



MISSION STATEMENT

**Called by God to
Worship, Learn and
Nurture; Sent to
Serve and Tell**

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**Jesus is Lord and
Savior. We are called
to learn and share
the Good News.
Welcome and serve
all people. We are
servants of God to
others. Holy Spirit,
mighty in prayer
leads us to answer
God's call. Fellowship
sustains each other.**



Dear Friends,

New Year's resolutions work for me; not because I complete every item on the list, but because they help me live with intention. I didn't reach my goal of reading 50 books in 2025, yet I read more than the year before because I paid attention to it. Each year I return to the familiar goals: eat better, exercise more, but I place my spiritual life at the top of the list. During Advent, I prayed for clarity about what needed to change in me for the upcoming year. As I read our Advent devotional, one truth became clear: I need to trust God more. Whenever I rely on myself or even on others, however well-intentioned that reliance may be, I've put my trust in the wrong place.

My resolution for 2026 is to "Trust God More." If I believe that God's will is better than mine or anyone else's then trusting God more seems like the logical next step. I've also learned that trust, like getting in shape, requires actual effort. I can't sit in a gym, respect the dedication of others, and become healthier by proximity alone. (I've tried; it doesn't work). In the same way, being near faith without practicing it does not magically increase trust. If I want to trust God more, I need to show up and do the work: read Scripture, pray, worship, and live my faith daily. Unlike exercise, this kind of discipline renews the spirit instead of making me sore the next day.

We know this year will bring both joys and challenges we cannot yet anticipate. Even so, we move forward with confidence, trusting that God's grace will meet us day by day. If you sense that the world is longing for hope, the church remains the place where our hope takes root and grows. In our community and fellowship, we remind one another of God's faithfulness as we share stories, carry each other's burdens, and pray together. Whatever this year will bring, trusting God more means praying before we plan, listening before we act, and even bringing our anxieties honestly into God's care. When we live as the Church, we become a visible witness that God is still at work, still calling, still renewing lives.

I'm reminded of a sermon that made a huge impact on me. (It was preached by me, and I said), "Our best lives are when we are in tune with God's music." How I understood that is God is always active. All around us, all the time. When we tune in and join God's life for us, anything's possible. This is why I want to trust God more.

Peace,

Pastor Chris

Ilene will tell you that every year around this time, I start wishing for “new”. I want to turn my house upside down, empty everything out and only put back in a few things. I want a whole new ME – new clothes, new hair style, new, new, new. I’m wanting to change the old me (that really isn’t appealing anymore) with a newer, better version. Of course, the old me will come back out, no matter how much I clean everything out.

Many of us have made or will make resolutions on the first day of the New Year only to break them or give up on them by the end of the first week. It doesn’t have anything to do with will power – which I know I have none of – but rather because circumstances beyond our control happen.

The Lord gives us the promise of a new heart and new spirit in Ezekiel 36:26-27. *“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”*

God is talking about a spiritual heart transplant. This new spiritual heart makes us feel Jesus Christ within us. Along with that new heart, God gives us the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of power. Like the new heart, Jesus breathes a new spirit within us, making us His new creation.

Maybe that’s why I want to make my life new every year. I’m tired and feeling like I’ve missed something. I need to make changes from the inside, not the outside. As we begin this new year, let’s ask God to give us a new heart, one that has been cleansed through confession and forgiveness, and ask for a renewed spirit in our lives and in the life of Christ Lutheran.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new.” 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Blessings,

Deacon Kathy



JANUARY CELEBRATIONS



Birthdays

12th Gilbert Lake
 14th Suzanne Brown
 17th JD Sundseth
 30th Angie Karn

Serving Our Country

David Carlson
 Luke Harper
 Hannah & Nick Brown—USAF
 Ian Dunbar—USMC



Jane Peterson	Victoria Hall	Brian Hatheway	Lloyd Crabtree
Lilly	Sandy Peterson	Jill	Mel & Joan Jangard
Maxine Hall	Glen & Sally Atterberry	JD Sundseth	Earl Williams
David Lundy	Kane & Blake	Alisha	Jean Raabe
Norma & Christina Zucconi	Douglas MacDonald	Gene Kallenberger	Rob Turley
Ellen	Sana Kibler	Jerry	Judy Sherrill
Eugene Hall	Kikue Lugo	Jeannie Hannon	Merillina Bruckner
Steve & Ann Shirkey	Debby Coolnas	Ginger Mick	Bill Schultz,
Jim Eling	Gerald Larkins	Cindy	Don Oord
Tim Shanks	Luke & Atreyu	Vic Deblasio	Patsy Lake
Katie			

The friends and families of Art Marsh, Susan Beehler, WSP Tara Guting, and Jack Bloxom

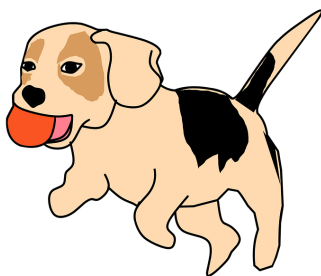
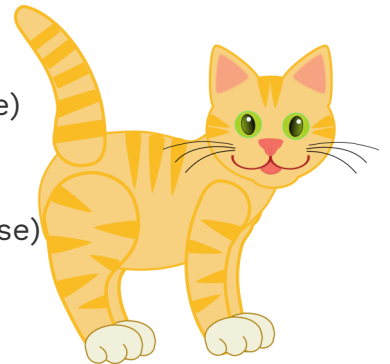
(The people listed here have been on our prayer list for the past two months. If your loved one is no longer on the list and needs our continued prayers, please let Deacon Kathy know.)

Yakima Humane Society Pet Food and Supply Drive

You are invited to participate in the Pet Food and Supply Drive to benefit the Humane Society of Yakima. We will begin collecting February 1st and will deliver the end of February. The list below are items in need by the Humane Society. Please note they request specific brands of dog, cat, puppy and kitten foods. This is to help them with detecting food allergies in the animals. Cash donations are also appreciated.

Items can be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall under the Angel Tree.

- Bath Towels
- Batteries (AA and AAA sizes)
- Blankets (*no comforters or electric please*)
- Cat Food (**Pedigree or Purina**)
- Cat Toys (*that dangle*)
- Chewy Dog Treats (no rawhide treats please)
- Copier Paper (*white*)
- Dish Soap (no citrus or lemon scented please)
- Dog Food (**Pedigree or Purina**)
- Fleece
- Kong Toys / Nylabone Toys / Interactive Toys
- Laundry Soap (*Liquid*)
- Lint Rollers (*sticky paper kind*)
- Martingale-style Collars
- Newspaper (*remove slick ads please*)
- Peanut Butter
- Pens
- Plush Cat Beds
- Portable Kennels (*various sizes*)



Central Lutheran Church will once again be holding a Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial service. This event will be at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, January 18th.

There will be a Martin Luther King Jr. Peace March, beginning at Noon on Monday, January 19th.

Look for more details in the near future.



Jim Eling's new address:

100 E Whidbey Ave., Apt 11

Oak Harbor, WA 98277

FAMILY FUN NIGHT – JANUARY 25 AT 4:30

THEME – TRUST

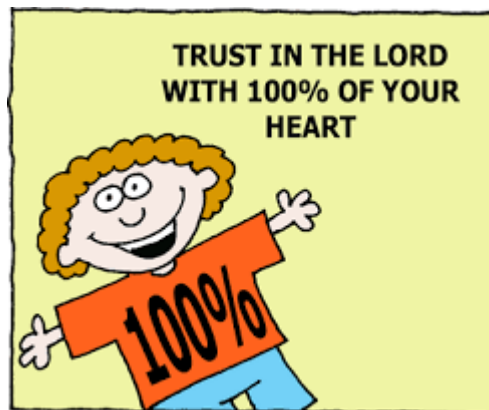
AMUSEMENT PARK LEGO

CRAFTS

BIBLE STORIES

SONGS

FOOD!

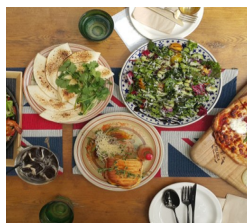


Ladies Lunch

Out

January 15th, 11:45

Location to be determined



Guy's Night Out

January 15th

Abby's Pizza

4808 Tieton Drive



Coming in February

Congregational Budget Meeting
February 1st

There will be brunch (more information to come) following the worship service. The meeting will begin after the meal. The Support committee has been compiling the budget for 2026. This is an important meeting for all to attend. We have decisions to be made for the good of Christ Lutheran Church.



Mardi Gras Fundraiser Dinner February 7

Happy Hour – 4:30, Dinner - 5:30

Holly & Laura will supply and prepare the meal

Use of the proceeds to be announced at a later date.



Souper Bowl Sunday

February 8th

This is a special offering opportunity that Christ Lutheran has participated in for over 20 years! The national purpose of this project is for local communities to support a local food bank or feeding program. We have supported Northwest Harvest, 2nd Harvest, The Henry Beauchamp Food Bank, and the Salvation Army.

This year, the Social Ministry committee has chosen to support our own feeding ministry – Camp Hope. Janet Frank and Suzanne Brown have done a great job of making our funds stretch to cover the costs of providing nutritious meals. However, our funds are shrinking and the costs have risen. Please bring your change, folding money, and checks on Souper Bowl Sunday so we can continue this outreach into our own community.

Thank you.



COMING TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH SOON

- 1st Happy New Year!!
- 4th Faith, Fitness & Fellowship, 2:00
- 7th Magical Mystery Tour, Noon
- 11th Church Council Mtg. 11:00
- 12th "Women of the Bible Speak" Book Study, Mary Magdalene, 11:00
- 14th Magical Mystery Tour, Noon
- 15th Ladies Lunch, 11:45
Men's Pizza Night, 6:00
- 18th Faith, Fitness. & Fellowship, 2:00
Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Service, Central Lutheran, 3:00
- 19th Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Walk, 12:00
- 20th Worship & Music Committee Mtg, Noon
- 21st Magical Mystery Tour, Noon
- 25th Christian Outreach Mtg, 11:00
Family Fun Night 4:00-5:30
- 26th "Women of the Bible Speak" Book Study, Jesus & The Women, 11:00
- 28th Magical Mystery Tour, Noon
- 31st Yakima Valley Quilters, 8:30-3:30



- 1st Semi-Annual Congregational Budget Meeting, 11:00
- 7th Mardi Gras Fundraiser Dinner, 4:00
- 8th Souper Bowl Sunday!
- 9th Book Study, 11:00
Camp Hope Meal, 5:45
- 18th Ash Wednesday
- 23rd Book Study, 11:00
Red Cross Blood Drive 12:30-5:30



All dates and times are subject to change!