



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR STEVE

Advent begins November 29 and is about Christ's first coming and his second coming. The people of God were waiting for deliverance, waiting for the promised Messiah. For 4 centuries they waited for a word from God and for a deliverer. Then the angels came to announce the coming messiah to Mary and Joseph and the shepherds.

This past year has been a season for waiting for us. Waiting for relief from covid. Waiting for the results of an election. Waiting for a vaccine. Waiting to see friends and family. Waiting for normalcy to return. A year is a long time to wait. We can begin to empathize with what it would mean to wait for centuries for a deliverer.

Fortunately we live on the other side of the Savior's coming. We know that God kept and keeps His promises. We know that even if we die from this virus it will not be the end of us because of the resurrection. We know that Christ is coming again and that God will have the last word and we trust his promises.

A three year old was put in her bedroom for the evening when from the bedroom a voice was heard "mommy, I'm scared! Please come here!" Her mother calmly replied "Don't be afraid, God is with you." The voice from the bedroom responded, "I know, but I want someone with skin on."

Jesus is God with skin on. He is the Word made flesh. God became a person and came to live with us. Emmanuel means "God with us." In His coming, Jesus has given us the clearest disclosure of what God is really like. Jesus showed us what God is like through his teachings, conversations, stories, miracles, and in expressions of service and love. The depth of God's love was most clearly revealed in Christ's willingness to suffer and die on the cross for our forgiveness. The power of His love was revealed in the resurrection.

Christmas, Good Friday, Easter and Pentecost are amazing historical events when God intervened to open the door for us to live for Him and with Him forever as His beloved children. God cared enough to come and save us. God is with us!

Merry Christmas! May we continually walk in the light and love of God our Savior.

In Christ

Pastor Steve



Steve Rheingans
Senior Pastor

clcpastorsteve@gmail.com



Pastor Nirmala
Reinschmidt

clcreinschmidt@gmail.com

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EDUCATION/YOUTH

ROL NEWS - DECEMBER

The Education Committee will be meeting during December to discuss the rest of the year for Sunday School. We are looking for a couple of volunteers to virtually teach the 6th grade ROL classes starting in January. Topics covered are the 10 commandments and the Lord's Prayer which helps prepare youth for confirmation. If you have any questions, please contact Francine Kovash. fkovash@hotmail.com

Here are some resources that provide free activities and lessons to help grow your faith:

<https://www.vibrantfaithprojects.org/vibrant-faith-home.html>

<http://goodearthvillage.org/introduction>

<https://www.group.com/category/ministry-resources/free-resources.do>

<https://faithink.com/the-faith5-steps>

<http://www.clcbyron.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/bibleverses.pdf>

CONFIRMATION NEWS

The confirmation class continues to be flexible as changes occur. We currently offer the option for students to participate via zoom. A huge thank you to Amy Blank for leading the online option each week. She has worked hard to provide an interactive and educational option for the students. Go to our YouTube channel for the large group meeting. The small group meeting will be on zoom with your mentor.

The students went above and beyond on a service project for the Ronald McDonald House. They met at the church and decorated breakfast bags along with providing donations to fill the bag. We have some very creative kids in our church! We continue to search for service opportunities that the students can complete in a safe manner. If anyone in the congregation has suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me. - Kristine Ihrke, Confirmation Coordinator ckihrke@gmail.com



Card making for kids in ICE Detention.

YOUTH GROUP

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 and welcoming all senior high kids including new 9th graders. Contact Kim Postier at postier.kim@gmail.com to get connected to this group.

MISSION TRIP - PINE RIDGE, SD, JUNE 20-25, 2021 - REGISTER BY DECEMBER

Christ Lutheran has reserved 15 spots for the mission trip (13 youth & 2 adult chaperones). To register, please submit a registration form located on the kiosk or at: <http://www.clcbyron.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2021-Youth-Mission-Trip-Registration-Form.pdf> along with the \$125 down payment by December 2020. Space is limited so priority will be based on when checks are received. With fundraisers, our goal is to keep the cost to a maximum \$250 out of pocket, per youth. The total cost of mission trips is around \$6,000 with about \$3,000 covered by the families. Students attending should assist with the Youth Committee sponsored fundraisers such as Cabin Fever Babysitting, Shareholder Dinner, Palm Sunday French Toast Breakfast, and the Solstice Stomp 5K. The mission trip is open to youth that complete 8th thru 12th grade by June of 2021. This year only: since last year's mission trips were cancelled, YouthWorks is allowing last year seniors to attend next summer.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDERS

The holiday season is upon us and we are taking poinsettia orders. Order forms, found on the table by the office, need to be in by Monday, December 7. You can order either a red or white poinsettia. Cost is \$10/plant. If you would like an order form mailed to you, let the office know.



CLC COUNCIL MEETING 11/17/2020 MINUTES

A meeting was held by CLC council on 11/17/2020 at 6:30pm. Members present: Candee Ostreng, Mark Turany, Jason Pfeilsticker, Tracy Lermom, Kaia Long and Pastor Steve

Members Not present: Linda Danielski, Randy Holz, Ben Johnson, Lindsey Dickison, Josh Heinz, and Joan Skare
Treasurer's report was read and it is estimated we will end the year right on budget.

Pastor provided an update on the holiday services and discussed thoughts and ideas of how to make them meaningful for all.

A discussion surrounding the budget was the main focus of the evening. There was discussion of the office responsibilities, challenges, and changes and the need for more media presence. Jason asks that we check with the committees on budget items to be discussed at the December meeting to prepare for the Annual meeting in early February.

Upcoming vacancies for committees and council were also mentioned and will be discussed at the December meeting.

Next meeting is December 15th, 2020 at 6:30pm. Meeting was adjourned with the Lords' Prayer.

Minutes submitted by Candee Ostreng for Joan Skare

NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2021, 9:30AM

All active, confirmed members of Christ Lutheran are encouraged to attend and be a part of the decision-making process of our church. Questions regarding the meeting may be addressed to any church council member. Watch for a council table in the narthex in January.

ANNOUNCING THE CLC MUSICAL ADVENT CALENDAR!

Does your family have an Advent calendar tradition? Advent calendars are meant to help us prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth. As such, the musicians of Christ Lutheran Church are offering a very special Advent calendar for you this year. Each day leading up to Christmas during December, a carol will be posted on our YouTube channel for you to enjoy. We'll share some of the history of these beloved songs along with their musical presentation, you can learn while you listen.



Set a time of day that works for you, and join us as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth. Oh, and did you know that the word *Carol* actually means a song of praise and joy? So come, listen, sing along and celebrate with joy!

To access: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAAdS22Tn6Epi6yZqzmNKK2g>



2020 COMMUNION REGISTRATION

Please register for communion by writing your name on the communion list on the registration table. You only need to register once per calendar year.

FELLOWSHIP/VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

BOOK LOVER'S LEAGUE

The book club will tentatively begin meeting on February 2nd at 7pm. Due to the current COVID surges in Minnesota, they have decided not to meet in January.

Feb. 2nd at 7 PM we will be discussing "The Story of Arthur Trulov" by Elizabeth Berg. I plan to pick up the book bag at the end of December and bring to the office so people can pick it up there.

We hope to see you on February 2! New members are welcome. - Kristie Nelson



PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED

We are looking to form a team of photographers, willing to take pictures of holidays, events, new members, etc. If this is of interest to you, please let the office know or mark that box on your Time and Talent form.



THANK YOU - The growing season has ended and time to.....

Thank you again to the lawn mowing team. For the past 25 years, a group of retirees have taken care of the lawn at our church. They keep the old mowers running and the lawn looking presentable from spring through the leaf falling season. Weather permitting, they mow at 1pm on Thursdays for about one hour. The guys are Connie Hoffman, Rollo Strain, Wayne DePope, Gary Himmerich, and Lowell Holum. Bob and David Tweite don't mow anymore, but show up to pull some weeds and sweep out the garage. Thanks also to Jerry Rieser for twice spraying for weeds this summer.

THANK YOU

Christ Lutheran Church, Thank you very much for your very generous donation of breakfast bags full of excellent items to get a good start to the day. It is your thoughtfulness and kindness that makes life a bit sweeter for families who live here caring for a critically ill child. We are so grateful! - Ronald McDonald House Staff

ADVENT WREATH

The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as we anticipate Jesus' birth. The wreath's circular shape symbolizes eternity, or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World — he brought light and life to a dark world (see John 1:4-5). On each of the four Sundays of Advent, we light a new candle. As the light grows, so does our hope and joy.



VIRTUAL SMALL GROUP CONNECTIONS

Is COVID fatigue setting in at your house? Consider joining a virtual small group to connect with your fellow church members.

CLC currently has a youth group meeting virtually on a weekly basis, very successfully. Other group options could include a seniors group, a young families group, the empty nesters, parents of school agers, a young person's group (post high school), a men's group, a women's group, club 56 for kids in 5th to 6th grade. If any of these groups interest you or you have a different idea, please let the office know if you would like to join or consider being a facilitator. The time commitment would be a 40 minute zoom meeting once a month from December through April. If you would like to meet more often, indicate that to the office at office@clcbyron.org.



WORSHIP INFORMATION/STEWARDSHIP

WORSHIP OPTIONS AT CLC

We have three options on Sunday mornings, with blended and traditional style alternating, every other week.

- 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).
- Watch the Live Streamed service at home using the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAAdS22Tn6Epi6yZqzmNKK2g>

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

PLEDGE CARDS AND TIME AND TALENT FORMS

Remember to get your Time and Talents forms and pledge cards turned in to the office. To process electronically through the website: <http://www.clcbyron.org/time-talents/>

DONATIONS AND THANK-YOU

Thank you for your overwhelming generosity and faithfulness to CLC's mission. 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 church services or our office hours from 9 - 1, Monday through Thursday. Please contact the church office at 775-6646 or office@clcbyron.org with questions.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Just a reminder that memorial donations are posted on the kiosk and no longer in the newsletter.

CHARITABLE GIVING AFTER AGE 70 1/2

Individuals age 70 ½ and older may distribute up to \$100,000 tax-free each year from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) to certain charitable organizations without including the amount of the charitable distribution in gross income when filing their tax return. The entire distribution must otherwise be deductible as a charitable contribution.

The provision referenced in the above paragraph will allow taxpayers who have reached age 70 ½ to direct the custodian of their IRA account to make a direct distribution from their account to a designated charity. This results in reported taxable income being reduced to the extent of the charitable distribution and achieving a result similar to prior years when they would have itemized deductions. An added benefit is this method of giving also reduces gross income for the calculation determining the amount of Social Security benefits that may be taxable. Contact Irv Nehring with questions.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - 3PM, 4:30PM, 7PM

NO INDOOR WORSHIP

Christmas Eve Services will be at 3pm (parking lot, prerecorded service), 4:30pm (parking lot, live nativity, prerecorded service) and 7pm (parking lot, live nativity, prerecorded service). The service will also be available to view on our YouTube channel by 3 PM at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAAdS22Tn6Epi6yZqzmNKK2g>

Communion packets will be passed out as cars enter the lot and offering collected at that time. Please enter the lot from the east entrance, across from Kwik Trip to view the live nativity for the 4:30 and 7pm services. The live nativity will be set up about 15-20 minutes prior to the start of the services so consider arriving a little early for viewing. All 3 services will be about 30 minutes in length.

The CLC sanctuary will also be open from 10am - noon on Wednesday, December 9, 16, and 23 for people to enjoy the peace and beauty of our sanctuary.

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IF YOU HAVE an outdoor artificial Christmas tree or extra Christmas lights you wouldn't mind sharing for the services, please let the office know.



OUTREACH/COMMUNITY

FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE



The Family Promise (FP) program as we know it has been severely affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. The hosting in churches ended in March when the virus surfaced and almost everything about our lives and routines changed. The need for the program continued however. Initially the guests were housed at the old Bible College campus. The families did not need overnight supervision and meals were dropped off with no face to face contact. But housing the guests was quite expensive and the normal counseling that takes place to try and have guests make life style changes that increase the likelihood that changing financial and personal decisions that could lead to a better outcome was difficult. Not many of us thought the Covid virus would still be affecting our lives. The FP program continued to assist families in need as they could.

The leadership of FP has been looking at how the program is structured for a long time. The current day center house is old and has been a "get by" facility for many years. The Covid 19 distancing requirements could not be met there. FP Rochester decided to take the bold decision to purchase a new facility that provided the opportunity for families to be able to safely distance and have rooms to sleep in as well. (Family Promise Eau Claire, WI has used this model successfully for several years) That means that churches will no longer be used to provide sleeping quarters. Faith communities and other groups will still be needed to provide overnight oversight as well as meals. At CLC and when Byron United Methodist Church was the host site the meal providers also served as evening hosts for the families. The overnight hosts came in about 8 PM. Drivers were provided during the morning and afternoon to take guests to the day center and back to our host church. The Covid 19 concerns means no face to face contact for meal providers as we have done in the past.

The new structure will not need drivers but most likely will need an evening host from about 5 to 8 PM. Because many volunteers are older (especially overnight hosts) and since the Covid 19 issues are still major priorities, FP leaders have decided not to have churches commit to providing volunteers for a week commitment but rather have the entire volunteer base sign up to provide meals, evening hosts, and overnight hosts. The FP programs plans to start taking in families in need the first week of January 2021. By July 2021 congregations may be asked to commit to a week of volunteers, but no decision has been made on that matter.

Individuals may help support the families in need by contributing to the following Target program. **Target: [tgt.gifts/fprhousewarming](#)**

If you are interested in adopting a needy family for the holiday's please contact Nicollette at (507)282-3122 for details. A Blessed Christmas to all of you. -Bob Brekke eskyblue@msn.com

HIGHWAY 14 MEETING

U.S. 14 Corridor Analysis Online Open House is Dec. 3 The public is invited to participate in an online open house meeting for the US 14 Corridor Analysis Project at 5:30 p.m., Dec. 3. Olmsted County and its partners at the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the cities of Byron and Kasson, and Dodge County are developing a long-term vision and implementation plan for US 14 between Kasson, Byron, and Rochester from Highway 57 (Mantorville Avenue) to Olmsted County Road 104 (60th Avenue). Those who are available to attend the online open house will have the opportunity to hear from and talk with the project team, review the selected long-term vision for the corridor, learn about potential implementation plans and next steps, as well as share feedback on information presented during the meeting. All meeting materials, including a recording of the presentation, will be available on the project website after the meeting. To join the online open house use the following link and then enter the meeting password: Meeting link: [https://srfconsulting.zoom.us/j/94338627028?](https://srfconsulting.zoom.us/j/94338627028?pwd=Rm4rNERab0NjcHpHcG1xd29lelBsdz09)

pwd=Rm4rNERab0NjcHpHcG1xd29lelBsdz09 Password: US14

To join the meeting by phone, dial the number below and enter the Webinar ID and password as prompted. Dial: +1 929 205 6099 then enter

Webinar ID: 943 3862 7028 and password: 904767

For more information, the website is: us14corridoranalysis.com

OUTREACH

MASKS AND VOLUNTEERS

Joan Skare is the CLC contact for masks and volunteers (507-990-8946, joanskare@yahoo.com). If you need a home made mask, would like to make masks to donate to others, or would like to volunteer to help others, contact Joan Skare and she will let you know if there is a current need. Stay home and stay healthy. - Joan Skare

CHANNEL ONE AND SALVATION ARMY

Channel One has a food donation barrel located by the front doors if you would like to drop off any nonperishable food items. Channel One is discontinuing use of the blue barrels as they found sometimes they are used to clean out cabinets and get expired or food items people don't need. They are moving to accepting cash donations and purchasing the food they need. Our Channel One barrel of food will be taken to the Salvation Army after the holidays and they will use the food. We will continue to collect food, but going forward, it will be taking to the Salvation Army rather than Channel One.

SHARING TREE 2020 - ALTAR COMMITTEE

The Altar Committee is sponsoring the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester this upcoming holiday season. The mission of the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester is that it provides a home-away-from-home and gives support to families seeking medical care for their ill children. They are a place of comfort, compassion, support and convenience. Many families staying at the House are undergoing one of the most stressful situations they will ever encounter – dealing with the fear and anguish of a critically ill child. They're trying to keep things as normal as possible for their children when in fact their lives are in upheaval. Families travel great distances to the House – often after exhausting every medical resource available near their homes, uprooting their day-to-day lives.

A list of the specific needed items is available on the Sharing Tree in the narthex. Donations will be accepted through Sunday, December 13, 2020. Thank you for helping those in need. - Chris Polzin, Altar Chair



SAMARITAN BETHANY NEEDS OUR HELP

Samaritan Bethany, in Rochester, is a non-profit Long Term Care facility offering Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care, Rehab and Skilled Nursing. Christ Lutheran is a sponsoring church and I (Terry Bird) am your designated Board Member.



As I'm sure you have heard, these types of facilities have been hit hard in so many ways – significantly reduced occupancy while still needing to maintain the same numbers of staff because of additional workload; and the need to cover shifts when a staff member is quarantined, fighting COVID cases in staff and residents; the need to be the "family" to many of the residents who can't have family visit them; and to come up with ways to make their days pass with some semblance of normal. The Samaritan team has done an awesome job, in an extremely challenging time.

The staff is challenged because in some cases other family members are laid off and/or not in a position to contribute financially. These folks need our help. You can help in the following ways:

gas gift cards, meat gift cards, Groceries (nonperishable – just normal day to day meals; i.e. mac & cheese, cereal, etc), Treats – packaged sweets, etc, Good Coffee/Tea

A drop box will be set up at church to collect donations. I will plan to deliver our donations on December 18th. Please look for the box labeled Samaritan Bethany.

Thank-you, Terry Bird



Christ Lutheran Church
 201 Frontage Road NW
 Byron, MN 55920 www.clcbyron.org
 Office Hours: 9:00am - 1:00pm Mon - Thurs
 507-775-6646 office@clcbyron.org

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December 2020

Christmas Eve Services: 3, 4:30, 7
 Outdoors FM 87.9 and Online

Worship Schedule

In Person Worship Sundays, 9am
 In Car Worship Sundays, 9am
 LiveStream Worship



CONTACT INFORMATION

CLC CRISIS TEAM

Pastors can be reached by office phone 775-6646 or
 Pastor Steve 612-250-9724 or clcpastorsteve@gmail.com
 Pastor Nirmala 507-271-0348 or clcreinschmidt@gmail.com
 Joan Skare 507-990-8946 or joanskare@yahoo.com
 Mark Turany 507-259-3820 or mturany@charter.net
 If you would like to volunteer helping others, call Joan Skare.
 Watch FaceBook at CLCbyron and CLCbyron.org/media/

PASTOR VISITS - Feel free to call above numbers any time if you want to talk with someone or need a visit from a pastor.

ATTENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRS - SCHEDULING

Please let the office know when your committee will be meeting so we can get the dates on the church calendar.

ATTENDANCE

OCTOBER			
Date	In Person	In Car	
10/4/2020	91	11 cars	
10/11/2020	63	12 cars	
10/18/2020	42	10 cars	
10/25/2020	153	4 cars	
NOVEMBER			
Date	In Person	In Car	
11/1/2020	122	13 cars	
11/8/2020	49	9 cars	
11/15/2020	60	11 cars	
11/22/2020	26	11 cars	
11/29/2020	51	14 cars	



ANNUAL REPORTS

Please submit your committee reports, for the annual report, to the church office by Sunday, January 3, 2021.