruska, lector
Charlie and Louise, offerings

OCTOBER 25
Al and Sharon, greeters
Warren, usher
Aaron, acolyte
Charlie, lector
Megan and Brenda, communion
Doug and Pat, offerings

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