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

As this newsletter is being typed I am grateful for so many things and people around me. The LCMC annual gathering was very good to be at this year. We had a good speaker this year, David Zahl. I was, too, encouraged to go to all the other wonderful speakers, because I had so many fellow students at the gathering as well. They are all people coming alongside me at seminary, as well as two of my instructors at their booth also. The main reason is because they are all online and I have only met one person face to face. And all of this online study is not anything close to being a time to get to know people in a more comfortable fashion. Much like when we were thrust into an uncertain and difficult situation with the COVID-19 (aka. Wuhan Pneumonia) situation. It made everything uncertain because our God, who is always with us, gave us a very solid word. That is that I am always with you. He has even given us the Holy Spirit to shine into our hearts the things we need to be reminded of.

I do see that we need those face-to-face interactions to bring us closer to one another. As our God comes down to us in worship on Sunday, we are drawn to him in his Word. We are his sheep and he is our shepherd. He gives us new life in the new pastures. Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, “The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.” Luke 17:20-21

Whoever hears the Word of God is with God and has it. But it is not like watching TV or even a live football game in the stadium. We will be in the midst of it. It will be close and real. So perhaps the football game is appropriate. Why? Because we will be in the game, so to speak. Experiencing things that are not able to be felt far away in the seats.

So it is a real situation we are being given when we come to a place to receive the true body and blood of our Lord. Baptized we can say that we are made new and can shake off all the things that are our sin. For he gives us peace in the congregation of believers because of his grace towards us. Because he is good to us.

Amen

Vicar Jared

It's the autumn time of year. We here at Christ the Servant have been through a REAL year. We bid goodbye to one Pastor and welcomed another, a student in seminary, and we have been appropriately patient I'm grateful to say. We are content as we are, it seems. But we cannot become complacent; complacency hinders growth and excellence.

As I approach my second year on Council, I will say I think I've found my footing. My nomination and appointment came as a total surprise to me one short year ago. But I accepted the challenge believing maybe you all saw in me something I am blind to, unwilling to accept. And as far as THAT part of my life, it has been gratifying. I have learned that I CAN do things and learn things. I have learned, after being laid flat through the summer months, that I don't have to do everything. I am surrounded by wonderful people. I am convinced that sometimes God uses our helplessness to teach us the lessons He thinks we need to learn.

There's a song we used to sing during contemporary services that goes: "Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God." Just as you are … that includes messy, needy, laid up, feeling helpless, embarrassed, poor, rich, able, disabled, longing, hoping, prayerfully BELIEVING. But come to WORSHIP. And to serve. I think sometimes our weekly worship becomes too much of social gathering. Lord, lead us as we move forward to the heart of worship, to You, and to ministries to fulfill in Your Name.

Lu Carter
Congregation Council President

What is a Steward?

"By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you." (2 Timothy 1:14)

In Biblical terms, a "steward" is a person who takes care of something on behalf of another. As Christians, we believe that God has made us *His* stewards in the world by entrusting all the gifts of His good creation into our care.

Our stewardship not only involves the way we care for the world God has given us but also the way we use our money, time, and resources to serve in Christ's name and how we support the ongoing ministry of the church.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES
September 17, 2026

The meeting was held in the church library. In attendance were Al Boelman, Greg Moen, Lu Carter, Jared Weich. Charlie Skoglund attended as a guest. Absent were Linda Shaffer and Brenda Beaudette.

Lu opened the meeting with scripture, devotion, and prayer based on Colossians 3: 23-24, reminding everyone that although it sometimes feels like we only deal with budgets, repair needs, and complications, these ordinary tasks become acts of worship when done in the name of Jesus.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35. Charlie Skoglund was given the floor to give a summary of results from the recent congregational surveys regarding Vicar Jared's first few months. The information was discussed and will be presented to the congregation by Charlie following services on Sunday, September 20. After his presentation, questions were asked and discussed before Charlie's departure.

The August meeting minutes were discussed with focus mostly on the potential concrete repairs. Al volunteered to get another bid or two on this. Greg made a motion to accept the minutes with rewording of the sentence in question. Al seconded; motion passed.

<u>Financial report:</u>
*It was noted that income has fallen during the summer but expenses were also lower.
*The Menards bill for playground upgrades ($487) has been paid; bill from Matteo for sand has not been received.
*Greg will try to have a first draft of next year's budget available for review by Oct. 1. He asked us to consider including a cell phone for Jared. Jared also explained how his tuition has been getting paid and believes he will have scholarship opportunities available for next year.
*There was discussion about interest in short term CDs. Greg will look into this. Lu has now been added to the Fidelity account so Greg will tutor her also.
*Our benevolence funds this month from offerings will be directed to Mosaic/ Rejoicing Spirits. Motion made by Al, seconded by Greg. Motion passed.

Al motioned to accept the Financial report. Lu seconded. Motion passed.

(continued)

Pastor's Report: Jared reported on the September Rejoicing Spirits service which involved 4 congregational volunteers plus 4 additional non-member volunteers. He gave us his updated class schedule and reported a recent visit with Pastor Karst. He is doing home visits as his schedule allows, and continues to host Bible study on Wednesday and travel to Columbus for his Pastor's Fellowship monthly. He also advised that an apparent needed software upgrade in our video equipment has left us without audio on our Facebook live broadcast. He has been using his personal computer for recent services. Upgrade options will be investigated.

Committee reports

*Grounds/Maintenance: Discussion initiated by Al on who provides weed control for the lawn. Greg also proposed buying an electric mower to make mowing on the steep slope safer and easier. It was also suggested to ask Aaron to assist with mowing in the future. Playground upgrade is complete. Thanks to all who helped. Lu will get pictures of the completed project to send to insurance.

*Missions: Pack Away Hunger is October 3. Getting a table for CTS was discussed but Al is of the belief that his IOOF group may need extra help at their table and would welcome us.

*Stewardship: This committee needs revitalized but it was mentioned that a good holiday donation idea might be directed to the LCMC Men who paid for our new furnace. This is not a debt we have to repay but we'd like to.

*Worship: Meeting September 21 to pick hymns through early 2027 and discuss fall special observance days, Advent, etc.

Old/New Business:

Jared will be attending the LCMC Annual Convention in Des Moines October 4-7. A motion was made by Al to pay his travel expenses including lodging, mileage, registration and meals up to $1,200. Greg seconded. Motion passed.

Jared closed the meeting with prayer. Next meeting: October 15, 2026.

Respectfully submitted (in Brenda's absence) by:
Lu Carter, Council President

SEPTEMBER FINANCIALS		YEAR-TO-DATE	
Income:	$8,588.28	Income:	$104,849.20
Expenses:	$6,055.05	Expenses:	$ 76,146.73
Net income:	$2,533.23	Net income:	$ 28,702.47

COLDS — FLU — COVID-19 — RSV

Today I am going to compare differences and similarities of symptoms of colds, flu, Covid-19 and RSV.

The most common symptoms of the common cold include cough, stuffy/runny nose, and sore throat.

Some commonly recognized symptoms of the flu include fever, headache, cough, body aches, fatigue, stuffy/runny nose, and sore throat.

The symptoms of Covid may include fever, headache, cough, body aches, fatigue, stuffy/ runny nose, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, and diarrhea.

In the past, RSV was looked at as more of a childhood virus, but today it can affect all ages. Some of the most common symptoms of RSV include fever, headache, cough, body aches, stuffy/runny nose. Wheezing is more common with RSV.

There are vaccinations for flu, Covid and RSV. If a person contracts flu or Covid, there is medication that can be taken if it is prescribed within the first couple of days to lessen the severity of symptoms.

Several ways to lower the likelihood of contracting any illness is to stay away from people who are ill, good handwashing, and cough into a tissue or your elbow area.

Stay at home and/or away from others if you are ill so as not to spread your illness/germs. Keep areas touched frequently wiped clean with soap and water or an antiseptic wipe.

Donna Young
Health Ministry

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

11/1 Brenda Beaudette
11/4 Aaron Weich, 14
11/6 Charlie Skoglund
11/14 Janie Weich, 10
11/15 Richard Hillrichs
11/21 Donna Young
11/22 Jerry Beaudette
11/22 Dallas Puls
11/27 Riley Petersen, 17

ANNIVERSARIES

11/27 Doug and Pat Witte, 56 years
11/30 Bill Thoendel and Lu Carter, 30 years

Updated mailing address:
Judy Carstens, 1215 West Phillip Ave. Norfolk

Contact the office to sign up for our Prayer Chain

CALENDAR

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

Fri Nov 6	6:30 Girl Scouts
Sun Nov 8	11:00 second Sunday potluck
Wed Nov 11	11:00 Rejoicing Spirits
Thu Nov 12	7:00 Scouts roundtable
Sun Nov 15	**11:00 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**
Mon Nov 16	6:00 Country Piecemakers
Tue Nov 17	6:00 MOPS
Thu Nov 19	6:30 Council meeting
Fri Nov 20	6:30 Girl Scouts
Sun Nov 29	Food pantry

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

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE *(please trade with someone if you cannot serve when scheduled)*

NOVEMBER 1
Greeter: Donna
Usher/acolyte: Doug
Lector: Charlie
Offerings: Charlie and Louise

NOVEMBER 8
Greeter: Al and Sharon
Usher: Warren
Lector: Lu
Communion: Megan, Brenda
Offerings: Doug and Pat

NOVEMBER 15
Greeter: Donna
Usher/acolyte: Charlie
Lector: Greg
Offerings: Charlie and Louise

NOVEMBER 22
Greeter: Charlie and Louise
Usher: Al
Lector: Brenda
Communion: Megan, Mary
Offerings: Doug and Pat

NOVEMBER 29
Greeter: Doug and Pat
Usher/acolyte: Greg
Lector: Tara
Offerings: Charlie and Louise

Volunteers needed in all areas; sign-up sheets on back table in the sanctuary