



Broken but Not Beyond Repair

My best friend and I borrowed the car from her sister for a few hours, heading off on a teenage, summertime adventure.

We were only a few miles away from returning the car when something unexpected happened.

The car suddenly started to shake.

We cautiously looked over at one another, each wondering if the other noticed the increasing vibrations that seemed to arise out of nowhere.

We continued to drive for a few minutes, peering out of the windshield to check if the road we were traveling on was bumpy and causing the car to shake. But we saw nothing. And with each passing moment, the uncontrollable shake grew stronger.

My friend slowly pulled into an empty parking lot and we both hopped out of the car, standing there, staring at it.

Nothing was visibly wrong. We decided we were close enough to our destination to keep driving in the shaky car. But I silently prayed as we attempted to make it home through the now-violent shaking.

After we made it safely home, the car was later checked out by a mechanic, and we were told that the tie rod was broken. This meant we had no real control over the car we were driving. The front wheels were acting independently of one another, and the steering wheel couldn't properly guide them in the direction we wanted them to go.

Thankfully, we were kept safe, and the car was able to be repaired.

That day, we both learned that there will be times when things are broken and damaged in our lives, problems that seem to arise out of nowhere, pain that we can't begin to understand and shattered pieces we're simply unable to hold together — and through it all, God will still deliver us to our destination.

Even though life's trials can be unpleasant and unnerving, this Scripture verse helps to put things into perspective: *"And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you"* (1 Peter 5:10).

We learn a few things from this verse. First, our suffering will only last for a little while. It may not feel that way from our perspective, but from God's eternal perspective, our troubles here on earth are an instant in light of heaven, our final destination.

The Apostle Peter contrasts our present suffering with *"eternal glory"* — our future glory in heaven.

Secondly, we are promised that God will do four things in us: restore, confirm, strengthen and establish. Here are what these words mean in the Greek:

- **Restore:** to complete thoroughly; to repair or adjust.
- **Confirm, or secure:** to set fast; to turn resolutely in a certain direction.

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Notes from the Music Director~

I begin this month's article with a Psalm of David written to the choirmaster, with encouraging words to trust in the Name of the Lord our God.

Psalm 20:1-5

Trust in the Name of the LORD Our God

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

¹May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble!

 May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!

²May he send you help from the sanctuary

 and give you support from Zion!

³May he remember all your offerings
 and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices! *Selah*

⁴May he grant you your heart's desire
 and fulfill all your plans!

⁵May we shout for joy over your salvation,
 and in the name of our God set up our banners!

May the LORD fulfill all your petitions!



As we anticipate the beginning of our school year on August 11th and the beginning of choir and bell rehearsals after Labor Day, my mind is filled with questions about how is it really going to go? Can the children sing in the classrooms without masks? Can we combine middle school grades to form a choir? It would be so wonderful for all this to happen! Those are my plans! I will have to trust in God's plan for how it will actually take place. Will people return to the choirs to participate? I surely pray so!

Shout for joy with me over our great God, and His gift of salvation! We worship Him! May He grant us freedom and health and passion to praise His Name evermore with singing and ringing, "set[ting] up our banners!"

I know we are entering a strange time with our pastor vacancy. I loved Pastor Groeling's plea for prayer in his June/July Chronicle article, a plea to participate in prayer regularly and actively. I will seek God's will in planning worship during this time. I pray you will remain active in our worship, and in joining our choirs to enhance our worship!

I express to God my excitement for a new school year sharing our theme verse for the '21-'22 school year:

[We] celebrate Your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of Your righteousness.

Psalm 145:7

~Beth Shroff

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”

Ephesians 6:10-11

GOD IS BLESSING US ABUNDANTLY...LET'S KEEP LISTENING

Now is a pivotal time in our congregation history. After 13 years of incredible service Pastor is retiring. We are entering into a vacancy. This is both a challenging time and an opportunity for renewal and growth.

Our school is at the highest enrollment level in history. Our pre-school is growing again. Both total numbers and baptisms are way up. Our God Cares About You (GCAY) Mission just received a \$98,000 Grant from LWML to expand it's reach and hire a full-time director. We are expanding our support of our Missionary Benjamin Helge thus expanding our footprint on God's Mission field internationally. Our digital footprint is expanding on the internet. God is blessing us abundantly.

These are all wonderful things. These are wonderful things that Pastor has helped us navigate as our Pastor, and quite frankly as our “CEO” in the past. These are also things that Satan must hate to see. We should not have fear, but we may need to step up our game of surrendering to God, seeking His Will in all we do and uniting together in prayer.

I have heard on multiple occasions that Satan more often attacks when things are actively being done to grow the Kingdom of Christ. I feel like I have seen this happen before. That said, as we go into our vacancy I humbly say, “Let's keep listening to God.”

I am not saying that out of fear but just knowing what God has been doing in our congregation has to be ruffling the devil up.

There are challenges in having our largest Mission & Ministry Budget ever. There are challenges as we grow the school and reach more people. There are challenges as our school youth and church youth come together in growth. There are challenges that will come with growing GCAY from a 2 to 3-day mission to a full-time mission. There are challenges that come from sustaining and growing this mission work while also navigating a pastoral vacancy.

We will do a lot of things right while meeting these challenges. We will also make some mistakes while meeting some of these challenges. Most importantly though is that we continue to walk together as we address all challenges and opportunities.

This is a time to come together more than ever. We need to be worshipping together, having fellowship together and serving together. Make the extra effort to be in worship and Bible Study. Try to come and participate in fellowship meals and gatherings.

I truly believe during this time of vacancy we can grow closer together than ever before. What a Blessing that would be if we were even more unified in faith when our new Pastor, who I know God has already selected for us, comes to serve. We can do it – this I know. Lift it up in Prayer with me as we move forward together.

God's Peace,

Jerry Shroff
Congregational Chairman

Sunflower Thievery



Sunflowers are my favorite flowers for many reasons. Their giant bright yellow faces remind me of hope. Hope and possibilities like the first day of summer break! They also have special cells in the neck of the flowers that can expand and contract, which allows them to follow the sun. If you've never seen this phenomenon, take the time to plant some and watch, they really do always face the sun until they bloom. Of course, that's an obvious devotion right there – always follow the Son. However, I recently learned another important lesson involving sunflowers.

We have several growing in our front yard, and Mr. Brandhorst loves to water. As a retired teacher, he often does things to keep busy and active, and one of his activities is counting the blossoms on each plant. Early in the summer, we went outside one morning, to find that someone had cut our blossoms off with a knife, and stolen them. I can tell you, there were eight. Eight blossoms stolen, and four unhappy people. We were all upset and felt violated that someone would come into the yard and take the beautiful blossoms. After much talk of camping in the back of the car, setting up cameras, and lying in wait on the roof, we really did nothing, except grumble.

Fast forward a week and a half, and more blooms had blossomed. Then I walked out one morning to find more blossoms had been stolen. It happened again, and worse the second time. There were even leaves and a few flowers on the ground after the carnage was over. This incident made us even more upset. Fool me once... So I posted a message on the neighborhood app, asking if it had happened to anyone else. I got quite a few responses, but unfortunately, half of them were about politics, and not sunflower thievery. Another week went by, and I had definitely decided that a slingshot was the best way to approach the perpetrator if I ever caught him or her. Whoever it was had a knife, and the law prevents me from shooting someone unless I feel my life is in danger, so I decided that it would be best to keep my distance and use a slingshot to make sure to stop this tomfoolery. With such thoughts swirling around my head, another week went by, and I was astounded as I came out of the house one morning. God is good! Over 50 more blossoms have bloomed and the sunflowers in my yard look better than ever! And I realized, I needed to forgive my sunflower thief. After all that's what the Son would want me to do as I follow Him. I felt weak for not doing anything about this problem, and then God made it all better, and helped me to forgive. 2 Corinthians 12:9 – "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

On another good note, I thought that Pollyanna had died in 2020. It was hard to stay hopeful with so much going on, but I'm happy to report that she is back! And she is hopeful that somewhere, those missing sunflowers ended up on some mother's table, who would be horrified to know where they came from!

In Christ,
Principal Kim Rasmussen

- **Strengthen:** to make strong so as to be mobile; to move something that achieves something in the most effective way.
- **Establish:** to lay the foundation of.

My friend, the brokenness in your life is not beyond repair. God sees your suffering, and He Himself will restore, confirm, strengthen and establish you. He is doing all these things even *in* your suffering.

Before attempting to steer what's broken in the direction you want it to go, welcome God into your situation. Trust that, with Him, you can travel through life's detours, diseases, delays and disappointments because He is on the journey with you, actively guiding you towards His plans for you. So take heart, my friend ... your brokenness has an end.

Tracy Braylock at Proverbs 31 Ministries

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St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians that he went through many trying events. The list in 2 Corinthians 11:24-28 include beatings, lashes, being stoned, shipwrecked, imprisoned, and being accosted by bandits. He experienced hunger and thirst, danger on the sea, and the testimony of false brothers. He confessed to being burdened with worry about the churches. From his descriptions of trials and anxiety, Paul sure could have used a Stephen Minister!

Perhaps Paul had one. Luke might have filled the role of a Stephen Minister. He was a physician (Colossians 4:14) and ministered to Paul (2 Timothy 4:11). Paul says "Only Luke is with me." Being there, caring, praying together, and providing encouragement are some of the skills Stephen Ministers use with their care receivers. Perhaps Luke

did these with St. Paul even when Paul was under house arrest.

Are you going through trying events? Do you wish you had support? Good news! Christ Lutheran has Stephen Ministers who are trained to help "bear one another's burdens." (Galatians 6:2). Don't suffer, worry, or cry alone. Ask Stephen Leader and Stephen Minister Assignment Coordinator, David Yocky to be assigned a Stephen Minister.

When you are assigned a Stephen Minister, no one knows. The relationship is confidential. The relationship will be one-on-one. Men will have a man Stephen Minister. Women will have a woman Stephen Minister. Our congregation has both men and women Stephen Ministers trained and ready to walk with you.

Let the help, hope, and healing begin. Ask for a Stephen Minister today.

FROM STEWARDSHIP

Friends and members of Christ Lutheran,

Happy New Year! – fiscal that is. As we "close the books" on FY2021 this July 31st, we can share that with all the headwinds, we came through remarkably well financially. Government assistance certainly helped, but the generosity of the congregation and the dedication and hard work of the church and school staff were the major contributing factor, augmented by significant volunteer input from you.

At the July 18th congregation meeting, I was asked to update everyone on the progress of the capital campaign and the associated roof loan. To recap, we estimated roof repairs and Parish Hall maintenance would cost \$160,000 (it actually came to over \$168,000) and endowment funds needed a \$40,000 boost – thus a goal of \$200,000.

(1) The pledge campaign generated pledges of \$165,000. To date, we've received about 64% of those pledged donations. We've also received unpledged contributions of about \$20,000.

(2) We received a loan from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund of \$150,000 to allow us to contract the roof repairs. In May of this year (one year after the loan) we began to incur interest charges – minimal for now, higher after April 2022. With our July payments, the loan balance is down to \$47,800. With your continued support, pledged or unpledged donations to the "roof fund," we hope to retire the loan within the next six months.

And finally, it appears our offerings total for FY2021 will be close to \$530,000. Not as good as FY2020 at \$550,000, but well above our pandemic reduced goal of \$505,000. So again, the generosity of the congregation in both normal and campaign response is remarkable. This month, August, is also the month we nominate and rejuvenate our boards and committees. As conditions permit us to reopen, join in. Volunteer.

As we embark on this "new year", some of the old challenges remain, complicated by newer demands, but I'm confident the members of Christ Lutheran and "the Lord will provide."

Chairman of Stewardship—Tom Hebblewhite



SHOP WITH SCRIP

Our Fundraising for the month of June.....we sold \$12,093.67 worth of gift cards

We earned \$476.33 dollars of Fundraising money that went to these Distribution groups.

There was \$272.13 that went to the Church and School Technology Fund.

- LWML District Missions Grants received \$1.75 with 1 family participating
- Deficit Reduction received \$39.90 with 9 families participating
- School Scholarship Fund received \$18.39 with 6 families participating
- School tuition we distributed \$78.92 with 7 families participating
- School Playground received \$31.45 with 3 families participating
- Church and School Roof Loan received \$19.62 with 4 families participating
- Youth Accounts received \$17.42 with 1 family participating
- God Cares About You Mission received \$2.50 with 1 family participating
- Technology received \$266.38 with 33 families participating, some families put all their distribution towards technology.

You can order cards online (call Karen 206-0906) if you want help setting it up.

There are a lot of cards that can be ordered and used on-line ~ Amazon, Walmart, Starbucks, Lowes, The Home Depot, Kohl's, Bed Bath & Beyond, Bath & Body works, Best Buy, Game Stop, I-tunes and the list goes on.....

We have several new cards available ~ Sonic, Happy Moments, Happy Dining (these have several merchant options on one card) and more!

Thanks for the support of this Awesome Fundraiser!! Better then selling cookie dough and wrapping paper!!



August Celebrations!

“Happy Birthday” to the following members who were born in August:

Aug 1	Martha Stewart
Aug 2	Lawrence Brose
Aug 4	Doug Bickel
	Ezekiel Earl
	Collin Schneider
Aug 5	Zaile Ramirez
Aug 6	Matthew Helge
	Giavanna Malizia
Aug 7	Debbie Yocky
Aug 9	Erin Mintle
Aug 12	Kristie Naber
Aug 13	Debbie Nixon
	Shelby Vering
	Ted Paulat
Aug 14	Kyla Mintle
Aug 17	Lee Ackermann
Aug 18	Sally Goar
Aug 19	Susan Oppel
	Kirstin Sainz
Aug 20	Sharon Kluck
Aug 24	Jacob Rasmussen
	Matthew Sainz
Aug 25	Jeff Bowen
Aug 28	Frank Modglin
Aug 29	Glen Postenrieder
	Gordon Postenrieder
Aug 30	Brayden Lund
	Tatiana Skelton
Aug 31	Jerry Kolke
	Kaidyn Lowe

“Happy Anniversary” to the following members who were married in August:

Aug 1	Roger & Julie Holt
Aug 3	Lawrence and Mary Brose
Aug 11	David & Julie Henderson
Aug 12	Craig & Judy Carter
Aug 20	Doug & Pamela Rickers
Aug 21	Larry & Sandra Barton
Aug 23	John & Diane Ivey
Aug 25	Sumner & Laticia Guyer
Aug 26	Dave & Terry Riddle
Aug 30	Michael & Kris Donahue

(Please let the church office know if we missed your special date)

God Cares About You

August 2021

A LOT TO BE THANKFUL FOR THIS PAST MONTH

I would like to personally thank everyone for their recent contribution of time to the FEMA Covid vaccine clinic. Thanks to all the many volunteers who donated their time.



It was a pleasure connecting with Chantal and UMOJA to help sponsor the event and provide interpreters in 7 different languages. We look forward to working with you again.

We thank the National LWML for the generous gift of the grant awarded for the next 2 years. The grant will enable the Mission to move from a 3 day a week ministry to 6 days with the hiring of a Director. The funds will significantly help with many ongoing and the future expansion of new programs. We are exceedingly grateful.

More Thanksgivings:

- June and July Barbeques
- Exterior Painting Completed
- Children's Ministry Restarting
(Tutoring, Bible Stories, Meal, Food Bags)
- Back to Work Program Bible Study Restarted

Congratulations to our Missionary to the Czech Republic, Benjamin Helge on his marriage to Rebecca Ashton. It was really special. It was a wonderful setting and exciting to watch a wedding in the Czech Republic and actually feel like you were there.

Christ Lutheran Mission Chair
Ralph W. Hughes

THE BACK PEW - Jeff Larson



sometimes i feel like i am losing, and
the fight is not fair, but.. I WILL NEVER
QUIT. **I Timothy 6:12**





2019–2021 LWML

Rocky Mountain District Mission Goal:

\$77,960.28

We have raised \$49,960.28 so far!



Kingdom Kids' Camp at Lutheran Valley Retreat

A week of camp can change the life of a child. Located in the Rocky Mountains north of Florissant, CO, Lutheran Valley Retreat's mission is to share God's grace and glory in His creation. This grant would subsidize a week of camp for 20 children in the foster care system. Activities at camp include archery, hiking, Bible studies, campfire devotions, and fishing. The campers will also have the loving support of camp staff who share Jesus' love with them.

Grant Paid in Full: \$5,000

God Cares About You – “Children’s Weekend Food Bag Ministry”

In one of the most crime-ridden and poorest neighborhoods in Albuquerque, NM, several Lutheran churches have begun the God Cares About You Mission, which serves to provide children and their parents with clothes, school supplies, food, meals, a back to work program, Bible studies, worship services, and counseling. The Mission is a safe space in a violent neighborhood for parents and children to gather. Ten (10) to thirty (30) children come from the neighborhood each week for Sunday School and VBS time together with Jesus. A new “Children’s Weekend Food Bag Ministry” would provide meals to these children who do not have reliable food sources for the weekend. This grant would help start this new ministry of the God Cares About You Mission.

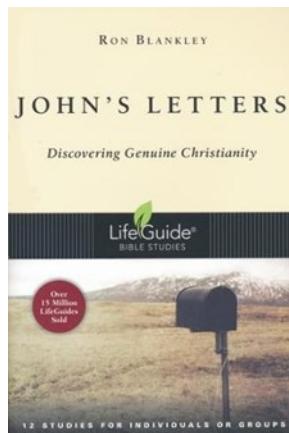
Grant Paid in Full: \$8,000

Tuesday Men's Bible Study—6:00 AM

“John’s Letters” Discovering Genuine Christianity

Join Us!!
ZOOM or in Person

Contact: Al Koschmann
akoschmann@yahoo.com



Book Discussion

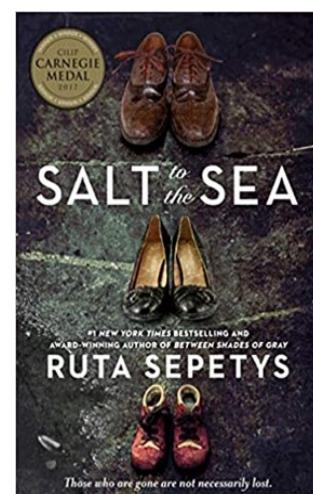
“Salt to the Sea”

Winter 1945 - WWII.
Four refugees.
Four stories.

By NY Times
Best Seller

Join Us!! Via Zoom
or In Person
Friday Sept 24–
6:00PM

Al & Marcia
Koschmann



Contact:
akoschmann@yahoo.com

Quilting will be starting up again in September be on the look out for more information in September's Chronicle.

Contact Karen Kolke for more information

*Rejoice always,
Pray continually,
Give thanks* in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

-1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Senior Fellowship



It would be so good to start our monthly meetings again in Sept. Lee and I are unable to lead this group again and so we are looking for 2 people to take it on as a service to our "older" congregation. Please let us know if you are interested. It involves planning a trip to some place interesting that is in or around Albuquerque and then finding a restaurant for lunch afterwards. We have had much fun and learned a lot in the past and hope it can continue this coming year. My number is 505-889-9705.

Eunice Hoeft



Christ Lutheran School Events for August

Orientation is August 5th
at 4:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.



First Day of School
August 11th

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Help Wanted!

The Fall Sunday School program for children (ages 3-fifth grade) will begin on Sunday, September 5th. We are in need of adult helpers to teach our three age group classes. All materials will be provided. The Fall session runs September –November. Please contact Lishelle Burmeister to sign up – 505-301-5358. Help us to share God's love with the future of our congregation.

Services during August

	Date	Time	Sermon	Children's	Lay Minister	Comm. Asst.	Ushers	Counters	Lector	Acolyte	Music	Sound
1	8:15	*Pastor Neal Groeling	Harry & Stinky	Jerry Shroff	(1)	Barbara Bennett & Renae Ricard	Ron McBryer	Emmelieme Schreiner	Beth Shroff		(2)	
	11:00			Al Koschmann	—							
8	8:15	*Dave Clark	TBA	Kelley Burmeister	—	(1)	Ted & Karon Paultat	Lishelle Burmeister			Joyful Noise	(2)
	11:00			James Gruetzner	James	(1)		Kelly Gruetzner				
15	8:15	*Doyle Boykin	TBA	Al Koschmann	(1)	Betty Swanger & Glen Postenrieder	Cheryl Frazine	Waylon Lowe	Beth Shroff		(2)	
	11:00			Jerry Shroff	—	(1)		Eunice Hoeft				
22	8:15	*Dave Clark	TBA	Matt Helge	—	(1)	Ron McBryer & Dave Oetting	Kat Fuller	Tatum Lowe		Joyful Noise	(2)
	11:00			Kelley Burmeister		(1)		Lishelle Burmeister				
29	8:15	*Doyle Boykin	TBA	Marty Rasmussen	(1)	Barbara Bennett & Renae Ricard	Kim Rasmussen		Beth Shroff		(2)	
	11:00			James Gruetzner	(1)			Kelly Gruetzner				

* Leading liturgy; Greeters: Everyone Altar Society: Eunice Hoeft and Susan Lund

NOTES: 1. No set schedule. If at a service and can volunteer, please do so.

2. Phil Pelzman will arrange and coordinate.

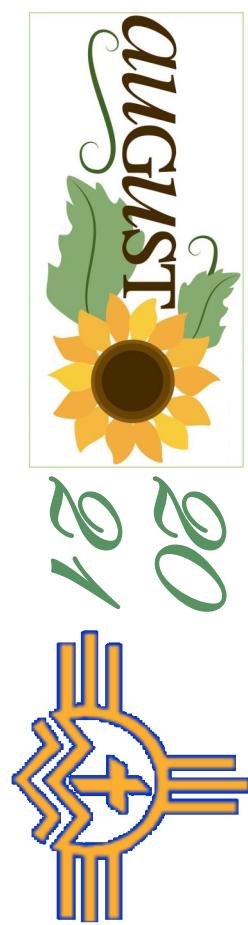
3. Open for a volunteer that's available to fill in

CHRIST CHRONICLE

Christ Lutheran Church & School
Monthly Newsletter

Sunday Worship Times: 8:15 & 11 a.m.

Sunday Bible Classes: 10:00 a.m.



SHARING GOD'S LOVE WITH ALL HIS CHILDREN, WHILE GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST!

PHONE: (505) 884-3876 | FAX: (505) 888-0655

E-MAIL: ADMIN@CHRISTABQ.ORG | WEB PAGE: CHRISTABQ.ORG

A STEPHEN MINISTRY CONGREGATION

Neal Groeling, Pastor

Beth Shroff, Director of Music

Janine Morford, Church Secretary

Rosemary Pagliaro, Bookkeeper

Jeff Bowen, Custodian

Kim Rasmussen, Principal

Cresta Combs & Lisa Hatchell, School

Secretaries

Hayleigh Saavedra,

Preschool Lead Teacher

Breanna Hitchcock, Pre-K

Leslie Lowe, 2 Year Old Teacher

Lishelle Burmeister, Kindergarten

Tanya Sainz, 1st Grade

Krista Stephens, 2nd Grade

Julie Henderson, 3rd Grade

Sarah Nixon, 4th Grade

Kimery Doyle, 5th Grade

Tallie Schroeder, 6th Grade

Kat Fuller, 7th Grade

Deon Haas, 8th Grade

Christ Lutheran Church and School
7701 Candelaria Road NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Return Service Requested