



## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR STEVE

During this pandemic, what do you miss most about indoor, in person worship? The symbols and our beautiful sanctuary? Fellowship and connecting with others? Communion the way that is normal? Singing your favorite hymns/songs? Hearing the scriptures read in the sanctuary and the word proclaimed/explained? The prayers? The children? Coffee and cookies after the service?

I miss all of them. It is not easy preaching to a camera. Its hard to pretend people are present when they are not visible in person. I am grateful for digital presence as a way to get the word out, but worship through a phone/computer can be passive and it can be hard to stay engaged.

There is something special about being in person and participating together that makes in person indoor worship special.

We gather, we hear the word, we are strengthened by the sacrament, we are sent. We are the body of Christ continuing the mission of God in the world. We are proclaiming the gospel and revealing the love of Christ through our families, vocations and relationships. The mission of God continues in spite of pandemics, or plagues, or wars.

God is gathering a community of faith, and following Jesus is a group project. It just doesn't seem right to not be experiencing community as we normally do.

It's not surprising then that the writer of Hebrews reminded Christ's followers:

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25.

As we restart indoor worship at Christ Lutheran on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, we are having our video equipment updated to live stream our worship on the internet as it happens. We will continue to broadcast FM radio into the parking lot and have an outdoor communion option. The internet service eventually will not be available until 9am on Sunday mornings and then it will be available to view online later at your convenience.

May God continually keep you in His peace. - Pastor Steve



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# EDUCATION/YOUTH

## YOUTH RESOURCES - VIRTUALLY

The Sunday School curriculum CLC uses, offers virtual options for families to access during quarantine. <https://www.group.com/category/ministry-resources/free-resources.do>

## AUGUST RIVER OF LIFE NEWS

Parents please consider being a team teacher for the 2020-2021 ROL year! If there are at least 4 teachers for each room, then the time commitment will be only 1 or 2 Sundays per month. Another volunteer option is helping out with music for the 3 year old - 2nd graders or the 3rd - 6th graders. Students in 7th grade and up are also needed to help in the younger classrooms and with music. Let me know if you would like to volunteer! [Fkovash@hotmail.com](mailto:Fkovash@hotmail.com) or 507-951-2234 - Francine Kovash, ROL Coordinator



## ROL REGISTRATION FORMS

Registration for the 2020-2021 ROL Sunday School year is underway. Registration forms can be found on the kiosk or on the website at: <http://www.clcbyron.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/2020-2021-ROL-Registration-Forms.pdf>

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE POSITION ON ROL RESUMING IN THE FALL

The Education committee will follow school guidelines, for Sunday school. We are waiting to see if school will return in the fall. Please contact education committee members with any questions.

## VBS

VBS will not be held this year due to COVID.

## FAITH AT HOME

Teaching about Jesus has always been a hybrid project. Worship and Sunday school supplements what children learn at home about faith and values. If you are looking for resources to encourage meaningful faith conversations at <https://faithink.com/the-faith5-steps> or [www.faithink.com](http://www.faithink.com) Pastor Rich Melheim has been focusing on faith conversations at home for quite a while and has practical advice and suggestions for families. Briefly the five steps for faith discussions at home are:

1. Share Highs and Lows
2. Read a Bible verse or story
3. Talk about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows
4. Pray for one another's highs and lows
5. Bless one another

There is a list of favorite Bible verses on the kiosk near the church office that you could use as a resource.  
Pastor Steve

## MUSIC VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you like to sing or working with kids? Christ Lutheran Church is looking for a volunteer to assist Kaia Long with the younger kids and another leader for the older kids during ROL music class from 9:05-9:15 on Sunday mornings and for performances during church services. Please contact Francine Kovash at 507-951-2234 or [fkovash@hotmail.com](mailto:fkovash@hotmail.com) if you are interested in helping out with either of these spots.

## SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Senior Recognition Sunday will be held on Sunday, August 2. Scholarships will be presented at this service. We are still accepting senior bios if you have not turned yours in. Please let the office know if you need another copy emailed to you.

## SUMMER BIBLE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications are available on the kiosk in the narthex or use this link on the website: <http://www.clcbyron.org/bible-camperships/> The application deadline has been moved to the end of August. Area camps to consider are Camp Victory and Camp Shetek.

# EDUCATION/YOUTH

## KEEPING COLLEGE STUDENTS CONNECTED

If your college student would like to stay connected to what's happening in the church, please give the office their contact information including address or email address and we can mail or email them newsletters or the weekly email updates.

## ARTICLES FROM YOUTHWORKS AND ELCA ON SERVING OTHERS AND RACIAL INJUSTICE

While mission trips didn't happen this year, YouthWorks prepared some reading and educational materials you might want to check out.

16 Ways to Serve in the Midst of COVID: <https://youthworks.com/blog/respectful-service-in-the-midst-of-covid-19/>

Racial Injustice Resources from YouthWorks Staff: <https://youthworks.com/blog/racial-injustice-resources-from-youthworks-staff/>

SEMN ELCA Synod Resources on Racial Injustice: <http://semnsynod.org/ministries/racial-justice/>

## CONFIRMATION NEWS

2020 CONFIRMATION STUDENTS WILL BE CONFIRMED ON OCTOBER 25

3rd year retreat will tentatively be on October 10th. Pictures and practice are planned for Sunday, October 18 at 1pm. The Confirmation Service will be held on October 25.

1st and 2nd YEAR STUDENTS - Confirmation will begin in early September for first and second year confirmation students. Both years must register. Registration forms are on the kiosk at the church or online at <http://www.clcbyron.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/2020-Registration-Form-Confirmation.pdf>  
Students getting confirmed in October do not need to fill out another registration form.

*Mark your calendar! All first and second year confirmation students must attend the mandatory retreat on September 12 at Eagle Bluff.*

Confirmation mentors are needed for first year students. Lesson plans are provided to guide the mentors. It does help to have two people for each group to provide lighter work and a sub when needed. Being a mentor is a rewarding experience to share with your child.

The duties for the organization of confirmation will be divided for the 2020-2021 year. Kristine Ihrke will oversee the organization and communication, but is looking for mentors to help in other areas.

- \* Organization, collection, and recording of sermon notes and service projects
- \* Plan the retreat to Eagle Bluff
- \* Plan the end of year retreat for 2nd year students
- \* Organize Lenten Soup Suppers

Please contact Kristine Ihrke at [ckihrke@gmail.com](mailto:ckihrke@gmail.com) if you are able to assist in any of the above areas. We will plan to meet in late August or early September as a mentor group. - Kristine Ihrke



## YOUTH TONE CHIMES DIRECTOR

CLC is looking for someone to direct the Youth Tone Chimes this year. This person would lead one weekly practice and at least one Sunday service performance each month. If you are interested in directing this group, please notify the church office. Contact Martha Gehrking for a job description.

## VIRTUAL YOUTH GROUP - WELCOME TO NEW 9TH GRADERS!!

Please join the senior high youth along with their leader, Kim Postier, on Wednesday nights from 7-8pm for a virtual meet up or a socially distanced get together. We are using Google Duo. We are welcoming all senior high kids including new 9th graders. Contact Kim Postier at [postier.kim@gmail.com](mailto:postier.kim@gmail.com) to get connected to this group.



# FELLOWSHIP

## NOTES OF THANKS

May 22, 2020 Thank You Christ Lutheran Church! Your very generous gift of 20 children masks means a great deal to the children and families who stay with us. We are so grateful you thought of us. Thanks, so many bright colors and so many male/boy masks, GREAT! We appreciate your kindness. -Ronald McDonald House Staff

Hi! I want to thank you for the mask. Sue Holz picked up one and mailed it to me. I was surprised to get the mask. Thank you and God Bless! - Phyllis Prigge

Dear Friends at Christ Lutheran - Thank you for your kind gift. We stand together in proclaiming the Gospel as best we can where we are. - Dianna Parks with Good Earth Village

July 2, 2020 Friends at Christ Lutheran, Thank you for your donation of masks! Your generosity will help keep our children and families safe. It means a great deal to those who stay with us! - Ronald McDonald House Staff

## TAILGATE TUESDAYS

Please join us for Tailgate Tuesdays running weekly through August from 6pm-7pm, for socially distanced fellowship within the MDH guidelines for Covid19 outdoor gatherings.

We will meet in the church parking lot and are asked to park every other parking space. Members are to bring their own lawn chairs and set it by their vehicle and maintain 6 ft social distance. Wearing masks is encouraged but not required.

Members may bring a beverage for themselves and their own hand sanitizer if desired. No bathrooms will be available. The event is cancelled if it is raining at 5:30 PM.

As per the MDH guidelines no person who is not well should attend and the gathering should not exceed 25 people.

For any questions please contact Chris Polzin: [mpolzin@frontiernet.net](mailto:mpolzin@frontiernet.net) cell: 507-269-7579 or Joan Skare 507-624-0330 or [joanskare@yahoo.com](mailto:joanskare@yahoo.com)



## SERVICE AT MEADOW LAKES

Pastor Nirmala met with Arlene Thoreson's family at Meadow Lakes for a short service. Pictured from left to right are Pastor Nirmala, Candace McBroom, Mavis Perry, Arlene Thoreson, Richard Perry, Dawn (daughter of Mavis)



## LUTHERANS IN LEATHER

Pastor Steve led a group of CLC bikers to Berne for a COVID friendly ride in June. Pictured from left to right: Darell Carlblom, David Schlobohm, and Dick Bedney.

## OUTREACH/WORSHIP NEEDS

### FAMILY PROMISE (IHN) - HOST WEEK AUGUST 30 THRU SEPTEMBER 6

The Family Promise (IHN) program that Christ Lutheran supports as a mission program has been affected drastically by the Covid-19 pandemic. Families continue to need housing. The IHN families have moved to the old Minnesota Bible College campus owned by Bear Creek Church. The program operated before on a 'shoe string' budget. Cash donations can be made to the Family Promise program to help pay for the food and other general expenses of the program. Those donations may be made directly at [familypromiserochester.org](http://familypromiserochester.org). The IHN directors aren't certain if the program will return to its normally functioning system of using churches to house guests by the end of August, but believe it will most likely continue to use the MN Bible College campus for housing and request assistance for groceries. Watch the weekly emails for more details and updates.

The Family Promise team at CLC is Bob Brekke, Elaine Meek, Hertha Lange, and Pastor Steve.

### MASKS ARE IN GREAT NEED AND VOLUNTEERS

Joan Skare is the CLC contact for masks and volunteers (507-624-0330, 507-990-8946, [joan-skare@yahoo.com](mailto:joan-skare@yahoo.com)). If you need a home made mask or would like to make masks to donate to others, contact Joan. If you would like to volunteer to help others, contact Joan Skare and she will let you know if there is a current need. We are looking specifically for more child sized face masks. Stay home and stay healthy. Joan Skare

### DONATED MASKS TOTAL 468

Here is the breakdown of where the donated masks went so far. Joan has 165 in stock currently.

- 100 - Mayo
- 50 adult size and 46 kid size - Ronald McDonald House
- 80 - Samaritan Bethany
- 50 Transplant House
- 14 - First Responders
- 38 - Mark Turany and the JC Penney managers
- 30 - CLC
- 60 - individuals requesting masks



*Pastor Steve modeling his neck gator.*

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

Please let the office know if you are willing to be an usher, reader, greeter, money counter, or assist with passing out communion kits as cars enter the parking lot on communion Sundays. The greeters will ensure doors stay open and distribute hand sanitizer. Ushers will usher members out after the service and register members before they enter the sanctuary. Registration will be done in the event someone tests positive for COVID, then members attending that day can be informed of a positive case.

### DONATIONS

Though we have not been meeting for public, in person worship, the church is still in mission locally and globally, and has expenses for utilities and temporarily reduced staff. Donation options include online giving <http://www.clcbyron.org/giving/>, mailing in a donation to Christ Lutheran Church, 201 Frontage Road NW, Byron, or dropping off a donation during our office hours from 9 - noon, Monday through Thursday. Please contact the church office at 775-6646 or [office@clcbyron.org](mailto:office@clcbyron.org) with questions or comments.

### THANK YOU

Thanks to the many members that have recently dropped off donations, mailed in donations, or set up online giving. Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness!

### MASKS THROUGH THE YEARS

Here are some examples of masks from the Bubonic Plague era, the Spanish Flu era, and from COVID19. Wearing a mask is a good way to show love for your neighbor!



# COVID19 GUIDELINES

## CHRIST LUTHERAN GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP, WEDDINGS & FUNERALS

On July 21, 2020, the CLC Council voted to resume indoor in person worship services beginning on Sunday, August 2, 2020 at 9:00 am. Options for online worship and outdoor in-car worship on the radio will continue. The Executive committee is the plan administrator.

While we are excited to gather again indoors for worship and renew relationships, we also do this with caution. In order to provide indoor worship services during the COVID-19 pandemic, the MN Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) have issued guidelines for churches to follow. The CLC Council has carefully reviewed these guidelines and is asking that the guidelines below be followed when attending CLC indoor worship services:

- Wash your hands before leaving home.
- Cleanse your hands with the hand sanitizer provided when entering the narthex.
- Wear a mask. Masks are required for Sunday worship except for those leading worship. If you need a mask contact Joan Skare or the church office.
- Maintain a minimum of 6 feet social distance between families. Families and those living in the same household may sit close together.
- Avoid using restrooms when possible. Sanitizing wipes are provided to wipe surfaces if you need to be seated in the restrooms.
- Share your name with the person tracking attendance. One family member will sign in all family members. This precaution is designed to allow notification of exposure to COVID-19 if necessary.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow even with your mask on.

### When you come for worship expect changes...

- Our sanctuary's capacity is limited to 50% (215 people) by MN Department of Health.
- Only sit in pews with no tape and maintain 6 feet between families.
- There will be no congregational singing.
- There will be no touching while sharing the peace.
- Receiving Communion will be different. Each family unit will be given a cup/sandwich bag of pre-packaged communion cups with wafers. During communion, each person will be invited to use the pre-packaged wafer and grape juice as led by the pastors. When you are finished with communion you can put the waste in the cup/bag and drop in the trash on the way out of the church. You may remove your mask to receive communion.
- Our worship services will likely be 40 minutes or less this summer.
- Offerings will not be collected during the service. Offerings can be placed in baskets by the sanctuary doors or submitted through online giving. You can sign up online for online giving on the CLC website or call the church office for assistance.
- The congregation will be dismissed by row following worship to maintain social distance as people exit the sanctuary.
- There will be no refreshments in the Fellowship Hall or welcome center following worship. If you would like to catch up with friends, please chat outside the building off the asphalt on the grass and maintain 6 feet between families. Allow room for other worshippers to return to their vehicles. Keep the narthex clear to provide distance for those going to their cars.
- There will be no Sunday morning study groups until further notice.
- Musicians can continue to offer music on piano, organ, electronic keyboard, percussion, and strings.
- In the sanctuary, a song leader(s) may be placed a safe distance away from the congregation and each other and provide leadership.
- There will be music in worship with instrumental accompaniment, and include on screen lyrics, inviting worshippers to reflect or meditate silently or hum on select verses.
- There will be no bulletins. Prayers and lyrics will be on the screen.
- Announcements on paper will be available for those who do not receive them by email.

# COVID19 GUIDELINES/WORSHIP

## CLC Guidelines for Worship, Weddings & Funerals Continued...

**Your cooperation is necessary** for our church to maintain the highest safety standards possible. Please consider signing up to help (*email or call the church office*) for any of the following:

- Reading lessons from the chancel in the sanctuary during worship
- Singing a solo (or a duet with a family member) from the chancel in the sanctuary during worship
- Welcoming people to worship and tracking who comes to worship
- Distributing pre-packaged communion to family units in a safe manner
- Assisting with online worship in any of the above listed ways or through other creative means not listed.

## You're Welcome to Worship But...

While your pastors and friends from Christ Lutheran long to greet you and join you in worship, we invite you to take responsibility for yourself first. If you are in a high-risk category, please don't attend worship at Christ Lutheran.

Examples of high risk categories include:

- Older adults
- People with moderate to severe Asthma
- People who are immunocompromised
- People with liver disease
- People at risk for severe illness
- People who have limited mobility or who cannot avoid coming into close contact with others

In addition, please don't attend worship if you are sick, not feeling well, and/or have a temperature.

## In summary:

The decision to resume indoor worship services is a joint decision by the leaders and the staff at Christ Lutheran Church. This decision depends on each of us following the above guidelines for a safe environment. If the guidelines outlined by the council are not followed, indoor worship may be suspended again for the safety of our community.

You are invited to take responsibility for yourself and consider the whole community as you determine if in-person indoor worship is an option for you at this time. Please take precautions to keep yourself as safe as possible. If you don't feel comfortable with indoor worship at Christ Lutheran Church, stay safe, stay home and consider participating in the expanded online worship that will continue to be offered on the CLC website and Facebook page. We will continue to offer outdoor in-car worship on the radio with communion as well. We also plan to move to live stream online worship with replay.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/communities.html>

7/21/2020

## WORSHIP OPTIONS AT CLC STARTING AUGUST 2 - IN CHURCH WORSHIP STARTING

We have three options on Sunday mornings beginning August 2.

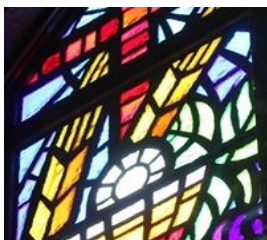
- In-church worship at 9am (communion offered the 1st and 3rd weeks of the month).
- In-car worship on Sunday mornings at 9am in the parking lot on 87.9 on the FM radio (communion offered the 1st and 3rd weeks of the month).
- CLC is working towards live streaming the service. Hopefully, beginning August 2, will feature the first live streamed service. You can watch the service starting at 9am on the internet through our website: [clcbyron.org](http://clcbyron.org)

To preregister for the indoor Sunday service, use this link: <https://selfservice.na.rapidbiz.com/cloud/login.do?mode=loadLoginScreen&appld=99&orgld=28>



Christ Lutheran Church  
 201 Frontage Road NW  
 Byron, MN 55920      [www.clcbyron.org](http://www.clcbyron.org)  
 Office Hours: 9:00am - 12:00pm Mon - Thurs  
 507-775-6646      [office@clcbyron.org](mailto:office@clcbyron.org)

Non-Profit Organization  
 US Postage Paid  
 Byron, MN  
 Permit Number 17



## August 2020

In Church, in person worship restarts  
 August 2 at 9am  
 Outdoor, in car worship at 9am and  
 online worship will continue



## CONTACT INFORMATION/OUTREACH

### CLC CRISIS TEAM

Pastors will do homebound visits for emergencies only.  
 Pastors can be reached by office phone 775-6646 or  
 Pastor Steve 612-250-9724 or [clcpastorsteve@gmail.com](mailto:clcpastorsteve@gmail.com)  
 Pastor Nirmala 507-271-0348 or [clcreinschmidt@gmail.com](mailto:clcreinschmidt@gmail.com)  
 Joan Skare 507-271-0330 or [joanskare@yahoo.com](mailto:joanskare@yahoo.com)  
 Mark Turany 507-259-3820 or [mturany@charter.net](mailto:mturany@charter.net)  
 Feel free to call above numbers any time if you just want to talk with  
 someone or if you need help.  
 If you would like to volunteer helping others, call Joan Skare.  
 Watch FaceBook at CLCbyron and CLCbyron.org sites for some digital  
 worship resources.

**PASTOR VISITS** - Pastors will do home-bound visits, outside only. Feel  
 free to call above numbers any time if you want to talk with someone or need  
 help.

**SCAMS** - Beware of scammers and fake emails even pretending to be  
 from the church or Pastors especially if asking for money or any details.

### COVID19 FOOD FOR THOUGHT - *Where have you seen God present during the COVID19 pandemic?*

My witness to help during this pandemic is all members of the JOY group  
 at CLC. During my illness, the group (as well as the other members of  
 CLC) kept me in their prayers. I've recovered my illness and have been  
 safe with all those prayers from the group and with God's bless-  
 ings. Thank you all. Dear Lord, please continue to keep me and all the  
 members of CLC safe and healthy with Your Grace. Amen.

~Sandy Erickson

I feel like God hit the reset button when Covid hit. Families are now  
 spending more time together - playing games, having meals, and talk-  
 ing. I've noticed many families enjoying nature more than ever with visits  
 to local parks and lakes. During my morning walks the air is clear, sun  
 is shining, birds are chirping. It is so peaceful and I feel God saying "I've  
 got this". ~Kristine Ihrke

**Assistant to the Bishop, Emily Carson, created a 3 minute reflection  
 video for individuals and congregations to use to focus on reflec-  
 tion.** [https://www.facebook.com/semnsynod/  
 videos/2663946760593294](https://www.facebook.com/semnsynod/videos/2663946760593294)

If you have a response you are willing to share, even anonymously,  
 please contact the church office at [office@clcbyron.org](mailto:office@clcbyron.org) or 775-6646.