

CROSS ROADS

CLBI Newsletter

2025
WINTER
ISSUE

V. 33 NO. 1
JAN-MAR 2025



TEAM ECUADOR

(L-R) Avey Osterwalder, Sonja Rostad, Leigha Hansen, & Jessa Long



TEAM ECUADOR

(L-R) Blake Jack, Tyler Pelsey, Ethan Sherbanuk, & Charles Jackson

Upcoming Events

Check out what's coming up around the CLBI community!



**FEB
24**

OPEN CLASS: THE GOSPEL OF MARK

FEB 24-28, 2025 (with Daniel Berge)
Register at clbi.edu/open-classes

**MAR
03**

OPEN CLASS: THE BOOK OF ROMANS

MAR 3-7, 2025 (with Roger Viksnes)
Register at clbi.edu/open-classes

**MAR
04**

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER & IMPACT STORY NIGHT

MAR 4, 2025 - 5:30pm Supper (IMPACT presentations to follow)
Join us for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, followed by a presentation from our second year students on their IMPACT mission trips to Ecuador & Mongolia.

**MAR
10**

OPEN CLASS: THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

MAR 10-14, 2025 (with Erick Sorenson)
Register at clbi.edu/open-classes

**MAR
21**

YOUTH SURGE WEEKEND

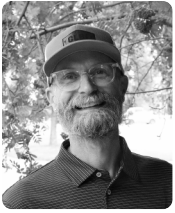
MAR 21-23, 2025 (at CLBI) - All teens & young adults welcome to this weekend conference! Meet new friends, grow in your faith, and learn what Bible college is all about.
For more or to register, go to clbi.edu/surge.

**APR
26**

CLBI GRADUATION CEREMONY

APR 26, 2025 - 10:00am @ Messiah Lutheran Church - All are invited to join us in celebrating the 2024/2025 school year at the CLBI Graduation Ceremony! Lunch will also be provided at CLBI following the ceremony.

For more, check out
clbi.edu/events



Scripture Alone: Guilt, Shame, and Doughnuts

Did you know that CLBI now offers eight different weeks of classes available to the public? The feedback we have

received about these classes, which all focus on various books of the Bible, is excellent. We have had students from other colleges attend classes on a week off, and retirees, alumni, and even parents of current students join us for a week. We even had individuals from California and Minnesota attend a class online. We added these classes because we recognize a growing hunger for God's timeless word. In recognizing how God powerfully works through His word, I am republishing an article I wrote in 2016 while serving as a Pastor of a local congregation.

"The sun was just setting on our confirmation retreat as four local pastors swapped stories about life as a parish pastor. From the stories, one could conclude that the church as a whole is facing challenging times: downright depressing attendance trends, young adults leaving the church and not returning to church once they have children, an ever-growing secularization of society, and the list goes on. I shared my honest frustration with responding to parishioners who were slipping away from a vital connection to the body of Christ—those who once had attended weekly and were involved in various ministries but now are seen only a handful of times a year, or not at all.

Since all four of us were from smaller centers, we all had experienced bumping into these MIA (missing in action) parishioners in our communities. What is the best approach to help invigorate their faith and connection to the body of Christ? When we see them at the grocery store, do we try to win them over with

niceness? At the school assembly, do we tell them that we are praying for them? At the community event, do we straight out ask them what is going on in their faith? At the sporting event, do we invite them to a new program that the church is offering? It is hard to know what to do. We laughed at the witty remark of one pastor: "Yeah, we don't have many tools left beyond guilt, shame and doughnuts."

The flesh, the world, and the devil bombard us, (the Church) with messages to abandon the body of Christ, to live life however seems best to us. As a result, too many of us embrace a "me-centered, consumer knows best" approach to life. The lie that comes with this way of thinking is that it is the responsibility of the local church to come up with bigger and better programs, productions or personalities to keep believers engaged. A strong focus on designing ministries to attract and retain consumer Christians is exhausting to pastors and parishioners, requiring loads of bucks and mega hours to maintain.

Recently, the Spirit broke through my thick head to try a different approach with a young guy named Mackenzie (he knows I am writing this article). Our church baptized him a year ago, but we hadn't seen much of him since. After one of those random chats with him in a store (that frustrated me again), I sent him an invitation via text, "It was good to see you yesterday. I would like to meet with you to do a Bible study together. It could be the two of us, or others could join us. What are your thoughts?" This was a sheep of my fold that I feared was drifting away and could use a feast on God's Word. To my delight, his reply was, "Sure, why not?"

How is this for cutting-edge ministry? Two guys sitting at a table reading through 1 Peter verse by verse. Radical stuff..

(continued on next page)

After 45 minutes in the Bible, Mackenzie was open to meeting again the following week. I didn't even have to bribe him with doughnuts! God amazed me once again with how he works through his Word. Rather than trying to convince Mackenzie of the benefits of returning to church, I watched God work through the first chapter of 1 Peter. God told Mackenzie that he is chosen, elect, sanctified through the Spirit and given an inheritance that will never fade (way better than doughnuts). When we came to 1 Peter 1:13, God encouraged him to live with his hope set on the grace of Jesus. God reminded us both that the struggles in our lives help us relate to those Gentile believers who were scattered through the Roman Empire.

The experience of watching God gently call one of his own to once again embrace his identity as a living stone, precious to Jesus, one called out of darkness into his wonderful light (1 Peter 2:4-9)—it has brought me back again to the power of God's Word. God loves to work through his Word. As I write this, we are four weeks into our study, God has brought Mackenzie back to re-engage with the body of Christ, and just last week he asked for a Bible to share with one of his friends seeking truth in their life. Go, God, go!

Guilt, shame, and doughnuts: tools yielding temporary results. God's Word: eternal and life-giving results. Hmm, which one should be our go-to tool? Well, Church (including you and I), we are facing challenging times. Yes, it is less challenging than what the original recipients of the letter of 1 Peter faced, but these are still unsettling times for today's North American Church. We desperately need the transformation that God brings through Scripture alone. Be prepared to be amazed!"

Today, in 2024, Mackenzie Wahl is a graduate of CLBI; is married to Sarah, whom he met at CLBI, is attending seminary, and works at the same church I used to pastor at. Wow, God is in the business of changing lives. I love to watch Him work through His word.

"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:9–11 NIV).

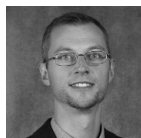
Be an Active Supporter. Join Our Open Classes!

Register today at
clbi.edu/open-classes

CLBI Open Classes are affordable week-long Bible courses open to the public that offer the chance to actively support and participate in the CLBI program.

OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 1
\$150	\$200	\$400
Online or in-person access + course content (audit)	Online or in-person access + course content (audit) + lunch (Mon-Fri)	Online or in-person access + course content (audit) + room & board, including Fri breakfast & lunch

UPCOMING OPEN CLASSES



The Gospel of Mark with Daniel Berge

FEB 24-28, 2025

Students will be led through the Gospel of Mark three separate times, each with a different thematic focus. This will help in providing a closer look into how Jesus is at work in the world around us and how we can grow in joining Him on His mission! Daniel Berge lives in Fergus Falls, MN with his wife Meghan, and their 8 kids, and is also where he serves as the professor of New Testament at Lutheran Brethren Seminary.



The Book of Romans with Roger Viksnes

MAR 3-7, 2025

The Book of Romans exposes sin's universal power to separate us from our God. Overwhelmed by God's new act in Jesus Christ, Paul proclaims the Gospel of Salvation for Jews and Gentiles. Contemporary attitudes and lifestyles will be examined in light of the biblical worldview outlined in this pivotal letter. Roger is the director of Rooted Gap Year Program, in PA, USA, and will be bringing his students to join us for the week as he teaches this foundational class. For more info, check out rootedgapyear.com.

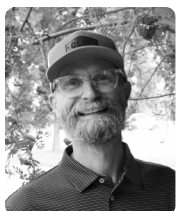


The Gospel of Luke with Erick Sorensen

MAR 10-14, 2025

The Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, & Luke) reveal Jesus' life, death, and resurrection in 3 unique ways as they account Jesus' teaching, actions, and salvation work. The Gospel of Luke reveals unique parables and perspectives of both the ministry and the purpose of Jesus. This class will introduce students to the perspective of Luke as inspired by the Holy Spirit. Erick Sorensen works at 1517, a nonprofit organization that exists to declare and defend that you are forgiven and free on account of Christ alone. For more info, check out 1517.org.

For more info on CLBI Open Classes, check out clbi.edu/open-classes.



Checking Items Off the List

Are you a list maker? If you are, you probably receive great satisfaction from checking something off your to-do list. I even

know some list makers who have been known to write tasks down that have already been accomplished just so that they can immediately check them off. This past fall, CLBI was finally able to check off some major items on our list.

Item #1

Our CLBI vehicles are *crucial* to what we do here. While we are grateful for them, finding affordable replacements can come with its share of challenges. On the other hand, when we announce that CLBI has purchased a new van (new to us), it is a BIG DEAL!!! Thanks to our incredible supporters, the newest addition to the CLBI fleet is a 2022 14-passenger Ford Transit. Hallelujah and thank you, Lord!



A week after purchasing the van, Pastor Ted Hill (Program Director) took the new van and drove some students to Leader, Saskatchewan (approx 420km) to connect with Trinity Lutheran Church. In January, we will be take the new van and drive our first year students down to Minnesota

(approx 1700km) to connect with other discipling communities. Having a safe and reliable van provides us with peace of mind for these long journeys.

Item #2

Question: What do you think is the most commonly used item at CLBI? Phones? Coffee mugs? Bibles perhaps? Your guess is as good as mine, but there is one item in particular that we often overlook, until now! Thanks to our beautiful donors, each dorm room on the CLBI campus has been upgraded with a brand new mattress (70 in total)! In wanting to *surprise* our students, we kept this fundraiser a secret, and I thoroughly enjoyed announcing to the them all that "Christmas has come early! Tomorrow you all are receiving a new mattress!" Let's just say they were a grateful bunch. What's more, the old mattresses (that were in good condition) went to local charities for distribution. Hallelujah!



With the postal strike now over, we anticipate that our year-end donations may be lower than previous years. With that said, I am so pleased to to share about these *significant* gifts that God has provided for us this year. I ask for your support and prayer for our beautiful campus, that God would provide all that is needed to continue to move CLBI forward.

Donations Update ('24/'25)

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025 (current year)

(as of November 30, 2024)

CONTRIBUTION GOAL:

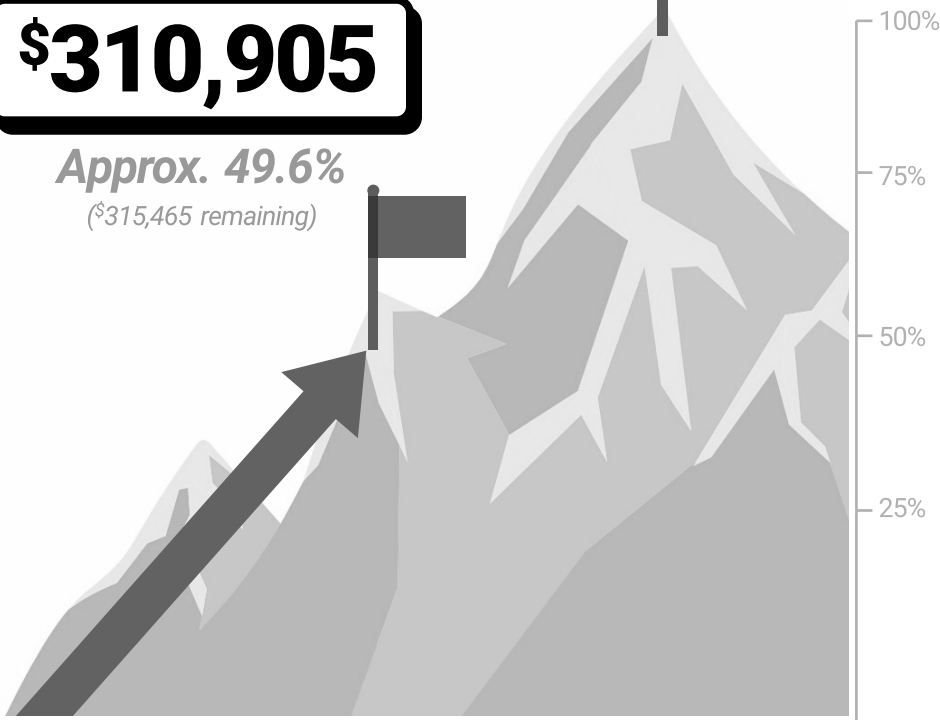
\$626,370

Current Total Raised:

\$310,905

Approx. 49.6%

(\$315,465 remaining)



DONATE TO CLBI TODAY!

- Etransfer to **finance@clbi.edu**
- Mail-in cheque
(CLBI - 4837 52A St, Camrose AB, T4V 1W5)
- Visit **clbi.edu/give**

DONATE NOW



CLBI Spotlight

NAME:

Blake Jack

HOMETOWN:

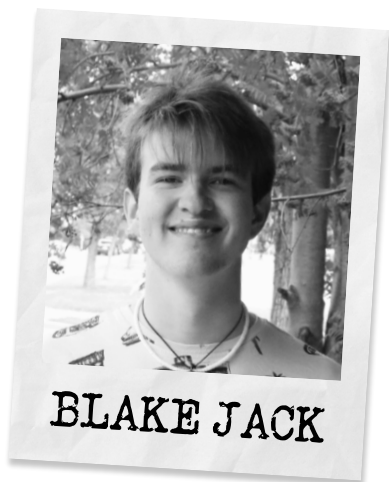
Stettler, AB

YEAR(S) AT CLBI:

Current Second Year Student

WHAT LED YOU TO ATTEND CLBI?

Both my brother (Landon) and my sister (Mackenzie) each attended CLBI, and they both had a really great experience. I could tell that CLBI really helped them grow in their faith, which helped me see that I wanted the same thing. I also came to ground myself in my faith in Jesus Christ, and CLBI has been the perfect place to do that.

**WHAT IS ONE MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE YOU'VE HAD AT CLBI?**

It's hard to choose just one specific moment to be the *most* memorable because so many of them have been memorable for different reasons! But if I had to choose, I would say throwing a murder mystery party with everyone.

WHY SHOULD YOUNG PEOPLE ATTEND CLBI?

Oh! All the things! One reason specifically though, would be the multicultural experiences that you get to be a part of, both international and local. In November I got the privilege of going to Red Deer, Alberta, with the rest of the second year students for our first "Cross-Cultural Prep" class. Leading up to this class, I had heard a lot about the River Church and that it is an incredible place, so I was definitely looking forward to it. Not only was it an awesome experience, but it was also really cool how we were invited right in to be part of their ministries and community. I'm looking forward to these kinds of experiences when our IMPACT team travels to Mongolia in January.

**PRAY FOR OUR
IMPACT
TEAMS**



TEAM ECUADOR



TEAM MONGOLIA

For more info, contact info@clbi.edu

Prayers

JANUARY 2025

- January 3: Jessa Long's Birthday (second year student)
- January 6: Class-Foundations of Faith-The Apostle's Creed (Instructor: Sye Van Mannen)
- January 7: Victor and Jaime Ocampos' Anniversary (staff)
- January 8: IMPACT trips for the second years
- January 9: Kim Rostad's Birthday (wife of staff)
- January 11: Ministry Tour begins to Minnesota (first years)
- January 15: Abigail Sylvestre's Birthday (staff) and Greg Rokos' Birthday (husband of staff)
- January 18: Anne Frederickson's Birthday (staff)
- January 27: Class-The Gospel of John (Instructor: James Avery)

FEBRUARY 2025

- February 3: Class-Life on Purpose (Instructor: Patra Mueller)
- February 4: Avey Osterwalder's Birthday (second year student)
- February 7: Elijah Jack's Birthday (son of staff)
- February 10: Class-Biblical Financial Principles (Instructor: Jeremy Osterwalder)
- February 11: Class-Law and Gospel (Instructor: Nick Joyal)
- February 13: Lisa Belau's Birthday (staff)
- February 14: Dena Rokos' Birthday (staff)
- February 16: Tobias Sherbanuk's Birthday (first year student)
- February 19: staff and students at Dwelling

Retreat

- February 24: Class-Gospel of Mark (Instructor: Daniel Berge)
- February 25: Ted Hill's Birthday (staff) and Dean and Kim Rostad's Anniversary (staff)

MARCH 2025

- March 3: Class-Romans (Instructor: Roger Viksnes)
- March 4: Shrove Tuesday
- March 7: Garrick Rokos' Birthday (son of staff)
- March 10: Class-Gospel of Luke (Instructor: Erick Sorenson)
- March 17: Class-Dwelling in God's Word (Instructors: Dean Rostad and Ted Hill)
- March 22: Jaime Ocampos' Birthday (staff)
- March 23: Ezekial Jack's Birthday (son of staff)
- March 24: Nathan Carlson's Birthday (staff)
- March 25: Alexander Thielmann's Birthday (first year student)
- March 26: Class- 1& 2 Corinthians (Instructor: Andrew Craig)
- March 31: Class-Passion Narratives (Instructor: Brad Everett)

CLBI COMMUNITY

- The health, safety, and well-being of our staff, students and instructors
- For student enrolment for the 2025-2026 school year
- God's provision of finances for CLBI
- Growth and commitment of faithful CLBI supporters
- CLBI's connections to continue to grow with youth groups and churches

Announcements

BIRTHS:

Melissa (Skretting, 2008-2010) and Chris Rohuede had son Ezra Christopher on October 2, 2024.

La Dauna (Skeeters, 2015-2017) and Derrick Boulianne (2015-2017) had Benjamin Oliver on October 9, 2024.

Jodi (Harrison, 2008-2009/current staff) and Myles Bogstie had Oliver Dean on December 4, 2024.

Emma (Johnson, 2015-2017) and Jeremiah Dorland (2014-2016) had Bo Gregory Reid on December 9, 2024.

MEMORIALS:

(September 1, 2024-November 30, 2024)

Lilas Johnson, Edmund & Ruby Hirsch, Joyce Bergquist, Norma Anderson, Brenda Boulianne, Verneal (Grue) Kallevig, Lorraine Radke

Total Memorials: \$102,535

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A WEEKEND CONFERENCE FOR YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

CLBI

YOUTH SURGE 2025



March
21-23
2025

REGISTRATION

\$20 PER
PERSON

(yeah, you read that right)

CLBI CAMPUS
(Camrose, AB)

REGISTER TODAY

SCAN QR CODE
or visit CLBI.EDU/SURGE



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STAY UP TO DATE



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Your faith.

One campus.

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**Tuition & costs for 2025/2026 First Year Program*