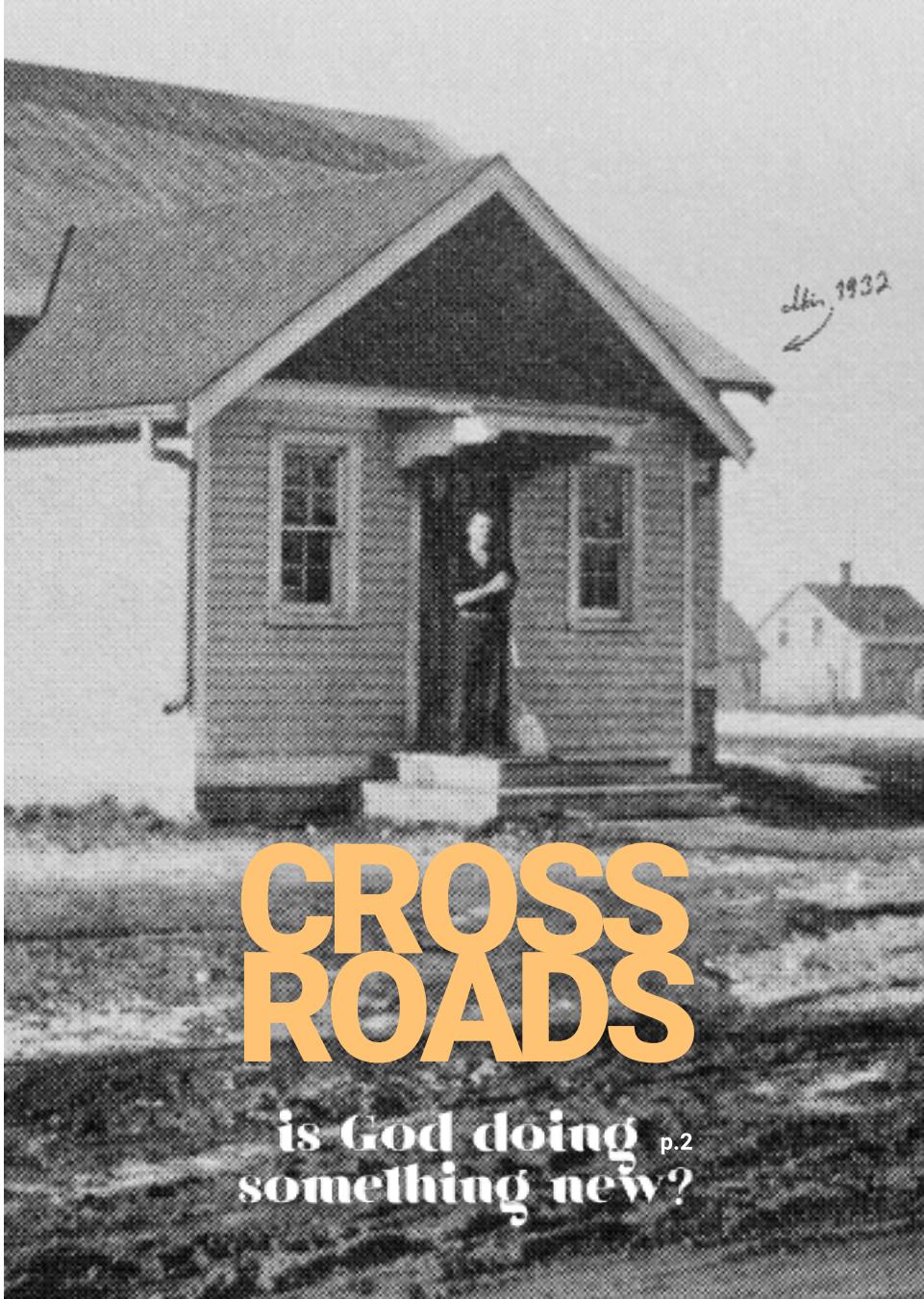


FALL
ISSUE

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NOV 2025

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CROSS ROADS

**is God doing p.2
something new?**

We love to use that verse in Isaiah about God doing something "new" whenever we change things...

You know the one, "Behold, I am doing a new thing..." (Is. 43:19) We even used it a handful of years ago in Crossroads!

Now, here we are in the midst of another school year and some things have, indeed, changed!

We might ask, again,

Is God doing something new?

Staff whom we know and love have heard God's call to serve in *new* places outside of CLBI, and *new* staff have heard that same call to serve inside its walls (see page 3).

But that's not all.

There are *new* classes with *new* instructors, *new* schedules and rhythms of life together, *new* paint on the walls, not to mention those plans for *new* bathrooms and a *new* conference room. There's a *new* website being made, there are *new* first years, *new* second years, *new* community students; even CROSSROADS is kind of *new*!

There is a **lot** of change happening. Some of it might even be uncomfortable change.

But *is God doing something new?*

CLBI was founded on November 14, 1932. Students, teachers, and other staff gathered together that day, and thus began the past 94 years of work in the Bible School. Perhaps you're even reading this on the anniversary of our founding.

We stand on the shoulders of others, and come from a blessed heritage. *Praise be to God!*

The following was written about CLBI back in 1997 by President Norm Miller:

"CLBI... was established to provide a strong, Biblical, Christ-centered, foundation for young and old. It began and continues to exist because of the faith, prayers and financial support of hundreds of highly motivated lay people and leaders."

This was and is still true; we are what we have always been

Yes, God told His people, Israel, "Behold, I am doing a new thing." And yes, God will do a "new" thing at CLBI, too.

He always does!

Every staff member and student leaves this place a different disciple than when they arrived. They're made new, formed by God's Word of Law & Gospel, strengthened and encouraged by His people "living together in unity." (Ps. 133:1)

This is how it has *always* been.

Lots of change, in order to accomplish the mission. God making people new. Same old CLBI.

This edition of CROSSROADS is **jam packed**. We pray you are encouraged and strengthened by it.

Keep reading to see what God has been up to at CLBI, what's coming in the next few months, and how you might take part!

-from the Editor

Meet the 2025/2026 Staff



Erik Osness
Interim President



Ted Hill
Program Director



Tyler Adam
Dir. of Operations



Wanda Manson
Dir. of Finance



Steven Belau
Resident Life



Nick Joyal
Dir. of
Communications



Demara Joyal
Office
Administrator

Nick & Demara Joyal are new to the staff team at CLBI this year. They recently moved to Camrose from Beaumont, Alberta, where they had spent a little over ten years serving with Living Hope Lutheran Brethren Church, where Nick was ordained with the CLBC. They are both Saskatchewan raised CLBI alumni. They've been married 10 years and have 4 children.



Amy Jack
Acting Dir. of
Food Services



Megan Semmens
Food Services



Iona Brager
Food Services



Dena Rokos
Food Services



Kim Rostad
Food Services



Lisa Belau
IMPACT Dir.
& Resident Life



Kiara Abma
Watering Hole
Coordinator

Our always-incredible Food Services Team is full of new & familiar faces. Megan, Iona, Dena & Kim are lending their hands and expertise serving alongside Amy at various capacities in the kitchen keeping everyone fed and strong! This year our short-term staff numbers have reduced to just one: Kiara Abma! Kiara joins the CLBI team this year as our "Watering Hole" coordinator, working with the students in their service practicums.

Taking Stock Of Things



Cullen Halvorson
Former Director of
Communications & Admissions

Recently, a Canadian broadcaster and music journalist named Alan Cross released a special series titled *"The 100 Greatest Rock Moments of the Millennium So Far."*

It takes a look back at the last 25 years of rock music to show just how we got to where we are now. Alan's purpose is clear: *"... it's important every once in a while [that] we stop and take stock of things... so much has changed in a very short period of time... and now that we're a quarter of the way through the 21st century, enough time has passed so that we can look back with some clarity."*

Music is my jam. Full stop. I love listening to it, playing it, sharing it with people, and learning more about it. Recently, while enjoying this series about music, it has also helped me to stop, look back, and "take stock" of all that has been happening in my own life, particularly at CLBI.

Back in May, I let the CLBI staff and Board of Directors know that I would be resigning from my job at the school. It was hard to leave a community that I have been a part of for so long, and even more so due to the fact that CLBI had just hired a new president and office administrator two months prior (*oof*, my bad guys)! For the past seven years, I have had the privilege of serving as the Director of Admissions and Communications. I'm so grateful for all those in the CLBI community who have helped shape me into the man I am today.

A lot can change over the course of seven years. Back in 2018, when I started working at CLBI, I had one wife, one kid, and one kid on the way. Fast forward to 2025, I have one wife (same one), and *four* kids! In a very real way, 2018 feels like a lifetime ago. Oh, and it was also two years pre-COVID. We were so young... *sigh*

There were also a significant number of changes happening around CLBI as well. The technology on campus was significantly upgraded, the Community Student Program was resurrected, short-term staff positions were developed, new infrastructure was completed with the addition of the ARC Shelter and the new maintenance shop (not to mention the growth and development of open classes and of other events like the CLBI Open House and Youth Surge).

As I look back and see how much has changed in my own life *and* at CLBI, I am happy and proud! I'm excited and hopeful for this new chapter at CLBI, and I'm equally looking forward to the opportunities God has in store for me.

Now, I may not be sailing away into the sunset or embarking on an epic exploration deep into space, but I *have* learned a thing or two during my time. So, to the CLBI staff and students of 2025/2026, I gift you this wisdom that shall serve as a compass and beacon of hope in the darkest of times:

Jesus good. Satan bad.
Wanda terrifying. 😊

IMPACT 2025/2026



Lisa Belau
Director of IMPACT & Residence Life

IMPACT stands for Intentional Ministry of Prayer and Cultural Training. It is part of the 2nd year program. I get to work with the students in learning about other cultures, global missions, and planning trips overseas in January!

The purpose of these trips is to witness what God is doing in other parts of the world, to engage unreached people groups with the Gospel, and to encourage and be encouraged by the global church family in those places.

Before I started working at CLBI last year, I was working in West Africa as a career missionary. For over 10 years I lived among an unreached people group, focusing on children's ministry. When returned on a home assignment last summer (June 2024), the plan was to return to Cameroon. However, it became apparent that another term without teammates was not something I was able or willing to do, and it was not recommended by my leadership.

I am so glad to be back in Canada for the time being, and getting to be a part of this community is a good gift from the Lord! I am also so thankful to be able to continue engaging in world missions in this context.

While the CLBI teams travel in January, I will make a 3 week trip back to Cameroon... for closure, to say goodbyes, and pack up my house there. I am excited and at the same time hesitant to return; it being so far away, and so much connecting me to Canada right now. Yet I also know how important it is to go and visit the people, my "family" there, and say goodbye for now.

As the life I lived this past decade comes to an end, I want to acknowledge it with gratitude for what God has done. I have great anticipation and expectations for what He has planned for the IMPACT teams, as well as myself, as we prepare for these trips in the new year.

Thank you for your continual prayers!

TEAMS (L-R)

Cambodia: Zachary Stolee, Till Niehoff, Alexander Thielmann, Charles Jackson

Taiwan: Julia Rostad, Elijah Ryan, Emmett Schultz, Anna Kochendorfer

India: Alexander Haugen, Draken Mol, William Frederickson, Tobias Sherbanuk



New Rhythms of Life Together

Ted Hill
Program Director



Time is fascinating to me...

On my desk I have four items of time. They are all related to my Dad, who died on August 5th, 2022.



There is the wrist watch that he wore until the day he died; it is still keeping accurate time!



There is a date block set that my grandfather had in his home, which my Dad received when his Dad died.



There is a Hong Kong one dollar coin that my Dad kept. The date on the coin is 1970, which is the year I was born!



Lastly, there is an old pocket watch that was in the family - it does not work.

All of these capture my attention around time. It is fascinating to me...

We talk about time "flying" when we know it doesn't. We are stressed about not having enough time even though it is always the same.

Our experience of time is shaped by our choices. We fear wasting it. This is where being intentional and reflective can be either scary or hopeful. Our life is always lived in time!

The question is, what do we do with the same 24 hours we know we have each day?

"Curate" is a new favourite word of mine; one that I am realizing may be of vital importance in our particular season of history. To 'curate' is to define a specific space and time to focus on, and then fill that particular space and time with something of high value to both us and the community together. It is not random or based on feelings or a state of mind - it is something decided by the curator ahead of time!

We as staff, along with input from students, are curating our daily rhythms.

For nearly a quarter of a century CLBI's daily schedule has been mostly the same. This past year we worked together as staff to consider something new: curating the time we have in a day.

This curation results in a new rhythm of life together. Here's what it looks like...

Three class periods, intentional times of prayer and Scripture reading, service, and rest.

Our first class is 60 minutes long, from 8:30 am - 9:30 am (where it used to be 8:30 am to 10:00 am). Then we now gather together for Morning Prayer led by our chaplains (a 2nd year leadership position), followed by a time of solo prayer and devotion.

Chapel Services still take place Monday, Wednesday, Friday, led by staff and students.

Both our Prayer Chapel and main Chapel space, too, have been refreshed! They both look and feel different than they have in the past. There has been an intentional movement toward the historical practices of the Church, which you can see reflected in our chapel spaces.

Tuesdays and Thursdays typically do not have a Chapel service. Instead, there is an option for staff and student one-on-ones, extended solo prayer, or good ol' rest (a nap, because we know students will sometimes!!).

Snack & fellowship follows, and then our second hour of class time begins at 11:00 am (what once took place from 11:15 to 12:30).

At noon the students break into small Bible Reading groups for half an hour. There they read the Scriptures out loud to and with each other, and then discuss what God is bringing up in them.

Lunch is still at 12:30, and work duties still happen at 1:00. However, at 2:00 pm the third hour of class begins. This time is focused on guided discussion of the class content or on a workshop style of learning, which is different from the morning classes that are more lecture heavy.

The afternoon ends, and the evening begins, with more intentional time of prayer gathered as a community. Evening Prayer is also led by our 2nd year chaplains, and (so far) has settled in to the historic prayer life of the church. This includes part of the daily office of vespers, interceding in prayer for our community, and for the larger church too!

Along with the new curated schedule, we have also built in some predictability so that each Monday - the beginning of a new class - there is a familiar rhythm of assignments and workload that is standard every week.

It is in these rhythms of life together that we are formed by God in His Word, His active grace and loving presence among us as a community.

Bible College Made For Here & Now

Part 1



In the opening paragraphs of this newsletter, a quotation was included from "Send Out Your Light," by Dr. G. O. Evenson, which recounts the history of the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute from its founding through to the mid 1990's.

Throughout his important work, Dr. Evenson notes the number of Scandinavian countries whose descendants made up the founders, teachers, and first leaders of our school, plus the various other countries from which students have joined the CLBI community (places like the U.S., China, Jamaica, and more)!

He points to the shared passion for the CLBI mission that drew Lutherans from across the spectrum; from the LCC to the ELCIC, plus other denominations and traditions, as well.

He admits that there has also been turbulence, disagreement, and criticisms made of the school.

He goes through the financial realities that followed the unexpected surge of enrollment in the 70's and the expansion of the campus; and then the decision to sell those acquired properties & recover.

Our student body has ranged from 16 students to upwards of 140, and the ministries for and by these students have been local, national, and international.

The Addendum to Dr. Evenson's book, put together for the 80th Anniversary of CLBI, details more of these numbers, and the drastic program change that took place in the early 2000's (along with the calling of new staff coinciding with this program).

(...maybe we should have another volume of the history book picking up on the addendum?)

There have been 11 presidents, many more staff, many *many* more volunteers, and *thousands* of students that make up the story of our Bible School.

As the 9th president of CLBI, Ronald Mayan, wrote in 1990,

"Indeed, the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute is one of the priceless gems of Canadian Lutheranism... Consistently, it has provided spiritual formation, faith/life integration and personal spirituality opportunities to generation after generation..."

Our near-100 year history is full of God's faithfulness in both smooth sailing *and* turbulence.

By God's grace, CLBI has sought to preach and teach God's Word rightly and in accordance with the Lutheran Confessions, which we hold dear.

By God's grace, His Word of Law & Gospel has changed the hearts and lives of both student and staff.

By God's grace, CLBI's intentional Christian community has gone out from the campus to serve in various vocations (from mothers to preachers to insurance brokers to government to missionaries, and everything in between). God, in His grace, has worked through our school & students.

Praise be to God!

Yes, our history is full of God's faithfulness. By His grace it is also full of prayer, trust, and thanksgiving for all that He has given.

Our history is *important*; it is a *gift*, and important to remember.

Without it, *we would not exist today*.

You could say, without there and then, we would not *be* here and now.

Indeed, as the slogan on our website goes, we are a "Bible College Made For Here & Now."

Like any good slogan, this one can describe *multiple* aspects of CLBI.

First, we are a Bible College.

You might be thinking, "that's obvious," but sometimes it's good to be reminded!

CLBI is something different from other schools. In some ways CLBI is even different from other Christian schools, too!

As quoted above, CLBI is one of the priceless gems of Canadian Lutheranism. In fact, we are perhaps the only Canadian Lutheran Bible College. We are a *discipleship* school; our mission and focus has never changed.

We teach the Bible. Period.

Sure, there has been turbulence and valid criticism of the school (as there is anywhere). Yet the aim of CLBI has always been to stand in, focus on, and teach God's Word, the Scriptures as they were handed to us.

After all, we are saved by *Grace Alone* through *Faith Alone* in *Christ Alone*.

How do we hear and come to believe this good news for us? You might recognize those "sola" statements, and know there is one missing.

Scripture Alone.

The Holy Bible, the Word of God.

Nick Joyal
Director of Communications

The Protestant Reformation is a triumph in history *for many reasons*, not all of which are relevant here. However, the namesake of our theological tradition, Martin Luther, accomplished something *wonderful* those 500 odd years ago.

Indeed, his part in the history of the church, and of the western world at large, is also part of *CLBI's* story.

It has been said that justification by faith is the doctrine upon which the Church stands or falls, and that this doctrine had been lost. Arguably, Luther rediscovered this doctrine in the events which also produced the mantra, "Scripture Alone."

In the Reformation it became important to remember that we look to Scripture alone as God's only sure and authoritative revelation of Himself and guide for all things pertaining to faith and practice.

The fact that we exist today is directly tied to what God gave to His people in the Reformation, how God's Law & Gospel stirred in the hearts of our founders, and how God has *continued* to shape and form disciples of Christ, through His Word, inside and outside of the walls of our beloved school.

We are a "Bible College Made For Here & Now," and that we always shall be!

God making people new, same old CLBI...

A Designated Capital Fund

Erik Osness
Interim President



In recent years, CLBI has received generous donations for a variety of projects. The recent outpouring for new mattresses and Youth Surge was awesome, and above expected costs!

Going back around 15 years, CLBI has also received many designated donations towards student aid in particular, which has kept Bible School highly affordable for most students. This academic year, we'll be able to cover around \$70,000 of students' tuition, room, and board. All of this is incredible! Generous sacrificial donors have made this possible.

Thank you!

It's a great gift that CLBI has so much to invest in the students who attend our program and that, when the call goes out for other needs, people respond.

And yet, in the moment things break (which happens quite often), we don't have *designated* capital for that. Preventative maintenance? Also, not so much. In the next few years, there is a strong desire to change that!

Hopefully, you've looked at the three-phase plan that Tyler has for campus renewal from the previous edition of Crossroads (August 2025 Issue). Plans are in place to not only make necessary updates, but to make CLBI as beautiful as possible!

With that, we hope to make our facilities attractive not only to potential students, but also for solid, consistent rental groups.

We want intentional Christian community and formation to be sustainable here in Camrose well beyond our 100th Anniversary!

Along those same lines, as Tyler wrote a few months ago, "while seeking to fulfill our mission of helping young people become disciples of Christ, the campus and its facilities are not being fully utilized to grow, teach, and lead the church into greater unity."

I agree.

While the number of students in our core program is under 30, the potential for using our space to serve a variety of different church groups and ministries is certainly there throughout the year.

For example:

One basic yet tested and tried idea is to host seminary classes and seminarians at the school. It has happened before, and looks promising to happen consistently in the near future. But we need to renovate some areas to do that.

And in order to renovate, you guessed it, we need designated capital.

You might ask, "where, exactly, would this money end up going?" We would like to build up a Capital Fund! On the next page you'll see some projected costs over the next year, some of which are part of the aforementioned 3-phase plan:

1. Conference Room (bottom floor of Hagen Hall next to the Cafeteria): \$22,500
2. Records Room (within the library on the third floor): \$1,800
3. Second Year Classroom (also within the library): \$24,700
4. Bottom Floor Hagen (bathrooms and flooring): \$50,000

Essentially, we're asking that some of you prayerfully consider redirecting designated donations to the Capital Fund.

Consider it an investment in the future of Bible School for your children, nieces or nephews, grandchildren, and great grandchildren!

God has gifted us an experienced, journeyman trades-person with great plans to not only "update" CLBI's campus, but to make it a place that people want to live at, return to frequently, and promote to their friends, whether young or old!

While we're doing this, stuff will break.



(to the left)

The Cottage School, where the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute first gathered in November of 1932.

Featured on page 9 of "Send Out Your Light," and the front cover of this edition of the newsletter.

Prayers

NOVEMBER

- 6: River Ryan's birthday (1st year student)
- 7: Elijah Ryan's birthday (2nd year student)
- 12-14: Dwelling Retreat 1 - Stony Plain (instructor: Boyd Hopkins)
- 17-21: Urban Hike
- 25: Iona Brager's birthday (Food Services)
- 30: Draken Mol's birthday (2nd year student)

DECEMBER

- 5: Amy Jack's birthday (Director of Food Services)
- 13: Cassia Teske's birthday (Community Program student)
- 24: Wanda Manson's birthday (Director of Finance)
- 31: Kyler Gervais' birthday (1st year student)

JANUARY

- 6-27: IMPACT trips
- 9: Kim Rostad's birthday (Food Services)
- 10-22: Ministry Tour to Lower Mainland BC
- 15: Greg Rokos' birthday (staff husband)
- 21: Demara Joyal's birthday (Office Administrator)
- 28: Georgia Joyal's birthday (daughter of staff Demara and Nick Joyal)
- 31: Rachel Pantzer's birthday (1st year student)

PRAYER NEEDS

For Lisa Belau (Dir. of IMPACT) preparing 2nd year IMPACT students. That God would empower and send them out into the harvest field (Luke 10:2).

For Tyler (Dir. of Operations) making CLBI a beautiful inviting space for encountering God and community; that God would provide what's needed for repairs, renos, and more.

For God to raise up friends for the school in our extended community who are excited for and dedicated to supporting the ministry.

That the students who graduated this past spring would flourish in their new paths and pursuits.

For the CLBI Board of Directors. Bless them and give them wisdom to care for our school and its needs.

That God's hand of blessing be upon the ministry the Gospel; that Christ be proclaimed throughout the world, bringing life through His Word.

That students be strengthened, encouraged, and comforted in faith; may they hear and respond to God the Holy Spirit's call to trust in Jesus each day, and love one another in community as Christ first loved them.

That potential students would hear God's calling for them and that He would guide them to walk in obedience wherever that may be.

Announcements

BIRTHS & WEDDINGS:

(July 1, 2025 - Sept 30, 2025)

Kristian Berg (2020-2024) & Katie (Molzan) were married July 19, 2025.

Seth Hansen (2020-2023) & Emma (Jarett, 2019-2021) were married August 23, 2025.

Dieta (Schlein, 2008-2010) & Andrew Carlson (2006-2010) had a son, Ren Douglas, on August 27.

Julie (Cameron, 2010-2012) & Daniel Olson (2011-2012) had a son, Ezekiel John, on August 21.

Janaya and Luke Munro (2013-2014) had a son, Hudson Luke, on September 25.

MEMORIALS:

(Aug 1, 2025 - Sept 30, 2025)

Carl Gulbraa, Evelyn Marzolf, Don Hernberg, Sylvia Engen-Espe, Connie Herder

Total Memorials: \$7,831

HONORARIUMS:

(Aug 1, 2025 - Sept 30, 2025)

Noah Ekailan, Harvey and Marcia Vikse

Total Memorials: \$135



CLBI Students & Staff 2025/2026 (Left to Right, Top to Bottom)

Cohen, Cassia, Christina, William, Zachary, Elijah, Till, River, Kyler, Morgan, Steven, Wanda, Ted, Anthony, Amy, Julia, Alexander, Draken, Tobias, Evan, Gabe, Erik, Tyler, Demara, Nick, Lisa, Rachel, Emmett, Allison, Adam, Amy, Iona

Not pictured (staff): Kiara, Dena, Kim, Megan; (students): Kimberly

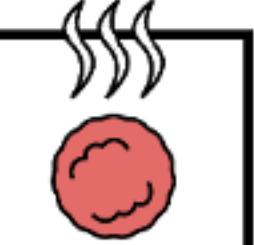
Upcoming Events at CLBI

OPEN CLASSES

- NOV 24-28:
THE BOOK OF EXODUS
- DEC 1-5:
THE SACRAMENTS
& DISCIPLESHIP
- FEB 23-27:
THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW



meatballs
FOR MISSIONS
IMPACT fundraiser lunch



NOV 30 NOON - 1:30PM AT CLBI

clbi OPEN HOUSE

VISIT US
DEC 6, 2025

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

- Tour Campus
- Meet Staff & Students
- Learn About Our Program
- Join Us For Lunch (FREE)

register



Volunteers Needed

Interested in sharing your skills with CLBI? Have a passion for the campus and would like to have an opportunity to express it? Have a love for the ministry at CLBI and how it can grow?

We would love for you to fill out the questionnaire below and send it back to us, or you can call our administrator, who would be happy to add you to our list of volunteers!

Thank you for your willingness to serve with our school!

-----cut here to fill out form and mail to CLBI-----

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Frequency: once a year once a month other: _____

Please check all that you would consider helping with:

- Plumbing, Electrical
- Out Trips (Fall Hike, Urban Hike)
- Gardening & Flower Beds
- Cleaning
- Lawn Care
- Trees & Groundwork
- Kitchen Help
- Maintenance & Repair
- Mechanical/Shop/Equipment

Comments:

Crossroads CLBI Newsletter

November 2025

Volume 33 No. 4

Published for the friends and alumni of
the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute.

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Nick Joyal

Editorial Group (Fall Issue):

Demara Joyal

Steven Belau

Kiara Abma

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