CHRIST LUTHERAN

November 2026 CONNECTION

MINISTRY UPDATES

United in Mission. Connected in Christ.

November is a month to slow down and count our blessings. At Christ Lutheran, thankfulness is more than a holiday. It is a habit rooted in Christ, who gives us every good gift. Come gather with your church family and give thanks together!

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!" – Psalm 100:4

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Our congregation has voted to call Pastor Richard Browning of Bonita Springs FL to be our Associate Pastor who will become our Senior Pastor. Please look at the article in this newsletter "A Season of Transition" that gives more information. Please pray that God would continue to lead us in the call process. I am excited and grateful to see what God has in store for his people here at Christ Lutheran! –

and...thanks from myself and Pastor Carretto for cards and gifts for Pastor Appreciation Month!! We are so very grateful for your support and kindness!

- Mike Moreno, Senior Pastor

SAVE THE DATE

November

1- All Saint's Remembrance
1- Golden Agers
2-LHCA Annual Meeting
3- Priscillas LWML
11- Church Council
25 - Thanksgiving Eve Service

HIGHLIGHTS

Campaign in Full Swing!

Our classroom addition is about halfway done! We estimate completion in February. See page 2 for information on how you can give!

Childcare GIfting Available!

Once more Nebraska allows a portion of your state taxes to support our childcare. More information on page 2!

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Join us on November 25th at 6:30 p.m. for Thanksgiving Eve service!

Uniting To Build

Goal: $1.4 million
Groundbreaking: July 5, 2026

What we're building: a new home for preschool and childcare, together under one roof

What it frees up: two classrooms in the school for 7th and 8th grade

KEY FACTS

- **Size: 3,746 square feet**
- **Two new classrooms approximately 1,100 and 1,180 square feet**
- **Safety: Certified storm shelter**
- **Outdoors: Secure play yard**
- **Entrance: Welcoming south-facing entrance**

Who it serves: Childcare (new infant/toddler space), Preschool (a permanent, purpose-built home), and Christ Lutheran School (a second section of 7th and 8th grade in the classrooms Preschool vacates)

Your gift is matched dollar-for-dollar! We have raised $122,000 and that means we have a match of $122,000! What a blessing!!

ROOM TO GROW

On July 5, we gathered to break ground on something we have prayed about for a long time: a new addition that gives our youngest learners a home of their own. It was a joyful day, and it was the start of a big step of faith together.
Here is the heart of the project. The new addition will house our preschool and our childcare center under one roof. That means families with little ones can move from classroom to classroom indoors, with no more crossing the parking lot in a Nebraska winter with a toddler on one hip and a backpack on the other. For many families, it will become a true one-stop shop.

And the blessing doesn't stop there. When preschool and childcare move into the addition, two classrooms open up in the school building. We need them. Christ Lutheran School has grown by more than 100 students in just over five years, and we are working toward two sections in every grade. Those freed-up rooms will become new 7th and 8th grade classrooms.

Our campaign goal is $1.4 million. To date, $122,000 has been given or pledged. Over the coming weeks, you will hear from our campaign committee, and you will see letters, flyers, and a short video sharing the vision.

How can you help? Pray for the children and families who will fill these rooms. Ask questions; call the church office at (402) 371-1210 and we will gladly talk. And prayerfully consider a gift or pledge toward the addition.

God has been faithful to this congregation for generations. Let's build room for the next one. – Mike Moreno, Senior Pastor

Pastor Browning

Did you know that Pastor Browning was born in Paris?? Paris Texas! His wife's name is Tina, and she is a registered nurse. They have two sons, Gabriel and Lucas who are both grown. Please pray for Pastor Browning, Christ Lutheran and Hope Lutheran in Bonita Springs, FL!

LITTLE QUESTIONS

We have been talking about calling a pastor, but little ones may be confused. What is happening? You can tell them:

- **God provides pastors to care for His people.**
- **Our church needs another Pastor to help Pastor Moreno and Pastor Carretto.**
- **Did you know that God calls Pastors and everyone to serve Him? You are called! Some are called to be sons or daughters, brothers or sisters! God brought your family together and He will bring another member of our family to us in His time! Isn't God great??**

A SEASON OF TRANSITION

Many of you have asked what our call to a new pastor means and when things will change. Here is the plan, plainly stated. In our 150-plus years, we have never had the chance to plan a transition from one senior pastor to the next. Now we do, and it is a real blessing. President Richard Snow of the Nebraska District tells us many congregations our size follow the same pattern: call the eventual successor as an associate pastor, then have him become senior pastor after a set time.

Our set time is one year. During that year, our called pastor will learn our community, and we will get to know him. At our voters' meeting, comments were made about the new pastor taking over at one year or earlier. To clarify, it is best when everyone concerned knows the plan we all agree to: one year, and then he assumes the role of senior pastor.

What about me? I am prepared to go, and I am prepared to stay. Every situation is different. Some new pastors do best when the former pastor steps away so they can lead freely. Other pastors would like the former pastor to stay and help. That choice belongs to our next senior pastor, not to me. I had the freedom to go about my call when I first arrived here. My successor should have that same freedom to go about his call as the Lord leads. Either way, I am blessed to serve Christ Lutheran, and I know that God will lead this process and lead me to the next chapter, whether in a new field of service or in some capacity here at Christ Lutheran.

How can you help? Pray for our called pastor and his family as they discern God's leading. Bring your questions to me or to Jesse White, our call committee chairman.

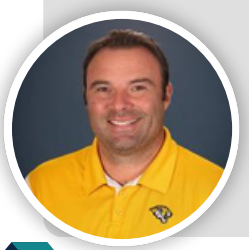
THE PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

Every August, a new group of students walks through our doors with backpacks, new shoes, and big questions. Parents trust us with their children's minds, and we take that seriously. But at a Christian school, we are given something even bigger: the privilege of caring for their hearts and souls, too.

Christian education makes a promise, and it is not a promise about test scores or trophies, though we are proud of our students' work. It is God's promise. In Holy Baptism, God claims every child as His own. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14). Our classrooms are one of the places where we get to help children come to Him.
Here is what that promise looks like on an ordinary Tuesday.

A first grader learns to read, and one of the first stories she reads is about the Good Shepherd. A fifth grader masters long division and learns that his gift for numbers comes from the Creator. A seventh grader who stumbles is met with correction and with forgiveness, because we all need both. Chapel, prayer before lunch, a teacher who says "I'm praying for you" — these small moments are seeds, and God says His Word will not return to Him empty (Isaiah 55:11).

The promise also reaches beyond the school walls. Timothy knew the Scriptures from childhood (2 Timothy 3:15) because faithful people taught him at home. That is the pattern we follow: home, church, and school working side by side, each strengthening the others. Our teachers are partners with you, not substitutes for you.
We trust the One who promised to be at work in His Word!



Christ Lutheran should be proud of the school they support and the kids it produces.

- Drew Urban, School Principal

DID YOU KNOW?

Raising Canes has a program across the nation where a school partners with a location and a portion of the proceeds from that day go to the school. Christ Lutheran School, Norfolk NE holds the RECORD for the most money raised in this Cane's region! Go TIGERS!!

PROMISES AHEAD

Faith: Jesus at the center of every subject, every day.

Family: Parents and teachers working as partners.

Future: Students prepared in mind, body, and soul.

BY THE NUMBERS

School Enrollment 2026-2027: **324**

Churches they Attend:
Christ Lutheran: 116
Our Savior Lutheran: 109
Grace Lutheran: 37
No Church Affiliation: 24
First Christian: 9
LifePoint Church: 7
Northern Heights: 5
Other Local Lutheran Churches: 4
Other Local Churches: 2

Landscape of Love

Members saw an opportunity....and met it!

A few months ago, members were talking about our landscaping on the west side of the church. The last time it was planned was over 15 years ago. Some members wanted to spruce it up and thin it out. Word was put out and funds were quickly made available! Our thanks to our volunteer landscape crew. Those who mow on Thursdays and the ladies and gentlemen who care for plants and trees!

New Landscaping!

Do you see an opportunity for service, a service project or outreach? Let's talk about it! Where is God calling you?

MOMCO IS HERE!

meant to do this alone. small group, coffee date, one. Each gathering starts nd something good to eat, rt, practical teaching and h other moms. We share ther, and leave with a hug. Oct 26 and Wednesday,

MOMCO

Contact Laura at laura.beth.kowalski @gmail.com or call 402-750-5116 for more information! We'd love to have you!!

TAXES AND BLESSINGS

The state of Nebraska is continuing the tax contribution tax credit: Individuals and businesses can contribute up to $100,00 of their state tax liability to an eligible childcare. Christ Lutheran Childcare is eligible and has received funds for this past year which has helped the church's bottom line! We want to spread the word and raise even more money to care for these little lambs.

Gifts made now will count toward your 2027 tax year, not your 2026 tax bill.
To take part, you must be approved for the program. Fill out an application and give the church business office a check. **Your check will not be cashed until you are approved.** We will host a special Sunday where we'll help you fill out your application. Watch for the date!

LET'S CONNECT Have a question or idea for ministry opportunities? We'd love to hear from you! mmoreno@clnorfolk.org or just come talk to me!

All Saints Day - November 1

A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

On the weekend of November 1, we pause to remember those saints in Christ whom God has called home this past year. At all three of our weekend services, we will hold a time of remembrance, giving thanks for the saints who have gone before us and for the sure hope we have in Jesus Christ. Friends and family of those we have lost are warmly invited to join us for this special time. Grief is real, but it is never alone. In Christ, it is always tied to hope. Please join us as we remember and give thanks. We will have this special remembrance at all three services.

A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

If you have a child who is grieving, we have resources for you too! Grab a "Remembering my someone special" journal from the Gathering Area.

"Bear one another's burdens...

Hope For The Holidays

"Hope for the Holidays ... Living with Loss" is a workshop on managing grief and getting through the upcoming holidays and beyond with a hopefulness that can overshadow that grief. The event will be held on Wednesday, November 4 at 6:30 p.m. here at Christ Lutheran Church. It is open to the public, and registration is encouraged by calling 402-371-1210.

Grief is a natural, God-given reaction to loss, and it can affect us physically, mentally and spiritually. Whether it's been weeks, months or years since a loved one has passed, there can be challenges at every turn. For Christians, grief is never by itself; it is always tied to hope.

Erika Kirk is quoted as saying: "Love doesn't ask to be healed. Love asks to be remembered." And that is what we take the opportunity to do at this special event as we share our memories, commonalities, differences and experiences of the grief journey.

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