

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

CHRIST CHRONICLE

“SHARING GOD’S LOVE WITH ALL HIS CHILDREN, WHILE GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST.”

FROM PASTOR ERIC

And we are back! The changes that summer brings to our schedules often feel disruptive, usually in a good way. Between travel, time with family and friends, intense and oppressive heat, school-aged kids going a little feral, and maybe even having a little less to do, the disruption can be both positive and negative. In other words, summer changes things.

Since summer is now almost over, many of us are feeling the shock of getting back into the routines we left in June. The alarm clock and ever-filling calendar have taken their normal places of contempt. This isn’t necessarily a bad thing, but it is something worth paying attention to. Every new season gives us a chance to take a fresh look at how we spend our time and what we prioritize.

As our routines settle back into place, it can be tempting to simply let our schedules fill themselves. Instead, I hope this season becomes an opportunity to be intentional. My hope and prayer is that we would rededicate ourselves to the things we really want to prioritize, making sure there is time and space for worshiping Jesus with our church community and for serving one another.

The fall is always an exciting season in church year. Fellowship meals will be starting soon, ministries begin meeting again, new opportunities to serve and connect become available, and there are countless small moments where God is at work in and through His people. My encouragement is simple: don't let this season just happen to you. Prayerfully consider where God is inviting you to be present, and join us as we continue to participate in what Jesus is doing here in Albuquerque.

FROM OUR CONGREGATION CHAIR

TWENTY-TWENTY... SIX, SEVEN. YAY!

I have had the privilege of completing my first full year of serving as chairwoman of Christ Lutheran Church and School (CLCS). Thank You to all the staff, councils and board members I've served alongside this past year. God is faithful and good! On July 19th we had our annual congregational meeting where we praised God for everything He does, through us, at CLCS. Here are just a few of the things we are praising God for...

- **130+ students were enrolled in Pre K – 8th grade**
- **80 children attended the school's Summer Camp**
- **The School Gala was a huge success**
- **The Family Retreat was rejuvenating**
- **Increase in members serving on boards and committees within the church**
- **Fellowship meals have had great attendance**
- **VBS was a success, where many children heard the Gospel**
- **The school passed accreditation**
- **Paid an extra \$15K on our mortgage**
- **Church giving is up**
- **The Chili Cookoff and Talent Show had great attendance**
- **Multiple new members and baptisms**
- **Our Senior Ministry has been revived and active**
- **State Universal Child Care funds have been a huge blessing**

Our Mission and Ministry budget for fiscal year 2027 was approved. God is providing and we are very excited to focus on continuing to build relationships and congregational renewal over the next year. May God use these opportunities to bring more people into our growing family and share Christ's love with them!

With persistent budget challenges, we continue to work towards a sustainable financial future here at Christ Lutheran. An estimated \$200,000 deficit for FY27, we have already implemented some new initiatives to prayerfully reduce this amount. In the coming year we will be launching several year-round school fundraising teams:

- **School Gala**
- **Alumni Outreach**
- **Community and Business Engagement**
- **Grant Writing**

If you are interested in serving as a lead or member of one of these exiting new teams, please reach out to Greg Hoffman for more information. We are also starting a Financial Aid Review team. This team aims to help manage the school's financial aid agreements with families. If you are interested in serving on this team, please reach out to David Yocky for more information. Please pray about these opportunities and how you can be involved. I am excited to see how God continues to use the entire CLCS family to touch the lives of those in Albuquerque and beyond!

May God richly bless us and all our CLCS ministries.
Alicia Bolt – Chair of the Congregation

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Well, those two months of summer went by quickly! Does anyone else remember when summer was, in fact, three months long? Oh, well; times change, I suppose. My summer consisted of attending and leading the music at the LWML RMD convention in Colorado Springs, teaching music at our VBS, visiting a college friend in Denton, Texas, spending time in Natchez, Mississippi, where Jerry is working full-time now, and hosting family (sister, niece, nephews and their wives and kids) for a long weekend. Now a few days still exist to get ready for school starting, and for the arrival of our new granddaughter.

The theme for our 2026-2027 school year is "Rooted in Christ," based on Colossians 2:6-7 (ESV).

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

We will focus on growing our roots deep into the truth of Jesus, our firm foundation, so that our faith will grow strong. We are thankful for this opportunity to influence the lives of our students and their families, sharing the Good News of salvation even as they learn reading, writing, and arithmetic.

Church service planning, of course, continues through all the months of the year. We continue to use Joyful Noise, our praise band, to lead the 8:15 a.m. services. The 11 a.m. service is usually one of the Divine Service settings out of Lutheran Service Book led by organ. If there is a fifth Sunday in the month, we combine services and meet at 10 a.m. It's nice to have a chance to meet other people you might not see otherwise.

Our choir and bell choir will begin rehearsals again in September after Labor Day. Choir meets on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary and the bell choir will meet on Mondays at 7 p.m. in the balcony. New members are always welcome! If you'd like to find out more about joining either group, please don't hesitate to talk to me.

I'm praying your summer has gone well.
I am also praying for a cooler August; this heat is wiping me out! God bless each of you!

~ Beth Shroff



DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILIES

New Beginnings

It seems to me like each year the back to school season sneaks up on me a little faster than the last. The end of May seems like just yesterday, and the youth calendar is already filling up for fall. While this transition feels a bit abrupt, it's also an exciting time when we can all look forward to new opportunities to serve, learn, and grow together.

With a new school year, we have the gift of a new beginning of sorts. My role, in particular, will look a bit different this year, especially in my work with the school, and I look forward to seeing how these changes bring new life to our shared ministry in both our church and school communities. Last year, I had the privilege of serving the school as the 7th grade homeroom and 6th grade religion teachers. It was a truly unique experience, and I learned so much about the kids and even more about how hard our teachers work to care for our students and to serve and form them. This year, I will be focusing on confirmation and first communion classes, which Pastor Eric shared in the last Chronicle. At the recommendation of our lay ministers, it is my hope and prayer that this new program will be a helpful tool and safe space for families in our community to learn more about the gifts that God has given us through his word and sacraments.

Our youth group will also continue to be an important part of our ministry here at CLS. Together with the support of the youth board, I am excited to involve church and school families in fun and educational events and activities that bring a sense of community and the third space that they need to relax and have fun with their peers (work/school and home being the first two spaces).

As always, I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside each and every one of you and request your prayers as together, our ministry continues to expand.

God's blessings as we jump into a new school year and try new things!

Deaconess Elizabeth Dobbelaire

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

What are we looking forward to this year?

After all the lesson plans, classroom management plans, events and activity plans we have been busy making over the summer, here are some high lights to share with you:

- Chapel is every Wednesday at 8:15 am. You are always invited to join us.
- A PTL calendar of special events will be published. You are invited to join us.
- Our Prayer Warrior group will be meeting Thursdays at 11:15 am. You are invited to join.
- We will continue the Thanksgiving Fellowship Meal tradition, the Christmas programs, Spring Jubilee, and graduations. You are invited to join us!
- We will continue hosting the annual gala on 2/26/28. You are invited to join us!
- We will continue inviting you to join us to have your children baptized (if they aren't), and join us on Sunday mornings at 8:15 am if you don't have a church home.

More importantly than any of these things, we are looking forward to the opportunities for ministry, that only come as we share God's love with you! We get to love you and your students right where you are - through your pain, struggles, sorrows, celebrations and joys. We will be praying with and for you, and ask that you let us know if you need anything beyond your child's education...and guess what - you are always invited to join us by loving and serving each other!

Together In Christ,
Kimberly Rasmussen
School Principal

RAISE RIGHT

How to earn \$1,000+ for CLCS this year:

Did you know? Your next grocery bill, gas tank fill-up, restaurant check, and coffee run can all help towards different funds towards Christ Lutheran Church and School: Technology fund, Tuition, Extended Care, School Registration, Scholarship Fund, Youth Fund, GCAY, or LWML.

Join Christ Lutheran's Raise Right program so you can buy gift cards and egift cards to use as payment for everyday expenses and more. Every gift card purchase automatically earns up to 20% back—and it adds up fast! Plus, with the mobile app available and instant access to your egift card and reload purchases, you can shop with gift cards and earn anytime, anywhere. Each family can easily earn \$1,000 or more every year.

To get started go to raiseright.com or contact Karen Kolke at 505-206-0906 for help or more information.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

A Few Thoughts About “Esther Moments” - Al Koschmann

One of the most powerful stories in the Old Testament is the account of Queen Esther and how God used her to save His people. Esther, a young Jewish woman, was chosen to become the queen of Persia. Through a series of events, the king was deceived into issuing a decree that allowed the Jews throughout his kingdom to be attacked on a designated day.

When Esther’s older cousin, Mordecai, learned of the decree, he sent word asking her to intervene on behalf of her people. At first, Esther hesitated. Mordecai responded with these memorable words:

“And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:14)

Those words changed everything. Esther courageously approached the king, and through God’s providence, her people were saved.

It is no accident that you are a member of Christ Lutheran at this moment in time. How is He calling you to be part of His story at Christ Lutheran? After reminding us that we are saved by grace through faith—and not by our works—the Apostle Paul writes:

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10)

What are your **Esther Moments**? What **Good Works** has God prepared in advance for you?

At the July Congregational Meeting, Ali introduced five key committees that need leaders and members to help provide a sustainable financial future for our school.

*** School Gala * Alumni Outreach * Business Engagement * Grant Writing * Financial Aid Contact: Greg Hoffman: 937-974-9671 gregory.hoffman.1@gmail.com**

Could serving on one of these committees be your **Esther Moment**? Could this be a **Good Work** God has prepared in advance for you to do? We encourage you to prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to serve. Perhaps He has placed you here—for such a time as this.

*Praise God,
From Whom All Blessings
Flow*

BOARD OF MISSIONS

3rd Friday-of-the-Month Fellowship Night!

Come join us on **Friday, August 21st at 6:00 pm**, for an evening of **Bucket Golf**. Come play a round of **Bucket Golf** on Christ's Pastures at CLCS. Come see the hype around of ABQ's fastest growing interactive game show: **Bucket Golf!**

There'll be drinks 'n' treats to combat the looming mid-summer day heat. It's gonna be a win-win! Win best score or win a raffle. It's gonna be fun-fun, too! Have fun competing or have fun playing. AND it's gonna be a free-free event! Free to anyone associated with our school and church. Come be a par' of the CLCS family fun night on **3rd Friday Fellowship Night**.

The Board of Missions is here to support CLCS' efforts in serving God and honoring Our Savior, Jesus Christ. From missions 'n ministries to church and school events, let us know how we can help. For more info, please contact Sarah Nixon.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Since Stephen Ministry International began in 1975, over 600,000 Christians from around the world have answered the call to become a Stephen Minister and provide emotional and spiritual care for millions of hurting people.

Christ Lutheran Church and School became a part of this half-century legacy of care in 2016. Since then, sixteen members of our congregation have been equipped to walk alongside people going through grief, divorce, job loss, medical crises, and a wide variety of other life transitions and difficulties.

“I have come to really see the Holy Spirit’s guidance in my ministry when He helped me find a way to communicate with my care receiver,” one of our Stephen Minister said.

As we celebrate our Stephen Ministry’s tenth anniversary here at Christ Lutheran Church and School, we are preparing to conduct a new training class for members of our church to become Stephen Ministers. We’d like to invite you to consider becoming part of the worldwide legacy of care that is Stephen Ministry. Training starts after Labor Day, September 2026.

As a Stephen Minister, you will grow spiritually, be part of a caring Christian community, and provide Christ-centered care that makes a real difference in the lives of others.

You can learn more about Stephen Ministry and request a training application from David Yocky, 505-553-3162.

Christ Lutheran Church Officers & Board Members

Chairman - Alicia Bolt
Vice Chairman - Greg Hoffman
Secretary - Lindsey Shroff
Treasurer - Dave Yocky
M&M Budget Facilitator - Ron McBrayer

Board of Christian Education

Chair—Bill Vering
Anne McBrayer
Ron Brandhorst
Debbie Schneider
Kay Siebert
Neal Groeling
Lishelle Burmeister – Teacher Rep.

Board of Church Properties

Chair - Kelley Burmeister
Paul Guyer
Dave Siebert
Tom Fisher
German Montiel
Steven Nixon
Neal Groeling
Ron McBrayer

Board of Human Care

Chair—Marcia Koschmann
Eunice Hoeft
Rulaine Ethridge
Julie Holt

Board of Lay Ministry

Chair—Marty Rasmussen
Jerry Shroff
Kelley Burmeister
James Gruetzner
Greg Hoffman
Matt Helge
Quest Dobbelaire
Don Profit
Dave Yocky

Board of Missions

Chair—Sarah Nixon
Lindsey Shroff
Debbie Nixon
Fred Oppel
Krista Stephens
German Montiel
Dean Bahnson
Paul Gothard
Stany Nzabarinda

Board of Parish Fellowship

Chair—Kelly Gruetzner
Cheri Guyer
Candice Bahnson
Jessey Cherne
Julie Holt

Board of Stewardship

Chair—Al Koschmann
Tom Hebblewhite
Tim Klein
Bob Dragan
Dave Siebert

Board of Youth

Chair—Melissa Hoffman
Brian Earl
Chantal Muhumure
Julie Henderson
Hayleigh Saavedra

August Birthdays

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

8/1	Martha Louise N Stewart
8/3	Jessey Cherne
8/4	Ezekiel Earl
8/6	Matthew Helge Giavanna Malizia
8/7	Debbie Yocky
8/13	Debbie Nixon
8/15	Elisha Earl
8/17	Lee Ackermann
8/19	Kirstin Dykstra Susan Oppel
8/24	Jacob Rasmussen Matthew Sainz
8/26	Frank Modglin
8/28	Eric Robinson
8/29	Gordon Postenrieder
8/31	Jerry Kolke

August Anniversaries

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

8/1	Roger and Julie Holt
8/11	David and Julie Henderson
8/12	Craig and Judy Carter
8/13	Quest and Elizabeth Dobbelaire
8/20	Doug and Pamela Rickers
8/23	David and Carolyn Clark John and Diane Ivey
8/25	Sumner and Laticia Guyer

TUESDAY MEN’S BIBLE STUDY

6:00 AM

“New Testament Characters ”

Join Us!! ZOOM or In Person

Church Conference Room

Contact: Al Koschmann

akoschmann@yahoo.com

BOOK DISCUSSION

“Into the Wild”

True Story-Best Seller Mystery

Join Us!! ZOOM or In person

Saturday, September 19th, at 7 p.m.

Al and Marcia Koschmann

akoschmann@yahoo.com

HONOR CIRCLE

This month, we will meet on

Thursday, **August 13th at 11:45 a.m.**

Ladies 55 and older please join us at

Sunny Side Up Café. Call Eunice at

505.889.9705 if you have questions.

LWML

August 16 ~ This will be our annual luncheon and new officers elections.

We will be electing a new Treasurer

(Julie Henderson (officially) and we

are taking nominations for President.

The delegates from the District

Convention (Karen and Julie) will give

a report. All the ladies from church

are invited, if you know someone that

doesn't come to our LWML functions,

please invite them to the luncheon.

We will be having 'Our Favorite

Salads" if you want to bring a salad,

let Beth know. All the ladies from

church are invited.

GOD CARES ABOUT YOU - AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Summer has been full of blessings for the GCAY family — a joyful baptism, a festive 4th of July celebration, and a heartfelt farewell to our summer intern. Thank you for standing with us as we serve our International District community.



Baptism: Joe's New Beginning

During Thursday Bible Study in June, Joe asked to be baptized — a beautiful moment of faith the whole GCAY family celebrated with him. Praise Report: we thank God for Joe's baptism and the transformation happening in his life.



4th of July Celebration

On July 3rd we celebrated with cheeseburgers, watermelon, chips, soda, and ice cream, serving 132 people from our community. Thank you to every volunteer who helped make the day so special!



Farewell to Our Summer Intern, Macy

From June 8th through July 17th, Macy Froetschner served as our summer intern. Her energy and heart for service made a real difference — thank you, Macy, we are so grateful for you!

Restore Church Volunteers from Texas

What an amazing day! We hosted 24 volunteers from Restore Church. Most of them from Texas — the same group that returns to serve with us each year. In under 3 hours they painted walls, repaired the front gate, fixed the ramp, cleared a dead tree, and cleaned up every brush and roller. We praise God for His goodness and many blessings!



A Heartfelt Thank You to Our July Volunteers!

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who came out to the mission this July. As we reflect on the incredible work done this month, we are reminded of this beautiful scripture: God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. Hebrews 6:10

GCAY Director:

Elijah Saenz
505.377.2756
126 Pennsylvania St NE 87108
godcaresaboutyouabq@gmail.com



GCAY BOARD MEMBERS:

Al Koschmann
Bonnie Conrad
Katrine Stewart
Reverend J. Heffelfinger

Treasurer's Report

Report Period: August 1, 2025–June 30, 2026

surplus(+)/deficit(-)

Approved FY26 Budget

Income Source	Budgeted Income (\$)	Actual Income (\$)
Offerings	536,250	578,083
Special Offerings to MM	4217	4,300
General Fund	17,325	21,257
Total	557,792	603,640
School Income	872,405	850,265
School Scholarships	60,667	50,310
School Fundraising	150,000	125,580
Total School Income	1,083,072	1,026,155
Dir. of YFLSM*	48,341	48,341

Total Income	\$1,689,205	\$1,678,136
Performance to Budget		-\$11,069

*From Dir. of YFLSM salary fund

Expenses	Budgeted Expense (\$)	Actual Expense (\$)
Compensation	1,298,939	1,285,885
Administration	16,069	10,839
Marketing	12,500	8,313
Church Council	10,209	9,957
Responsible Board		
Christian Education	77,642	46,306
Fundraising expenses	0	38,103
Church Properties	273,969	244,405
H. Care/S. Ministry	1,604	(100)
Lay Ministry	7,792	6,386
Missions	11,138	12,003
Fellowship	733	89
Stewardship	257	283
Young People	3,667	(561)
Total Expenses	\$1,714,519	\$1,661,908
Performance to Budget		\$52,611

Budget-items Financial Summary

Actual Income	\$1,678,136
Actual Expense	<u>\$1,661,908</u>
	\$ 16,228
Other Projects (Unbudgeted)	
Other Income	\$361,479
Other Expense	<u>\$301,870</u>
	+\$59,609

Income Source	(\$)
Offerings	585,000
General Fund	19,500
Special contributions	4,000
Dir. of YFLSM	52,736
School Income	1,140,605
Total Planned Income	<u>1,801,841</u>
Total Planned Expense	<u>1,871,747</u>
	-69,906
Endowment Support	70,000
Final Mission and Ministry Total	<u>+94</u>

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are eleven months into the fiscal year. Here are some financial highlights:

1. Offerings are \$41,833 to budget compared to \$31,137 to budget last month. Thank you for your faithful giving.
2. The Boards, Administration, and Council have been good stewards and are \$52,611 under budget.
3. School fundraising and scholarships raised \$175,890. Thank you for your support!
4. We are \$41,542 to budget. We are \$16,228 with actual income and actual expenses on budget items; here I've added monies from the DYFLSM fund as income, because they are treated as income in the FY26 Mission and Ministry that was passed in July 2025.
5. There are challenges, but your faithful support has helped with these. Total school income is -\$56,917 to budget.

Thank you for your tireless efforts in ministry here at Christ Lutheran Church and School.

Yours in Christ,
David Yocky
Christ Lutheran Treasurer

AUGUST WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Sermon</i>	<i>Children's</i>	<i>Lay Minister</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Counters</i>	<i>Lector</i>	<i>Acolyte</i>	<i>Music</i>	<i>Slides</i>
2	8:15	Pastor Eric Robinson	Lindsey Shroff	Marty Rasmussen	Volunteers	Anne McBrayer Lindsey Shroff	Carl Bischoff	Rose Schoenherr	<i>Joyful Noise</i>	TBD
	11:00			James Gruetzner	TBD		Kelly Gruetzner	Lay Minister	Beth Shroff	Phil Pelzman
9	8:15	Pastor Eric Robinson	German Montiel	Greg Hoffman	Volunteers	Daivd Yocky Betty Swanger	Betty Swanger	Mason Saavedra	<i>Joyful Noise</i>	Madison Hoffman
	11:00			James Gruetzner	TBD		Kelly Gruetzner	Lay Minister	Beth Shroff	Phil Pelzman
16	8:15	Pastor Eric Robinson	TBD	David Yocky	Volunteers	Kris Donahue Sheri Call	Betty Swanger	Kylie Hoffman	<i>Joyful Noise</i>	TBD
	11:00			Donovan Proft	TBD		Eunice Hoeft	Lay Minister	Beth Shroff	Phil Pelzman
23	8:15	Pastor Eric Robinson	TBD	TBD	Volunteers	Ron McBrayer Sarah Nixon	Betty Swanger	Rose Schoenherr	<i>Joyful Noise</i>	Madison Hoffman
	11:00			TBD	TBD		Eunice Hoeft	Lay Minister	Beth Shroff	Phil Pelzman
30	10:00	Pastor Eric Robinson	Lindsey Shroff	Donovan Proft	Volunteers	Anne McBrayer Lindsey Shroff	Carl Bischoff	Mason Saavedra	Beth Shroff	Phil Pelzman

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

Return Service Requested



CHRIST LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL
AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER
SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:15 & 11 am
SUNDAY BIBLE CLASSES 9:45 am

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

Phone: (505) 884-3876

E-mail: admin@christabq.org

Website: christabq.org

ASTEPHEN MINISTRY CONGREGATION

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Eric Robinson, Pastor
Elizabeth Dobbelaire, Director of
Youth, Family Life, & School Ministries
Beth Shroff, Director of Music
Genelle St. John, Church Secretary
Anne McBrayer, Bookkeeper
Robert Griego, Custodian

SCHOOL STAFF

Kim Rasmussen, Principal
Cresta Combs, School Secretary
Miss Jenny, 2 Year Olds
Hayleigh Saavedra, 3 Year Olds
Preschool Lead Teacher
Laticia Guyer, Pre-K
Lishelle Burmeister, Kindergarten
Cortine Klinker, 1st Grade
Krista Stephens, 2nd Grade
Anne Hutchinson, 3rd Grade
Sarah Nixon, 4th Grade
Gene Postenrieder, 5th Grade
Lisa Sandoval, 6th Grade
Elizabeth Dobbelaire, 7th Grade
Deon Haas, 8th Grade