

NEWSLETTER

CHRIST THE ROCK

Recap/Look Forward - October Edition



CARPENTER'S PLACE ANGEL AWARD

Christ the Rock was honored to receive the Angel Award from Carpenter's Place in recognition of our support and partnership in their ministry!



GREGORY SCHOOL COLLECTION

We recently collected donations for Gregory school, helping provide essentials for their students. We were especially blessed to receive thank-you cards from the students expressing their appreciation for the support!



SENIORS4FUN GROUP HELD A “STUMP THE PASTOR” EVENT



NEXT STEP WEEKEND



CHILDRENS MESSAGES

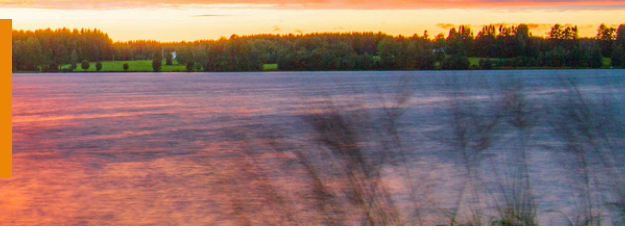


CARD MAKING GROUP



During our Next Step Weekend, we explored the many ways to get involved and serve at Christ the Rock. Members had the opportunity to learn about different ministry opportunities and consider where their gifts, interests, and abilities might be a good fit.

LOOKING AHEAD



UPDATE:
October 9th
6pm-8pm

Parent's Night Out

Drop your children off for 2 hours
Cost \$10.00/ Child
must be at least 3yrs old and potty trained
Drop off Starts off at 5:45PM
Youth Group Fundraiser for NYG

OCTOBER YOUTH GROUP

Thyme and Again Farm

* October 10th at
3:00PM-4:30PM
Meet us at the Farm

Flu Clinic

OCTOBER 11TH
9:00AM-10:30AM

Vaccines will be
provided & given by
Walgreens

must bring insurance card
Free and open to the public

Trunk or Treat

OCTOBER 14TH
6:00 - 7:30PM

DECORATE YOUR TRUNKS
CAR PARKING AT 5:00 - 5:45PM

Anchored Celebration

October 17th and 18th after all services
Root Beer Floats to be served!
Come and lets celebrate!

HELPING HANDS SERVING EVENT

OCTOBER 24TH TIME: 9:00AM - 12:00PM
MEET AT CTR
SERVE YOUR CHURCH AND OTHERS IN NEED



UPDATES ON EVENTS

- No Seniors4fun on Oct 20th
- No Video Game Night on Oct 24th



Dear Christ the Rock Family,

As I begin serving as Congregational President for the remainder of Kevin Jensen's term, I want to begin simply by saying how grateful I am for the opportunity to serve Christ the Rock once again in this role. I am also grateful for Kevin's leadership and faithful service to our congregation. He leaves us with much to build upon, and I look forward to working alongside Pastor, our Council, our ministry leaders, and all of you as we move into this next season together. The months ahead contain some wonderful anchor points in God's story—Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. They give us opportunities to remember God's faithfulness, celebrate the gift of our Savior, and reflect on where God is leading us. In many ways, I believe this is also an important season for Christ the Rock to reflect on where God has brought us and where He may be calling us next.

Our congregation has spent much of 2026 strengthening the foundation for the future—improving our organization, communication, leadership structures, and opportunities for people to become involved in ministry. Those efforts may sometimes happen quietly behind the scenes, but they are important because they help prepare us for the ministry God has placed before us. Council is continuing that work in several important ways. We are fine-tuning our policy-based governance framework so that the partnership between Pastor and Council is clear, healthy, and focused on mission. At the same time, we are working with Pastor on what we have called our Horizon Vision—our longer-term picture of Christ the Rock as an intergenerational church that helps people develop as disciples while pursuing the spiritual, physical, and relational needs of the greater Rockford community. Over the coming months, our work will be to prayerfully identify the three to five priorities from that broader vision that should become our primary focus for 2027. But identifying priorities is only the beginning. We will also need leaders, teams, and members of the congregation willing to take ownership of those priorities and help move them forward.

That brings me to a passage from Romans 12 that we heard recently in worship. Paul reminds us that, "as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ." He goes on to remind us that God has given each of us different gifts—and then gives us a wonderfully simple instruction: let us use them.



I love that picture of the Church.

We are not all called to do the same thing. We do not all have the same gifts. Some teach. Some lead. Some serve. Some encourage. Some give generously. Some show mercy and compassion. Some work quietly behind the scenes in ways that few people ever see. Yet every one of those gifts matters because together we are one body in Christ. That is also how I hope we will approach the next chapter at Christ the Rock.

Our Horizon Vision will not ultimately be accomplished by a document, an organizational chart, a Council, or even a handful of ministry leaders. It will happen when each of us asks a simple question: What has God given me, and how might He be calling me to use it?

For some, that may mean stepping into leadership. For others, joining a ministry team, mentoring someone younger in the faith, helping equip families, serving our neighbors, welcoming someone new, encouraging another member, or simply saying "yes" when an opportunity to serve arises.

There is tremendous opportunity ahead of us. We have been blessed with wonderful people, renewed spaces, faithful leadership, and a clear mission. Now our opportunity is to faithfully put those blessings to work.

As we move through Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas and begin looking toward a new year, I hope we will each prayerfully consider the part God is calling us to play. We do not all have the same function—but we are all part of the same body, serving the same Lord, and participating in the same mission.

Together, we grow to know Jesus and serve to make Him known.

I am grateful to be on that journey with you.

In Christ,
Mike Richardson
Congregational President

Ministry Spotlight

LUTHERAN CHURCH IN NORWAY (LCIN) SPREADING THE GOSPEL ACROSS NORWAY AND BEYOND

Christ the Rock is excited to support the Lutheran Church in Norway (LCIN) and its growing ministry of sharing the Gospel across Norway, Iceland, and beyond!

Founded in 2005 by Pastor Torkild Masvie, LCIN began with one pastor and one congregation. Today, this small but growing confessional Lutheran church has 10 pastors serving 15 congregations throughout Norway and Iceland. Through an effective church-planting model, LCIN continues to reach new communities with the Gospel.

The future is especially exciting! In 2026, LCIN is on track to ordain three additional pastors and begin theological training for as many as 12 young men who are interested in serving the church.

This growth also brings significant needs. Friends of the Lutheran Church in Norway (FOLCIN) helps provide financial support for pastors serving new congregations until they become established. FOLCIN also helps fund theological education for future pastors and provides essential items for new churches, including Bibles, hymnals, baptismal fonts, crosses, pulpits, altar furnishings, and Eucharistic vessels.

Christ the Rock is honored to join FOLCIN in supporting this exciting work. Together, we can help equip pastors, establish new congregations, and share the Good News of Jesus Christ across the Nordic region and beyond!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Anniversary

Jane Schmidt	10/1
Thomas Kersten	10/1
Kristin Lassandro	10/2
Sandy Johnson	10/3
Ella Pierson	10/5
Marie Pedersen	10/6
Judy Fiene	10/6
Barbara Garr	10/8
Shawn Miller	10/11
Vicky Buhl	10/11
Phyllis Naugle	10/13
Mark Hood	10/15
Linda Kugath	10/17
Amy Clendening	10/19
Merrilie Barickman	10/20
Greg Brady	10/20
David Shive	10/21
Hayden Blackmer	10/21
Michael Wilhelmi	10/22
Mike Fanuke	10/22
Emma Pierson	10/23
Michelle Perry	10/24
Ruth Sherman	10/25
Rebecca Woollacott	10/25
Kristi Buckley	10/26
Jonathan Hokana	10/30

Michael & Heather Wilhelmi	10/2
Duane & Ruth Sherman	10/7
John & Sandy Hallman	10/15
Ethan & Rachel Roberts	10/17
Thomas & Debra Kersten	10/17
Jon & Martha Stroberg	10/22
Nick & Kristin Lassandro	10/25