

Dear Saints at Christ Lutheran Church,

It's been a pleasure and a blessing to me to serve you these past few months. As you are aware, our new pastor, Luke Konkell, will be arriving in a couple of weeks and then ordained and installed into the office of holy ministry on July 5th. He and his wife, Jennifer, daughter Esther and son Elijah will be arriving on the 15th of June.

Thanks to Dave Hahn and all those who have been working in the parsonage painting, repairing, cleaning, installing new cabinets, etc. Many hours have been spent dedicated to making the parsonage livable and comfortable. If you are available, please check with Dave to see what work still remains.

From my viewpoint, we have a serious issue with stewardship at CELC. I brought up the issue of church finances at a previous church council meeting and the response was that we have a challenge meeting future expenses. If you have seen the church council minutes over the last few years, you will have noticed that we've been relying on the Trust Fund to meet current expenses. This is not sustainable going forward to meet future obligations.

Our church has been blessed for almost 150 years with faithful pastors who have preached the Good News to sinful, broken hearts. I ask you to remember and rejoice in the Lord's generosity over these many years and pray that the Lord helps us to be good stewards of the gifts God has given us and, in that joy, **faithfully** serve Him and our soon-to-be pastor!

Soli Deo Gloria.

Your Servant in Christ,
Vacancy Pastor Rather

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Cor. 9:7

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Stewardship Ministry – The Holy Trinity _Matthew 28:19–20 – “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” Behold the threefold Name of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We are baptized into this Name. We have been made a part of God's family. Now, we are called to live in harmony with our new family, to be godly and live in God's image. As God is loving, kind and generous, so are we all called to be.

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Dear Saints of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church,

My name is Luke Konkell. I am married to my lovely wife Jennifer (she goes by Jenny), with a 2-year-old son, Elijah (or Eli) and 6-month-old daughter, Esther.

A little bit about my family background, I grew up in the southern suburbs of Detroit, MI, where my father and mother reside still. My father is a retired Engineering technologist from Ford Motor Company where he served for over 30 years. My mother is a retired Lutheran school teacher from Christ the King Southgate where she served for over 40 years. She currently serves as an interim principal. I have an older brother who also went to Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne (graduated in 2021), and is a Pastor in Finlayson, MN where he serves a dual parish. He and his wife are blessed with five children.



A little bit about Jenny's family background. Both her parents reside in Plymouth, WI (about 20 minutes west of Sheboygan). Her father works for Allen Edmonds in Port Washington and her mother is a seamstress out of their home. She has an older brother who is a tax lawyer for PWC and currently is located in the northern suburbs of Detroit with his wife and five children. She also has an older sister who is a public school teacher in Wauwatosa, WI.

A little more about me and my family. I grew up in a Lutheran school my whole life through college at Concordia in Ann Arbor, MI where I earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business. I worked in sales for a year after college for Fifth Third Bank before coming to the Seminary. I've worked several jobs from a young age, including, waxing floors at my mom's school, farming with a family friend, landscaping, and facilities management at University of Michigan. I was a multi-sport athlete growing up, so, I love to play sports of any kind. I also enjoy being outside, hiking, fishing, hunting, and the like. Jenny likes to be outside also, spending time hiking and going on adventures, but also taking care of the kids at home. She previously worked as a flight attendant for a regional of Delta Airlines, so, she has seen many places across the world. Elijah, not surprisingly, inherited the love for the outdoors and currently loves to mow the lawn with his bubble lawnmower and leaf blow with his bubble leaf blower. Esther, is on her way to becoming an outdoor gal as she will quickly learn to crawl soon.

These are but a few things. We are thankful that God has called me to be your pastor and we look forward to meeting you all very soon. We also look forward to learning more about you and your family stories. God's Peace to you.

Your soon-to-be Pastor, Luke Konkell



VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED TO WORK ON THE PARSONAGE

Work on the parsonage repairs and refreshing is going along smoothly, but there is still more to be done. Please call David Hahn (608-751-6567) to learn how you may be able to help with remaining tasks, and to set up a work time. We want to prepare the home to be ready for our new pastor and his family! Thank you to all the volunteers for your dedicated work so far.

CELC MEN'S GROUP

Next meeting is Saturday, June 6

Men's Group usually meets at 9:00 am on the first and third Saturday of each month. The CELC Men's Group will meet again on June 6 and June 20, 9:00 am to 10:00 am. If you have questions, please contact Dan Ludeman (608-931-8304).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR ONE MORE 2026 SCOOPIE NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Sponsored by CELC Men's Group

Thank you to all who supported our first two 2026 Scoopie Night Fundraisers.

Our final Scoopie Night of the year will be:

Monday, June 15 4:00 – 8:00 pm
at Beloit Culvers

2676 Cranston Rd, Beloit

Please mark your calendars and take your family and friends out to Culvers for supper.

The three nights' earnings will be equally divided between:

- purchases to assemble Hygiene Kits for Orphan Grain Train
- Housing4OurVets
- CELC Bell Tower Fund

"They will know we are Christians by our Love."

FAMILY NIGHT RECAP

Thirty eight members and guests attended our May 7 Family Night. All ages enjoyed a delicious potluck meal and cake. Special Honorees Donna (Mrs. Leon) Hahn (65 yrs of service) and Judy Kutz (50 yrs of service) were recognized for their many years of dedicated service to Women's Society and work in our congregation. Each received the gift of a glass cross. Donna's daughter Linda accepted Donna's in her absence. A total of \$1,383.00 to be used for parsonage repairs was raised through the Silent Auction. Thank you to all who donated items or bid. We also played a few rounds of Bingo. Fun was had by all attending!

ALTAR GUILD

Special thanks to those who have offered to help with altar guild. More volunteers are still welcome. If you are interested in helping, please speak with Rev. Rather or Debbie Brittich.

MERCY PENNIES

Thank you to all who have donated toward Pennies for Mercy Meals in recent months. This project is sponsored by Christ Ev. Lutheran Men's Group. Every 3 cents ships a meal. Remember to save your pennies when you get change back. Pennies are collected at the back of the sanctuary the first Sunday of each month.

KEEP YOUR CANS COMING!

Do you have aluminum beverage cans to recycle? We are collecting aluminum (beverage only) cans to raise money for the Bell Tower fund. **These should be rinsed out and dry.** The collection bin is located in the kitchen next to the utility sink. So far, about \$70 per month has been raised from can collection.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN COLLECTION



**Friday, June 12
4:00 pm to 5:00 pm
in the church parking lot**

Donated clothing must be clean and either very gently used ("like new" condition) or new. (As the leaders of OGT-WI Branch say, "If you wouldn't give it to your daughter-in-law, please don't give it to us!") All price tags must be removed.

In addition to the standard donations, Dan is also collecting bicycles of all sizes. If you have bicycles that you no longer use, including those in disrepair, Orphan Grain Train will gladly accept them. The broken bikes are used for parts to repair other bikes. Dan has a trailer to load them in at June 12 collection. Not able to bring your bikes then? You may also leave them at our house (9956 E. Rachel.) Please place them under the basketball hoop.

If you have non-clothing items to donate, or want to volunteer at St. Paul's on June 13, please contact Dan Ludeman at 608-931-8304 for details.



Tuesday, July 21 – Friday July 24

Participating children will be invited to sing on Sunday July 26 and everyone is invited downstairs after service that day for snacks, songs, and a small showcase of what was done and learned during the week.

A "set up" Day will be 9am-12pm July 20. A "clean up" Day will be 9am-12pm July 27. Anyone interested in helping in any way (being a helper during the week or providing donations) should reach out to Tana or Danielle. More information will be coming soon!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Our students continue to learn more about Jesus Christ and His love and grace. Children's Sunday School Classes will continue throughout Summer. Sunday School will meet as a single classroom for children of all ages.

A Sunday School "Celebration Sunday" is planned for June 21. The whole congregation is invited to join the Sunday School classes in the Fellowship Hall for snacks, coffee, and to see what the children have been learning this year. Sunday School class will continue through the summer, with all ages together in one group

June Birthday

Abigail Christensen.....June 28

June Baptism Anniversary

Madison Matuseski..... June 6

May the Holy Spirit ever keep our students in His baptismal grace and faith unto life everlasting.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY MISSION COLLECTIONS

Thank you so much for all your contributions! The Box Tops items provide a dime each for Lutheran schools. The used ink cartridges earn reward points at Office Max which are redeemed for paper for our church office.

The following items have been received since the last report in April:

- 21 used ink cartridges
- 29 Box Tops items (please turn in the receipts that include items eligible)

A collection container is located in the north entryway cloak area. Each contribution is very much appreciated! Any questions may be directed to Elaine Rather (608-676-4984). Thank you!

A PANTRY SHOWER FOR KONKELS



We are so excited to welcome Pastor Konkell and his family. We want to have their pantry stocked when they arrive on June 15th. Below are items that would be greatly appreciated. They prefer to eat 'clean' ingredients, meaning no preservatives. If you want to help but aren't able to get out and shop, you can donate and we will do the shopping before they arrive. (Monetary gifts may be given directly to Danielle C or placed in the offering plate in a separate envelope clearly marked "Konkell Food". Please reach out to Danielle if you have any questions. Please place items in the box in the north coat area by June 10, and sign up on the chart beside the box for what you will be bringing.

Brands or types are listed when needed

Paper Plates Paper towels Toilet paper
Napkins Plastic utensils Kleenex
Baby Wipes--**Hypo-allergenic or
"water wipes"

Pampers diapers size 3

Apple cider vinegar Honey (raw)

Beef and chicken stock (organic)

Pure maple syrup Mustard

Ketchup Ranch dressing

Peanut butter (organic)

Purely Elizabeth Granola Pistachios

Trail mix

King Arthur's All Purpose Flour

Baking Soda Baking Powder

Himalayan Salt

Pepper Italian seasoning

Garlic Oregano

Rosemary Thyme

Olive oil Avocado oil

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MID-YEAR

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JULY 26

immediately following the VBS Reception

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

God's Richest Blessings upon Jennifer Burno and Christopher Barrett, who were married in our church on Saturday, May 23. May the Lord ever increase their love for Jesus Christ and each other.

God's Richest Blessings upon Dr. Rachel Burno who graduated from UW-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine. Rachel and her family would like to thank everyone at Christ Lutheran for their prayers and support throughout the years. May the Lord bless Rachel in her veterinary work. Rachel will be working and residing in Marshfield, WI.

FAMILY NIGHT PHOTOS



THE 1580 PROJECT

Confessing the faith. Forming the faithful.

WHAT IS IT?

Lectures for laity

COST

Free

WHEN

**Saturday, June 27th
at 1pm**

WHERE

**St. John's Lutheran
Church**

1000 Bluff Street Beloit WI 53511

TOPIC

The Unaltered
Augsburg
Confession: Its
History and
Significance for
Today

PRESENTER

The Rev. Dr. Carl
Beckwith, Professor
of Church History at
Concordia
Theological
Seminary in Fort
Wayne, Indiana.



SCHEDULE

1:00–1:15 Welcome
1:15–2:15 Session 1
2:15–2:30 Break
2:30–3:30 Session 2
3:30–3:45 Break
3:45–4:45 Session 3
4:45–5:00 Break
5:00–5:15 Q&A

The 1580 Project

Mission: The 1580 Project is an annual conference hosted every June by St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Beloit, Wisconsin, commemorating the presentation of the Augsburg Confession (June 25, 1530) and the publication of the Book of Concord (June 25, 1580).

Its purpose is to confess and instruct the laity of the Beloit area in Lutheran theology, education, and practice, equipping them for faithful life in Christ.

Pillars: Theology-to teach the Bible and confess the Book of Concord. Education-to strengthen Lutheran catechesis and classical formation in the home, church, and school. Vocation-to equip Christians to live faithfully in their callings before God and neighbor.

Slogan: Confessing the Faith. Forming the Faithful

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