



January/February 2026

# Campus Sojourner

**Baptized**



Family & Friends of Joy Trindade Brito celebrate as she was Baptized into the Family of Christ on December 7, 2025.



**Congratulations College Graduates!!**



| <u>Weekly Calendar</u> |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Sunday</b>          |  |
| 8:30 am                | First Service  |
| 9:45 am                | Education Hour   |
| 11:00 am               | Second Service   |
| <b>Monday</b>          |  |
| 3:00 pm                | Staff Meeting  |
| 6:00 pm                | QuarterLife  |
| 6:00 pm                | Handbell Choir Rehearsal   |
| <b>Tuesday</b>         |  |
| 10:00 am               | Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study   |
| 6:00 pm                | Friends in Faith   |
| <b>Wednesday</b>       |  |
| 10:00 am               | Sonshine Ladies Bible Study  |
| 3:00 pm                | Monthly Mid-Week Communion Service (2nd Wednesday)                                 |
| 5:30 pm                | Praise Team Rehearsal  |
| 8:00 pm                | Shared Ministry Prayer Group - Zoom Meeting  |
| 8:30 pm                | The Gathering  |
| <b>Thursday</b>        |  |
| 7:00 am                | Early Thursday Morning Bible Study: 2nd & 4th Thursdays (In-person & Zoom Meeting) |
| <b>Friday</b>          |  |
| Pastor Kent's Day Off  |  |
| 10:00 am               | American English for You   |



**Elizabeth Novak**

Elizabeth graduated from Mizzou with a Masters degree in Accounting. She will be studying for her CPA. Next summer she and Noah will be moving to Kansas City where she will begin work as a tax associate at KPMG.



**Norah Pierce**

Norah graduated from Mizzou with a degree in Food Science and Nutrition and a Minor in Animal Science. She will be a Research and Development Scientist for Good Foods Group in Wisconsin.

## *Pastor's Corner*



**“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel...”**

**— Philippians 1:3–5**

Dear Campus Lutheran Church Family,

During the summer of 2024, I celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination, and January of 2025 marked 20 years of my pastoral ministry here at Campus Lutheran Church. In honor of these milestones, you so generously blessed me and my family with a trip to Hawaii.

Just after Christmas, we were finally able to travel together as a family and visit our 50<sup>th</sup> state. This gift was a profound blessing—offering us much-needed rest, renewal, and time to strengthen our family bonds. Your generosity serves as a reminder not only of the love that God’s people have for one another, but also of the free gift of forgiveness that our Savior has bestowed on us all.

Our entire family considers it a blessing to have all of you in our lives and to serve together alongside you, our brothers and sisters in Christ, at Campus Lutheran. We are truly grateful for your kindness, generosity, and love. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

We look forward with joy and hope to God’s unfolding plans as we continue to live in and share Christ’s transforming love together.

+Serving Christ with you+

*Pastor Kent, Jen, Emma, Norah, and Brennen Pierce*



# God's Love Gives

A Worship Series for Lent and Holy Week (LCMS Lectionary, Series A)

**Theme Verse: John 3:16**

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*

**Series Arc:**

God's Love → God's Gift (Christ on the cross) → Our Response (A Cross-Shaped Life of Giving).

## Series Synopsis

Lent draws us into the heart of God's gift: His Son, Jesus Christ, given up for the salvation of the world. This season is a pilgrimage of return—returning hearts to God in repentance, returning trust to His promises, returning hope to His victory over sin and death.

Each Sunday's Gospel reveals what Christ has given: obedience, trust, living water, light, hope, glory, His Supper, His life—and finally, His resurrection victory. Together with the midweek themes of *how* Christ gave (heart, joy, eternity, abundance, regular devotion, urgency), the Sundays of Lent show us *what He gave* for us and what we are called to give in return.



On **Ash Wednesday, February 18**, we will be offering **Imposition of Ashes** from **7-9am** in the Sanctuary. If you would like to be marked with an ashen cross at the beginning of the day, please stop by for this brief rite. Our regular Ash **Wednesday Communion Service** will be at **7pm** and will also offer the *Imposition of Ashes*.

## GIVING CHALLENGE

This study uses the "Giving Challenge" book by Rev. Zach Zehnder. A limited number of books are available for \$20 from the church office (\$10 for students).

## Midweek Worship and Study Themes

**February 18**

**Week 1 - Introduction**

*Giving Challenge* book pages 6-41

**February 25**

**Week 2 - Giving Happily**

*Giving Challenge* book pages 44-85

**March 4**

**Week 3 - Giving Eternally**

*Giving Challenge* book pages 88-131

**March 11**

**Week 4 - Giving Abundantly**

*Giving Challenge* book pages 134-175

**March 18**

**Week 5 - Giving Regularly**

*Giving Challenge* book pages 178-221

**March 25**

**Week 6 - Giving Today**

*Giving Challenge* book pages 224-270

[www.campuslutheran.org/giving-challenge](http://www.campuslutheran.org/giving-challenge)

## The Gathering



Dr. Peter Kurowski visits The Gathering, teaching us about the paradox of the Gospel and showing us examples of Jesus' presence in the Old Testament.



The Friends in Faith Bible study group helped serve the college students at The Gathering Friendsgiving dinner on November 19, 2025.

**NEWS AND NOTES—Announcements of Interest**

CAMPUS LUTHERAN  
And the Fellowship Ministry Team  
IS PROUD TO PRESENT.....

The Someteenth (17<sup>th</sup>?) Sort of  
Annual  
Talent and Hobby Show



Friday February 27th  
6:00 pm

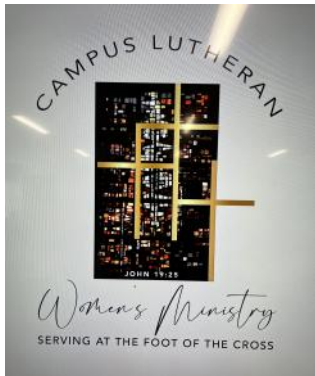


Perform on stage, display your  
craft, or just sit and enjoy the fun.  
See you there!

See Cindy Craig to put your act on the program  
573-999-4033 cindycraig65@yahoo.com



Our Tuesday morning coffee group invited our Internationals to join them for coffee and conversation. Amy from Taiwan and Carlos from Ecuador found new friends and discovered that they can hold a conversation in English.



**Women's Ministry**

The Women's Ministry Team is busy meeting and planning for the Saturday, March 14, 2026 Women's Mini Retreat to be held from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Campus Lutheran Church. Donna Snow's book "Strong and Courageous: Studying God's Promises in Joshua" will be featured. Registration will be opened soon. Donna Snow who is a popular speaker and author with Artesian Ministries has written more than thirty Bible studies and books. She frequently leads retreats and Bible study courses and is a supporter of mission work. We connected with Donna at the Best Practices for Ministry conference last February, 2025 in Phoenix, Arizona. She is very excited to come visit us in Missouri. In her bio, she mentions that her three abiding passions are: encouraging dear sisters in Christ, exploring the treasures in Scripture, and traveling the world. You won't want to miss this exciting retreat!



**SAVE THE DATE – Celebration Sunday 2026** is coming **April 19**. Mark your calendars. The highlight of our celebration will be one blended worship service at 10AM. Fellowship to follow.



On January 30 & 31 from 1pm – 1pm (24 hours) we will gather for a time of prayer for our church and ministry. This time will include: quiet prayer, walking prayer, and prayer in various areas of the building. We hope to have between 2 and 10 people praying at any given time. Participants are encouraged to commit to 30 minutes, though you are welcome to stay longer if you wish. Learn more and sign up at [campuslutheran.org/vigil](http://campuslutheran.org/vigil).



## LOVE Forward Homes

Campus Lutheran (very successfully!) filled six laundry baskets with household cleaning agents and supplies for some of the LOVE COLUMBIA apartments!

Members of our congregation took the list of suggested supplies and ran with it, as evidenced in the photo attached! People were excited to contribute to the success of this housing project, and to help the new residents get started on the right foot.

We pray for continued success with the LOVE COLUMBIA FORWARD housing project!





December 18, 2025

Pastor Kent Pierce  
 Campus Lutheran Church  
 304 South College Avenue  
 Columbia, MO 65201-5024

Dear Pastor Kent and Campus Lutheran Friends,

Thank you for your gift of \$13,579.80. We so appreciate your partnership and generosity as we begin welcoming families into Love Forward Homes! I'm also excited to welcome Bayliee Kulesa from your college ministry to serve as a social work intern at Love Columbia next semester.

With your ongoing love and support, you are helping us bring hope to neighbors who need encouragement. At Love Columbia we offer education, guidance, and practical assistance to face challenges and achieve goals. The underpinning of all this is hope, offered in love. We all do better with a cheerleader beside us who believes in us and stays with us through the hard times. Here are some recent examples:

- A single mom who just graduated from our 16-week Extra Mile financial coaching program raised her credit score 200 points and paid off all her consumer debt. She said, "It made all the difference to have someone to talk with and bounce things off of. Before I felt so alone." This sentiment was echoed in a text received by another Extra Mile participant, "I love that we have people we can discuss our finances with to help us figure these things out!"
- A first time home buyer, who had not gone through our homeownership education program, came to us fearing foreclosure. She was helped to raise her credit score to get a better interest rate and lower her monthly mortgage payments by \$500. She celebrated by ringing our Joy Bell and thanking us for the guidance.
- A young couple expecting twins were assisted with a temporary hotel stay, helped to get IDs and employment. They saved for first month rent and, with our deposit assistance, brought the twins home from the hospital to their new apartment.
- A couple got behind on mortgage payments due to illness and reached out for guidance. The wife emailed: "Your budget came in so handy. Thank you so much for listening and caring. You helped so much. Peace of mind for my aching soul. I needed you guys and you came through. It is not always about money. We have to learn to do this on our own and handouts of money are only temporary fixes."
- A young adult was helped with temporary housing through a HUD youth homelessness partnership and given coaching and support to gain self-sufficiency. When she successfully secured a rental apartment on her own, she sent this text, "I just want to say how truly thankful I am for everything Love Columbia has done for me. You all have helped me build a foundation and given me the chance to have a real home. Words can't express how thankful I am."

Thank you for bringing so much hope and encouragement to those who need it most!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Williams".

Jane Williams  
 Executive Director  
 573-673-2220 (mobile)  
[jane@lovecolumbia.org](mailto:jane@lovecolumbia.org)

*Gift Details: \$13,579.80 given on December 14, 2025.*  
 No goods or services were provided in exchange for this gift.

P: 573.256.7662 | W: [lovecolumbia.org](http://lovecolumbia.org) | E: [office@lovecolumbia.org](mailto:office@lovecolumbia.org) | A: 1209 E Walnut Street. Columbia, MO 65201



## GRACE Road



## Children's Message



Beth Greimann telling the babies about Baby Jesus!



# Children's Christmas Service



## INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY - BETH GREIMANN

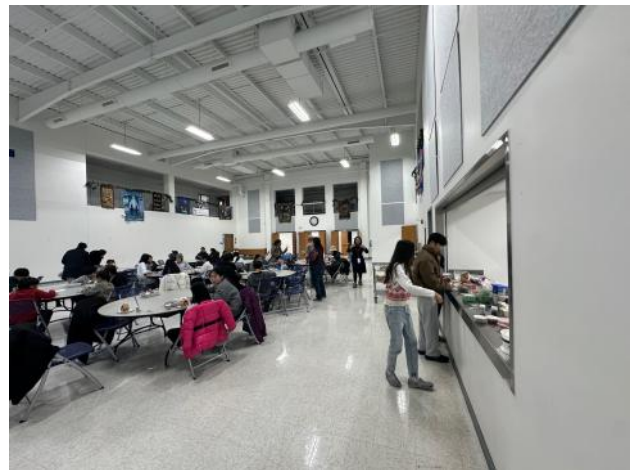
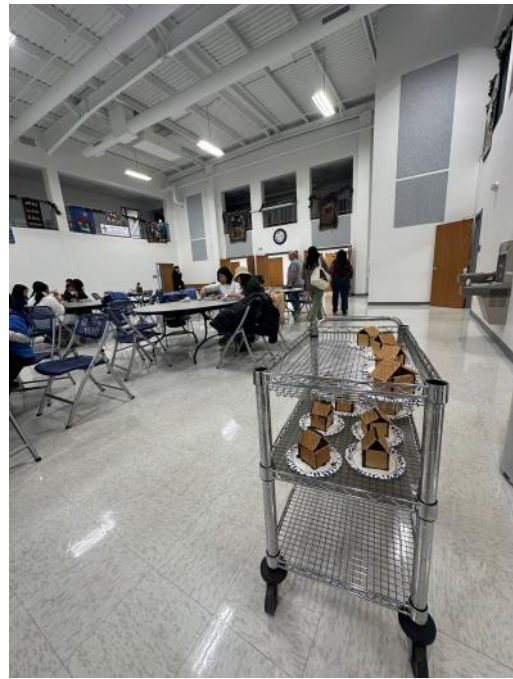


Asian Affairs Center graduation helpers.

### **Gingerbread House Making**

We had a wonderful turn out of international friends for a time of sharing American culture and the true meaning of Christmas. 14 elementary children, 8 high school students, 6 college students and one of their teachers from China plus 18 parents joined us. Families from 3 different countries, S. Korea, China and Brazil attended. Not only did they take home a decorated cookie house, adults and teens got copies of Lee Strobel's *The Case for Christmas* and kids got an Arch Book, *The Journey to Bethlehem*. The families were given tours of the church, invited back for worship and classes, shown our Share and Care area of free stuff and given info on our free English class.





# Church Decorating & Chili Lunch





### Christmas Caroling

A few of us went to Colony Pointe where Emmy Berg is and Westbury where Judy's sister is on Christmas .



# Meet Me at the Manger



Friday 12/5 morning groups from assisted living.









## Ministry Clarity Visioning Team Update

Our Ministry Clarity Visioning Team has been busy this winter creating and finalizing the guiding statement, which will be used to mold our planning process as we move forward. All comments and notes from the congregation's input last fall at the Vision Event were reviewed and taken into consideration as we worked on language for the guiding statement. The team wants to share our final version ""Through God's grace, Campus Lutheran connects people to Jesus in lives that worship God and serve others in His love". The next step of our process was to create Mission Pillars to consider what the essential actions our people need to be taking to live out this statement as a community. We have accomplished this task and our Visioning Team has completed all duties. We will now move to the next phase of the Ministry Clarity process by forming our Ministry Team. They will start meeting in February. We have enjoyed working with Eric Kennaugh from Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) as he guides us through this process. We are blessed and God has an exciting future ahead for all of us. Please continue to pray for our church as we walk through our Ministry Clarity program.


—*Deb Linneman, Clarity Champion*

SERVING THE LORD IN

## Latin America & the Caribbean: missionaryMAC



December 2025

News from Volunteer Coordinator Erin Mackenzie | [missionaryMAC.blogspot.com](http://missionaryMAC.blogspot.com) |  [erin.mackenzie5](https://www.facebook.com/erin.mackenzie5)

(If you received a hard copy of this and would like to help me be green and save on postage, please email [erin.mackenzie@lcms.org](mailto:erin.mackenzie@lcms.org).)

New York City trades grime for glitter this time of year: the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree, the bona fide toyland that is FAO Schwarz. And just think of the classic holiday films with an NYC skyline for a backdrop: *Elf*, *Home Alone 2*, *Eloise at Christmastime*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, *Serendipity*. Given the number of flights to and from JFK and EWR and the number of Dominicans who reduce the entire US to the Big Apple, you'd think it would figure into a list of the

### Top 5 Cities with the Most Dominicans Per Capita

Surprisingly, it doesn't! Instead, these top the list:

1. Lawrence, MA (52.1+%)
2. Hazelton, PA (45+%)
3. Perth Amboy, NJ (42.1%)
4. Haverstraw, NY (41.1%)
5. Patterson, NJ (27.6%)

### Clean Hands



Some days, I spent hours in my kitchen, getting ready to host guests or take a dish(es) to an event, or meal prepping. When I do, I wash my hands often with the "Pumpkin Pecan Pie" hand soap I bought on impulse —after cracking an egg, crumbling feta, or, this time of year, kneading flour into sugar cookie dough. When I finally take a breather, my dry skin craves some hand lotion.

Just before Advent began, fellow missionary [Dana](#) hosted a ladies' event for missionaries and seminary wives at the regional office (pictured). Guided by a PowerPoint slideshow, we alternately meditated on several prophetic Psalms and sang Advent hymns. One such Psalm was Psalm 24, which ponders who is worthy to "ascend the hill of the Lord" and "stand in his holy place" (v. 3). The answer: "He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully" (v. 4). Dana had a whole slide dedicated to the Hebrew nuances of "clean" (empty, completely absolved, innocent, blameless) and "hands" (palm).

Even after a good scrub with the "Autumn Spice" soap in my master bathroom (I like fall, OK?), how often are my hands *unclean*? How often do they hold or touch things they shouldn't? How often do they neglect to do things they should? No amount of sickly sweet lather can wash away the filth of sin.

First century hygiene practices notwithstanding, our Savior's hands were metaphorically as clean as they come. Nevertheless, Roman soldiers drove nails through his undefiled palms. And yet, the resurrected Christ beckons his disciples—and us—"See my hands and my feet" (Luke 24:39). Look on them, and give thanks that because He was pierced for YOUR transgressions, YOU "will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of [your] salvation" (Psalm 24:5).

**Making  
Disciples  
for Life** 



**Praises and Petitions**

1. Thanksgiving for the safe arrival of [Makia Adler](#) (Belize) and the [Rev. Jonathan Anderson](#) (Panama) to the DR for 4 mos. of orientation.
2. Thanksgiving for the confirmation of Santiago Christian School teacher Joseph Tan at my church in Licey al Medio, DR.
3. Thanksgiving for the installation of [Vicar Gavin Johnson](#) (DR) at Iglesia Luterana Pueblo Nuevo on 11/30.
4. For the [Wildauer](#) family (Belize), as Robin begins breast cancer treatment in the US.
5. For comfort in the wake of losing my 16 yr. old furry friend, Freddy.

**See Us After School...**

...if you're one of the dozen or so kids registered for Concordia Lutheran School's pilot after school program, that is! After months of planning and consulting with parents, the initiative kicked off November 3. One logistical hiccup was transportation: the regular *guagua* driver didn't want to do a 2nd daily run. Taxis would add up too much, but thanks be to God a church member stepped up to help and the funds to compensate him fell into place. A typical school day ends at noon; participants in the *sala de tareas* get a hot lunch and guided, multidisciplinary yet Gospel-based programming that runs through 3 pm, Monday through Thursday. Though one of the classroom teachers (not currently a Lutheran but open to catechesis) is the paid lead, other staff can often be found volunteering for the pure joy of seeing children grow in the knowledge of their Lord and Savior. The trial period ends just before the Christmas break, at which time school, church, and mission leadership will powwow to discuss the viability of making the program a permanent fixture.



*Below, left:* Abutilon ("Chinese Lantern Plants") in Constanza. The base of the overlapping petals is pentagonal! *Below, center:* Thankful for friends who bake pull-apart cookies, decorate tiny



cardboard Christmas trees, eat ice cream, and watch Christmas movies with you. *Above, right:* The last photo taken of my sweet kitty (with my sweet fiancé), in October 2025.

**Quote of the Month**

"Unless we make Christmas an occasion to share our blessings, all the snow in Alaska won't make it 'white.'"

– Bing Crosby

To support the LCMS through me, you may give a tax-deductible gift...

- **online**, securely from any device: [lcms.org/givenow/mackenzie](https://lcms.org/givenow/mackenzie);
- **by phone:** 1-888-930-4438 (donor care rep) or text **LCMSMACKENZIE** to 41-444;
- **by sending a check** (with "Mackenzie/Latin America" on the memo line) to:
  - ⇒ LCMS, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861; or
  - ⇒ Mission Central, 40718 Highway E 16, Mapleton, IA 51034.





## † Elders' Prayers:

**January 17:** Ev & Joy **ADAM**; Alice **AHLERSMEYER**; Judy **ALEXANDER**; Pat **ATWELL**; Darlene **BACHMANN**; Jon **BAHNFLETH**; Becki **BAIRD**; Jessica **BAIRD**; Dayna & David **BALDWIN**; Carl & Cindy **BARCHET**; Rollie & Tina **BARTELS**; Maxwell, Addison & Ryann **BARTELS**; Danielle, Phil & Luke **BECK**; Marilyn **BEISSENHERZ**; Matt, Amanda & Leila **BELL**; Emmy **BERG**; Harold & Jan **BLAND**

**February 21:** Jennifer **BOCK**, Alara, Evan, Andrew & Henry **APPERSON**; Dennis & Donna **BOGLE**; Jonathan **BOLDT**; Matt **BOLDT**; Andrew **BOLLINGER**; Mark **BRAKHANE**; Abner, Leticia & Joy **BRITO**; Caleb, Katie, Xavier, Vivian, Lorelei & Teague **BROWN**; Kersten **BROWN**; Steve & Chris **BROWN**; Tyler **BROWN**; Silas, Christine & Elsie **BROWN**; John & Sandra **BRUMM**; Lauren **BRUSS**; Lisa **BUNDY**; Emeri, Matthew, Saillor & Landon **BURGHER**; John & Karen **BUTCHER**

### Happy Birthday!

#### January:

- 1 - Benjamin Duque
- 2 - John Klock
- 4 - Caitlyn Huggins, Vicki Smith
- 5 - Carol Nacarato, Eva Moentmann
- 6 - Becki Baird, Lynn Wheeler
- 7 - Steve Brown, April McAdams, Howard Dierking
- 8 - Troy McAdams
- 9 - Keunhee Park
- 13 - Seth Muehler
- 18 - Adam Woodall

- 22 - Donna Bogle, Karen Nowicki
- 24 - Hannah Nacarato
- 25 - Emmy Berg
- 27 - Beth Greimann
- 29 - Addison Bartels, Judy Alexander
- 30 - Andrew Notch
- 31 - Corinthia Davison

#### February:

- 5 - Rollie Bartels
- 6 - Leah Koenig, Julie Zimmerschied
- 8 - Byron Duque
- 9 - Tina Bartels
- 11 - Sarah Pellis

- 12 - Abraham Zachary, Dale Linneman
- 16 - Harper Giboney
- 18 - Lynn Limback, Corey Moentmann, Lori Group
- 21 - Roberta Lee, Linda Hoffman
- 23 - Joy Adam
- 24 - Peggy Young
- 26 - Shirley Littell



Campus Lutheran Website...[www.campuslutheran.org](http://www.campuslutheran.org)  
 Church Updates – News, Prayers, Serving & Giving...[www.campuslutheran.churchupdates.org](http://www.campuslutheran.churchupdates.org)  
 Facebook... [www.facebook.com/campusCoMo](http://www.facebook.com/campusCoMo)  
 Twitter... [www.twitter.com/CampusLuthChrch](http://www.twitter.com/CampusLuthChrch)



**January:**

Dan Schoenherr, Tom Moe, Howar Dierking, Rose Ward, Rachel Skrabal, linda Hoffman, Joy Adam, Lynn Wheeler, Ken Greimann, Ron Hein, Dennis Bogle, Robert Herting Jr., Becki Baird, Barron Roth, Jessica Baird, Stephen Dupre, Benjamin Dupre, Seth Muehler, Aaron Schmidt, Kersten Bartholomew, Ryan Kulesa, Tyler Brown, Elizabeth Novak, Kaleb Vaughn, Annaleigh Lohmann, Leila Bell, Camilla McCloud, Emmanuel Agolory

**February:**

Heather Vaughn, Linda Heermann, Judy Alexander, Jackie Garvey, Matt Boldt, Hannah Nacarato, Eva Moentmann, Zachary Group, Lauren Bruss, Tim Giboney, Landon Giboney

**Wedding Anniversaries**



**January:**

Abner & Leticia Brito celebrate 5 years on January 23  
 Cindy & Duane Craig celebrate 18 years on January 20  
 Gerry & Kristin Duque celebrate 30 years on January 1

**February:**

Jenny & Doug Coon celebrate 25 years on February 24

**SAVE THE DATE FOR SOME UPCOMING EVENTS!**



**Veggie Tales Sing-A-Long Movie Night at Hallsville, Friday March 13<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 8:30 pm.**  
 Hallsville Community Center. Join us to share the Joy of Jesus with our neighbors in Hallsville as we join Bob and Larry and sing silly songs and learn about the Love of God.



**Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday, April 4th, from 9:30 to 10:30**



**CAMPUS LUTHERAN CHURCH VBS WEEKEND June 26th-28th**



**Campus Lutheran Church  
304 S College Avenue  
Columbia MO 65201**

Return Service Requested

XXXXXXXXXX

*Living and Sharing the Transforming Love of Christ*

**Rev. Dr. Kent Pierce, Pastor**  
(573) 442-5942  
E-mail: [kent.pierce@campuslutheran.org](mailto:kent.pierce@campuslutheran.org)

**Rev. James Lanning, Pastoral Assistant**  
(573) 442-5942  
E-mail: [james.lanning@campuslutheran.org](mailto:james.lanning@campuslutheran.org)

**Beth Greimann Director of International Ministry,**  
(573) 442-5942  
E-mail: [beth.greimann@campuslutheran.org](mailto:beth.greimann@campuslutheran.org)

**Vicki Smith, Office Assistant**  
(573) 442-5942  
Fax: (573) 442-6930  
E-mail: [vicki.smith@campuslutheran.org](mailto:vicki.smith@campuslutheran.org)

**Hope Kane**  
Student Worker  
E-mail: [hope.kane@campuslutheran.org](mailto:hope.kane@campuslutheran.org)

**Brian Heisner**  
Student Worker  
Email: [brian.heisner@campuslutheran.org](mailto:brian.heisner@campuslutheran.org)

**Web Site:** [www.campuslutheran.org](http://www.campuslutheran.org)

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