

WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH!

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JUNE 17, 2018

This Week at Christ Lutheran Church
June 17-24, 2018

Serving Our Congregation
Next Sunday: June 24, 2018 – 10:00 AM

Today – June 17



9:15 a.m. Praise Team Rehearsal
10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Contemporary)
1:00 p.m. South Sudanese Worship

Monday – June 18

3:00 p.m. New Beginnings Group
5:00 p.m. Personal Care Pantry
7:00 p.m. Sisters Bible Study

Tuesday – June 19

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Fellowship Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m. Worship, Music & Arts Committee Meeting

Thursday – June 21

7:00 p.m. Mission Support Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m. Wyoming GA

Saturday – June 23

12:00 p.m. Private Event - Siebelink

Sunday – June 24

10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Traditional)
11:30 a.m. Safety and Security Forum
1:00 p.m. South Sudanese Worship

Council: Mike Evele

Altar Guild: Dianne Vissers

Bread Baker: Marie Smith

Welcome Center: Steve Kauffman

Acolyte: Jake McKenney

Worship Assistant: Lance Girand

Coffee Servers: Pete & Jill VanGessel

Ushers: John & Mary DeHerrera, Dave & Lisa Harris

Communion Assistants: Rich Jaeschke, Jake McKenney

Reader: Kim Holwerda

Nursery: Carrienne and Cora Evele

Greeters: Mary Whitehead and Family

Counters: Tim Laurent, Annette Wendland

Sprouts Teachers: Deb Park

Video Operator: Whitney VanGessel

Sound Board: Bob Ortego

Last Week's Response:

Sunday, June 10: 159
Offerings needed: \$175,530
Offerings actual: \$157,864
Shortage: \$17,666



Altar Flowers are given today to the Glory of God
by Curtis & Elizabeth Druckrey in honor of their
55th Wedding Anniversary.

Upcoming Worship Leaders:

June 17: Pastor Mike Kemper
June 24: Pastor Polly Standley
July 1: Pastor Polly Standley

WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer.” Romans 12:12

Prayer Requests for the Week of June 10

- Prayers of comfort for Gerry Stockwell and her family as they mourn the loss of her sister, Dorene.
- Prayers of thanksgiving for our granddaughter, Brooklyn, who finally came home from the hospital today (on her mom’s birthday).
- Prayers of healing for Grayson Knappen who is having ear surgery on June 20.
- Pray for all of us and the world.
- Pray for safe travels and good health for all who are enjoying vacation time.
- Pray for successful surgery and healing for Sallie Gates (Renee’ Green’s aunt).
- Prayers of healing for Pete Stavros who is having heart surgery.

Prayer Requests for the Week of June 3

- Prayers of thanks for the one year anniversary of Thomas Owens receiving a new kidney. God is good always.
- Prayers of healing for Pat Potter who recently had serious foot surgery.
- Pray for safety for Sham Alaqraa as she travels back to Palestine on June 5 after her exchange year with Steve & Cathy Chappell.
- Prayers of healing for Evele’s neighbor, Maria DenBoer who is at Lacks Cancer Center with major health concerns.
- Prayers of comfort for Linda Hertgers (and her family) whose husband died suddenly.
- Prayers of healing for Jim McDonald who had a heart attack while in Scotland and needs surgery.
- Please pray for Gabrielle, a newborn baby with multiple health issues – prayers for her family and health care providers to be able to provide the care she needs.
- Prayers of comfort for Pastors Julie (our Conference Dean) and Bryan Schneider-Thomas as they mourn the sudden loss of Bryan’s parents, who were killed in a car accident on May 31.

Pray for Those Serving in the Military

- Chris Fite, nephew of Tammy Walsh
- Cole Moore, nephew of Jim and Jane Ward
- Matt Lashbrook, grandson of Nancy Scudder
- DJ Ardy, member and grandson of Fred & Marcia Nichols, training in Rhode Island with the Marines
- Seth Dewey, grandson of Bud and Cherie Bronson, who is serving in the Marines
- Sergeant Kayla Champaco and her husband Specialist Lance Champaco (granddaughter of Dale & Kay Siebelink, niece of Mike & Kim Siebelink) who are stationed in El Paso, Texas
- Sean & Ashley Toomey, friends of the June family (active duty)
- Jeff McCullough
- Cody Westbrook, grandson of David Barrenger
- Hayden Gort, grandson of Larry and Joan Gort

****If you or a friend/family member would like to be remembered in prayer, please contact the church office (532-2774 or office@clcwyo.org) by Friday at 10:00 a.m. to have your request printed in this portion of Sunday’s announcements. Of course, you can let the Pastor or the church office know at any time that you would like prayers for someone.*

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Thank you Prayer Partners! Please bring in your gift bag along with your 7 notes for Gathering participants by June 17th. Please clearly mark who it is for on the bag. I have also emailed additional suggestions.

Branch Deadline: If you would like to submit information, pictures from events, upcoming special plans, or anything else for the July issue of The Branch, please do so by Tuesday, June 26, at 10:00 AM. You can leave information in Audrey’s mailbox in the copy room or email it to her at office@clcwyo.org.

Love, Laugh 'N Lunch Trip: Ladies, we are planning a bus trip on Thursday, July 26, to Shipshewana, Indiana. The bus will pick us up at Christ Lutheran at 7:30 AM and will return at 5:45 PM. The cost of \$99.00 includes deluxe motor coach transportation, lunch and performance of *Stolen* at the Blue Gate Theatre, taxes & gratuities and coffee and sweet rolls on the way. For more details see the sign up forms at the Welcome Center or call Karen Owens at 532-5301.

Second Best Sale: Our Mission Support Committee is planning a Second Best Sale as our service project to follow our "God's Work. Our Hands." Ministry Kickoff event. The sale will take place on Friday and Saturday, September 21-22. It will benefit the South Sudanese Leadership and Community Development organization. This organization is working with the South Sudanese people who have been relocated to refugee camps in Uganda. Look for more on this in the July Branch. We are looking for your help! As you clean or sort through your clothing and household items, please consider donating them to our sale. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Deb Park at dlpark71@hotmail.com.

EVERYTHING ELSE YOU NEED TO KNOW

Our Small Members Need You: Church doesn't take a break during the summer and neither does **Sprouts!** Our young members, ages three through Kindergarten, are welcome to take part in the Sprouts program throughout the summer. Sprouts takes place after the children's sermon back in the education wing, and allows for our young members to learn some Bible stories, play some games, and have fun with their friends. While they are off having fun, their parents can enjoy the worship service without interruption. But for this program to work, we need some volunteer teachers for the summer. Please sign up for one day during the 12 weeks of summer worship in the Gathering Space. There is a folder that contains all of the lesson plans, games, and craft ideas to help you. But you can really make this your own class. It's a great thing to do as a family and we only need 12 different people to help out once this summer. Please consider helping to keep this program a success.

Our ONE Program is still in need of some food donations to help keep our teens' stomachs from growling! Please check the signup sheets in the Gathering Space to see where you can help! Thank you!!

Orphan Dishes: There is a large selection of orphaned dishes in the kitchen! If you have brought food to church for any reason, please be sure to check the pile and take home anything that belongs to you in the next few weeks. We will be donating whatever is left behind to Goodwill.

Personal Care Pantry: PCP is in need of the following items right now: laundry detergent, dish soap, and Kleenex. Please place the donations in the box behind the Welcome Center. Cash donations are also a blessing, as they can be used to purchase products and also food for the dinners. We had 26 families at Personal Care Pantry on Monday. A huge thank you to Jennifer and Brian for making a delicious breakfast for dinner and Deb for the yummy dessert! They all loved the meal. Please remember the following people in your prayers:

Bill: for Pastor Charles who is retiring

Annette: for her mother

Rosalie: for Puerto Rico

Gail: for her mom and her family

Marta: for her family and for her job search

Ed: that he and his wife can find a house

Mary Jane: for her back problems

Lucia: for her son, Carlos, who is very sick and in Texas

Hasan: thankful for good times in his family

Paula: for her friend, Julie who has breast cancer

Nancy: for Guatemala

My-Thien: for problems in Vietnam

Fermin: that his diabetes stays under control

Iliana: for her family and friends in Guatemala

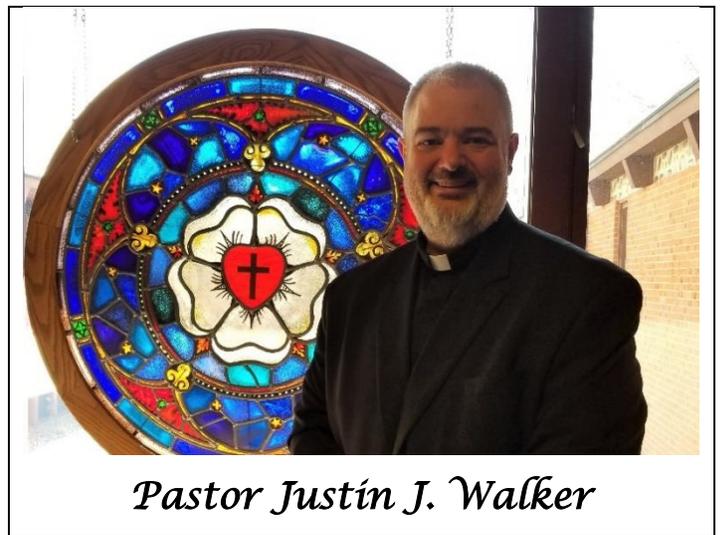
Jeanette: for her health

Martha: for good health and her family, esp. her children

Esperanza, Maria D., Lisandro, Hedwig, Margarita, Julia, Deborah: for their families

Greetings in the Name of Our Savior Jesus Christ!

My name is Pastor Justin J. Walker. I am deeply humbled and greatly honored to be called to serve as the next pastor of Christ Lutheran Church! I accept this call with enthusiasm and joyful anticipation to find out what God has in store for us together. Through interviews and time shared with your Call Committee and other congregational leaders, I have found CLC to be a warm and inviting community. It is exciting to learn about how God has been active at CLC. I am impressed by how members have responded to God's call through meaningful worship, building up a Christian community, and in service to others. I look forward to being numbered along with you as both a member and minister of this great congregation.



In what follows is a self-introduction and some words about my life journey. I grew up in the 'Middle of the Mitten' between Mount Pleasant and Midland. I didn't attend a church until I was six years old when my parents enrolled me at a Roman Catholic school from kindergarten through sixth grade. The nuns wanted me baptized and my family chose the new church which was under construction in the corn field behind our home: Immanuel Lutheran Church (ALC, now ELCA). While I was never Catholic, I attended mass on Wednesday mornings and Lutheran worship and Sunday School on Sundays and Wednesday nights. These childhood experiences showed me the breadth of Christian worship and life. I enjoyed listening to both organ and guitar in worship; I also enjoyed reading in church in kindergarten and still remember reading Jesus's words "I was naked and you clothed me" to the snickers of my classmates.

Just before my teenage years, my parents divorced and my mother remarried. This included a move to Midland where I joined Trinity Lutheran Church, one of the largest Lutheran churches in Michigan. It was in my confirmation years that I first sensed a call to be a pastor. I enjoyed reading the Bible, being active in the youth ministry, going to church camp, and taking on early rolls of leadership. For three of my teenage years, I served as the Chair of the Christian Education Committee and was an elected member of the Church Council. I also was Student Body President of my high school and the only youth elected to our Synod Council at that time. These formative years of active life in the church coupled with leadership in public ways reaffirmed what my pastors saw in me, the opportunity to serve one day as a Lutheran pastor.

In preparation for ministry, I graduated *summa cum laude* from Augsburg College, now Augsburg University, in Minneapolis, MN. As a mentoring pastor told me not to study religion in college as I would be doing that the rest of my life, I instead had a double major in Computer Science and Philosophy and a minor in Mathematics. For the next four years, I completed a Master of Divinity degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, PA. Living in this historic setting, I served a small Lutheran church in the panhandle of Maryland for two years and had a full-year internship at a major metropolitan congregation in Seattle, WA.

Still following a call to serve as a Lutheran pastor, God had other plans for me in academics first. I received a set of scholarships to attend the University of Oxford in England, where I lived for nearly a decade. The main area of my study, research, and teaching focused on how science and religion relate to each other, how God is present in a Theology of Nature, and how arguments supporting atheism can break down when looked at carefully. I gave papers across Europe from Oxford and Cambridge to Sicily and Bonn, Germany. I also had the opportunity to live in Dresden, Germany for a summer to better learn the language of Martin Luther.

Partway through my work in England, I was asked to preach at the wedding of two friends in Minneapolis. The Maid of Honor, Jessica Rivera, was a good friend from Augsburg College. She asked me to be her date for the wedding. Jessica graduated from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN and was called as an ELCA pastor. After several years of Trans-Atlantic dating, we were married at her church just outside of Omaha, Nebraska and put our paperwork out to ELCA congregations with an openness to serve from coast to coast. The calls came, and they brought us to Western Michigan.

Since 2012, I have lived in Holland, MI serving as the pastor of Peace Lutheran Church. As a trained Mission Developer, I concurrently served two years in Grand Haven ministering to young adults for whom worship on

Sunday was not the norm. During this time, I have come to value the ELCA's motto "God's Work. Our Hands." as I am constantly amazed at what God can do in the lives of so many people when we gather in God's name.

What grounds me as a pastor are the many relationships which are fostered and formed daily serving the mission of the church. I see our role as Christians as building up the Body of Christ, one relationship at a time. I see my leadership role as a pastor to meet the spiritual needs of a community first through listening. God's church and world are so wonderfully diverse that no one can bring a 'one size fits all' approach to ministry or leadership to every church or community. Genuine and authentic relationships are needed throughout this world, and life in the church is no exception. It is only by meeting people as they are that we can build this type of relationship in the name of Christ. That is what it means to be a minister... a role to which all Christians are called!

Ministries which I have found joyful and fulfilling over the last few years include the rent-free donation of one-third of our church building, Monday through Friday, to the non-profit Kids' Food Basket so that they may prepare over 750 meals per day in the greater Holland area. A ministry initiative I started of "Drive-thru Ashing" for Ash Wednesday was named the second-best development of the year by the Holland Sentinel. I was also asked by our bishop to lead a synod-wide event and mentoring program on how to bring new Christians to an active life of faith, especially when they have little or no background in the church.

Our greatest joy as a family is our son, James Justin Walker, who was born as a preemie at Helen Devos Children's Hospital in early 2016. Now two years old, James is healthy and full of energy. One of his favorite hobbies is chasing our Newfoundland dog, Padfoot "Padi" Sky Walker, around the house or just using her as a giant fluffy pillow. She likes it too. Jessica currently serves as the pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Holland (19 miles from CLC) and as a *per diem* chaplain at Pine Rest Christian Mental Health. Jessica has come to share the love of Western Michigan I have enjoyed since childhood. We feel most blessed to live in this great and beautiful part of the world!

My brother works in the restaurant industry and recently moved from Houghton Lake to Grand Rapids. He and my sister-in-law now join my niece who moved to Grand Rapids two years ago and my nephew who is moving here this summer. My mother and step-father still live in Midland; my father 'snow birds' between Gaylord, MI and Englewood, FL.

In addition to family and ministry, I enjoy fishing, morel mushroom hunting, home-roasting coffee, reading, and herb gardening. Computer work and IT are still hobbies, and I often build (and rebuild) computers for fun. I also enjoy and – especially as an extrovert – am energized just being with people: whether it is playing a round of Euchre, discussing the life of Jesus, or simply having a chat over a warm cup of coffee on a cool autumn morning.



My call as your pastor will begin on August 1st, 2018. Between now and then, I ask for your prayers, specifically in two areas. First, I invite us to pray that God's work may be present and known in our lives this summer. Often, the summer months can be slower in the life of the Church, yet I pray that the ministry of CLC may be strong this summer in all ways. Outside of church life, we can also lift in prayer the many good areas of mission which take place in our lives. Second, my family and I warmly welcome your prayers for us during this time of transition. This week, I formally began the process of leave-taking from my present congregation. Over the coming weeks, we will be looking at houses closer to CLC, Jessica will be in Houston, TX at the ELCA Youth Gathering, and James will have his first haircut. As you can tell, I believe in the power of prayer, and I appreciate your prayers in advance!

My very best wishes to you for a safe and enjoyable summer.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Justin



*The Walkers:
Pastor Justin, Jessica, and James*

Contact Information for Christ Lutheran Church Office and Staff

2350 – 44th Street SW, Wyoming, MI 49519

Email: office@clcwyoming.org Office phone: 616-532-2774 Fax: 616-532-6488

Website: www.clcwyoming.org Wireless network: CLC WiFi Password: clc49519

Interim Pastor: Pastor Polly Standley
Cell: 616-901-1131 Office ext. 202
Email: pastorpolly@comcast.net

Family Ministries Coordinator: Suzanne Snider
Office ext. 203
Email: suzanne@clcwyoming.org

Bookkeeper: Jim Barritt
Email: bookkeeping@clcwyoming.org

Administrative Secretary: Audrey Geers
Office ext. 201
Email: office@clcwyoming.org

Contact for Church Council: Jim Ward
Email: president@clcwyoming.org

Junior Choir Director: Casey Huls
Cell: 616-617-3098
Email: hulscas@mail.gvsu.edu

Outreach Ministries Coordinator: Patrick Blanchard
Cell: 616-460-7150 Office ext. 223
Email: patrick@clcwyoming.org

Organist and Handbell Choir Director: Marilyn Burgard
Office ext. 222 Home: 616-531-4703
Email: burgardm@sbcglobal.net

Youth Ministries Coordinator: Steve Lundquist
Email: steve@clcwyoming.org

Custodians: Dan & Pat Johnson
Dan's cell: 616-644-5420 Office ext. 224
Email: dandpj@comcast.net

Share Your CLC Event Pictures:
(please include a brief description - group, date, etc.)
Email: pictures@clcwyoming.org